



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Glen Canyon Monthly Operations Call

Basin Hydrology and Operations

May 21, 2026

Background

This briefing is being provided consistent with the provision in Attachment B - Section 1.1 of the LTEMP ROD which states:

“Annually, Reclamation will develop a hydrograph based on the characteristics above. Reclamation will seek consensus on the annual hydrograph through monthly operational coordination calls with governmental entities, and regular meetings of the GCDAMP Technical Working Group (TWG) and AMWG.

Reclamation will conduct monthly Glen Canyon Dam operational coordination meetings or calls with the DOI bureaus (USGS, NPS, FWS, and BIA), WAPA, and representatives from the Basin States and UCRC. The purpose of these meetings or calls is for the participants to share and seek information on Glen Canyon Dam operations. One liaison from each Basin State and from the UCRC may participate in the monthly operational coordination meetings or calls.”



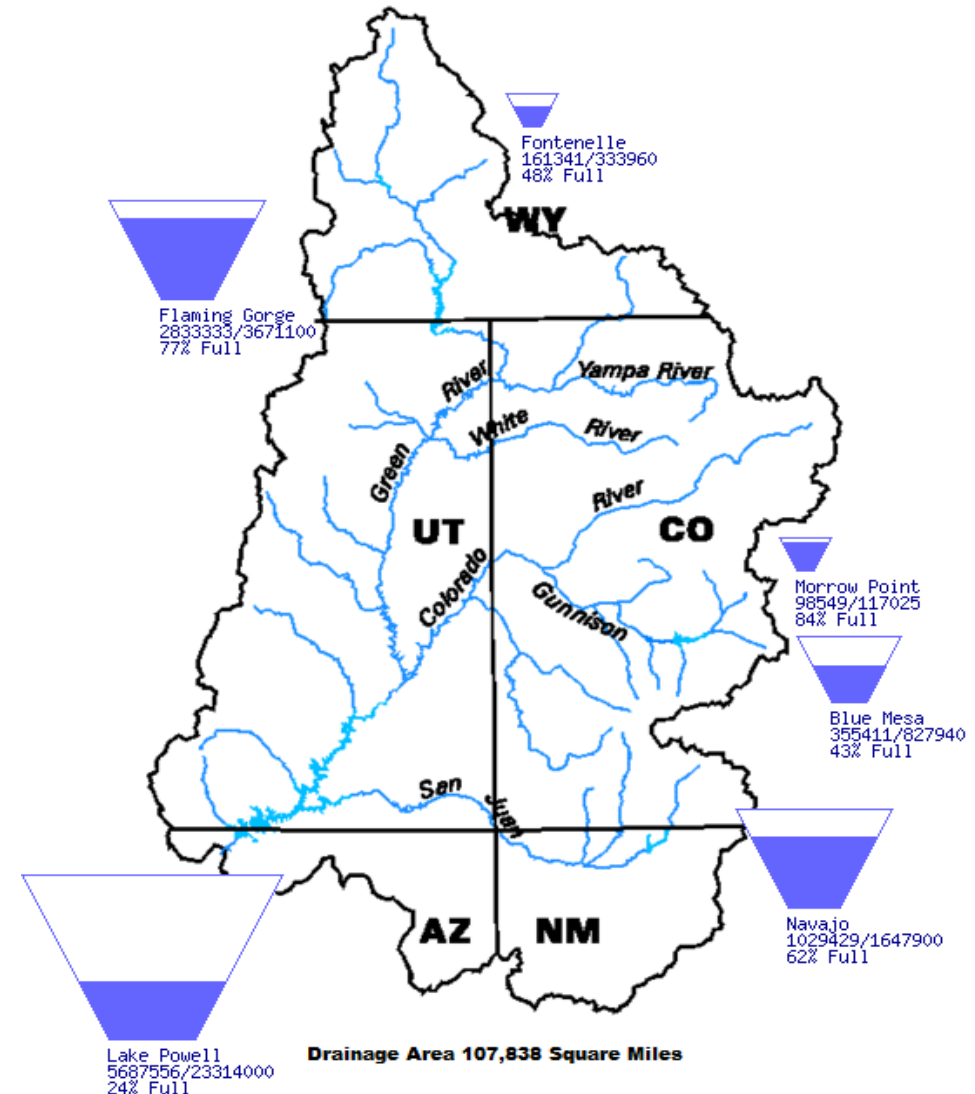
Upper Basin Storage

(as of May 19, 2026)

Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Fontenelle	48	0.16	0.33	6,480.53
Flaming Gorge	77	2.83	3.67	6,017.71
Blue Mesa	43	0.36	0.83	7,458.13
Navajo	62	1.03	1.65	6,037.00
Lake Powell	24	5.69	23.31	3,527.46
UC System Storage	34	10.18	29.93	
Total System Storage	35	20.35	58.48	

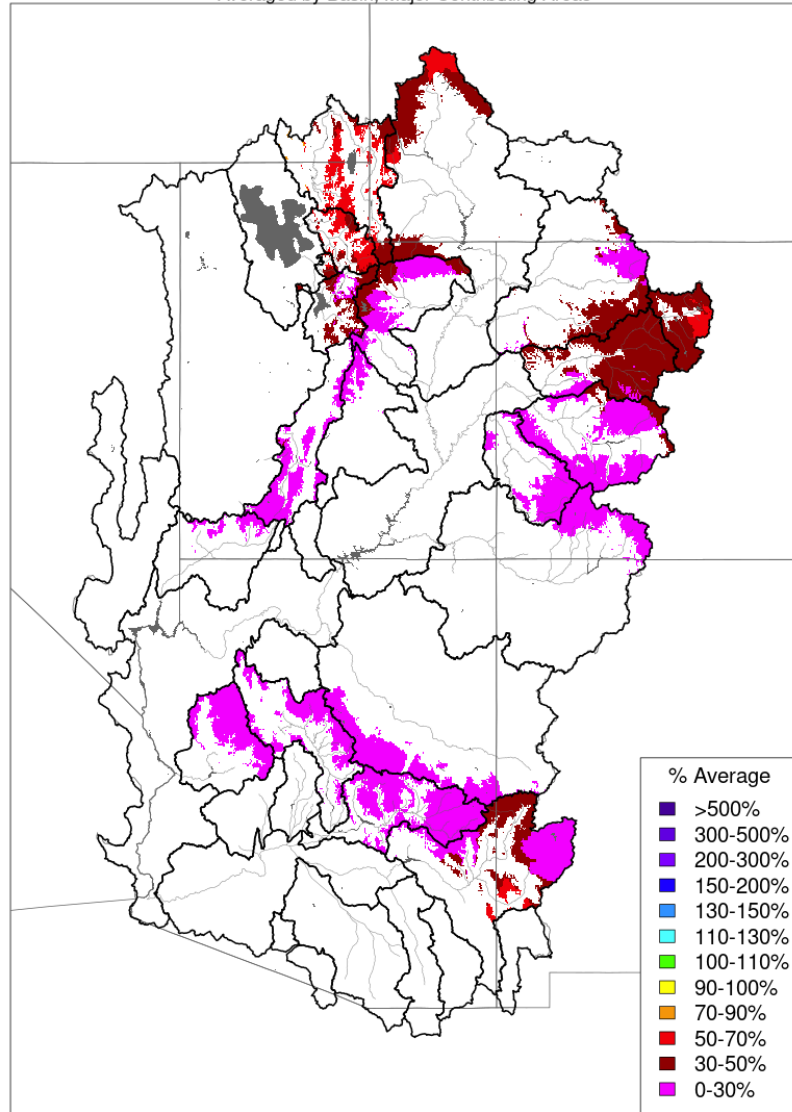
Data Current as of:
05/19/2026

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



Monthly Precipitation - March 2026

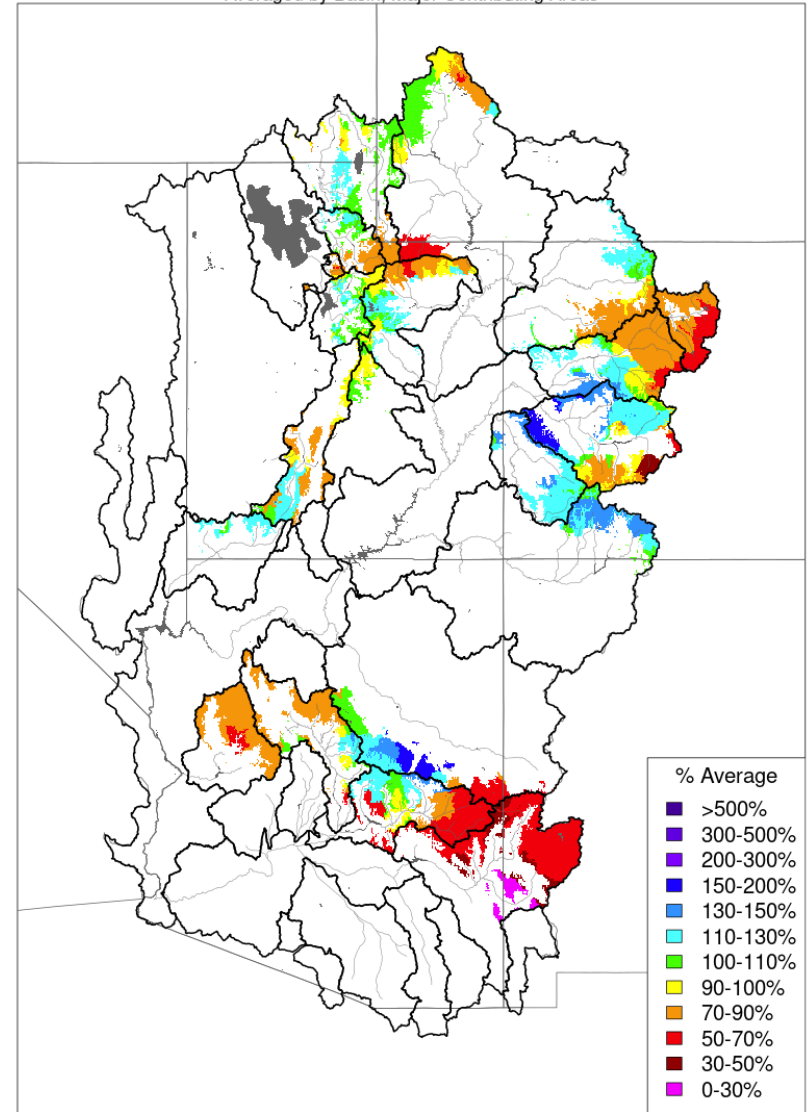
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



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

Monthly Precipitation - April 2026

Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas

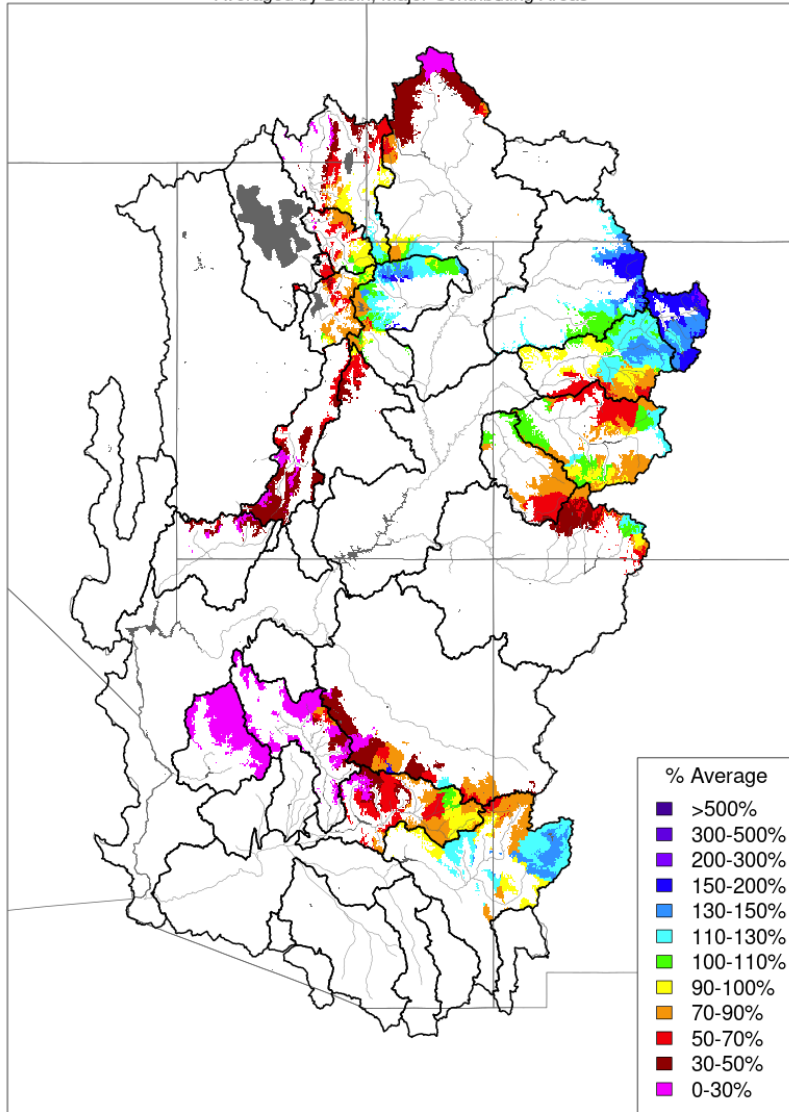


Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov



Month to Date Precipitation - May 20 2026

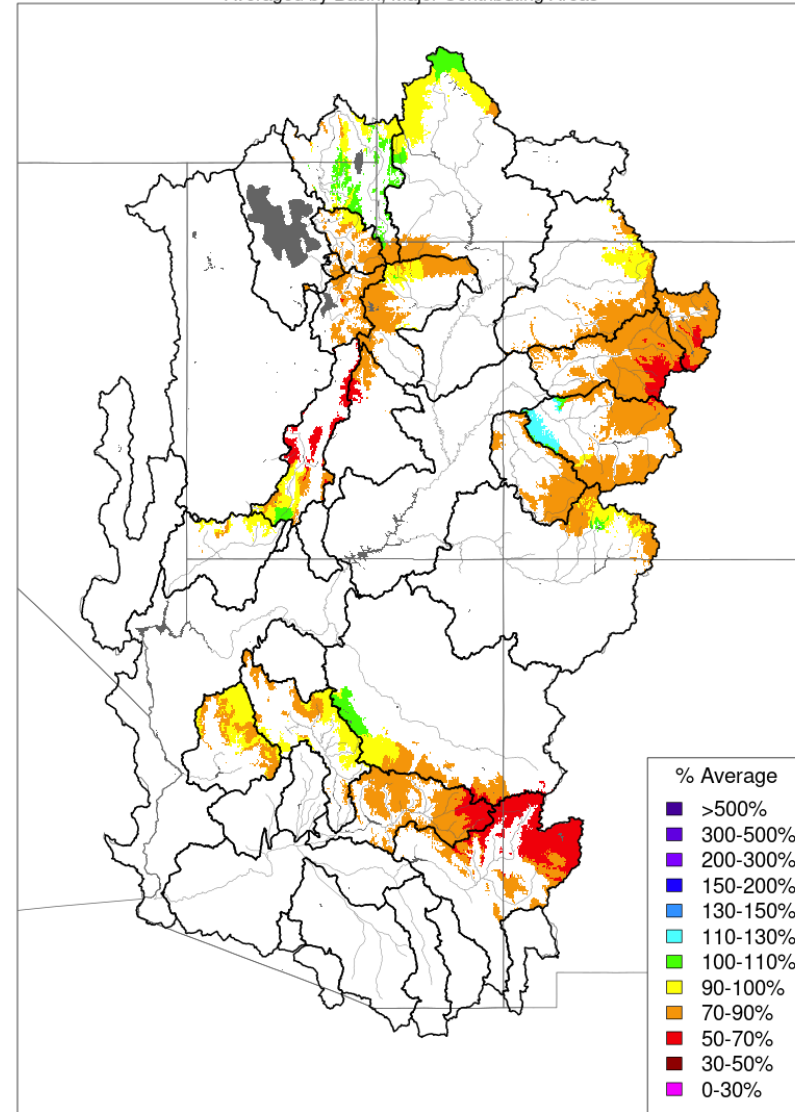
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



