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# Glen Canyon Monthly Operations Call

## Basin Hydrology and Operations

January 22, 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.”

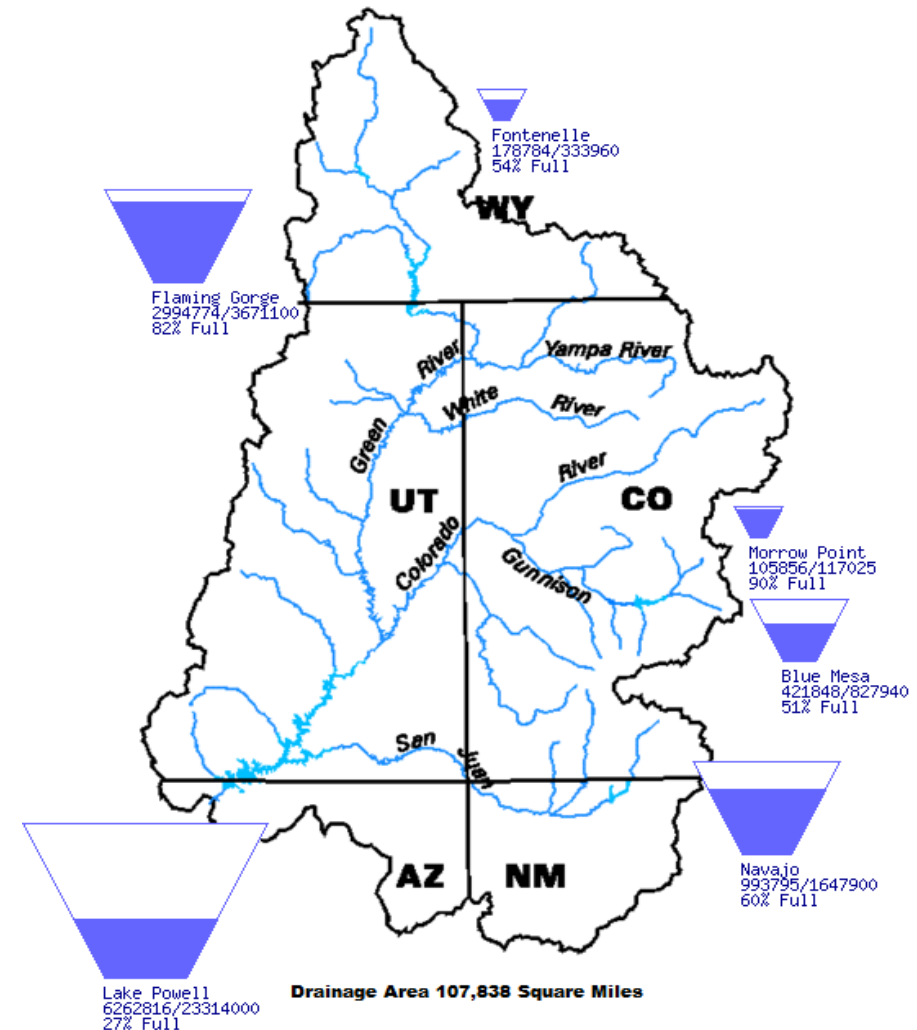


# Upper Basin Storage (as of January 20, 2026)

Data Current as of:  
01/20/2026

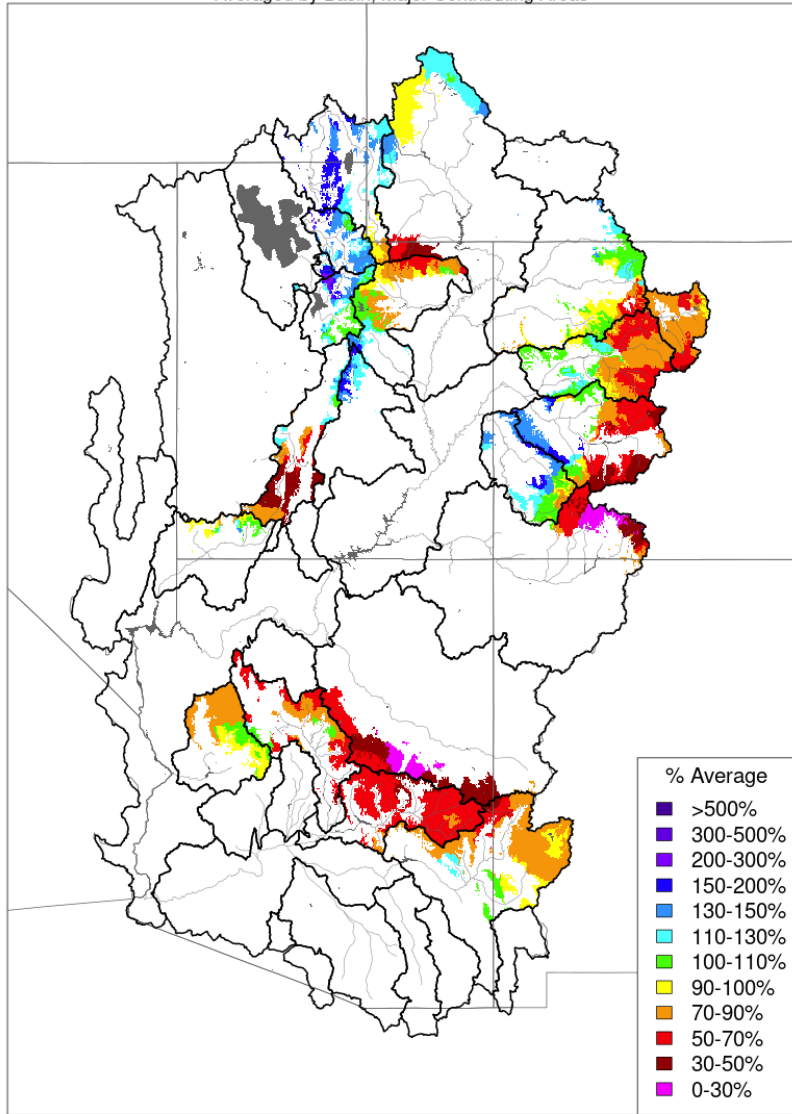
Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Fontenelle	54	0.18	0.33	6,483.65
Flaming Gorge	82	2.99	3.67	6,022.47
Blue Mesa	51	0.42	0.83	7,468.56
Navajo	60	0.99	1.65	6,033.48
Lake Powell	27	6.26	23.31	3,537.02
UC System Storage	37	10.97	29.93	
Total System Storage	38	21.94	58.48	

