

# Hydrology Report – September 2025

## Upper Basin Hydrology

- In August, the upper basin received 80% of average precipitation bringing the cumulative precipitation to 80% for the year.
- Temperatures in August were 1 to 5 degrees above average in some areas within the upper basin.
- Snowpack peaked on March 23, with 91% of the median.
- The Basin Forecast Center is estimating Lake Powell inflow for water year 2025 at 4.7 million acre-feet or 49% of average.

## Current reservoir status

- As of September 8, 2025, Lake Mead is at an elevation of **1,056.4** feet and has about 8.2 million acre-feet in storage (31% capacity).
- As of September 8, 2025, Lake Powell is at an elevation of 3,547.1 feet and has about 6.9 million acre-feet in storage (30% capacity).
- Total system storage for the upper and lower basins is around 22.1 million acre-feet (38% capacity).

## 2026 reservoir operations

- Lake Powell will be operated in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with a release of 7.48 million acre-feet in water year 2026.
- Lake Mead will operate in a Level 1 Shortage Condition in calendar year 2026.
- Accordingly, in 2026, Nevada’s consumptive use will be reduced by 13,000 acre-feet under the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Nevada will make 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 2026. 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 2026, which will save the equivalent of about 8 feet in elevation in Lake Mead.

## Water Use in Southern Nevada <sup>1</sup>

- Southern Nevada’s consumptive use for January-July of 2025 was 119,364 acre-feet.

## Reclamation’s Lake Mead and Lake Powell Projections <sup>2</sup>

- Reclamation uses computer models to forecast reservoir elevations based on planned water use and anticipated runoff. The August 24-Month Study forecasts Lake Mead to be between 1,055.8 and 1,055.6 feet in elevation by the end of 2025.
- Reclamations August 24-Month Study is forecasting Lake Powell’s elevation to be between 3,538.5 and 3,535.1 feet by the end of 2025.

<sup>1</sup> 2025 consumptive use data is preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Reclamation modeling assumes the current operational guidelines and planned conservation activities.

