

## Hydrology Report – February 2022

- **Upper Basin precipitation and Temperature**

January was dry with only 51% of average precipitation in the Upper Basin, but this year's cumulative precipitation is still above average with 107% of the seasonal average. The Upper Basin in January was warmer than expected with temperatures being 1 to 3 degrees above average.

- **Upper Basin Snowpack and runoff**

The snowpack is currently at 97% of the seasonal average even after a dry January. The runoff from snowpack this year is currently forecasted at 76% of average, which is a decrease of about 1.5 million acre-feet from last month. The next two months are going to be critical for snowpack accumulation.

- **Current reservoir status**

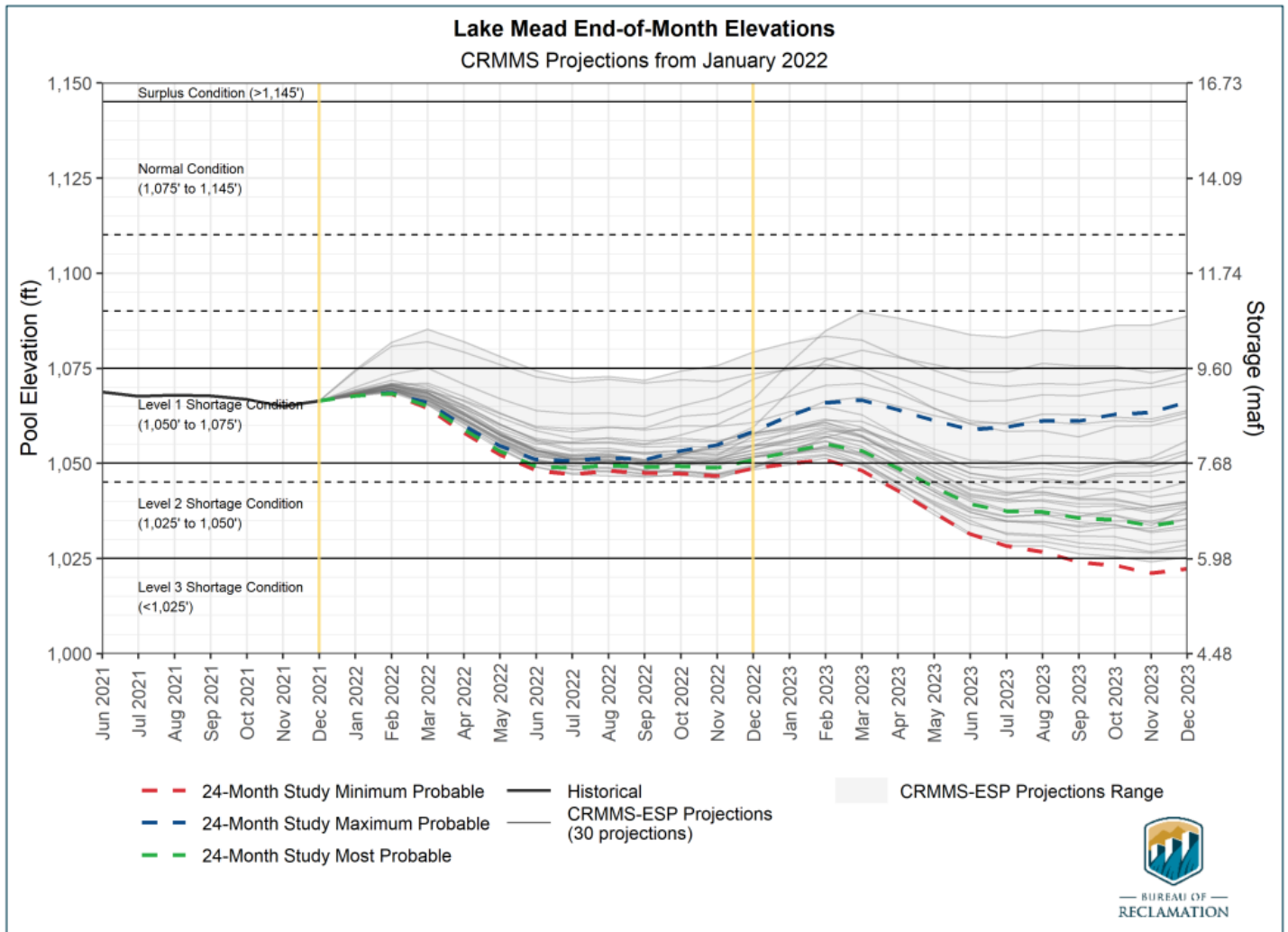
As of February 7, 2022, Lake Mead is at an elevation of 1,067.0 feet and has about 8.9 million acre-feet in storage (34% capacity). As of February 7, 2022, Lake Powell is at an elevation of 3,530.4 feet and has about 6.3 million acre-feet in storage (26% capacity). Since this time last year, Lake Mead has decreased about 20 feet and Lake Powell has decreased about 45 feet. Total system storage for the Upper and Lower Basin is around 21.8 million acre-feet (36% capacity).