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



### Month to Date Precipitation - January 21 2026

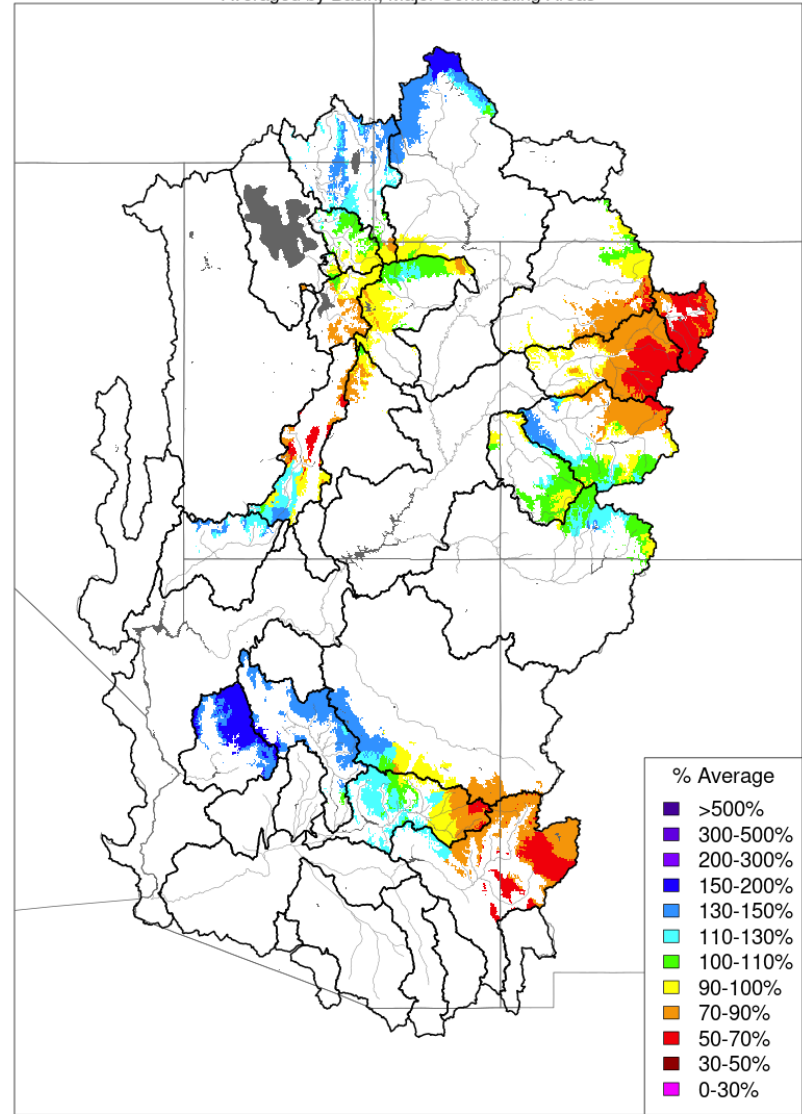
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



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

### Water Year to Date Precipitation, October 01 - January 21 2026

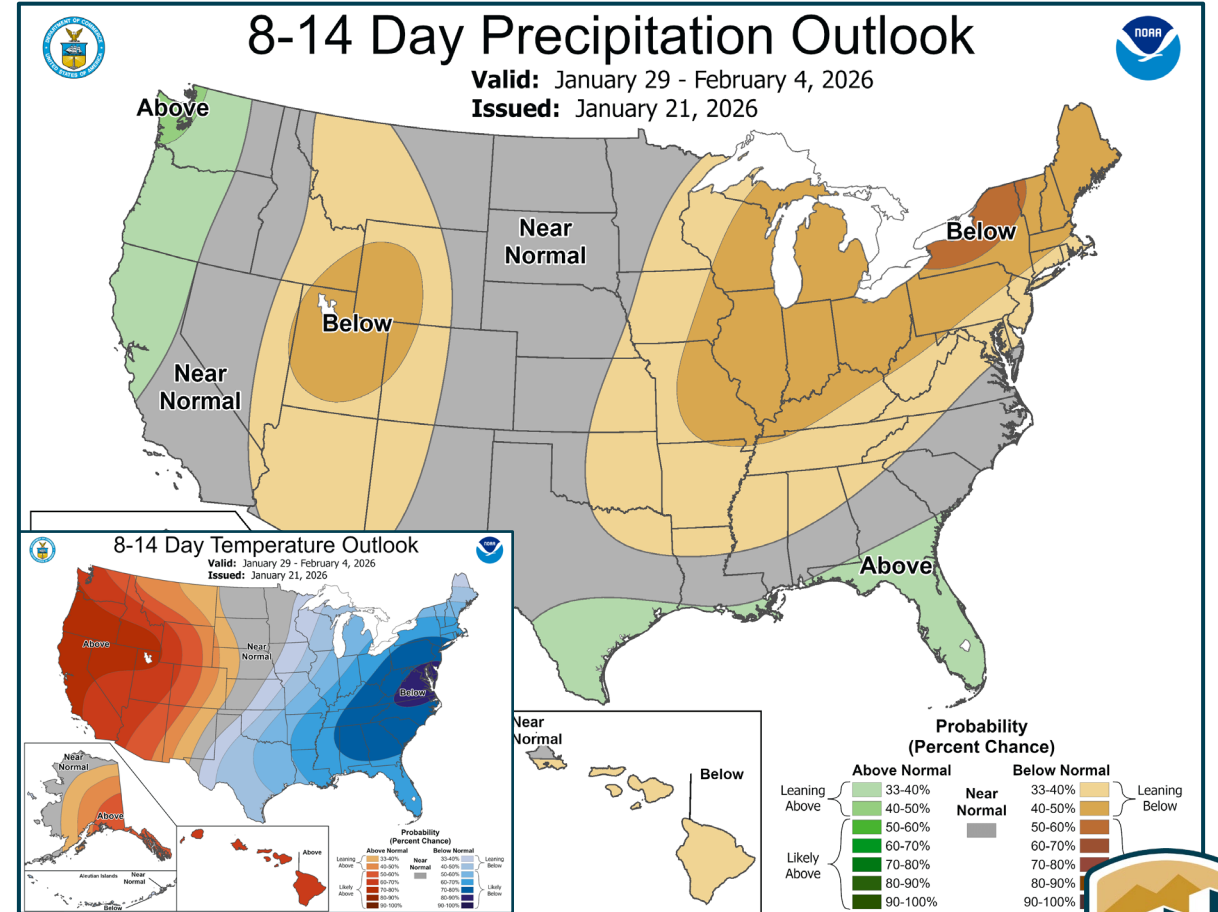
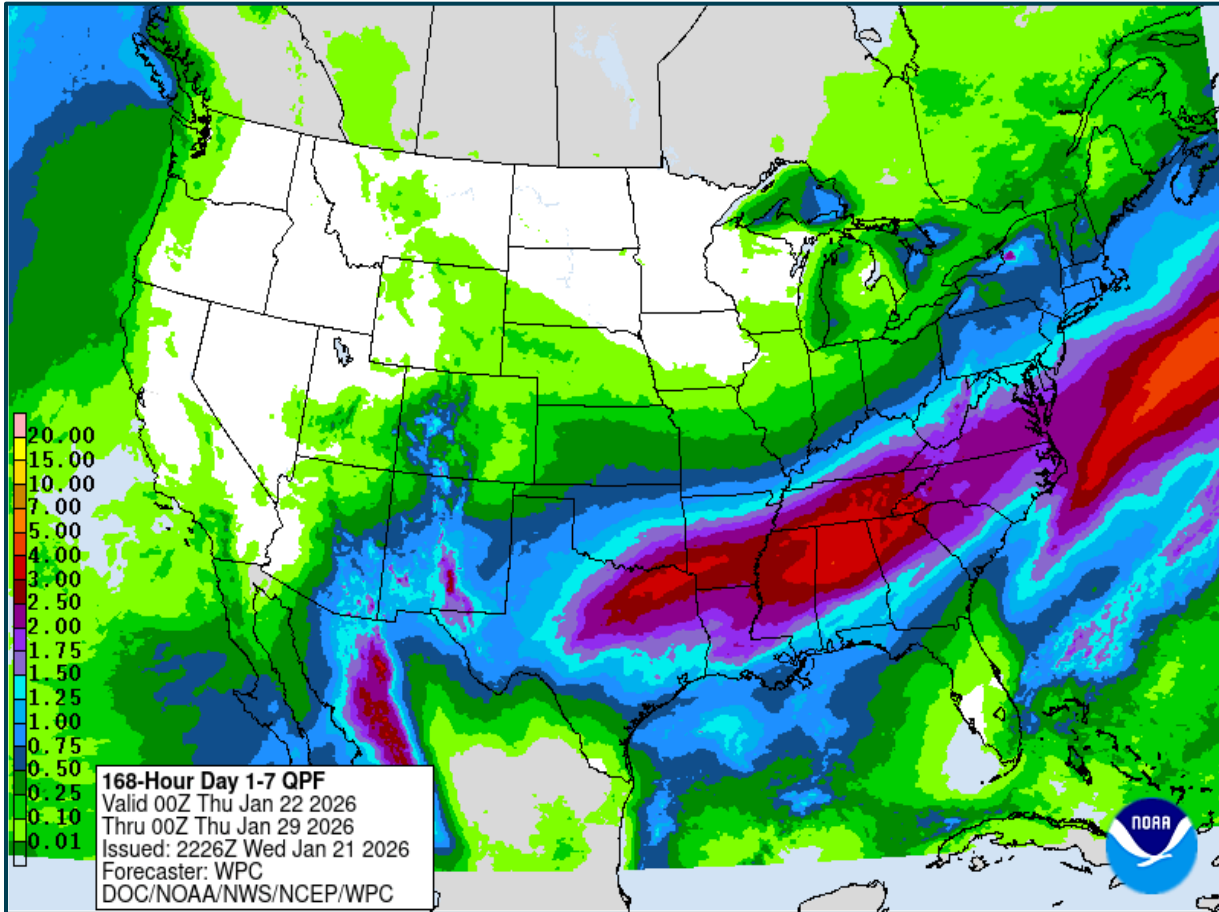
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



