

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Hydrology and Water Use Update

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December 8, 2020



Summary

Lake Powell

- Drought conditions are causing below average inflow forecasts.
- Unregulated inflow for water year¹ 2021 is forecasted at 58% of average.
- Upper Basin snowpack is currently 64% of seasonal average.

Lake Mead

- Lake Mead is forecasted to decrease almost 8 feet in elevation by the end of calendar year 2021.
- Lower Basin conservation programs have conserved roughly 3.5 million af or about 40 addition feet in Lake Mead.

Nevada Water Supply

- Southern Nevada has 9 years of water supply banked. ²
- **In 2019, Southern Nevada used 22% less than its annual allocation.**

Storage	Elevation (f)	% Capacity	Change since last year
Lake Mead	1,081.0	39%	-3.1 ft
Lake Powell	3,587.9	44%	-23 ft

Data retrieved December 3, 2020

¹ Water year is defined as October through September.

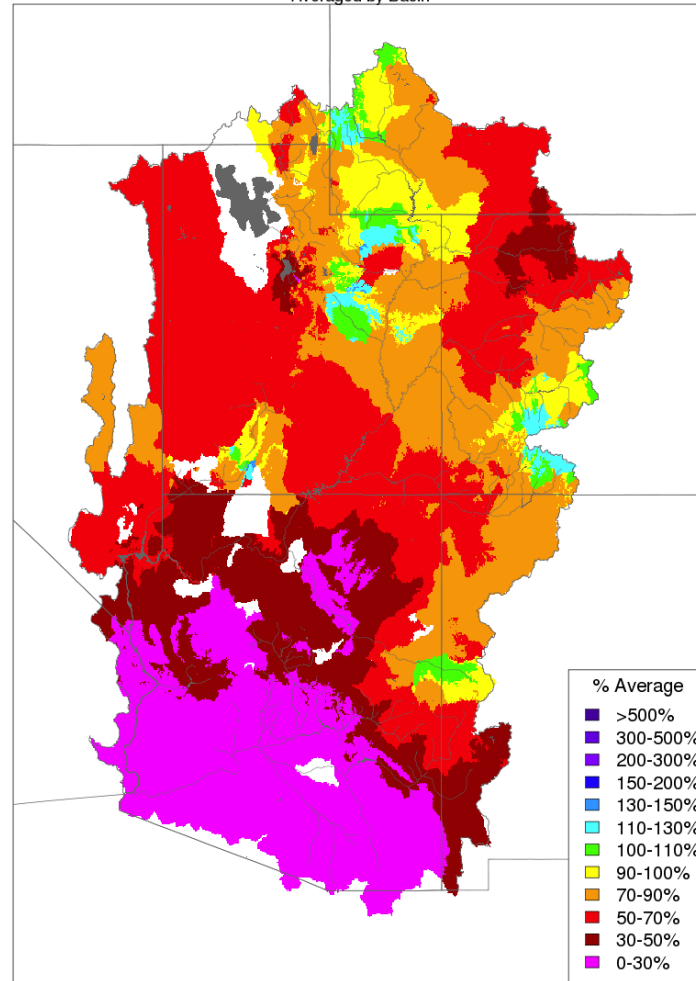
² Based on historical Southern Nevada water use.

