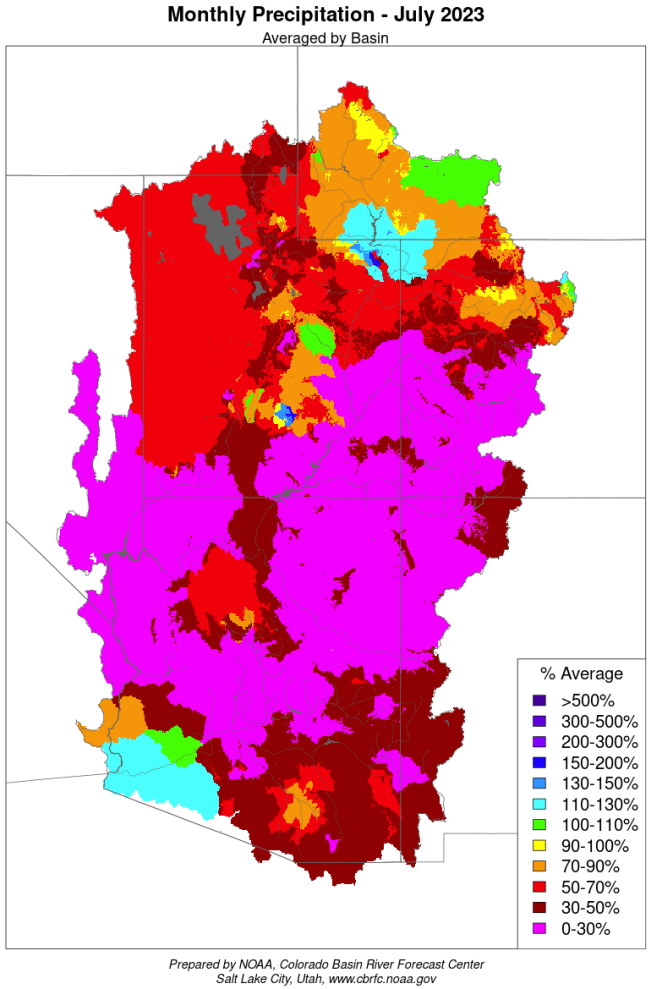
Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Hydrology and River Updates

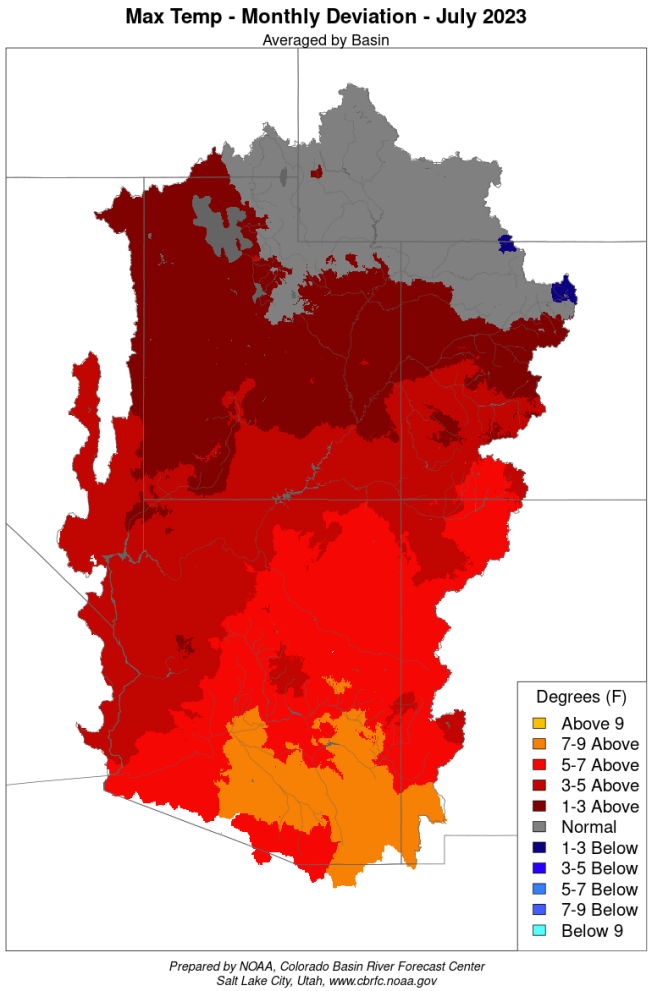
Warren Turkett

August 18, 2023

Precipitation and Temperature



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



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Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