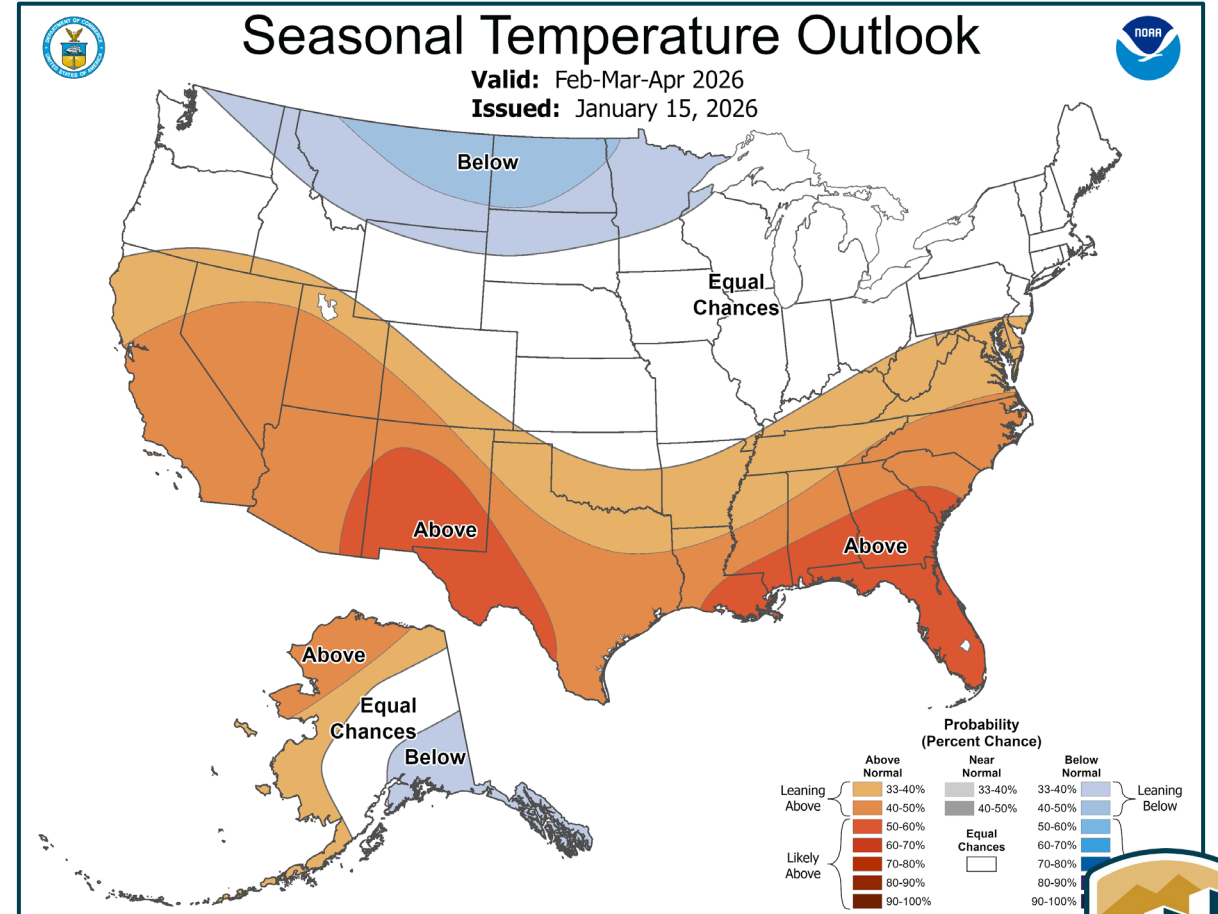
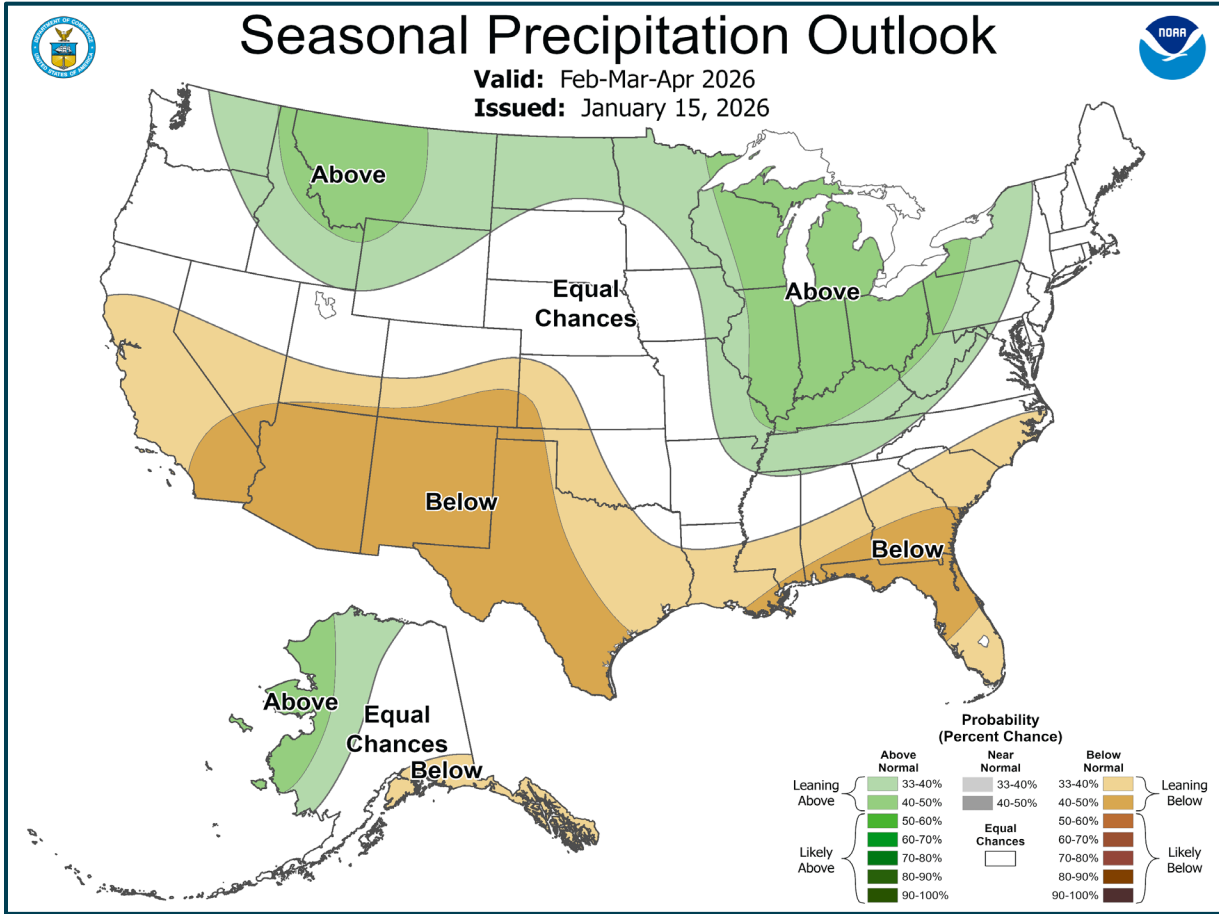
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
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