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

Water Year to Date Precipitation, October 01 - May 20 2026

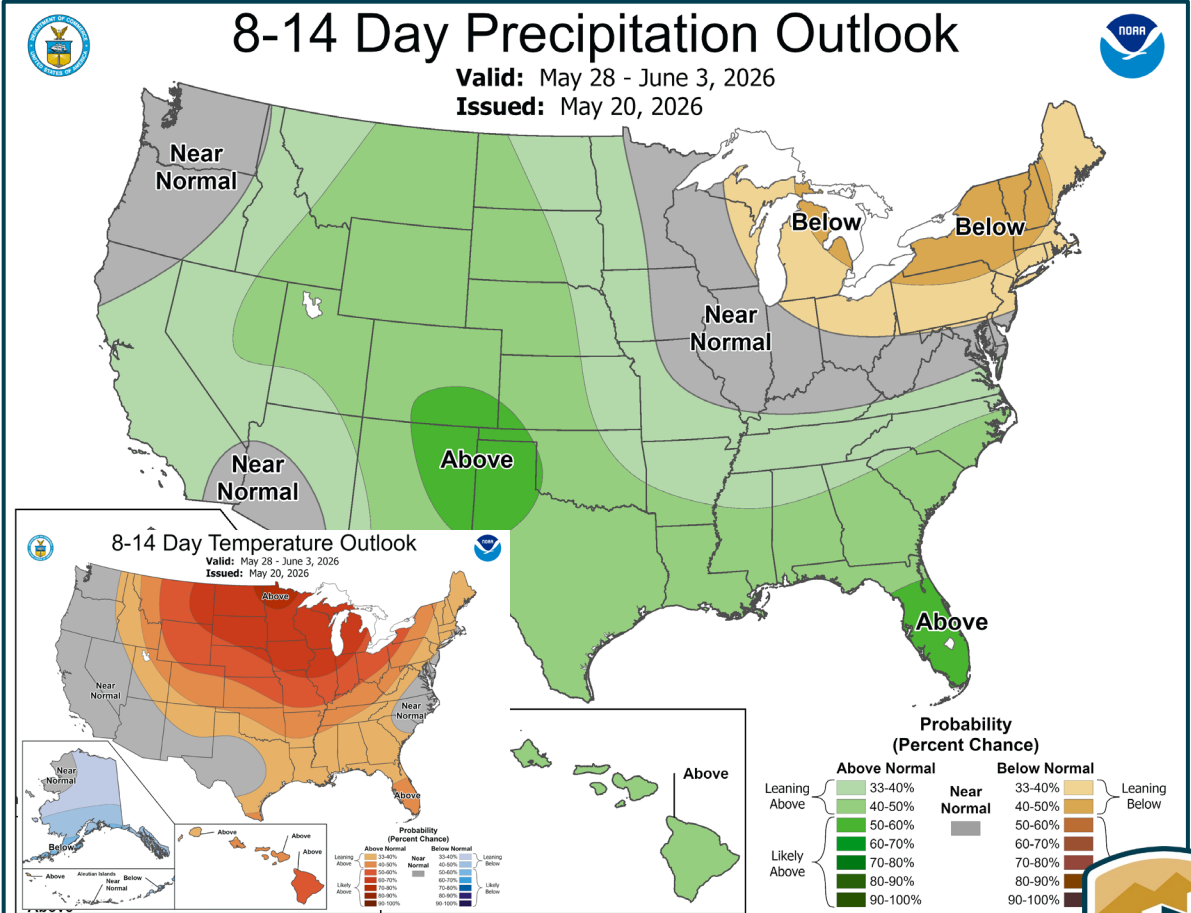
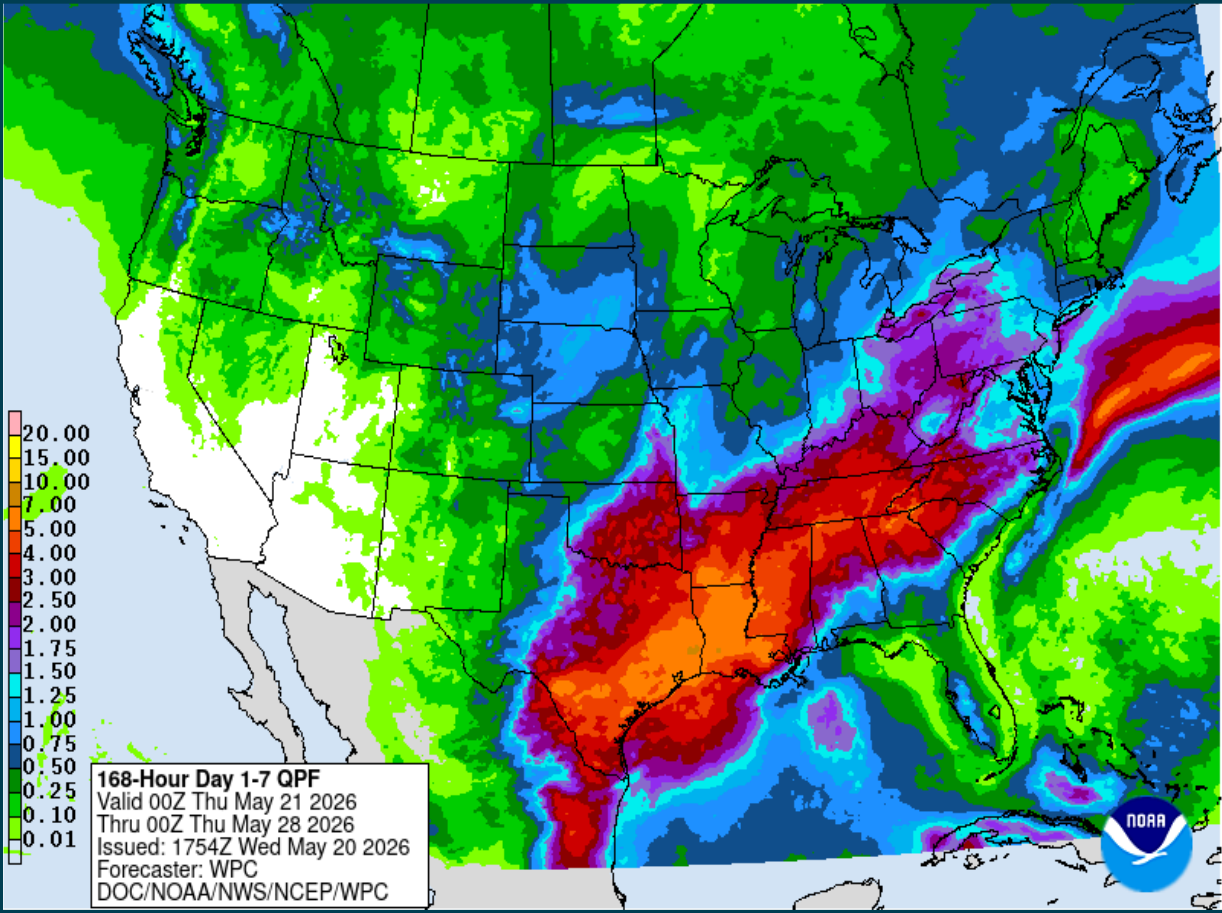
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



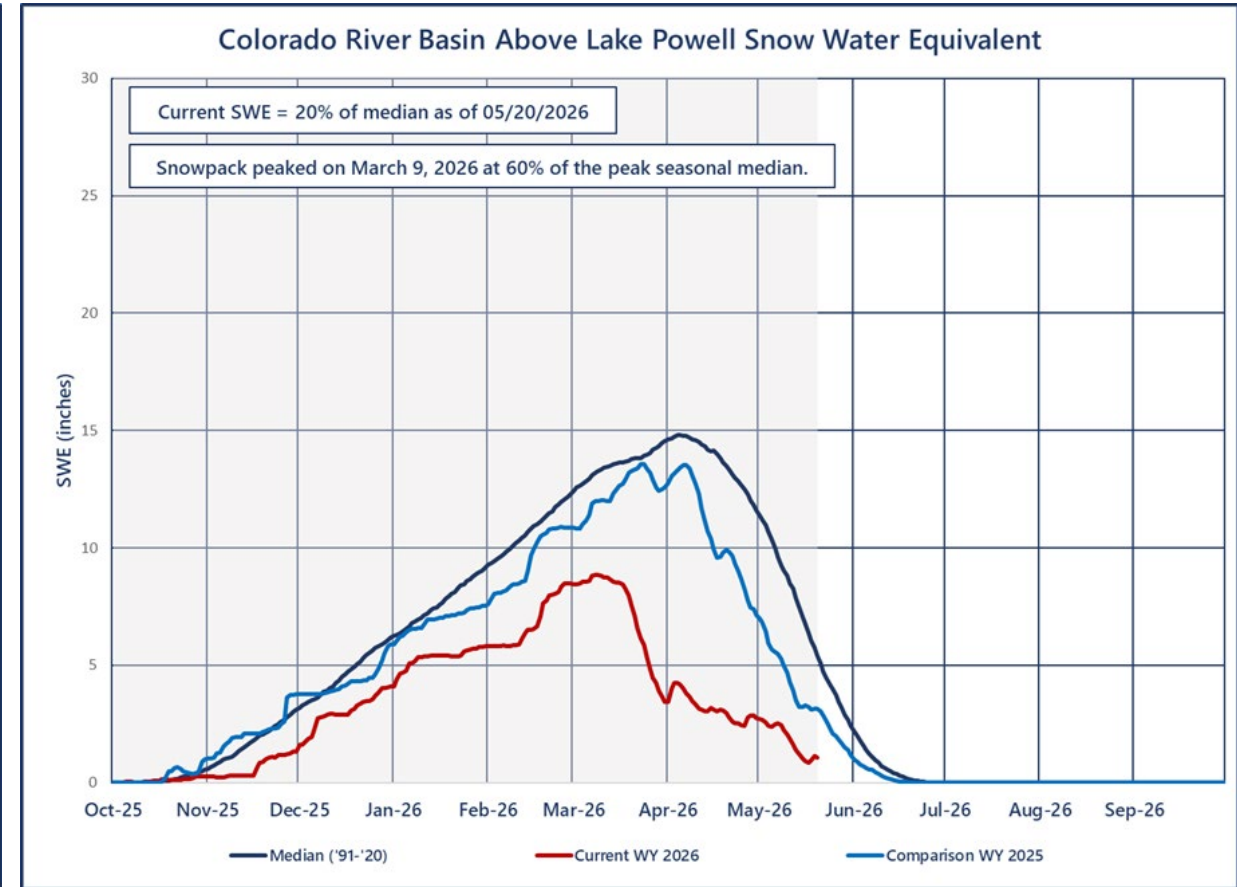
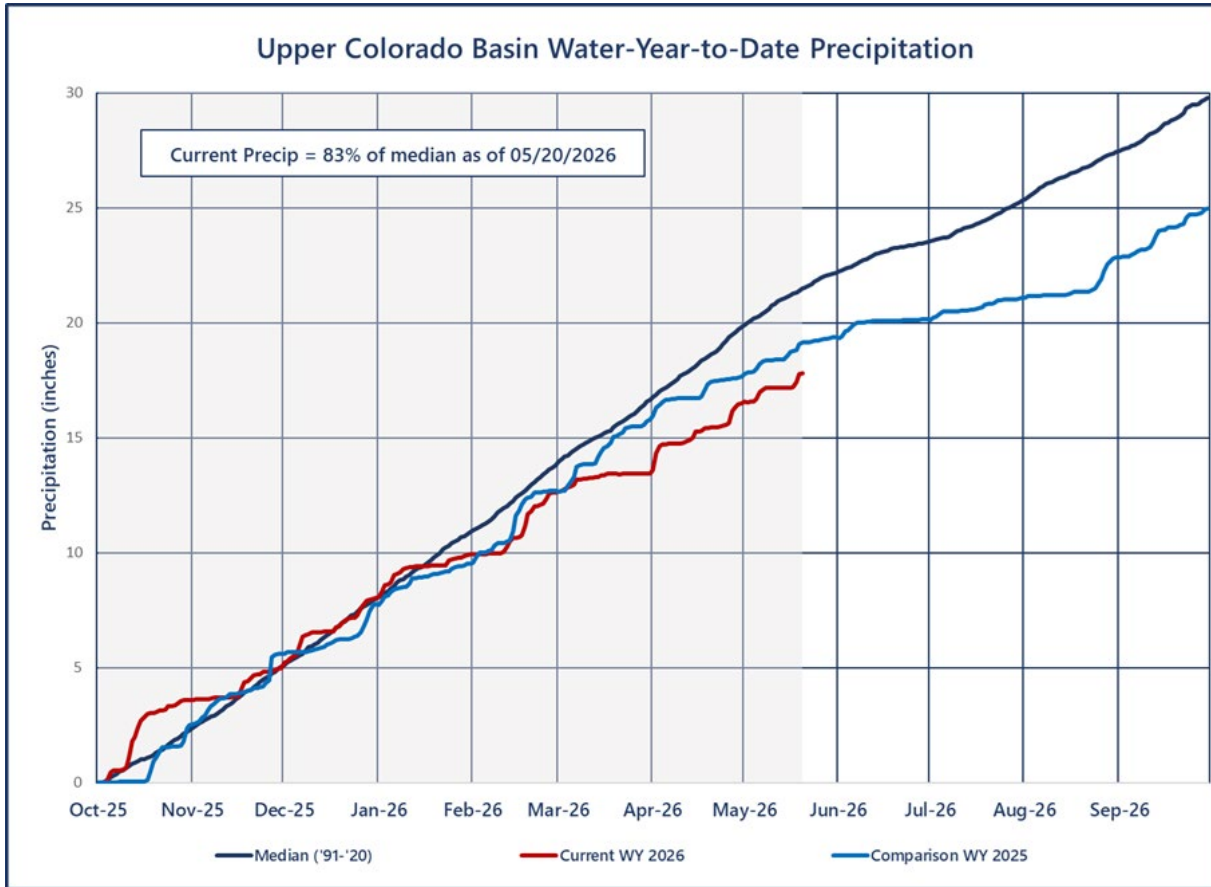
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov



Weather Prediction Center and Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecasts



Upper Colorado Precipitation and SWE¹



¹Statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.