Lake Powell %Average Precipitation Water Year 2023

Area	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Water Year
UC-Powell	84	82	152	170	102	183	67	67	136	47	111

August 24 Month Study Determination

Reclamation released the results of the August 24 Month Study, which is used to determine the upcoming years operations for both reservoirs.

- Lake Powell will be operated in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with a release of 7.48 million acre-feet in water year 2024;
- Lake Mead will operate in a Level 1 Shortage Condition for the lower basin.
  - Nevada will have a 13,000 acre-feet reduction from the 2007 Interim Guidelines; and
  - An 8,000 acre-feet Drought Contingency Plan contribution in calendar year 2024.

The above average runoff this year contributed to an improvement in operations over the current Level 2 Shortage Conditions experienced last year.

Reclamation press release:
https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/news-release/4603

2007 Interim Guidelines, Minute 323, Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan

Total Volumes (kaf)

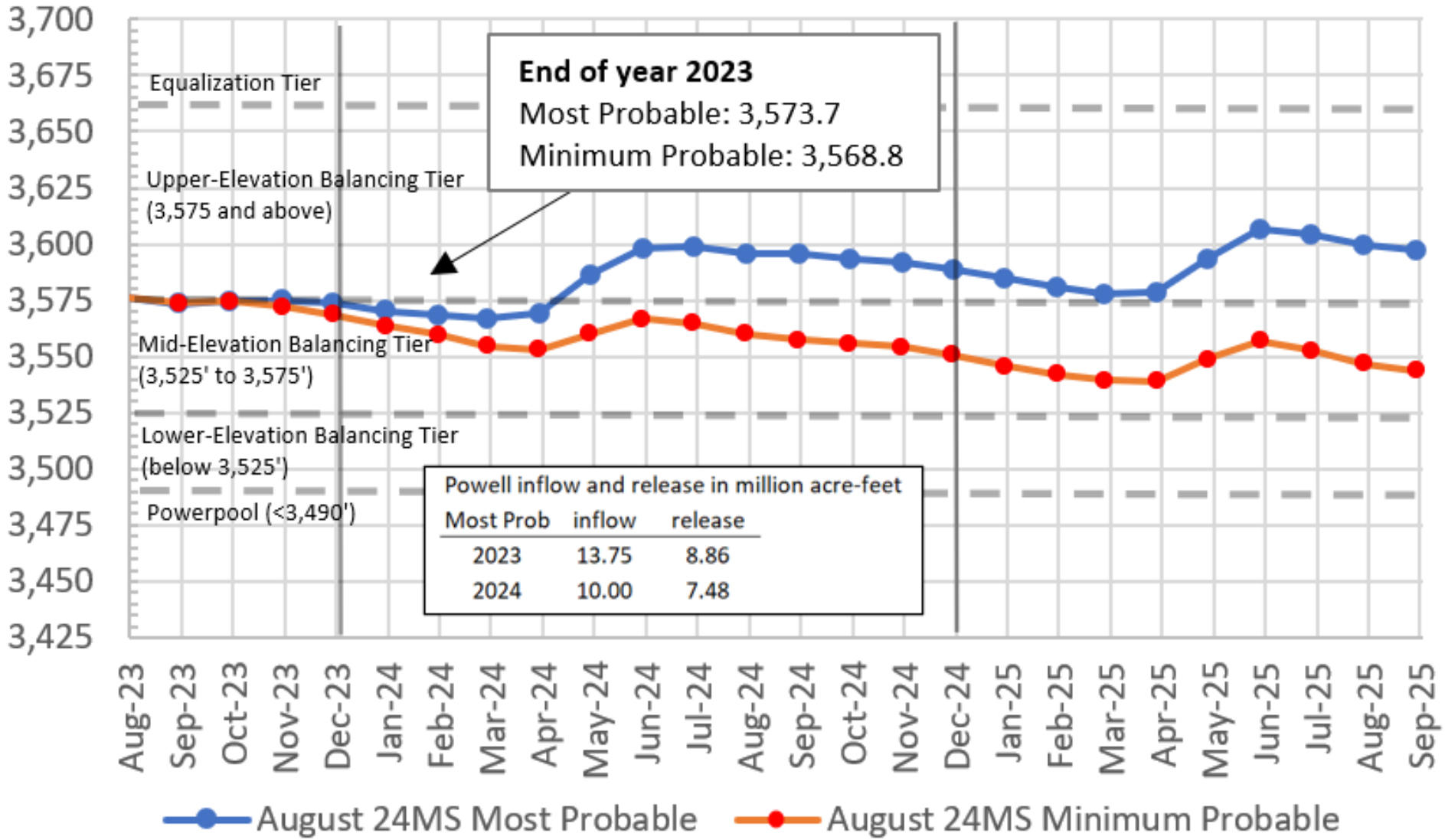