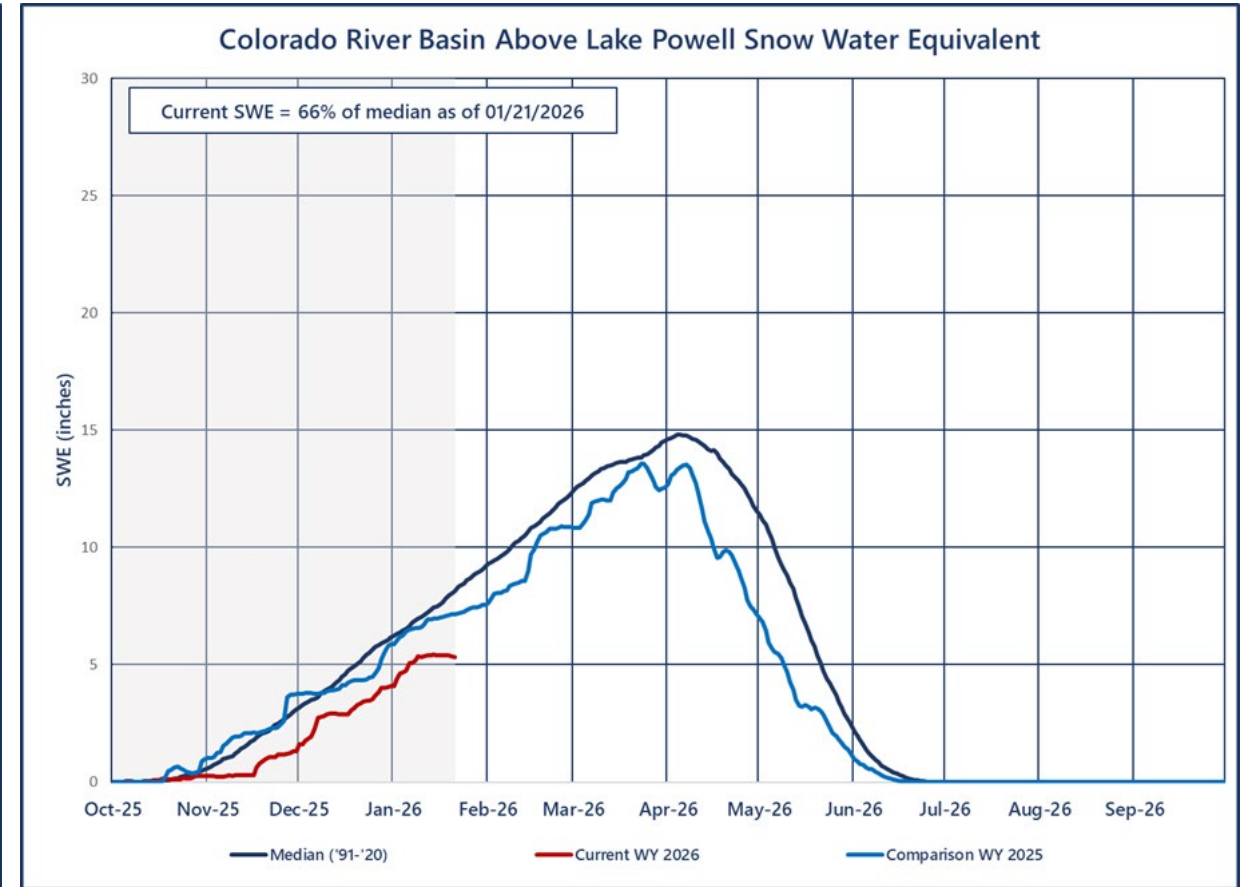
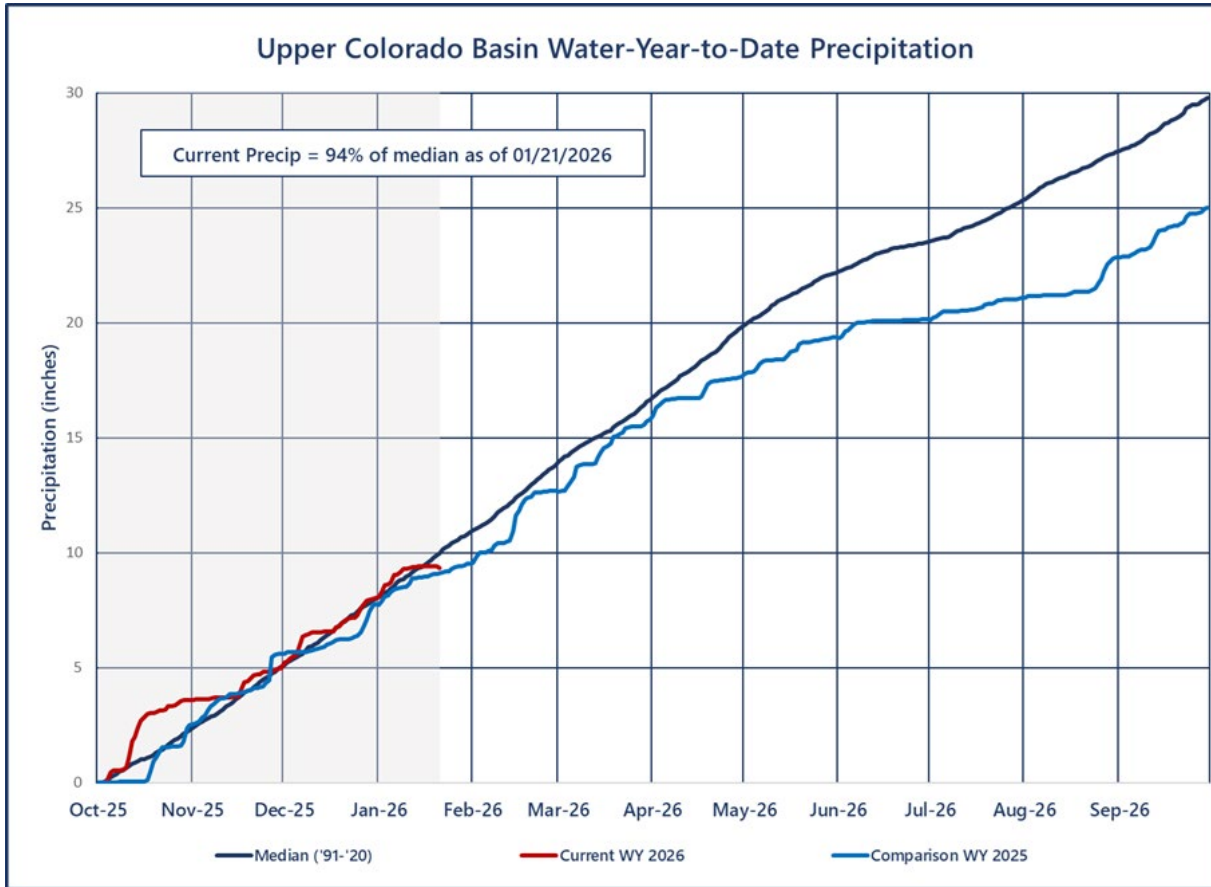
# Weather Prediction Center and Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecasts



# Seasonal Outlook



# Upper Colorado Precipitation and SWE<sup>1</sup>



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



# Most Probable January Forecast Water Year 2026

April – July 2026  
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow  
as of January 6, 2026

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from Dec	Percent of Avg <sup>1</sup>
Fontenelle	660	170	90
Flaming Gorge	770	180	80
Blue Mesa	400	-75	63
Navajo	380	-165	60
Powell	3650	-550	57

Water Year 2026  
Unregulated Inflow Forecast  
as of January 6, 2026

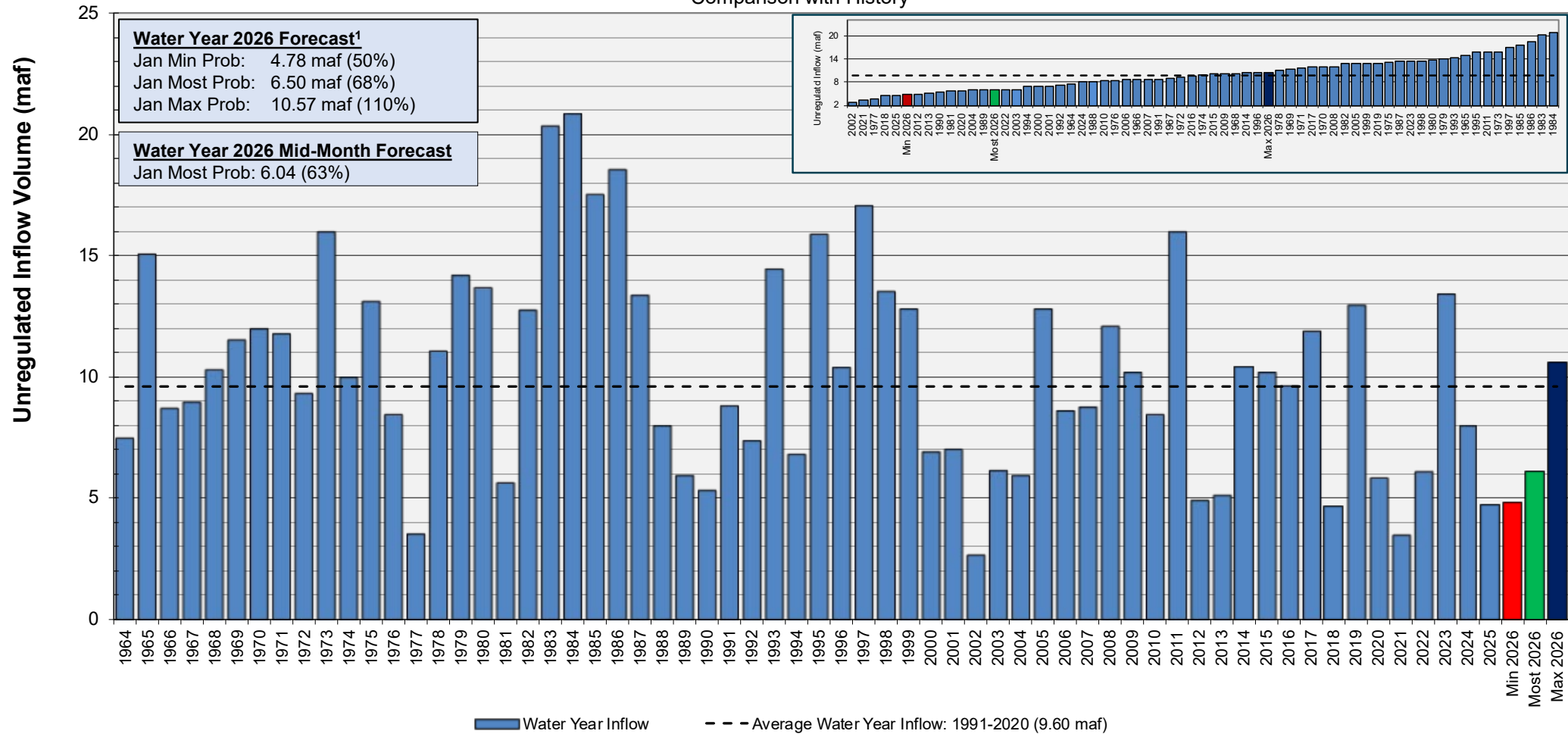
Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from Dec	Percent of Avg <sup>1</sup>
Fontenelle	962	215	90
Flaming Gorge	1,132	227	80
Blue Mesa	647	-68	72
Navajo	794	-173	87
Powell	6,503	-534	68

<sup>1</sup>Water year statistics are based on the 30-year period from 1991-2020



# Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of January 16, 2026  
Comparison with History



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





# Upper Colorado Basin

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



# Upper Basin Reservoir Operations

## Water Year 2026

- 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 7.48 maf
- 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)
- Reclamation will also ensure all appropriate consultation with Basin Tribes, the Republic of Mexico, other federal agencies, water users and non-governmental organizations with respect to implementation of these monthly and annual operations