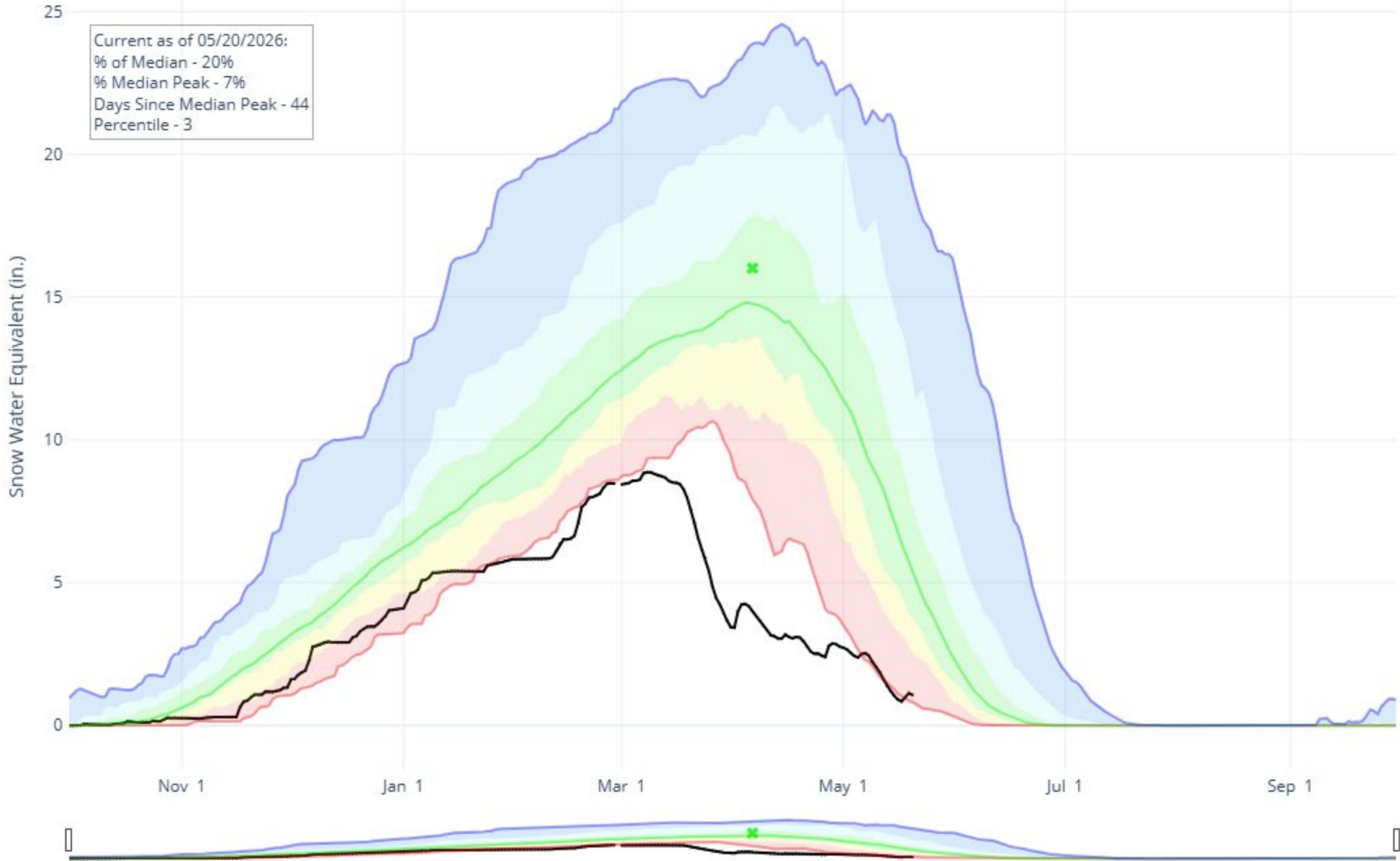


Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2026 (130 sites)
- 2025 (130 sites)
- 2024 (130 sites)
- 2023 (130 sites)
- 2022 (130 sites)
- 2021 (129 sites)
- 2020 (130 sites)
- 2019 (130 sites)
- 2018 (130 sites)
- 2017 (130 sites)
- 2016 (130 sites)
- 2015 (130 sites)
- 2014 (130 sites)
- 2013 (130 sites)
- 2012 (130 sites)
- 2011 (130 sites)
- 2010 (125 sites)
- 2009 (119 sites)
- 2008 (118 sites)
- 2007 (116 sites)
- 2006 (116 sites)
- 2005 (116 sites)
- 2004 (112 sites)
- 2003 (110 sites)



Most Probable May Forecast Water Year 2026

April – July 2026
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow
as of May 5, 2026

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from Apr	Percent of Avg ¹
Fontenelle	355	-85	48
Flaming Gorge	380	-110	39
Blue Mesa	170	-70	27
Navajo	168	-5	27
Powell	800	-600	13

Water Year 2026
Unregulated Inflow Forecast
as of May 5, 2026

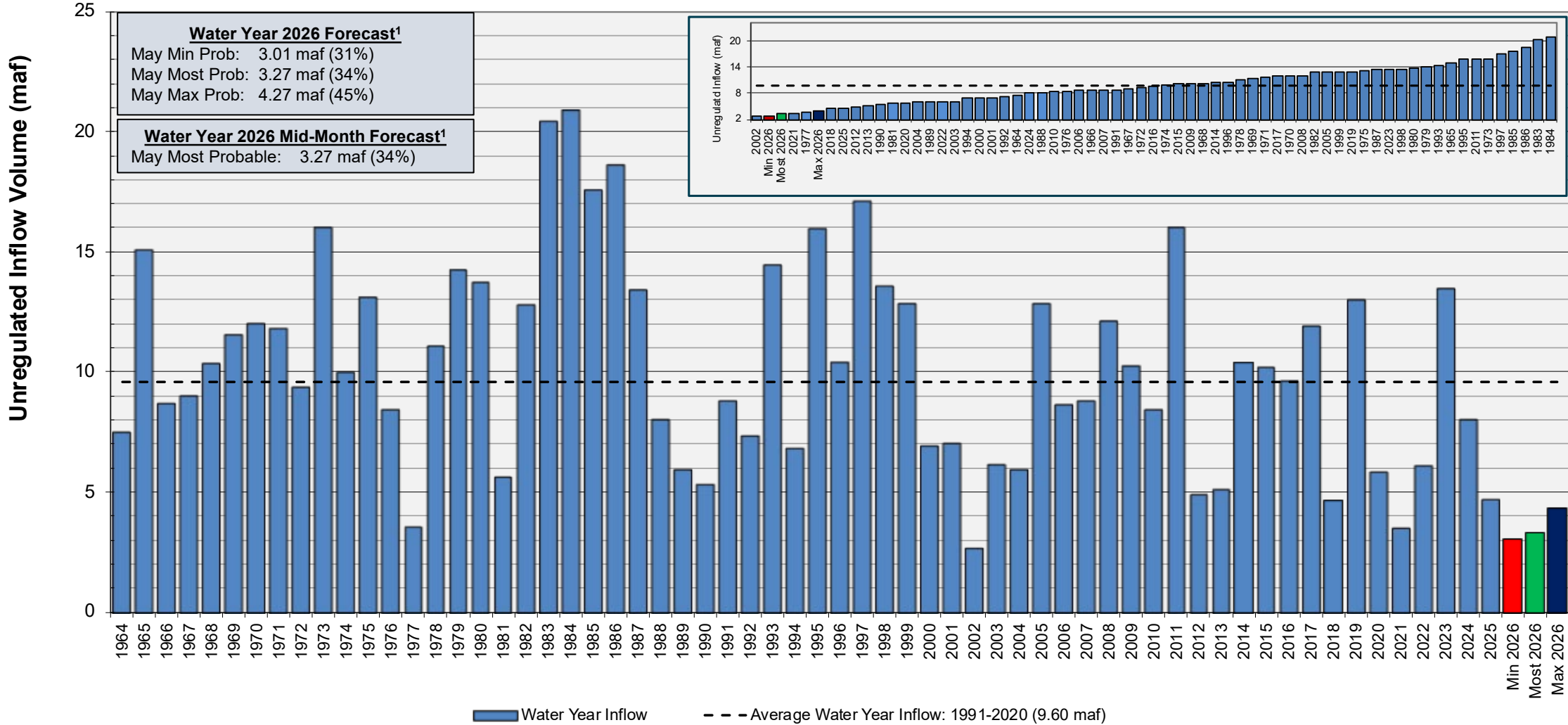
Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from Apr	Percent of Avg ¹
Fontenelle	641	-85	60
Flaming Gorge	696	-110	49
Blue Mesa	407	-72	45
Navajo	580	-18	64
Powell	3,271	-600	34

¹Water year statistics are based on the 30-year period from 1991-2020



Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of May 18, 2026
Comparison with History



¹Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.





Upper Colorado Basin

Hydrology and Operations
Projections Based on
May 2026
24-Month Studies



Upper Basin Reservoir Operations

Water Year 2026 Modeling Assumptions in May 2026 24-Month Study

- Lake Powell will be operated consistent with the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Agreement, and Upper Basin Records of Decision
- Lake Powell WY 2026 will operate in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with a planned release of 6.0 maf, subject to SEIS ROD Section 6.E. provision
- Includes the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Near-term Colorado River Operations Record of Decision (2024 Near-term SEIS, signed May 6, 2024)
- Includes the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (2024 LTEMP SEIS ROD, signed July 3, 2024)



Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

Lake Powell Operational Tier Determination Run (aka "Exhibit Run")
with an 8.23 maf Release¹

Lake Powell			Lake Mead		
Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)	Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)
3,700	Equilization Tier Equalize, avoid spills, or release 8.23 maf	23.31	1,220	Flood Control Surplus or Quantified Surplus Condition Deliver > 7.5 maf	26.18
3,636-3,666 (2008-2026)	Upper Elevation Balancing Tier Release 8.23 maf If Lake Mead < 1,075 feet, balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf	14.65-18.36 (2008-2026)	1,200 (approx.)	Domestic Surplus or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver > 7.5 maf	23.14 (approx.)
3,575		8.90	1,145	Normal or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	16.18
3,532.15 ft Jan 1, 2026 Projection	Mid-Elevation Release Tier Release 7.48 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,025 feet; release 8.23 maf If any minimum probable Lake Powell elevation projection shows Lake Powell < 3,500 feet, begin planning to reduce releases to no less than 6.0 maf		1,075	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.167 maf	1,055.88 ft Jan 1, 2026 Projection
3,525	Lower Elevation Balancing Tier Balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.5 maf If any minimum probable Lake Powell elevation projection shows Lake Powell < 3,500 feet, begin planning to reduce releases to no less than 6.0 maf	5.55	1,050	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.083 maf	
3,500		4.22	1,025		5.98
3,370	The Secretary reserves the right to operate Reclamation facilities to protect the Colorado River system if hydrologic conditions require such action as described in Sections 6 and 7(D) in the 2007 Interim Guidelines ROD	0	1,000	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.0 maf Further measures may be undertaken	4.48
			895		0

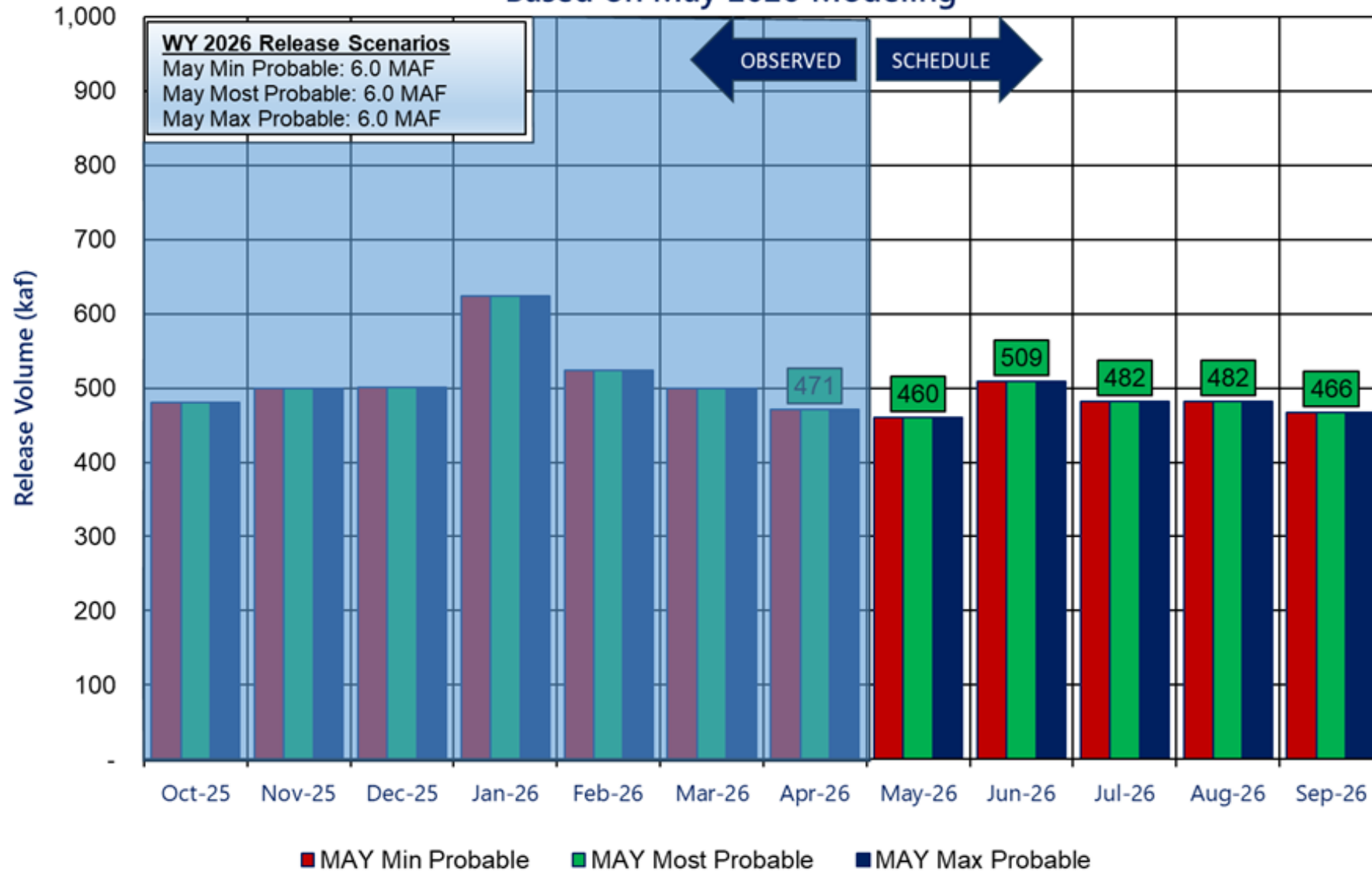


¹ Lake Powell and Lake Mead operational tier determinations will be documented in the draft 2026 AOP.

Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

Release Scenarios for Water Year 2026

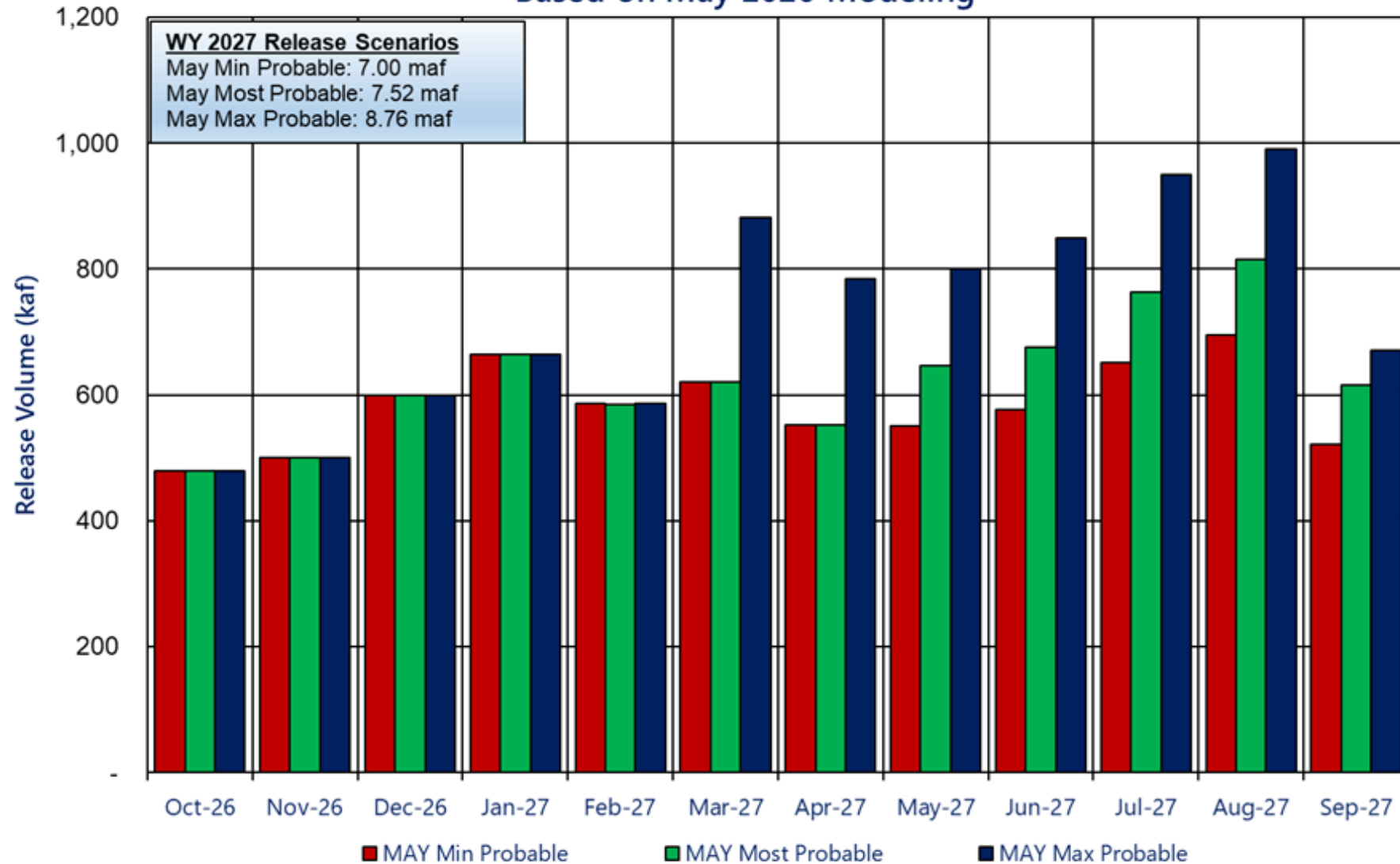
Based on May 2026 Modeling



Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

Release Scenarios for Water Year 2027

Based on May 2026 Modeling



Reclamation Operational Modeling

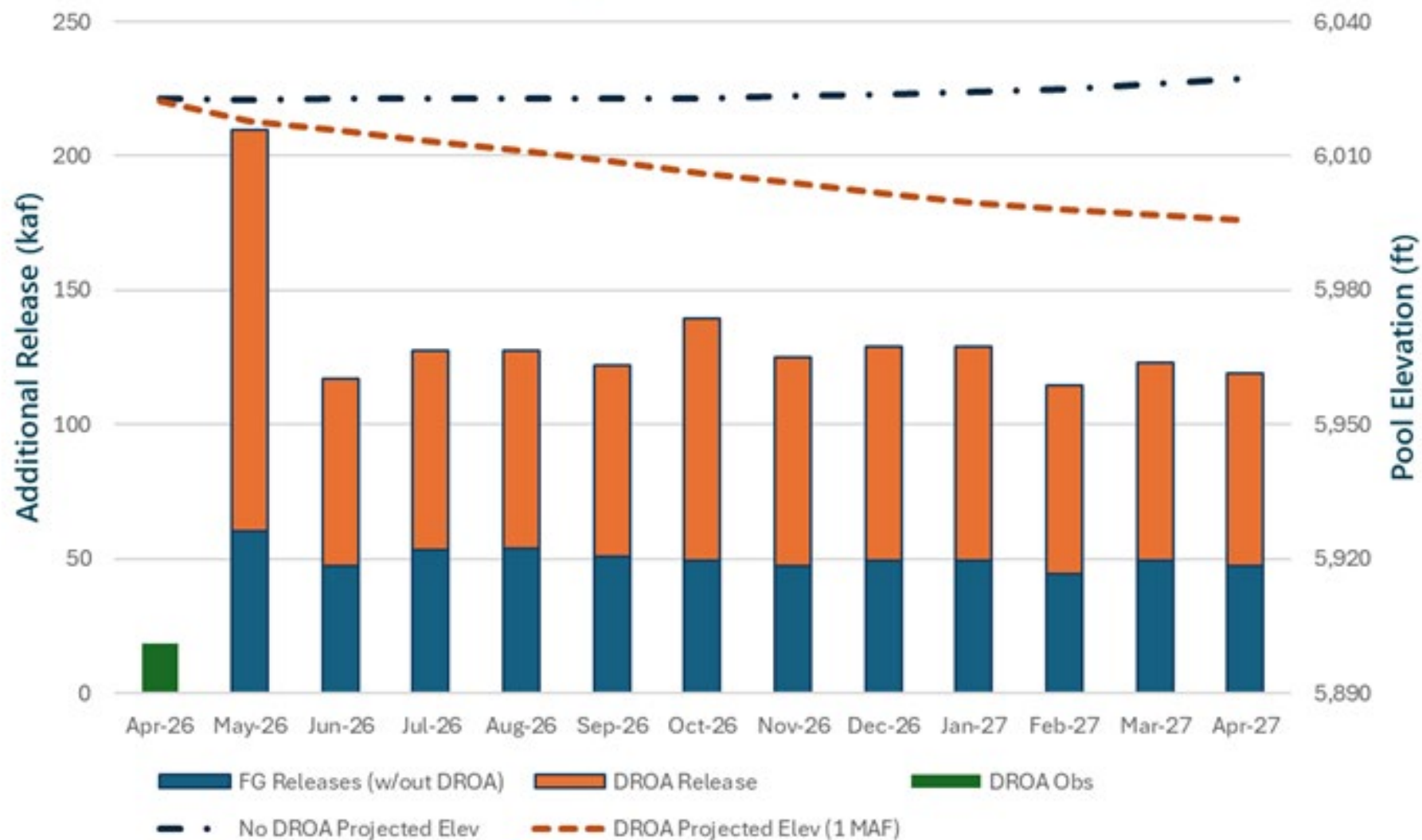
Model Comparison

	Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System (CRMMS)		CRSS
	24-Month Study Mode (Manual Mode)	Ensemble Mode (Rule-based Mode)	
Primary Use	AOP tier determinations and projections of current conditions	Risk-based operational planning and analysis	Long-term planning, comparison of alternatives
Simulated Reservoir Operations	Operations input manually	Rule-driven operations	
Probabilistic or Deterministic	Deterministic – single hydrologic trace	Deterministic OR Probabilistic 30 (or more) hydrologic traces	Probabilistic – 100+ traces
Time Horizon (years)			
Upper Basin Inflow	Unregulated forecast, 1 trace	Unregulated ESP forecast, 30 traces	Natural flow; historical, paleo, or climate change hydrology
Upper Basin Demands	Implicit, in unregulated inflow forecast		Explicit, 2016 UCRC assumptions
Lower Basin Demands	Official approved or operational		Developed with LB users