- **2022 Reservoir Operations**

In calendar year 2022, there will be a Tier 1 shortage under the 2007 Guidelines and there will be a required Drought Contingency Plan contribution for Nevada and Arizona. Accordingly, in 2022, Nevada will be required to reduce consumptive use by 13,000 acre-feet under the 2007 Interim Guidelines and have a Drought Contingency Plan contribution of 8,000 acre-feet. Arizona and Mexico are also required to take shortage and make a water savings contribution in 2022. Those amounts are significantly larger than Nevada's obligations. The total combined volumes for Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico are 613,000 acre-feet in calendar year 2022, which will save the equivalent of about 8 feet in elevation in Lake Mead.

- **Reclamation's Lake Mead Projection**

Reclamation uses computer models to forecast reservoir elevations based on planned water use and anticipated runoff. The most current model (January 24 month study) is forecasting Lake Mead to be at an elevation of 1,051.0 feet by the end of calendar year 2022.



- **Water Use in Southern Nevada**

Southern Nevada’s consumptive use from January through December of 2021 was 255,568 acre-feet, which is 5.4 percent less than last year. In 2020, Southern Nevada consumed less Colorado River water than it is 300,000 acre-feet entitlement: specifically, 44,432 (15%) acre feet less. The Southern Nevada Water Authority stored the unused water in Lake Mead to help maintain water levels. This stored water is accessible to the Southern Nevada in the future if necessary. The Southern Nevada Water Authority aggressively reduced consumptive uses through turf removal and conservation programs allowing over 2.1 million acre-feet in total to be stored for future use.