# Colorado River Commission of Nevada

## Hydrology Update

Warren Turkett

September 9, 2025

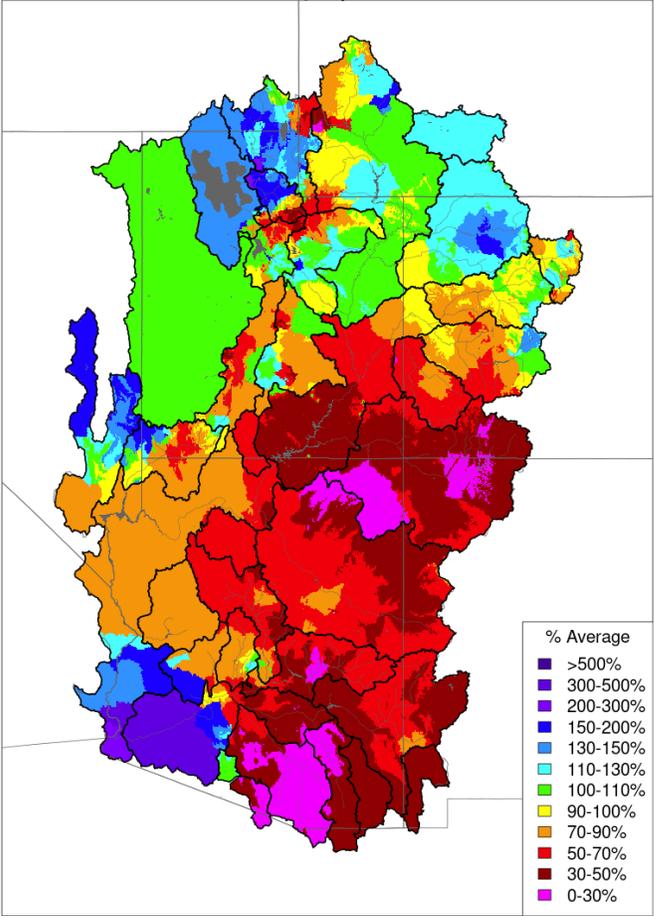


# Precipitation and Temperature



Monthly Precipitation - August 2025

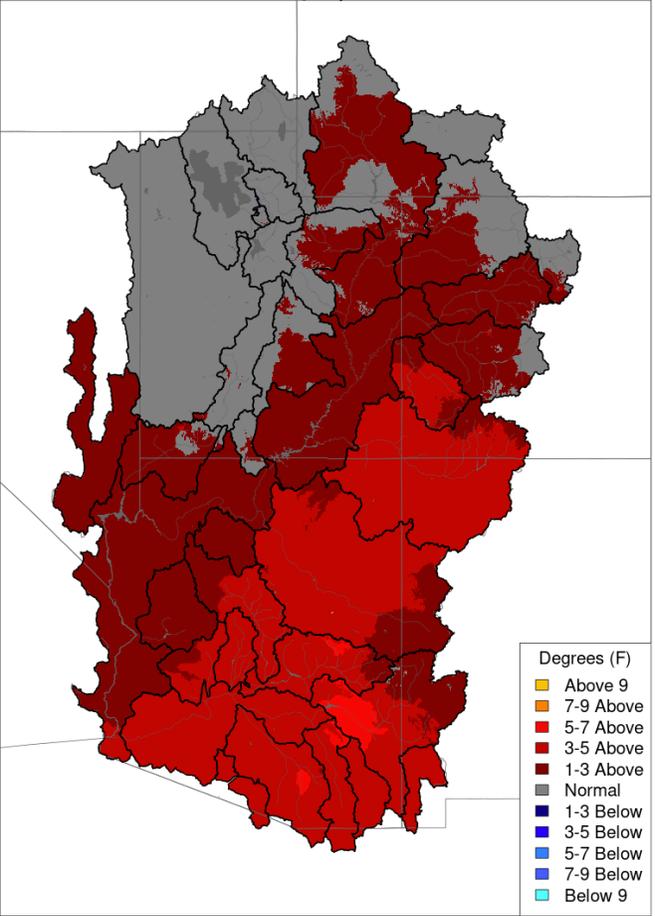
Averaged by Basin



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

Max Temp - Monthly Deviation - August 2025

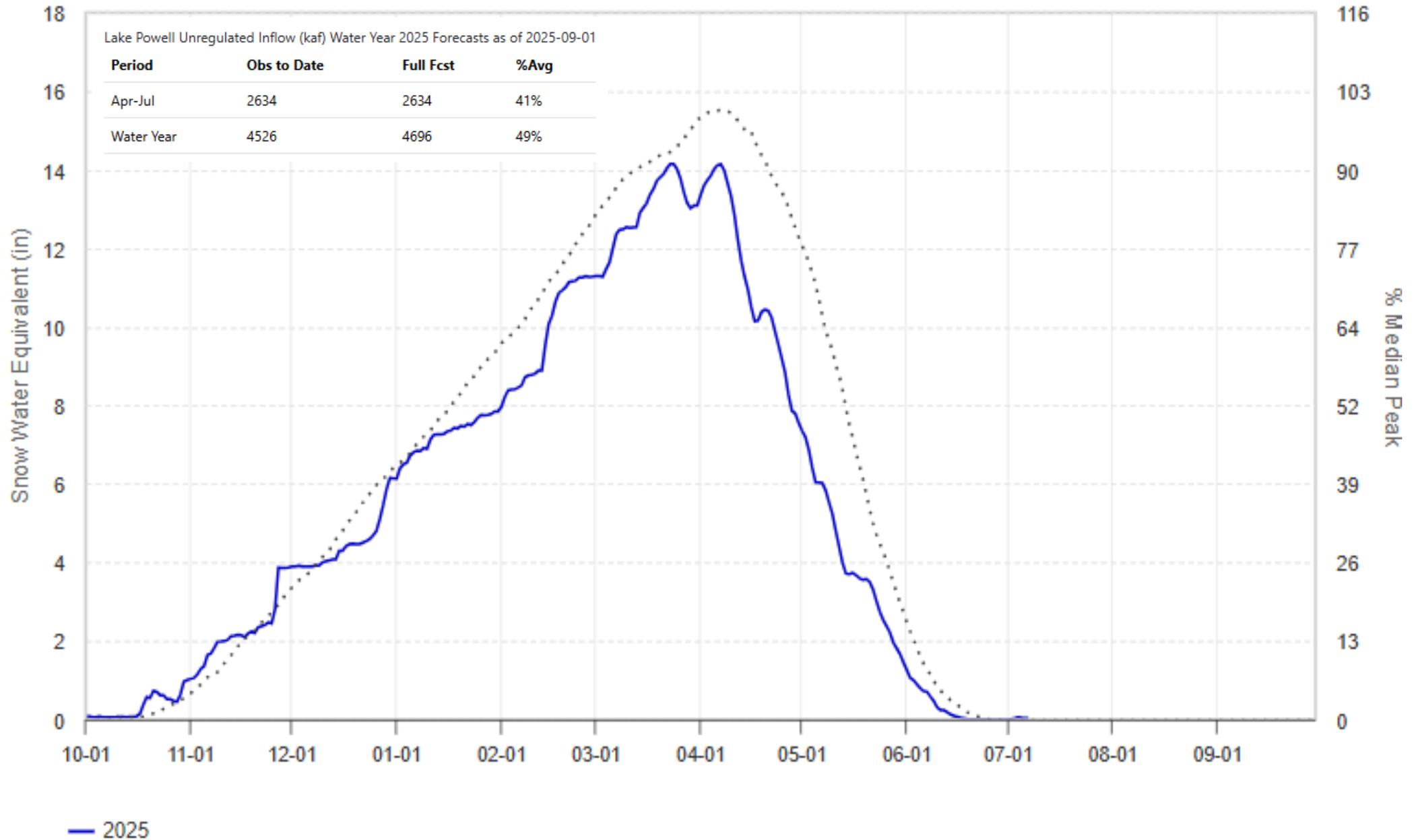
Averaged by Basin



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Area	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Water Year
UC-Powell	111	114	65	60	97	99	59	61	68	51	80	80