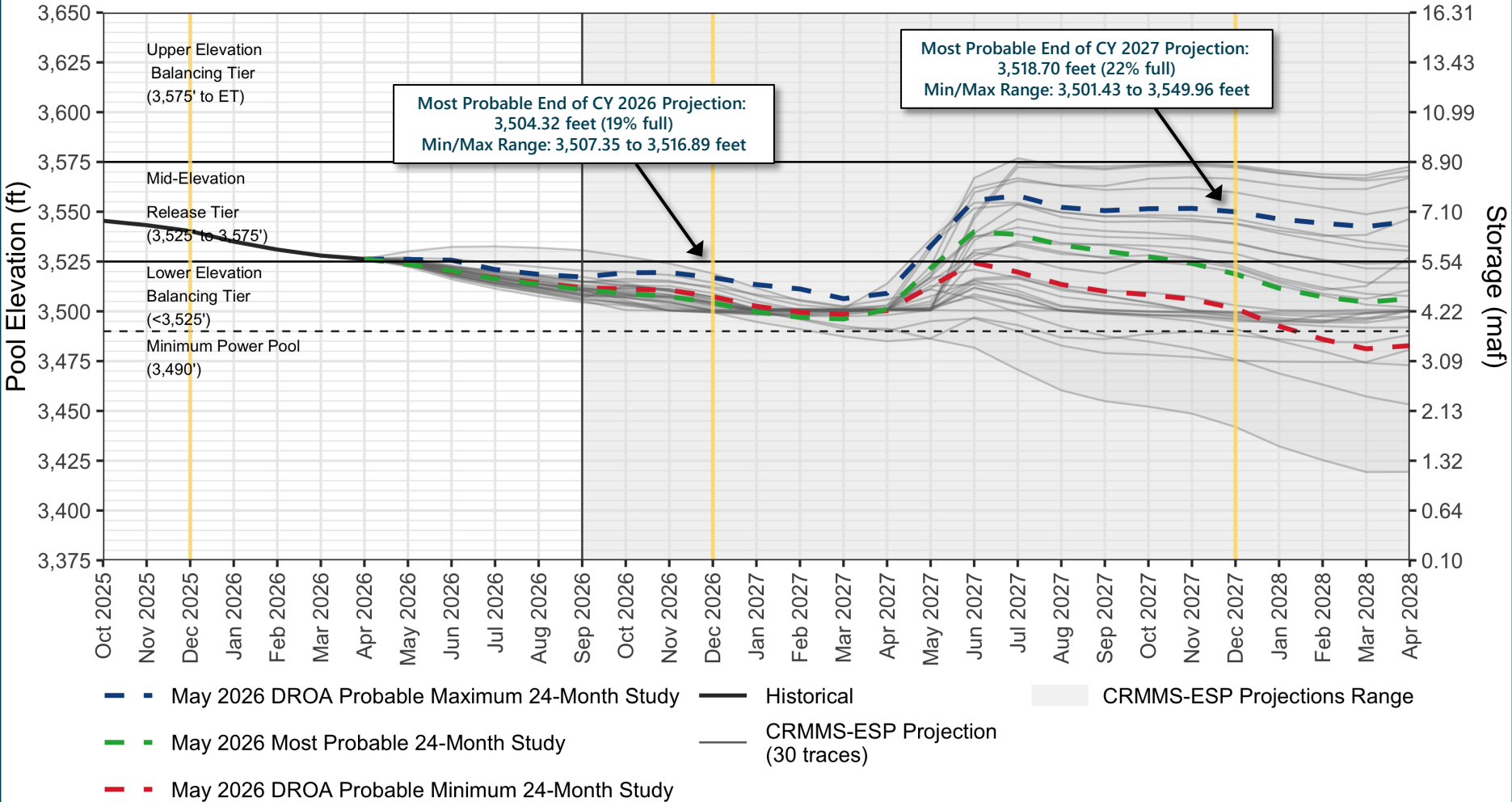
Flaming Gorge DROA Releases

Based on the May 2026 Most Probable Scenario



Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations^{1,2}

CRMMS Projections from May 2026



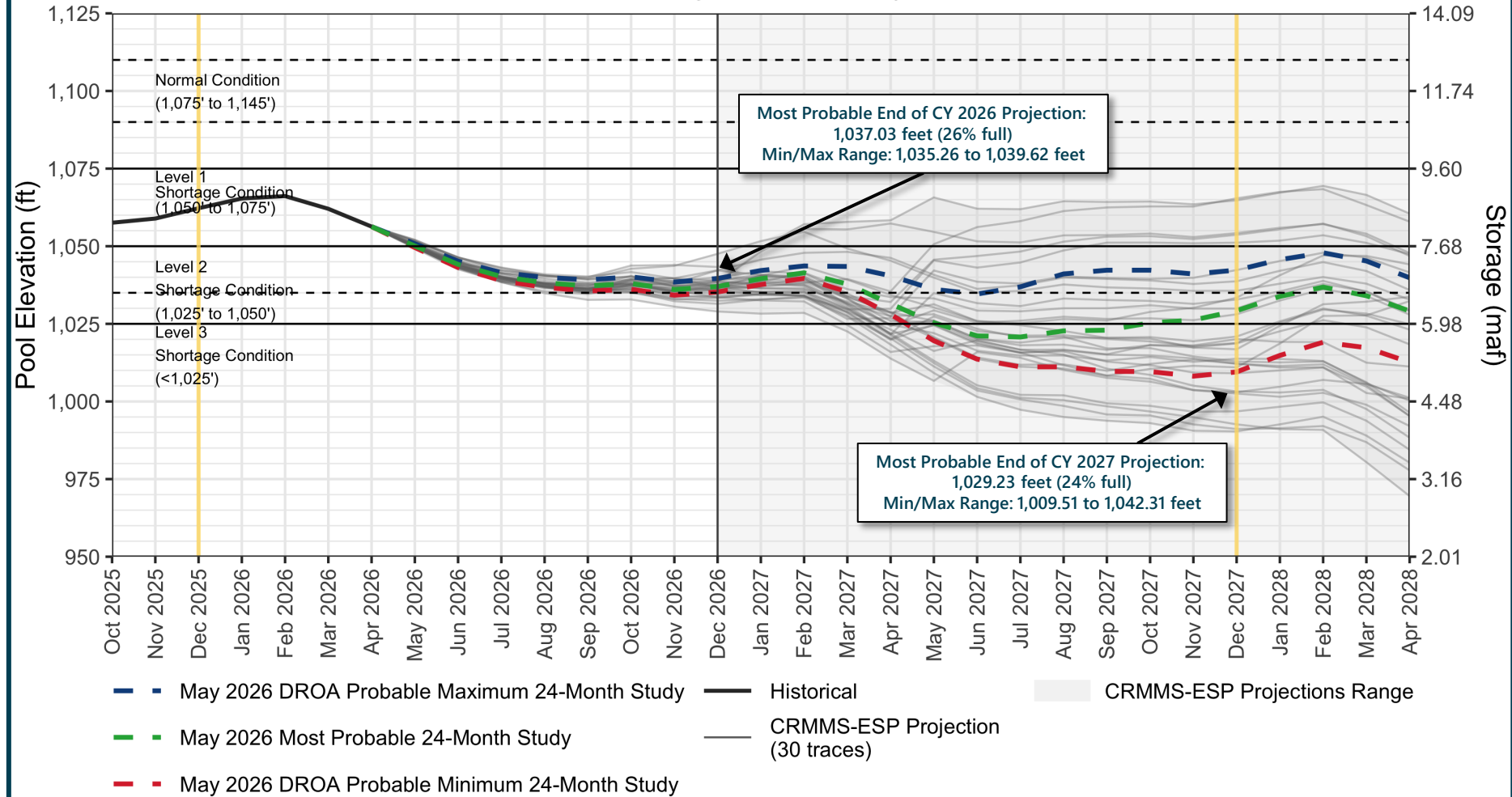
¹For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.

²In water year 2026, Reclamation will reduce the annual release volume from Lake Powell to Lake Mead to 6.0 maf through September 2026 by implementing Section 6.E. of the Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines (Interim Guidelines SEIS). Beyond water year 2026, for modeling purposes, this graphic contains existing operational assumptions built into CRMMS that constrain Glen Canyon Dam releases, to prevent Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500 feet. As described in Sections 6.E and 7. B of the Interim Guidelines SEIS, Reclamation will consider all tools that are available to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet and any actual constraining of Lake Powell releases is subject to appropriate consultation between Reclamation and other Basin partners with respect to the implementation of potential releases. Whereas, the Probable Minimum scenario shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints, beyond water year 2026, so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.



Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations^{1,2}

CRMMS Projections from May 2026



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Upper Colorado Basin

Hydropower Maintenance



Glen Canyon Power Plant Planned Unit Outage Schedule for Water Year 2026

Unit Number	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
Units Available	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	4	
Penstock Capacity (cfs)								17,700	17,500	17,400	17,100	10,700	MAY MOST ²
Penstock Capacity (kaf/month)								1,090	1,040	1,070	1,050	640	MAY MOST
Max (kaf) ¹	480	500	501	625	525	500	471	460	509	482	482	466	6.00 maf
Most (kaf) ¹	480	500	501	625	525	500	471	460	509	482	482	466	6.00 maf
Min (kaf) ¹	480	500	501	625	525	500	471	460	509	482	482	466	6.00 maf
										(updated 5/20/2026)			

1 Projected release based on May 2026 24-Month Study for the minimum, most, and maximum probable scenarios.

2 Dependent upon availability to shift contingency regulation, which will increase capacity by 30-40MW at current efficiency.

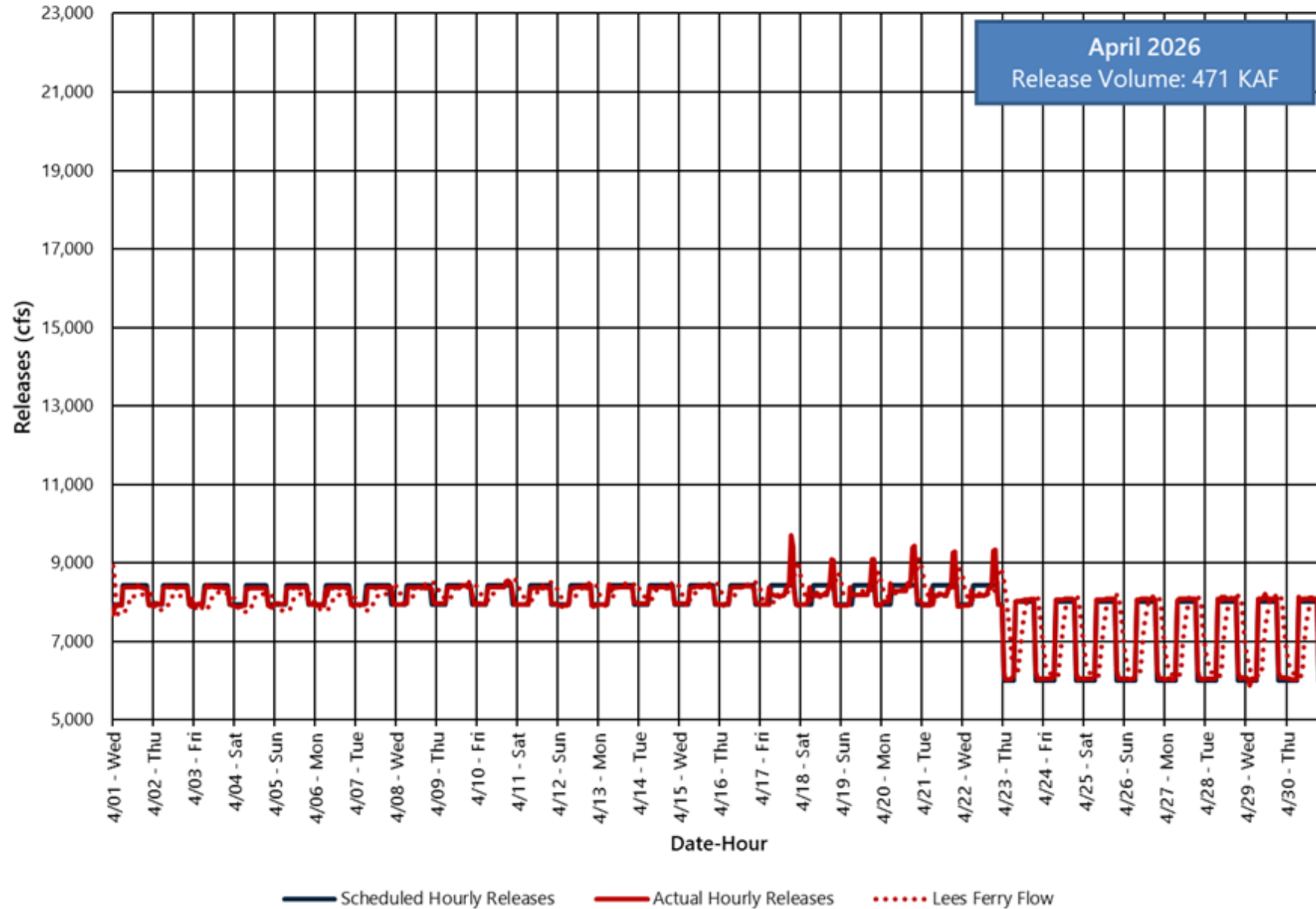
Glen Canyon Power Plant Planned Unit Outage Schedule for Water Year 2027

Unit Number	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027	May 2027	Jun 2027	Jul 2027	Aug 2027	Sep 2027	
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
Units Available	4	6	6	6	4	6	5	6	6	6	6	4	
Penstock Capacity (cfs)	11,300	16,000	17,000	15,300	11,100	16,600	14,800	16,200	18,200	18,200	17,500	11,200	MAY MOST ²
Penstock Capacity (kaf/month)	690	1,020	1,040	940	610	1,020	880	1,000	1,080	1,120	1,080	660	MAY MOST
Max (kaf) ¹	480	500	600	664	587	882	785	800	850	950	990	671	8.76 maf
Most (kaf) ¹	480	500	600	664	585	620	552	647	676	764	816	616	7.52 maf
Min (kaf) ¹	480	500	600	664	587	620	552	550	577	652	696	522	7.00 maf
										(updated 5/20/2026)			

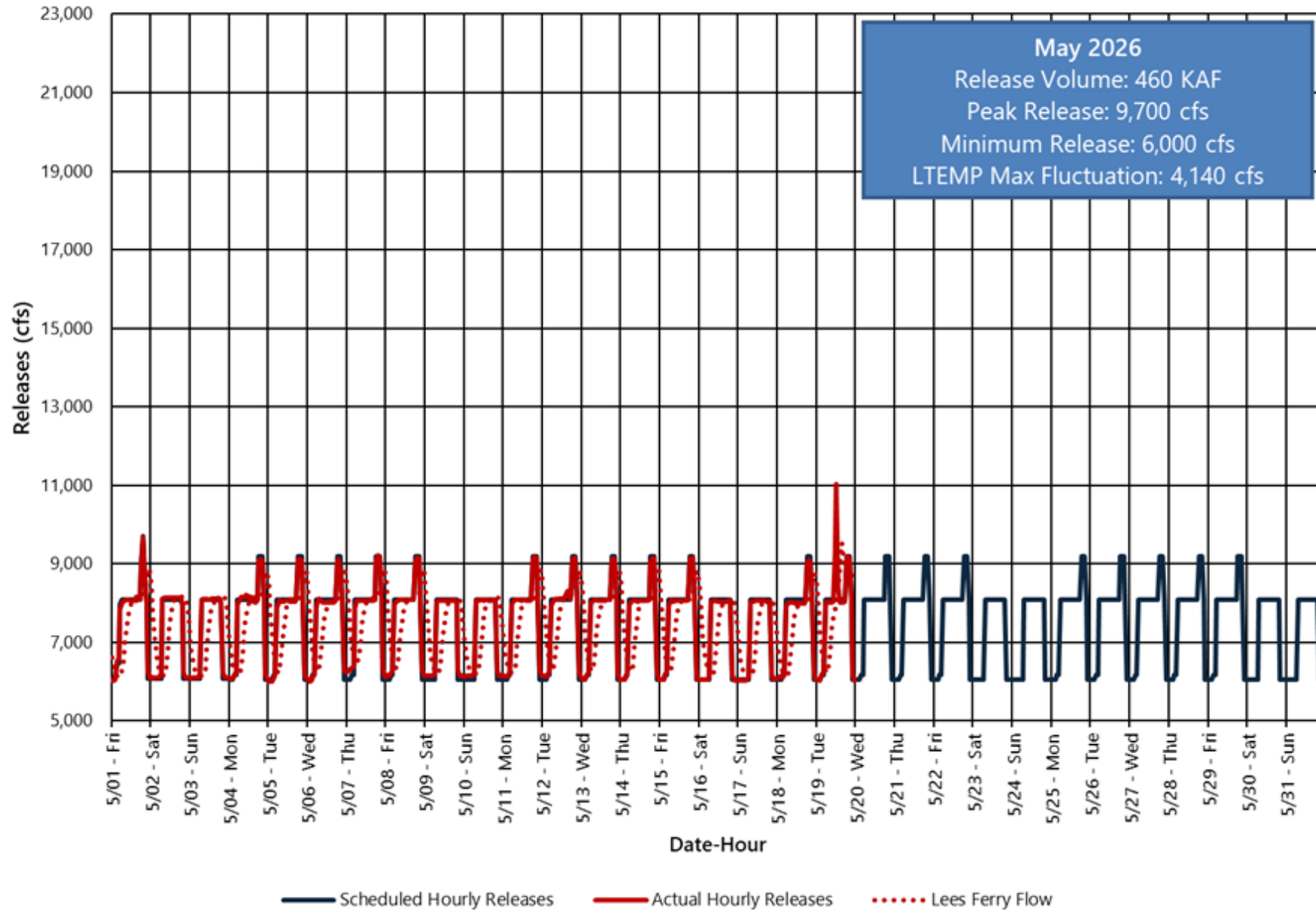
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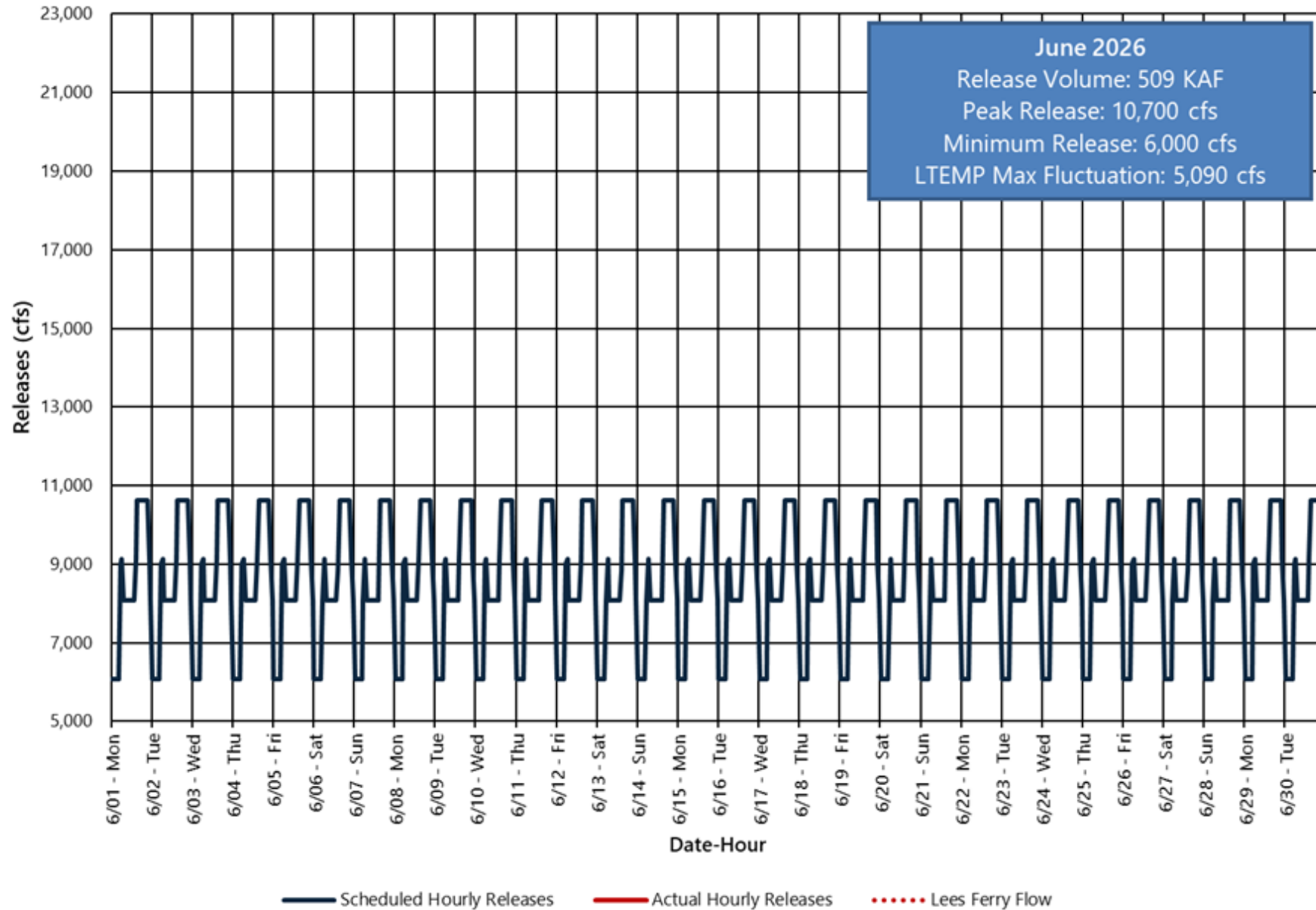
Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - April 2026



Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - May 2026



Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - June 2026



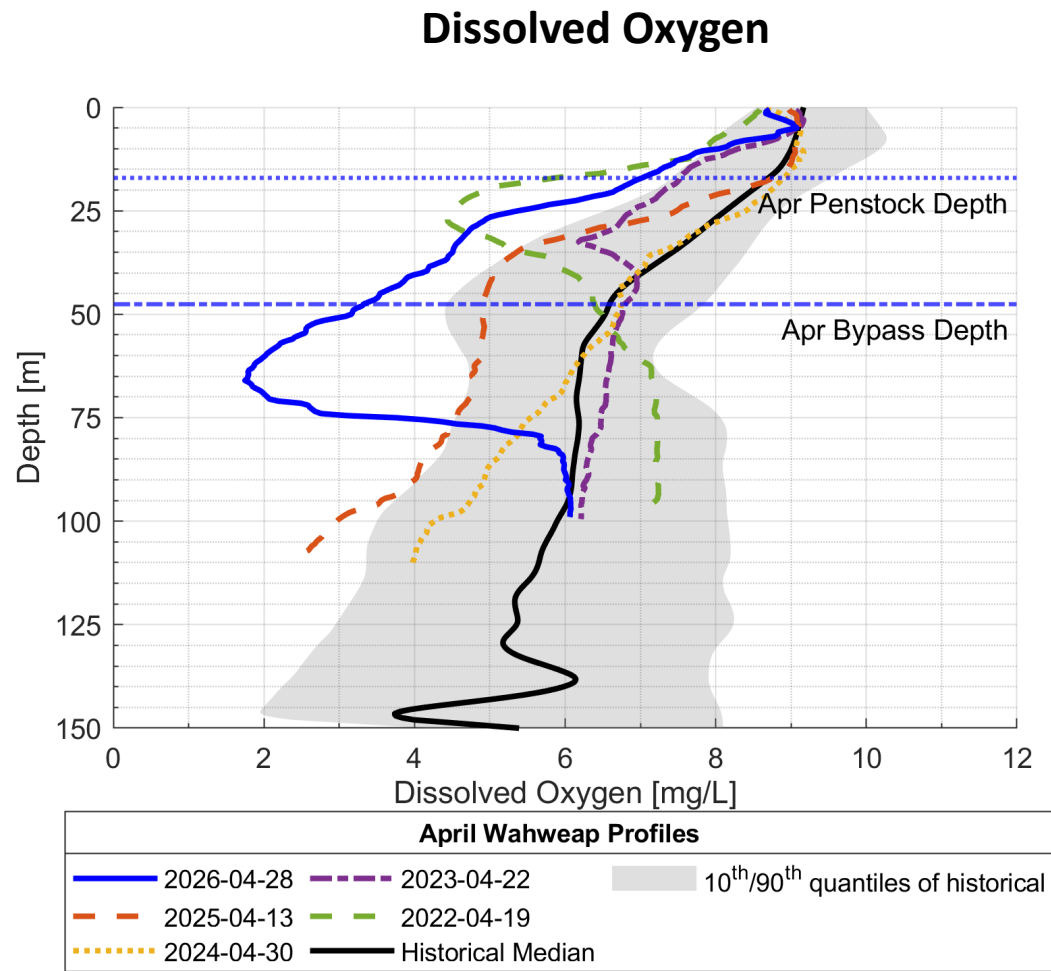
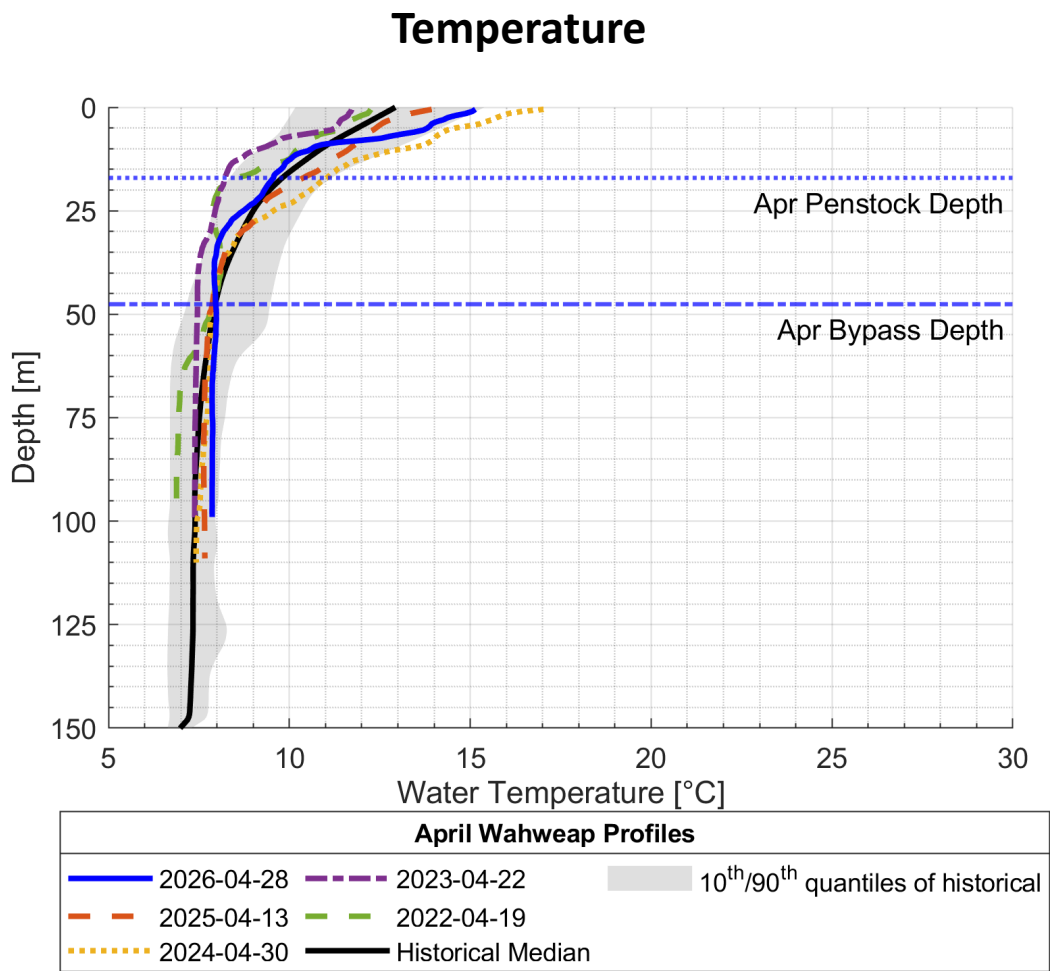


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Water Quality Update

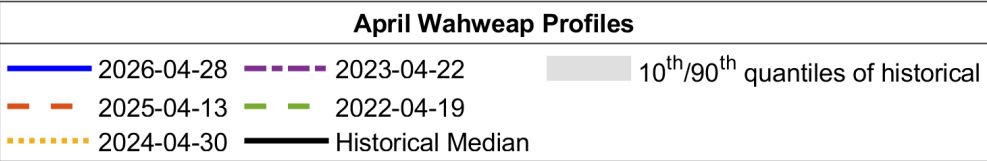
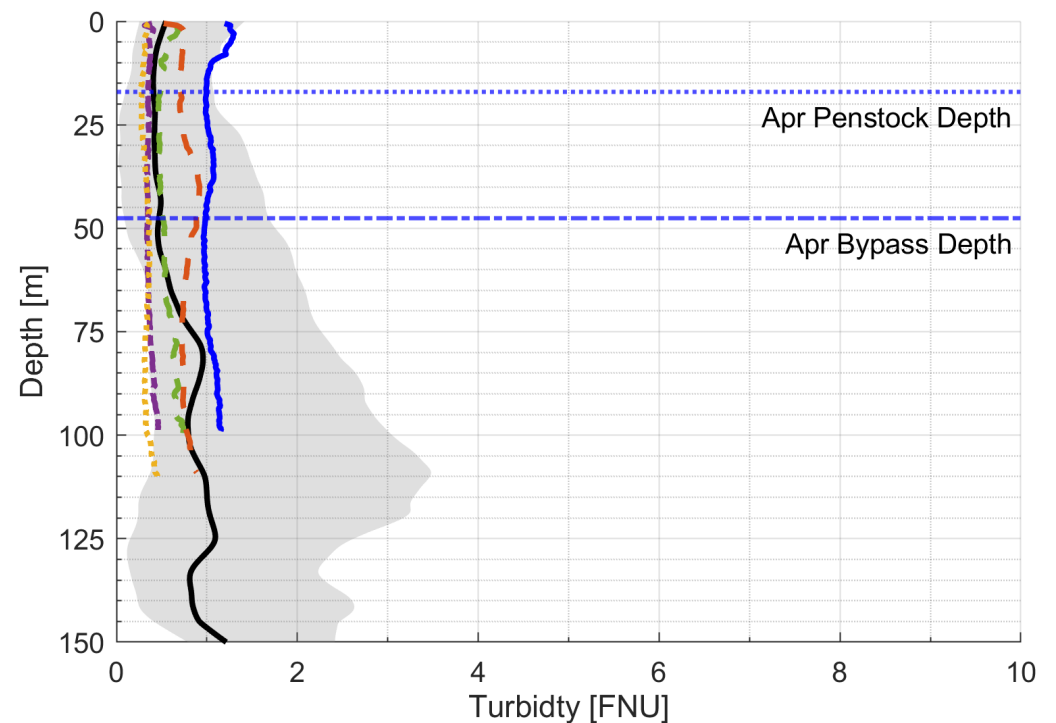
05/21/2026

Wahweap April Profiles

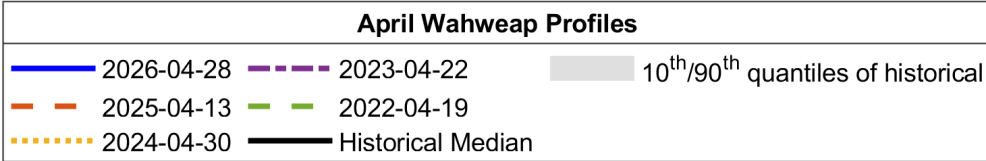
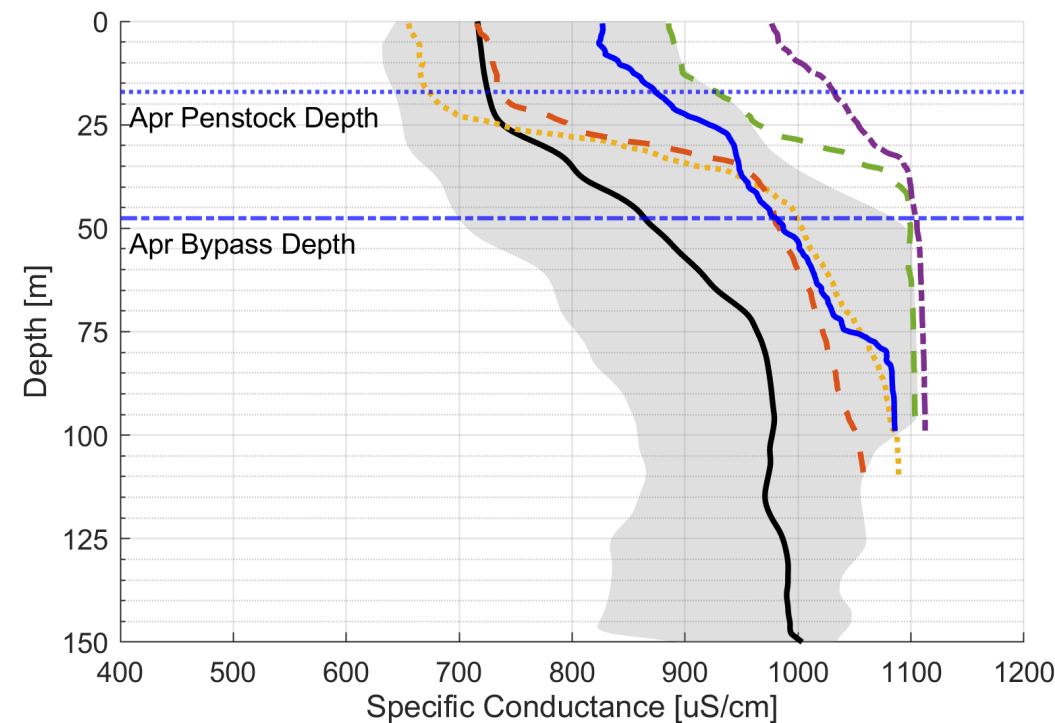