Lake Mead Elevation (feet msl)	2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages		Minute 323 Delivery Reductions	Total Combined Reductions	DCP Water Savings Contributions			Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings	Combined Volumes by Country *US: (2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages + DCP Contributions)* *Mexico: (Minute 323 Delivery Reductions + Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings)*					Total Combined Volumes
	AZ	NV	Mexico	***Lower Basin States + Mexico***	AZ	NV	CA	Mexico	*AZ Total*	*NV Total*	*CA Total*	*Lower Basin States Total*	*Mexico Total*	***Lower Basin States + Mexico***
1,090 - 1,075	0	0	0	***0***	192	8	0	41	192	8	0	*200*	*41*	***241***
1,075 - 1050	320	13	50	***383***	192	8	0	30	512	21	0	*533*	*80*	***613***
1,050 - 1,045	400	17	70	***487***	192	8	0	34	592	25	0	*617*	*104*	***721***
1,045 - 1,040	400	17	70	***487***	240	10	200	76	640	27	200	*867*	*146*	***1,013***
1,040 - 1,035	400	17	70	***487***	240	10	250	84	640	27	250	*917*	*154*	***1,071***
1,035 - 1,030	400	17	70	***487***	240	10	300	92	640	27	300	*967*	*162*	***1,129***
1,030 - 1,025	400	17	70	***487***	240	10	350	101	640	27	350	*1,017*	*171*	***1,188***
<1,025	480	20	125	***625***	240	10	350	150	720	30	350	*1,100*	*275*	***1,375***

Tier 1

On August 15, Reclamation released the August 24 Month Study which determined the upcoming years operations. Lake Mead in calendar year 2024 will be operated in a Level 1 Shortage Condition.