# Colorado River Commission of Nevada

## Hydrology and Water Use Update

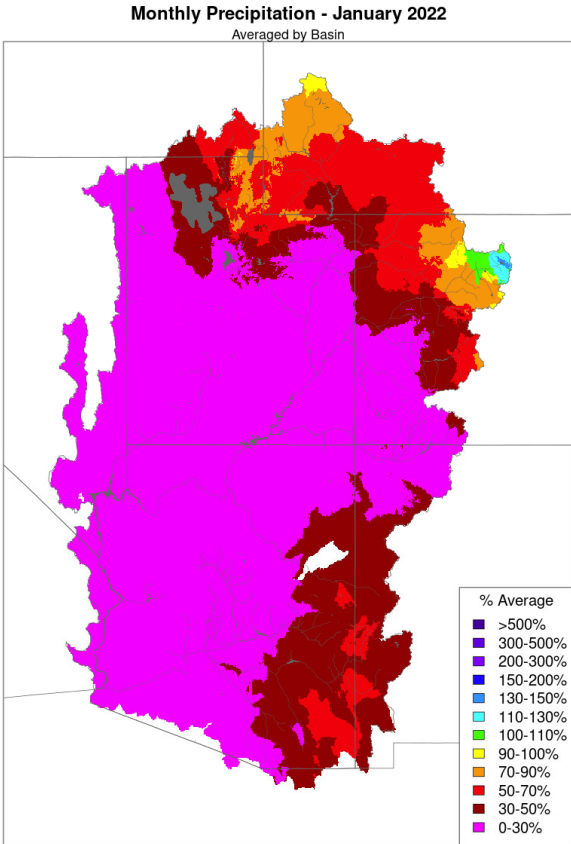
Warren Turkett

February 8, 2022

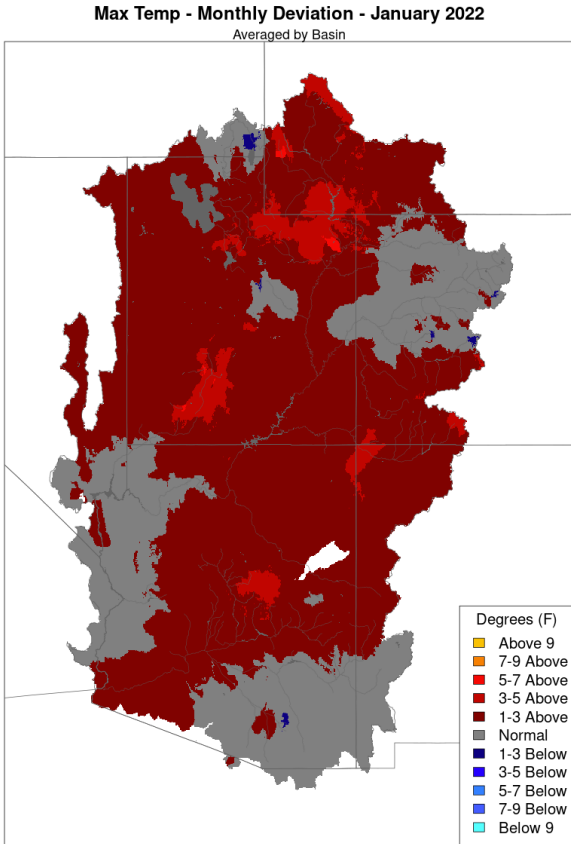




# Precipitation and Temperature



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah, [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