Wahweap April Profiles

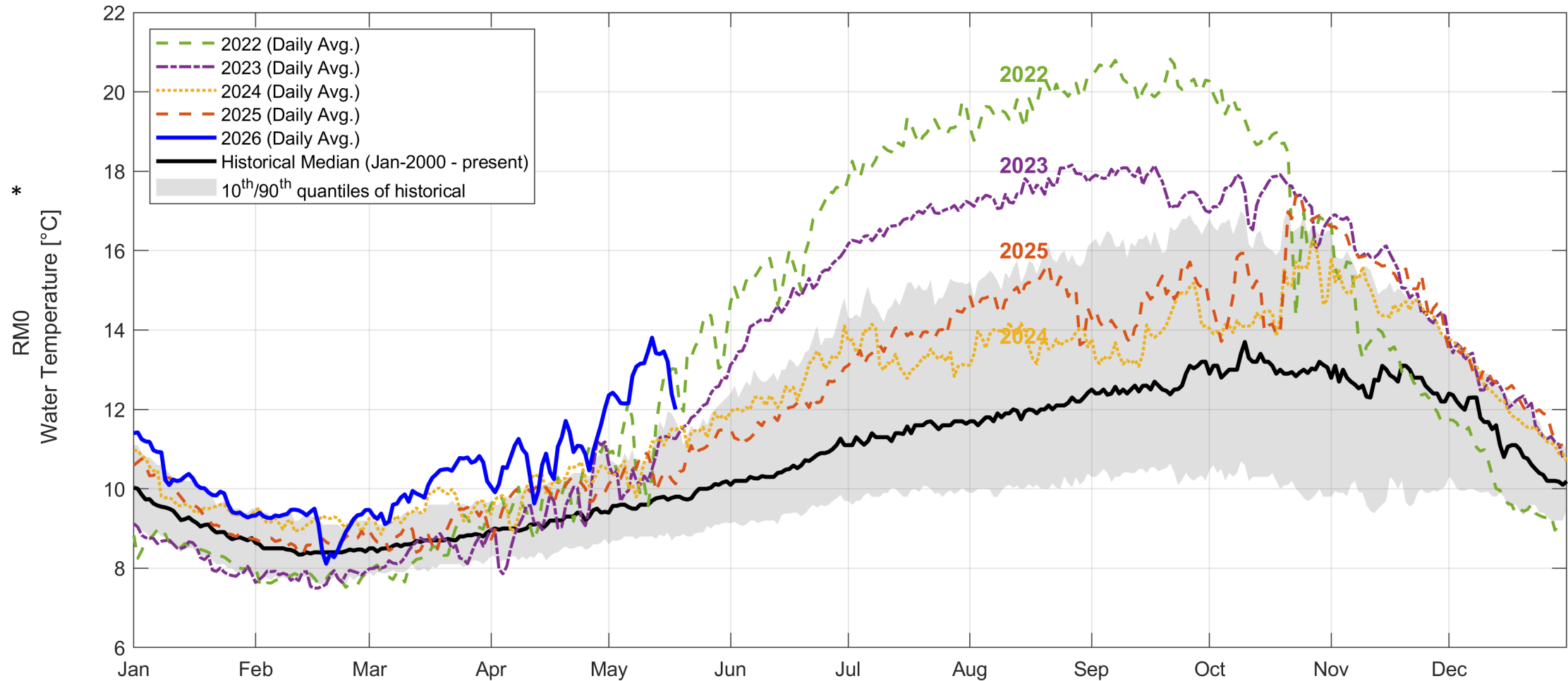
Turbidity



Specific Conductivity



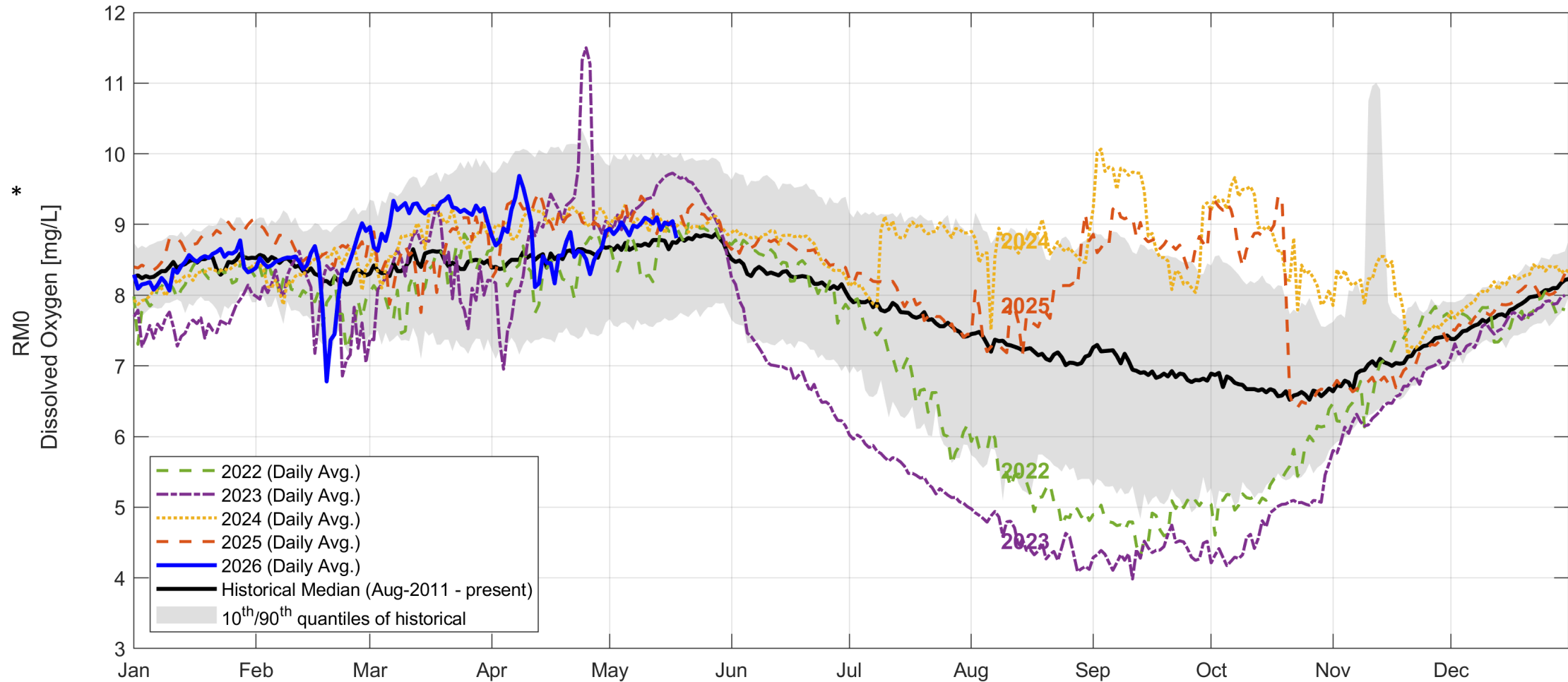
Lee's Ferry - Temperature



* Credit to USGS for data. Preliminary, not for citation.



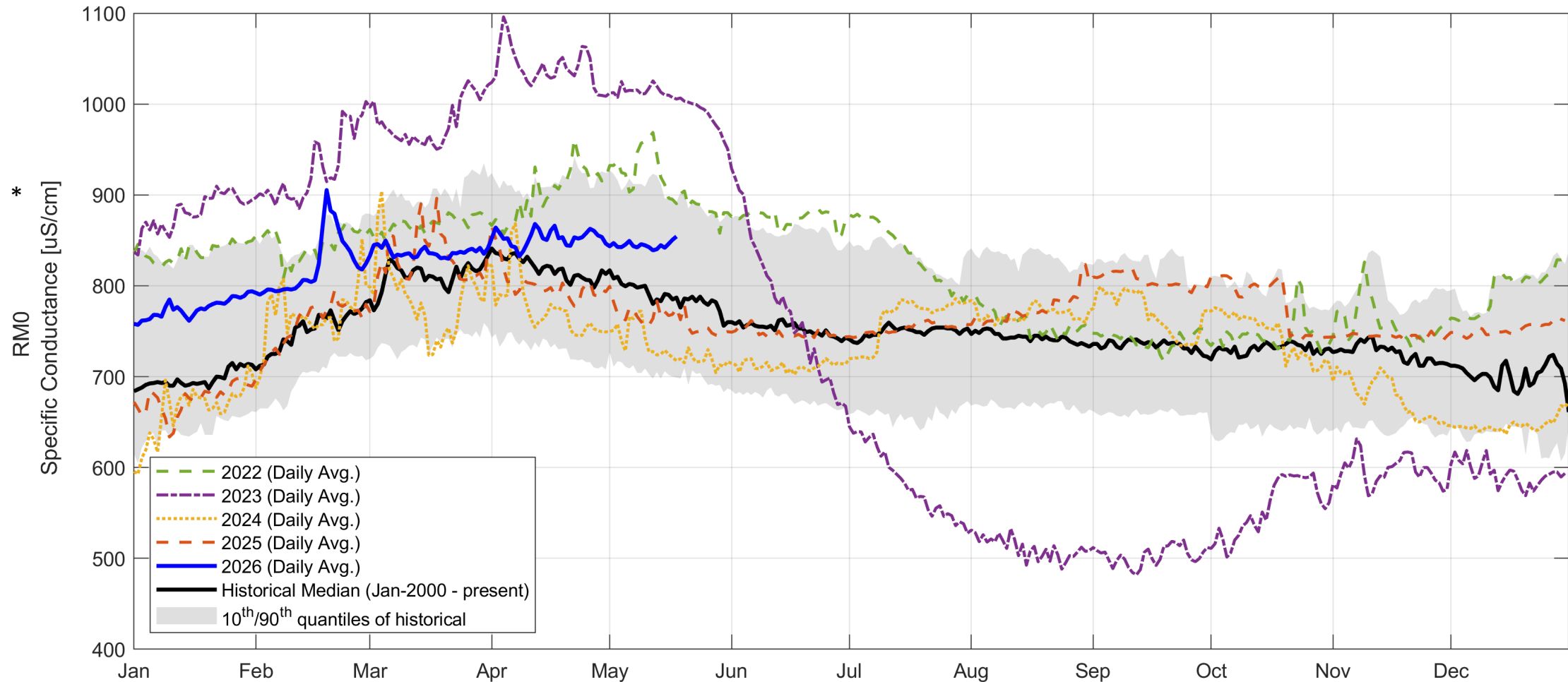
Lees Ferry – Dissolved Oxygen



* Credit to USGS for data. Preliminary, not for citation.