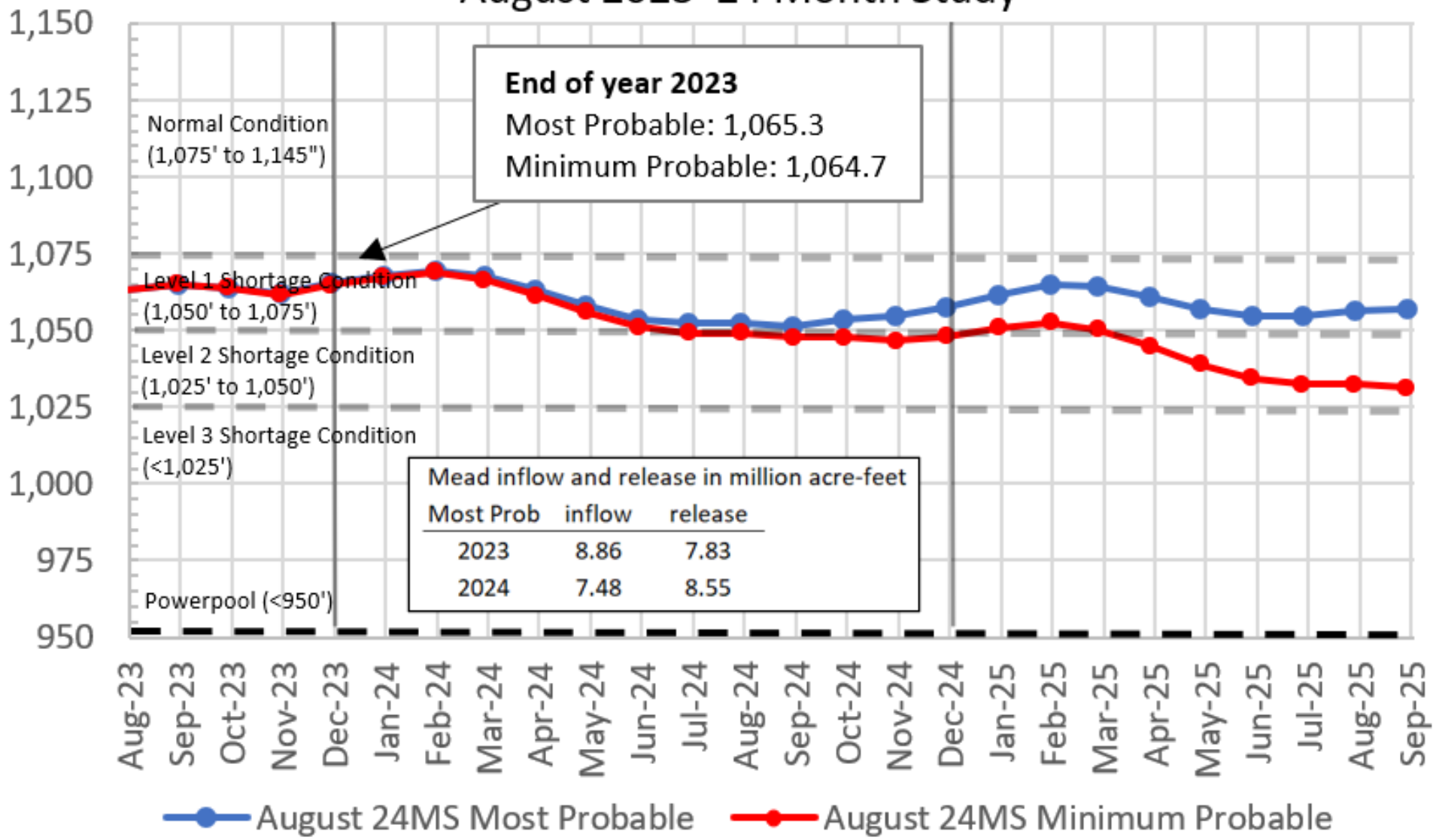
Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations

August 2023 24 Month Study



Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

August 2023 24 Month Study



Negotiations and Updates

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Reclamation is still on track to release a new draft SEIS this fall regarding actions through 2026 to address and respond to near term risks of declining hydrology on the river.

Post-2026 Federal Register Notice

With respect to planning for post 2026 operational guidelines, the Secretary of the Interior published on June 16, 2023, a Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice to Solicit Comments and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the Development of Post- 2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Comments were filed on August 15, 2023. For your information and convenience, please find below links to comment letters submitted by the Commission, the Lower Basin, the Upper Basin, the Lower Basin municipal water agencies, and the 7 Basin States.

Commission Letter (link)

Lower Basin Letter (link)

Upper Basin letter (link)

Muni Letter (link)

7 State letter (link)