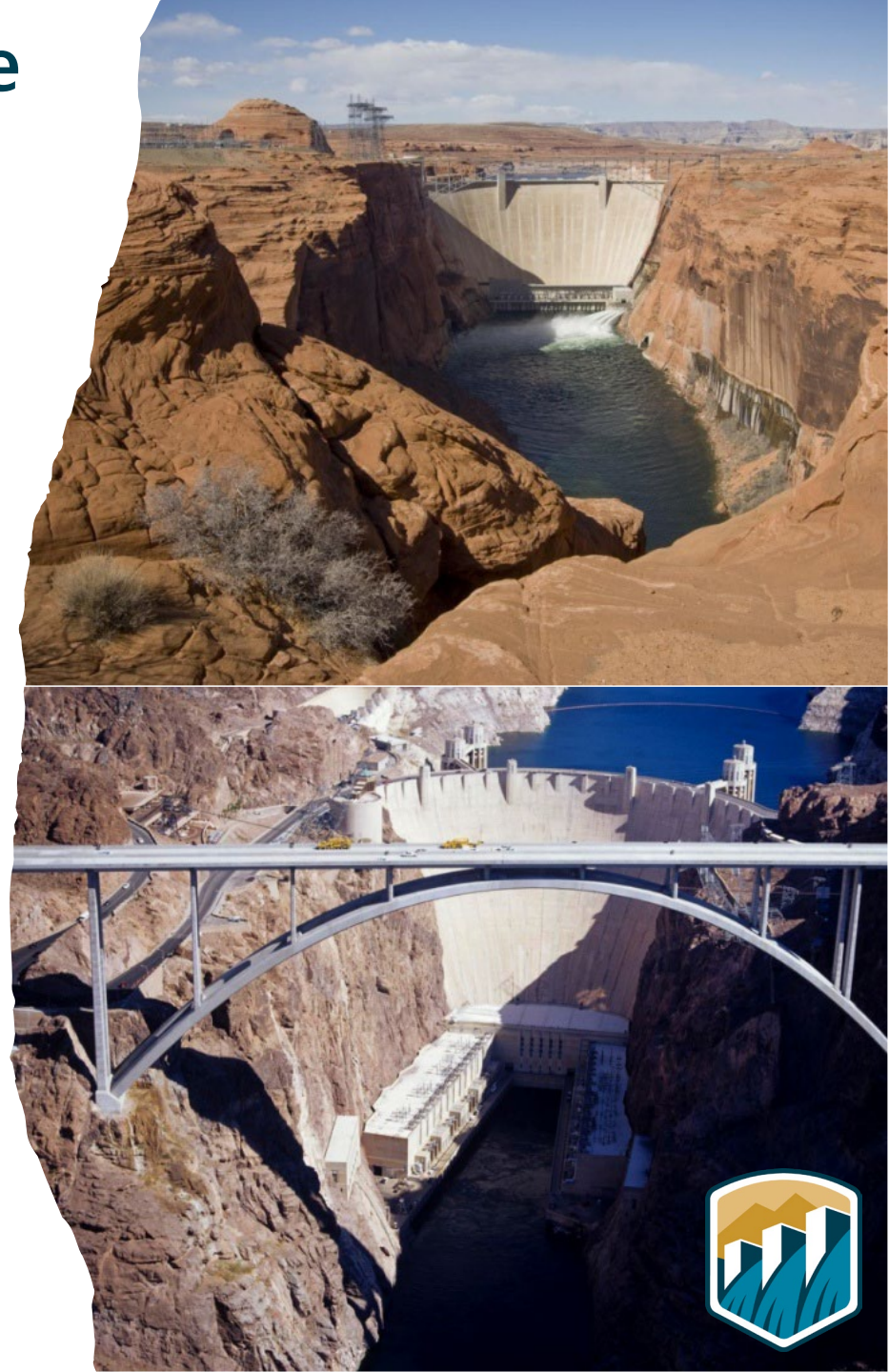


# Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

Lake Powell Operational Tier Determination Run (aka "Exhibit Run")  
with an 8.23 maf Release<sup>1</sup>

Lake Powell		
Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)
3,700	<b>Equalization Tier</b> Equalize, avoid spills, or release 8.23 maf	23.31
3,636-3,666 (2008-2026)	<b>Upper Elevation Balancing Tier</b> Release 8.23 maf	14.65-18.36 (2008-2026)
	If Lake Mead < 1,075 feet, balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf	
3,575		8.90
<b>3,532.15 ft</b> <i>Jan 1, 2026 Projection</i>	<b>Mid-Elevation Release Tier</b> 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	
3,525		5.55
	<b>Lower Elevation Balancing Tier</b> 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	
3,500		4.22
	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	
3,370		0

Lake Mead		
Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)
1,220	<b>Flood Control Surplus or Quantified Surplus Condition</b> Deliver > 7.5 maf	26.18
1,200 (approx.)	<b>Domestic Surplus or ICS Surplus Condition</b> Deliver > 7.5 maf	23.14 (approx.)
1,145	<b>Normal or ICS Surplus Condition</b> Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	16.18
1,075		8.60
	<b>Shortage Condition</b> Deliver 7.167 maf	<b>1,055.88 ft</b> <i>Jan 1, 2026 Projection</i>
1,050		
	<b>Shortage Condition</b> Deliver 7.083 maf	
1,025		5.98
	<b>Shortage Condition</b> Deliver 7.0 maf	
1,000	Further measures may be undertaken	4.48
895		0