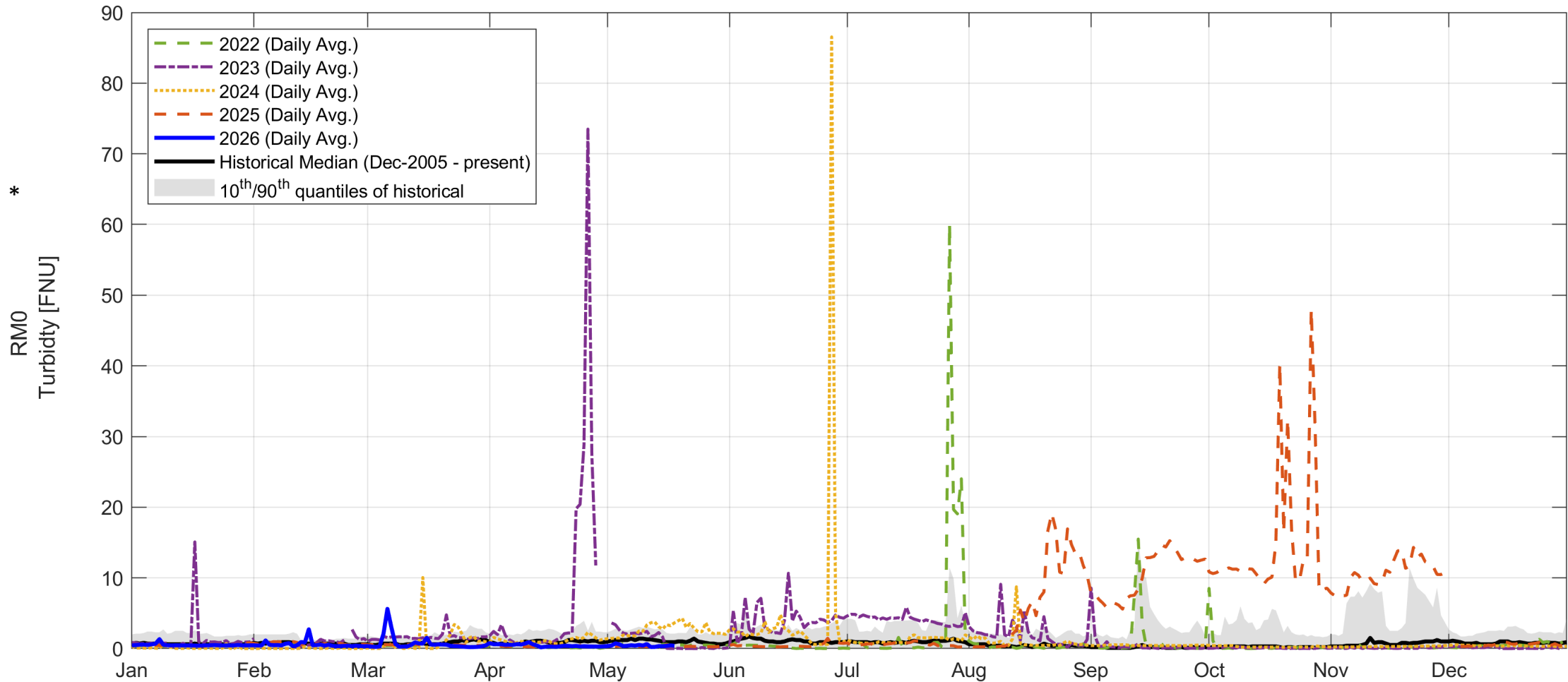
Lees Ferry – Specific Conductivity



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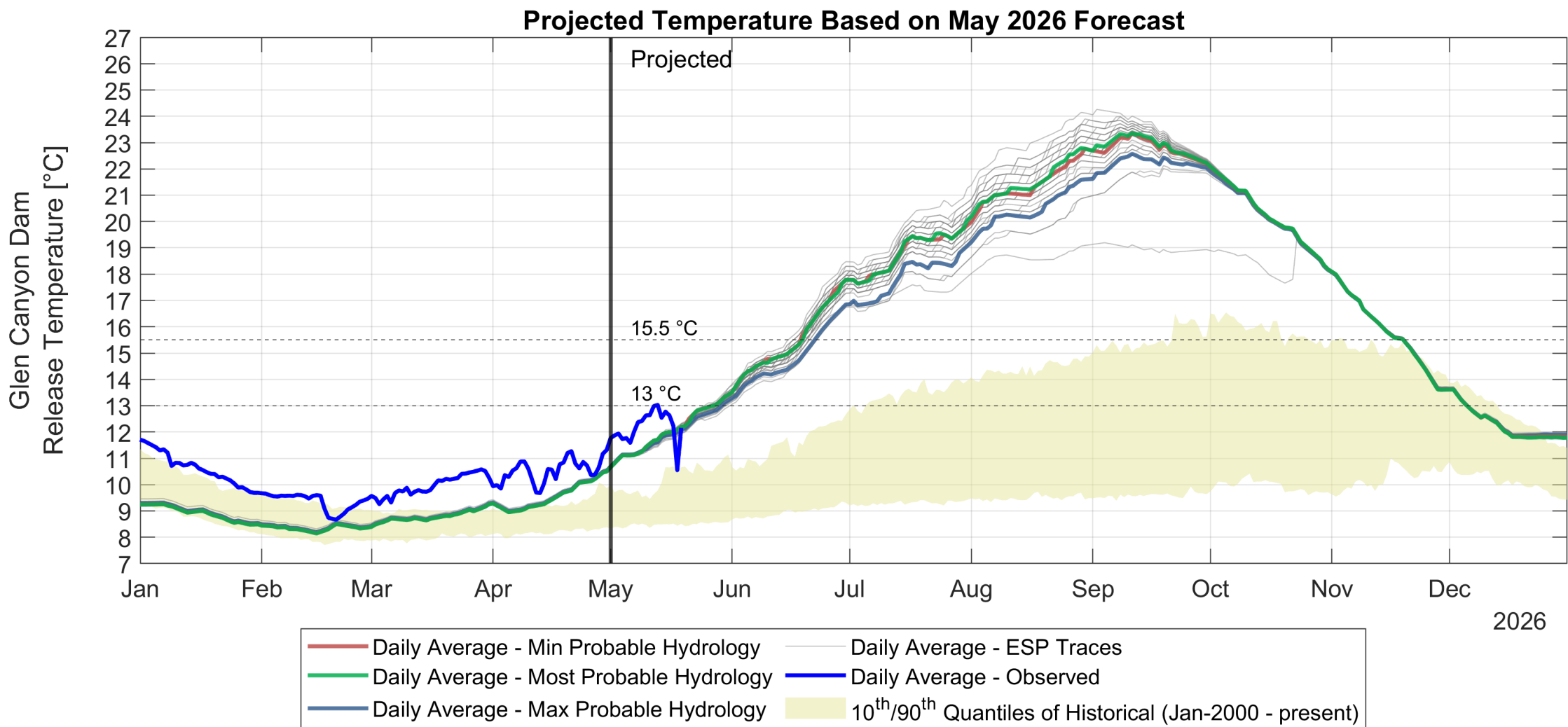
Lees Ferry – Turbidity



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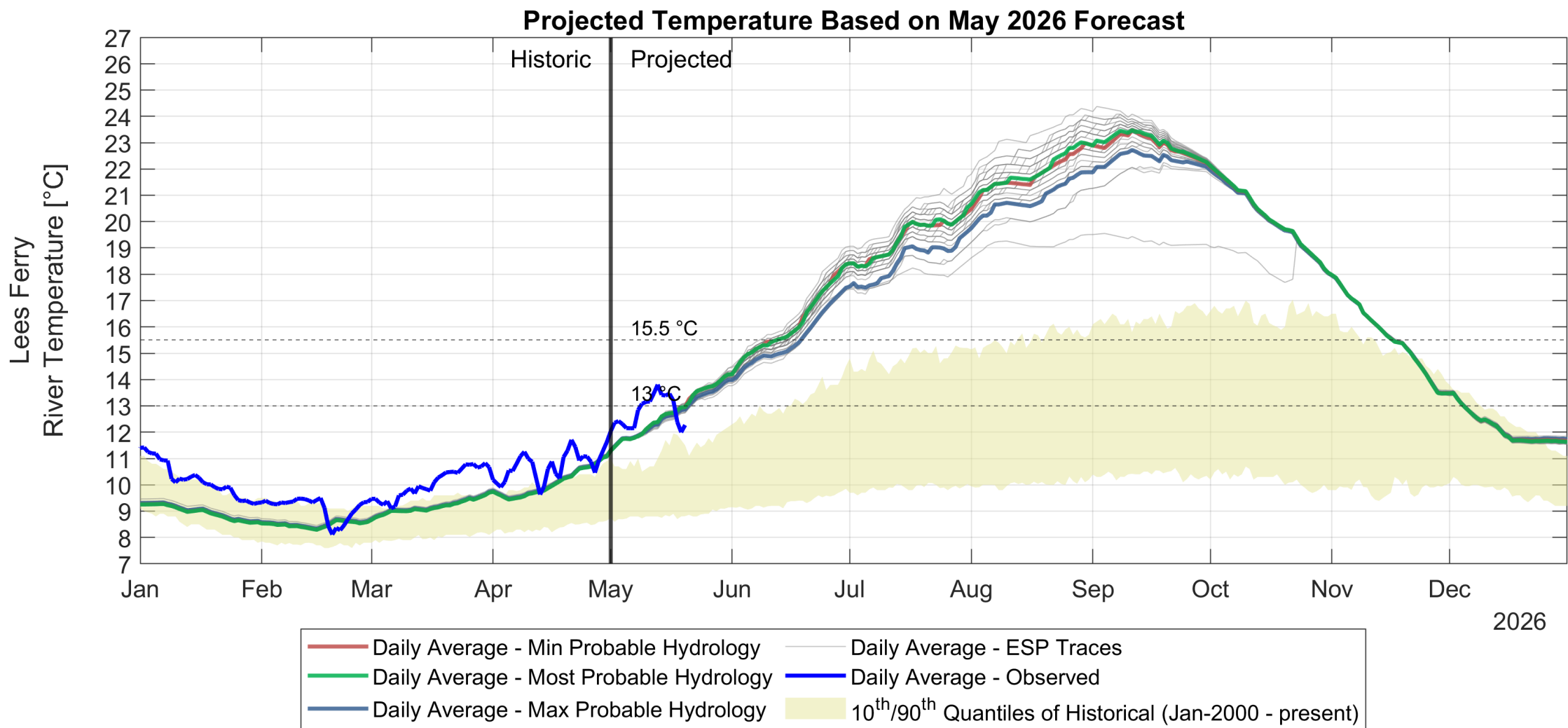
Glen Canyon Dam Release - Projected Temperature (*Eppehimer et al, 2024 model)



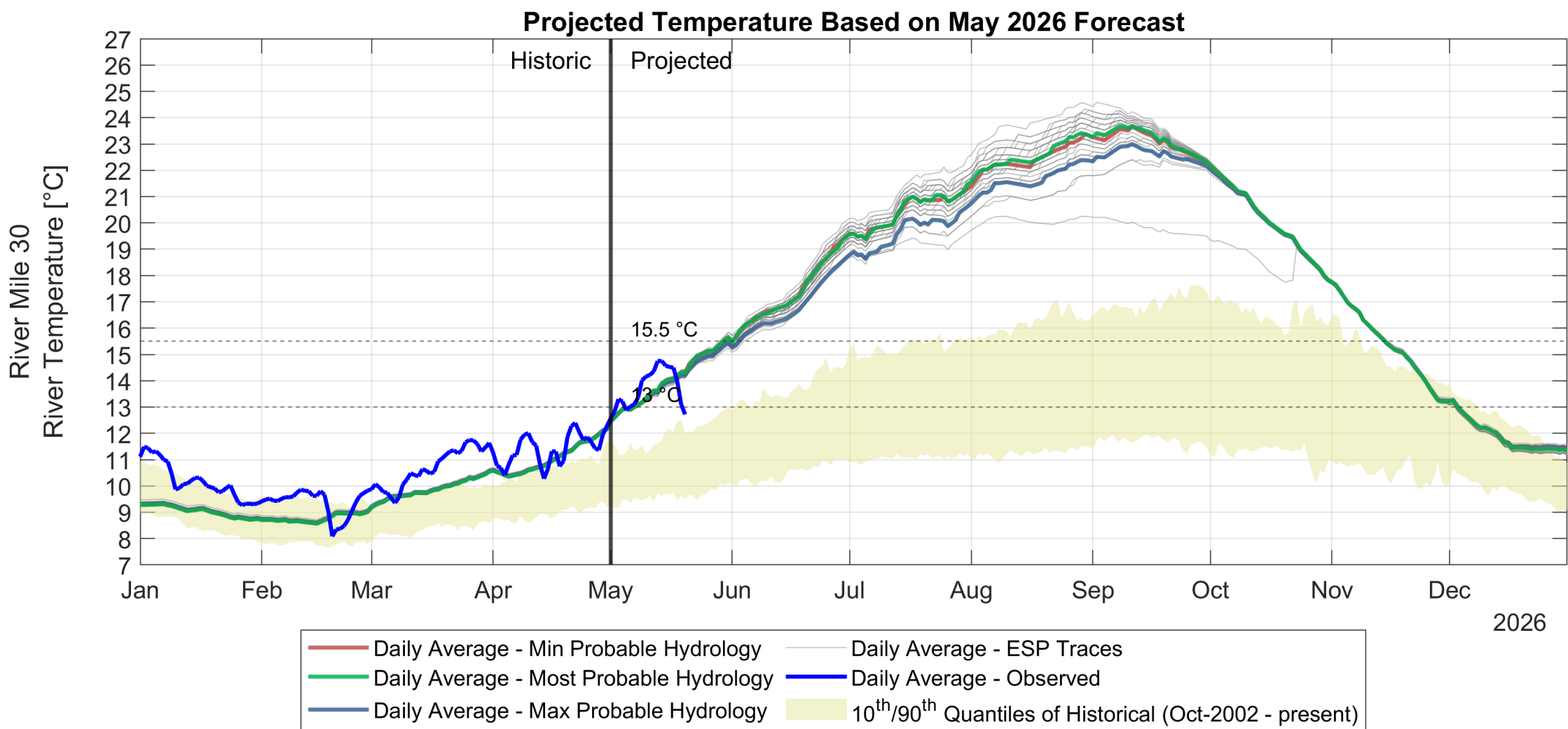
* <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.01.23.576966>



Lees Ferry River – Projected Temperature (Dibble et al, 2020 model)



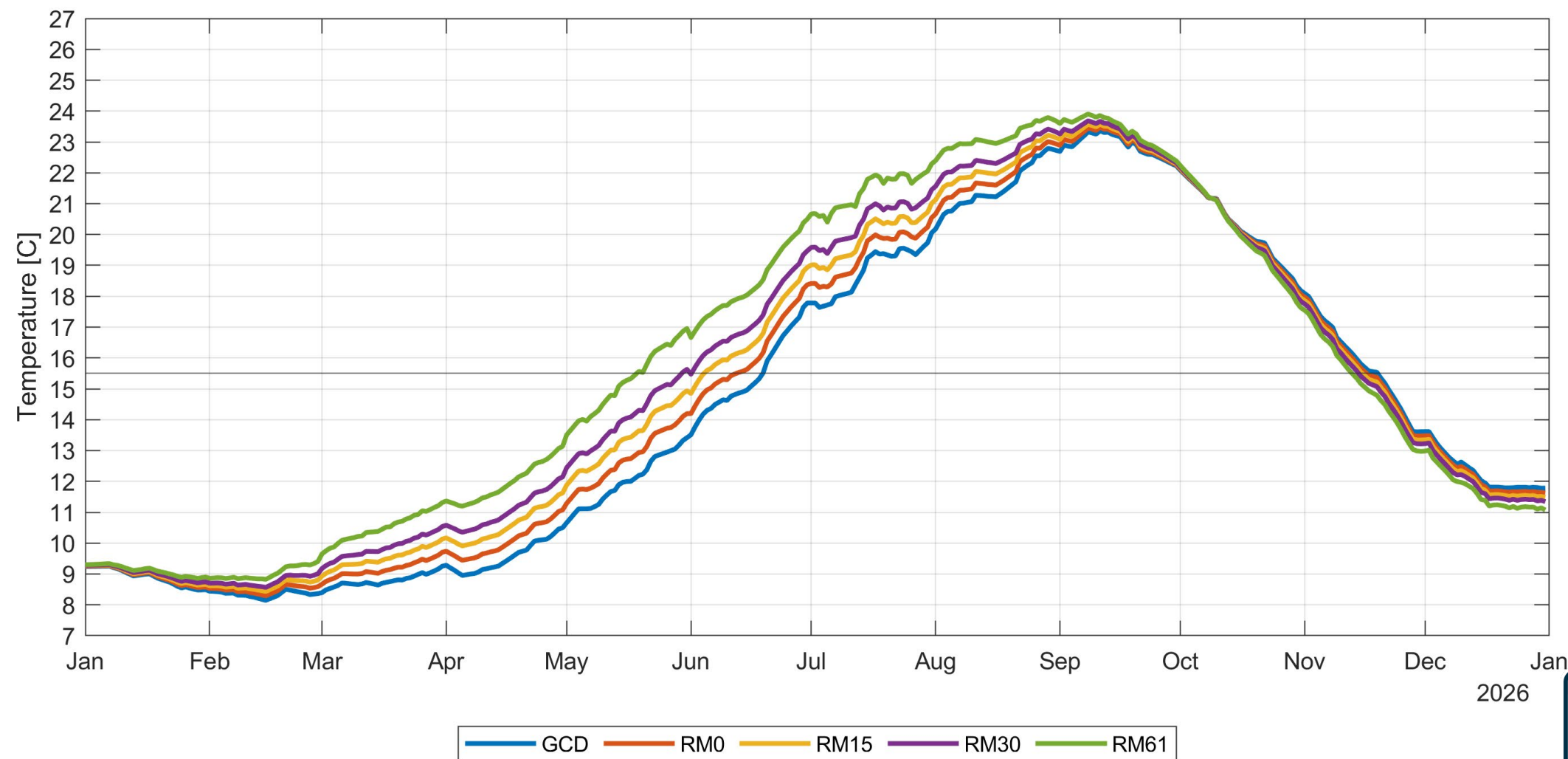
River Mile 30 - Projected Temperature (*Dibble et al, 2020 model)



*<https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2279>



Combined Most Probable Projected Temperature



Questions?



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