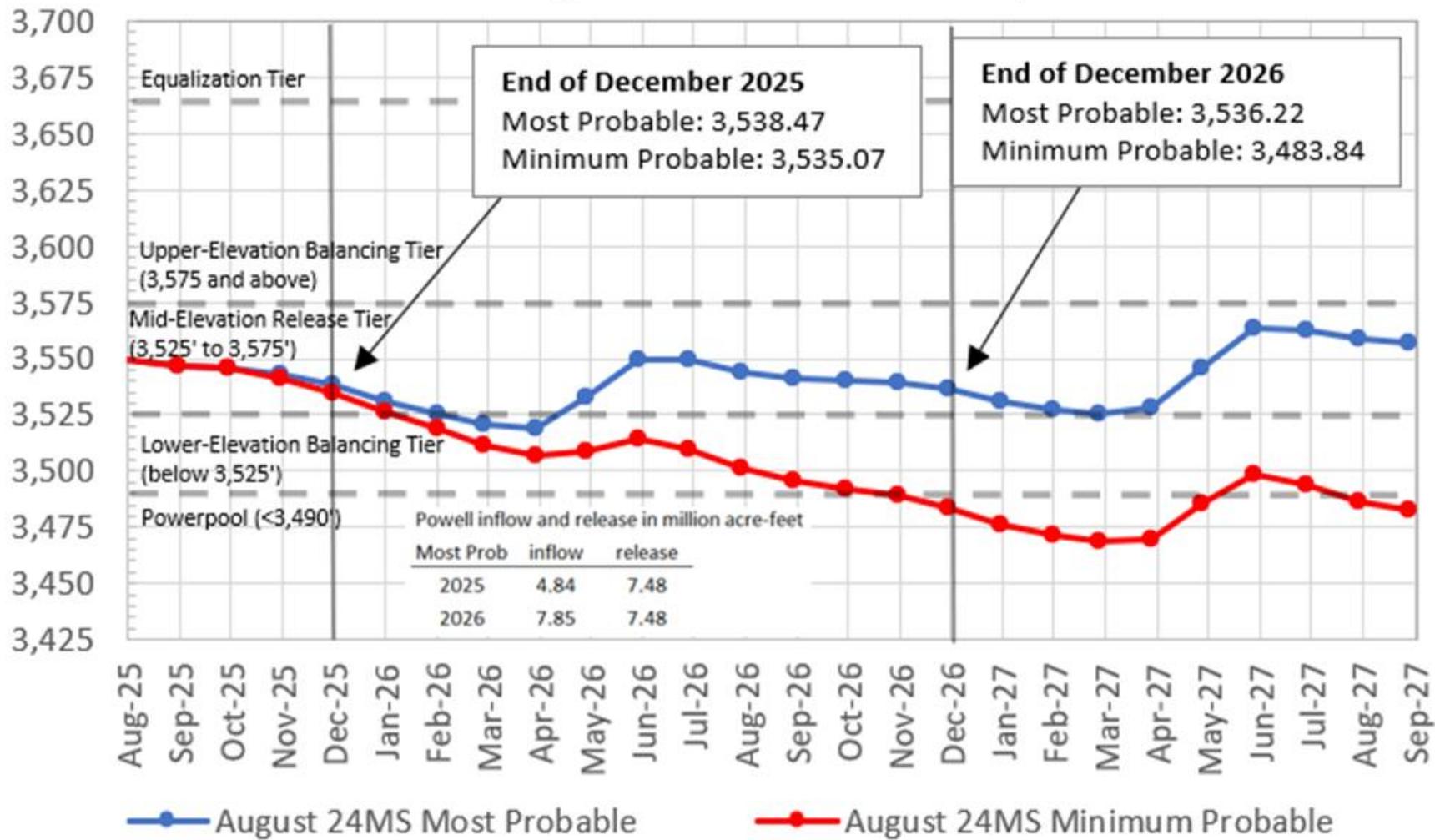
# Snowpack





# Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations

## August 2025 24 Month Study

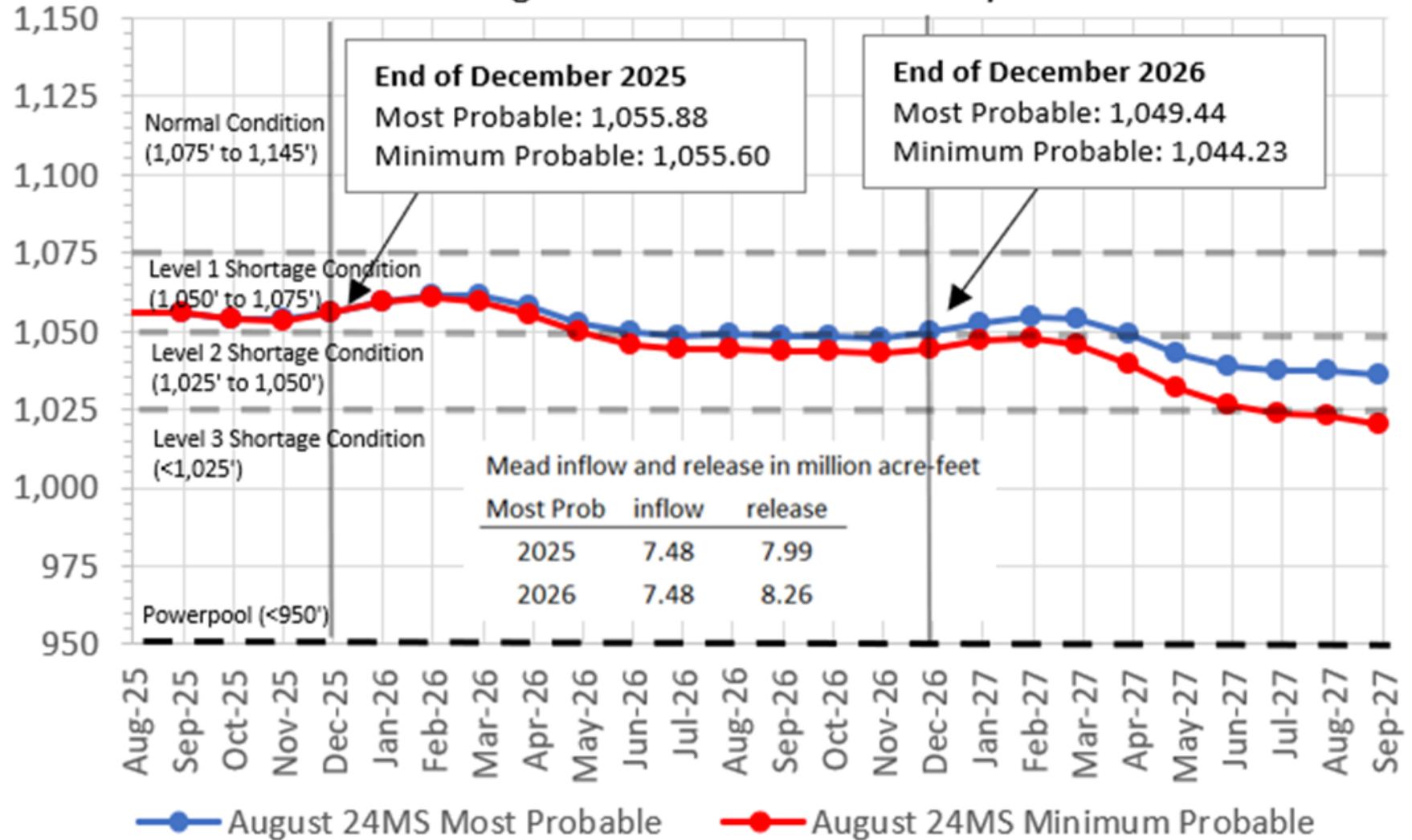


August 8, 2025 elevation: 3,547.1 feet



# Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

## August 2025 24 Month Study



August 8, 2025 elevation: 1,056.4 feet

# Water Use In Southern Nevada

## 2025 January-July Southern Nevada Water Use<sup>1</sup>

Acre-Feet

Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Drought Contingency Plan contribution	-8,000
Interim Guidelines Shortages	-13,000
Diversions	261,314
Return Flow Credits	141,949
Consumptive Use	119,364

<sup>1</sup> 2025 Consumptive use data is preliminary.