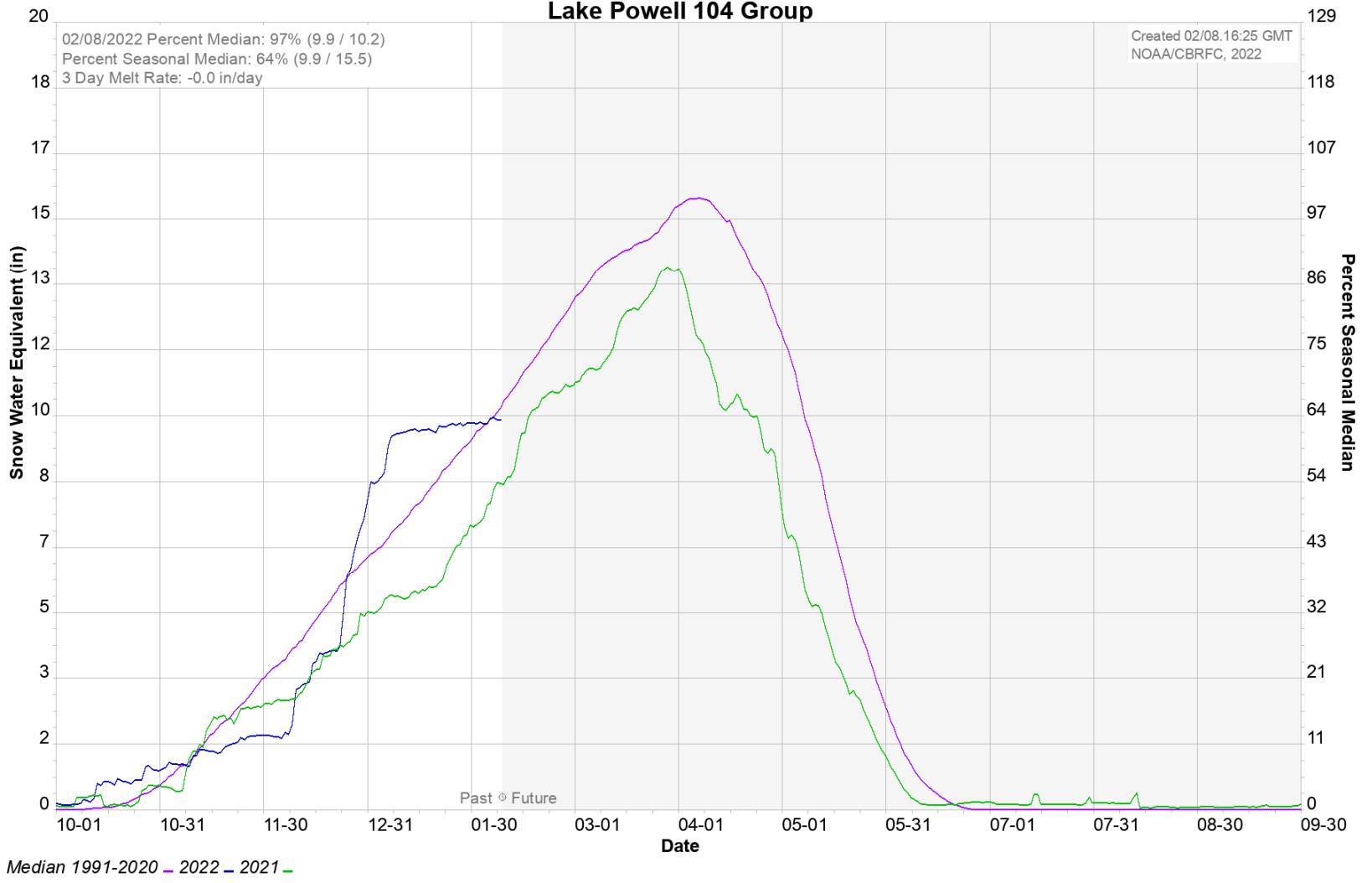


Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah, [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

Above Lake Powell January precipitation: 51%  
Above Lake Powell water year 2022 cumulative precipitation: 107%



### Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Lake Powell 104 Group





## Unregulated Inflow, Current and Projected Reservoir Status

Projected unregulated inflow to Lake Powell	Acre-Feet	% Average
Water Year 2022	7,257,000	76%
April thru July 2022	5,000,000	78%

Reservoir	Current Elevation	Current Storage Acre-Feet	Current % Capacity	Projected Elevation on 1/1/2023 <sup>1</sup>
Lake Mead	1,067.0	8,963,000	34%	1,051.0
Lake Powell	3,530.4	6,266,000	26%	3,546.8

Data retrieved February 7, 2022

<sup>1</sup> Based on Reclamation's January 2021 24 Month Study Most Probable Inflow.



# Water Use In Southern Nevada

## Southern Nevada Water Use

## 2020 Actual Use in Acre-Feet

Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Diversion	478,969
Return Flows	223,401
Consumptive Use	255,568
Unused Allocation Available for Banking	44,432 (15%)

## Southern Nevada Water Use

## Diversions

## Return Flows

## Consumptive Use

January - December 2021	478,969	223,401	255,568
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## Banked Water (through end of 2020)

## Acre-Feet

Ground Water Recharge in So. Nevada	357,643
Banked in Lake Mead	865,741
Banked in California and Arizona	944,071
Total	2,167,455



# Summary

## Lake Powell

- Water Year 2022<sup>1</sup> has received 107% of average precipitation in the Upper Basin.
- Upper Basin snowpack accumulation is currently 97% of the seasonal median.
- Unregulated inflow for water year 2022 is forecasted to be 76% of average.

## Lake Mead

- In calendar year 2022, there will be a Tier 1 shortage under the 2007 Guidelines and required DCP contributions for Nevada and Arizona.
- Over the last 6 years, the Lower Basin has conserved enough water to raise Lake Mead by 65 feet.

## Nevada Water Supply

- Southern Nevada has about 9 years of water supply banked. <sup>2</sup>
- **In 2020, Southern Nevada used 44,432 af less than our annual allocation.**

Storage	Elevation (f)	% Capacity	Change since last year
Lake Mead	1,067.0	34%	-20.0 ft
Lake Powell	3,530.4	26%	-44.9 ft

Data retrieved February 7, 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Water year is defined as October through September.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 2020 consumptive use and storage volumes through 2020.