Precipitation and Temperature



Monthly Precipitation - November 2020

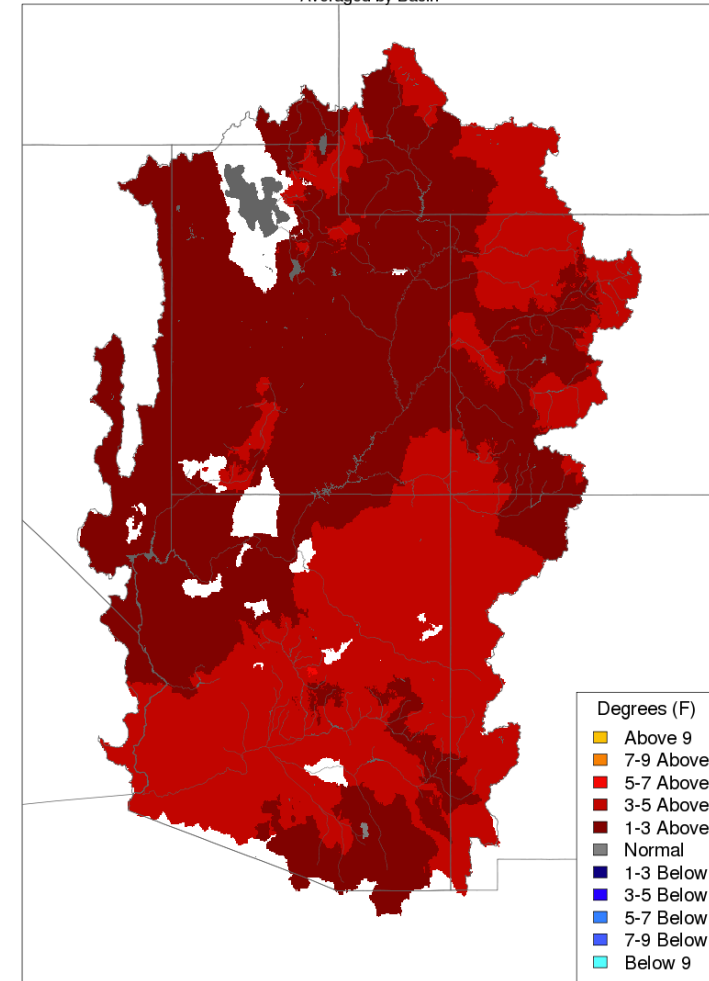
Averaged by Basin



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

Max Temp - Monthly Deviation - November 2020

Averaged by Basin



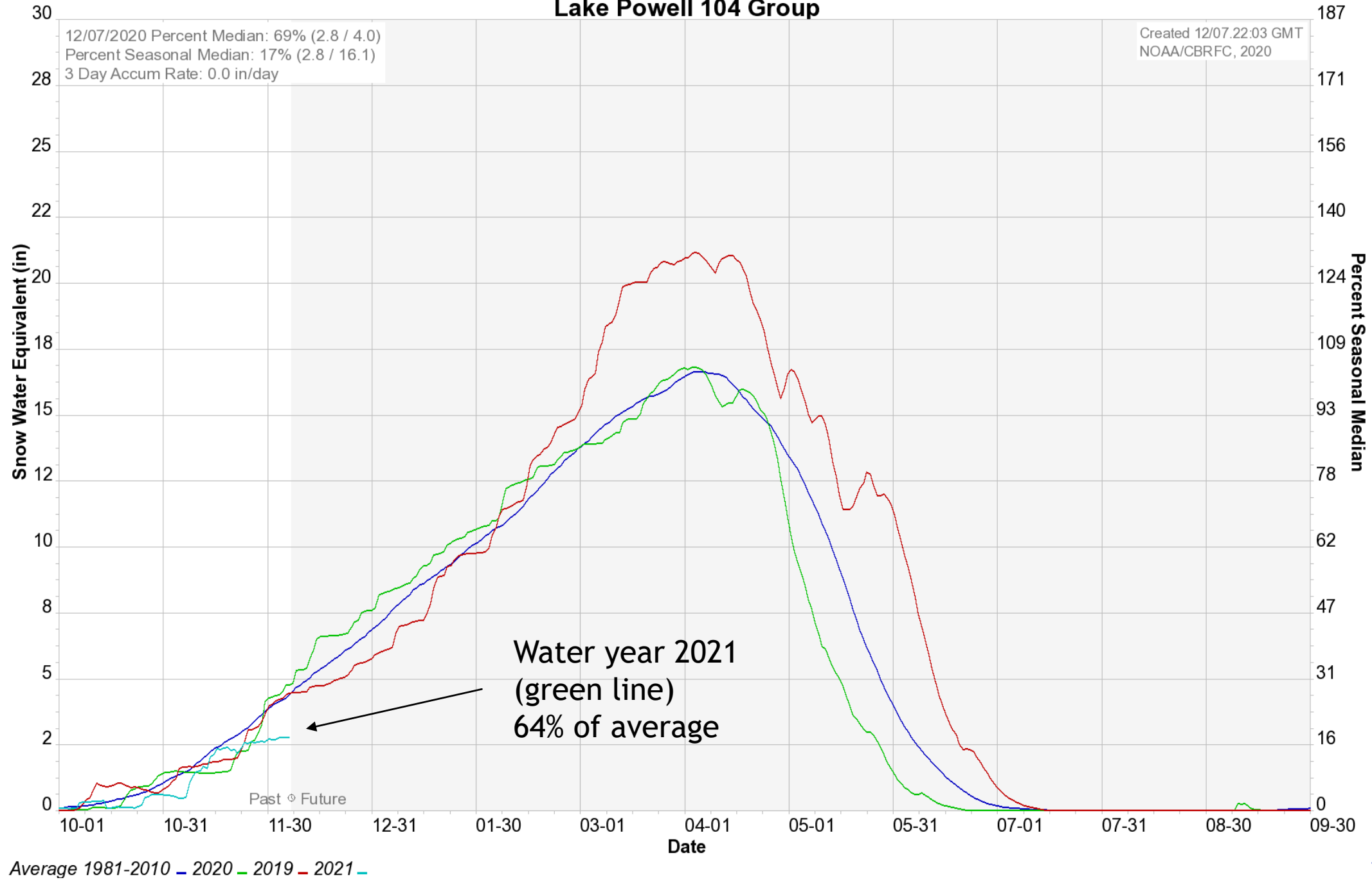
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Above Lake Powell November precipitation: 83%

Above Lake Powell water year 2021 cumulative precipitation: 61%



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 2021	6,252,000	58%
April thru July 2021	4,050,000	57%

Reservoir	Current Elevation	Current Storage Acre-Feet	Current % Capacity	Projected Elevation on 1/1/2022 ¹
Lake Mead	1,081.0	10,097,000	39%	1,073.5
Lake Powell	3,587.9	10,629,000	44%	3,571.2

Data retrieved December 3, 2020

¹ Based on Reclamation's November 2020 24 Month Study Most Probable Inflow.

Water Use In Southern Nevada

Southern Nevada Water Use

2019 Actual Use in Acre-Feet

Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Diversions	472,314
Return Flows	238,318
Consumptive Use	233,996
Unused Allocation Available for Banking	66,004 (22%)

Southern Nevada Water Use

Diversions

Return Flows

Consumptive Use

January-September 2020	422,944	186,762	236,182
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Banked Water (through end of 2019)

Acre-Feet

Ground Water Recharge in So. Nevada	358,315
Banked in Lake Mead	785,913
Banked in California and Arizona	944,071
Total	2,088,299