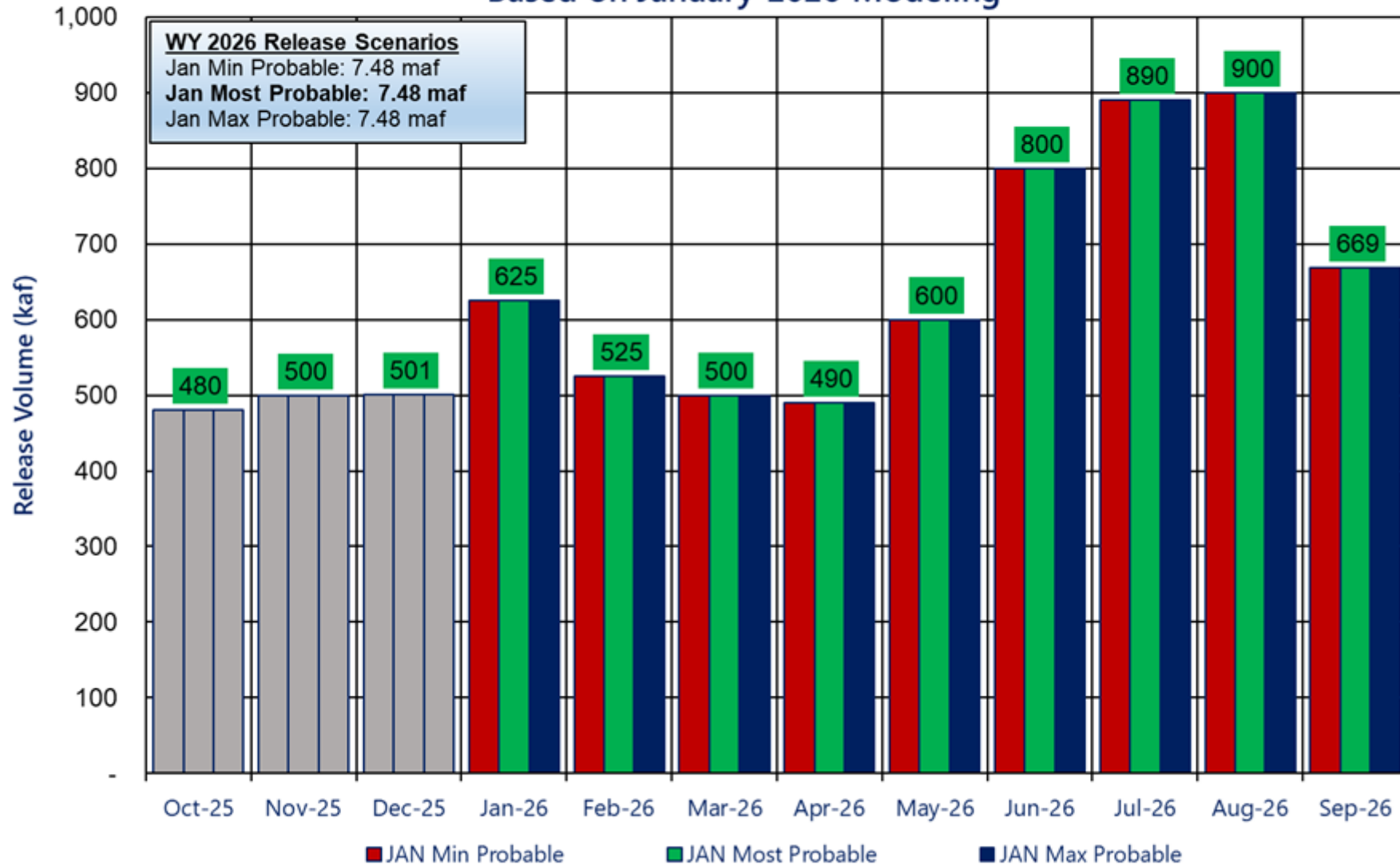


<sup>1</sup> Lake Powell and Lake Mead operational tier determinations will be documented in the draft 2026 AOP.

## Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

### Release Scenarios for Water Year 2026

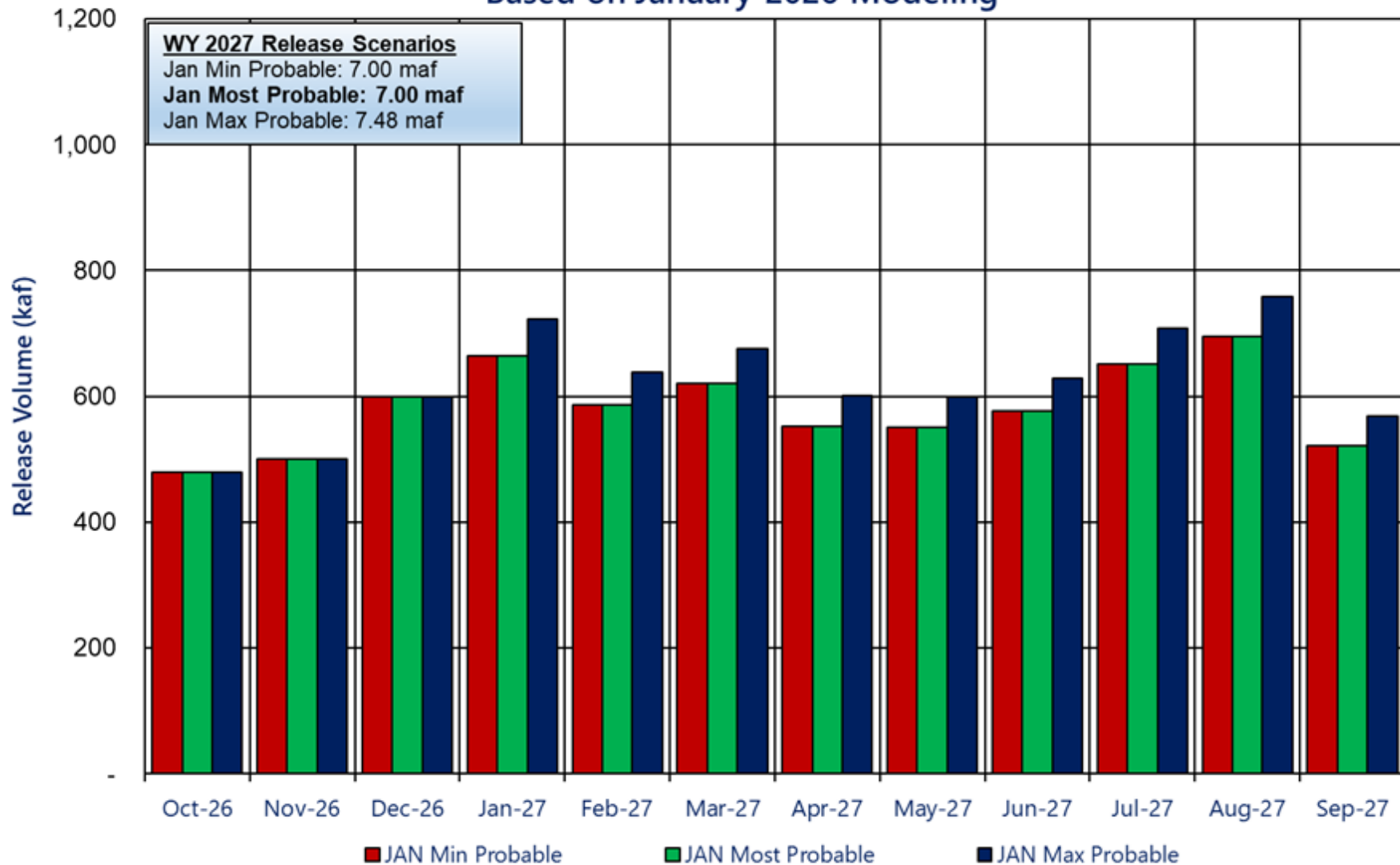
#### Based on January 2026 Modeling



# Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

## Release Scenarios for Water Year 2027

### Based on January 2026 Modeling



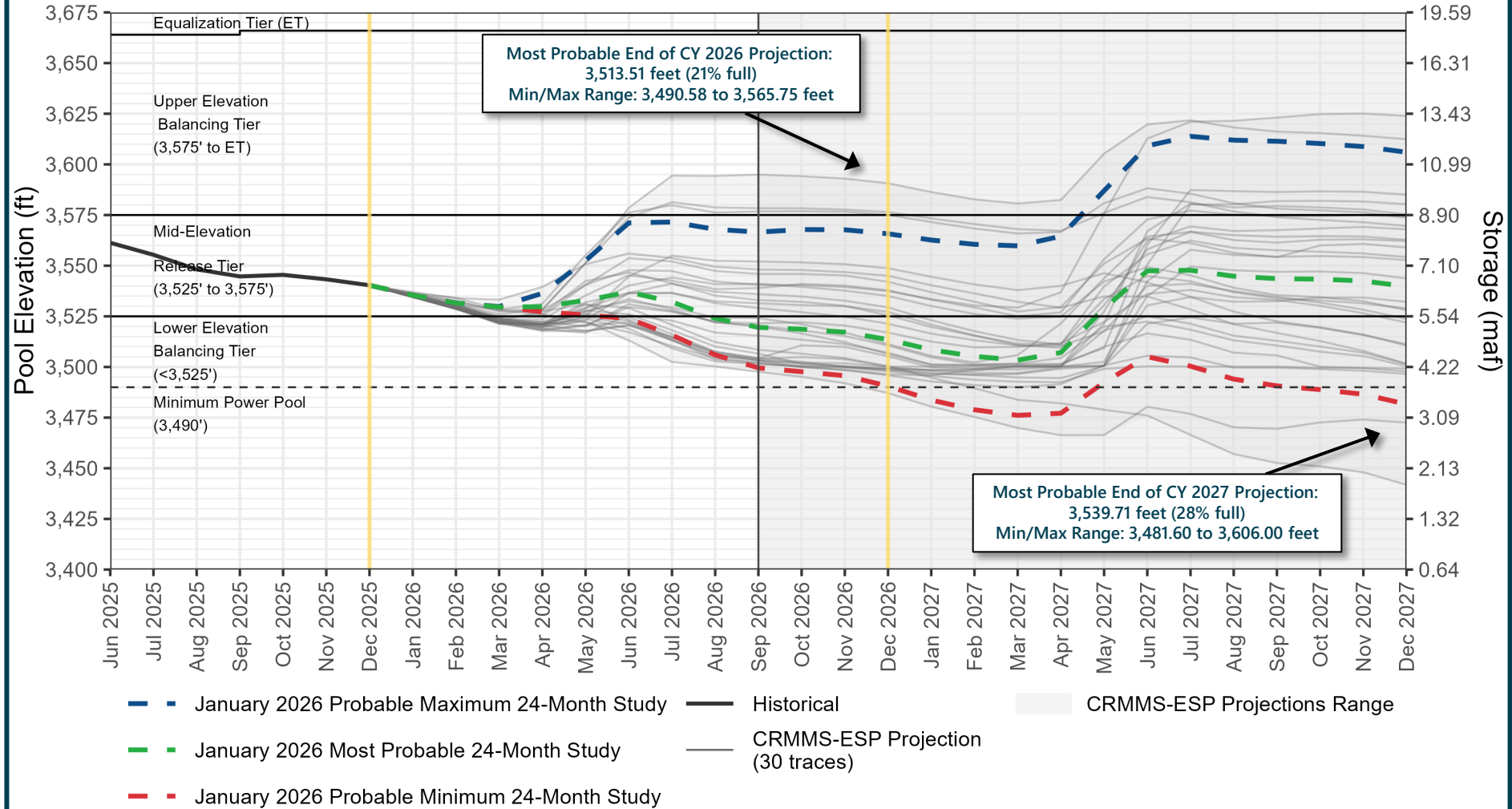
# Reclamation Operational Modeling Model Comparison

	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)	1 - 2	1 - 5	1 - 50
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



# Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations<sup>1,2</sup>

## CRMMS Projections from January 2026



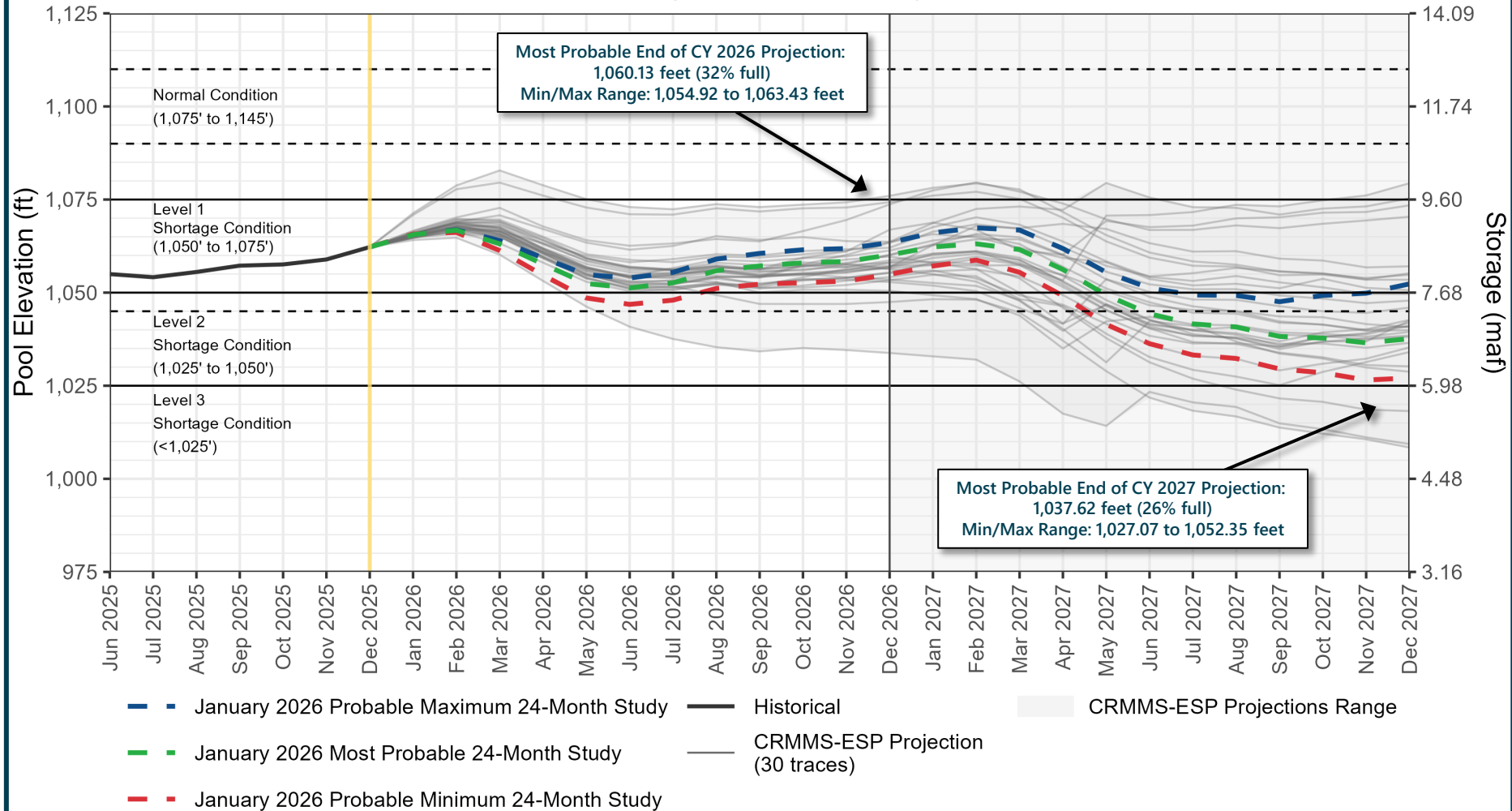
<sup>1</sup>For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and 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.

<sup>2</sup>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 Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, 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. The Probable Minimum also shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.



# Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations<sup>1,2</sup>

## CRMMS Projections from January 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	4	4	7	8	8	8	8	6	
Penstock Capacity (cfs)				17,000	11,500	11,500	22,400	23,500	25,200	25,000	24,600	17,800	JAN MOST <sup>2</sup>
Penstock Capacity (kaf/month)				1,050	670	720	1,340	1,450	1,500	1,540	1,500	1,060	JAN MOST
Max (kaf) <sup>1</sup>	480	500	501	625	525	500	490	600	800	890	900	669	7.48 maf
Most (kaf) <sup>1</sup>	480	500	501	625	525	500	490	600	800	890	900	669	7.48 maf
Min (kaf) <sup>1</sup>	480	500	501	625	525	500	490	600	800	890	900	669	7.48 maf
										(updated 1/21/2026)			

1 Projected release based on January 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 (3%) at current efficiency.

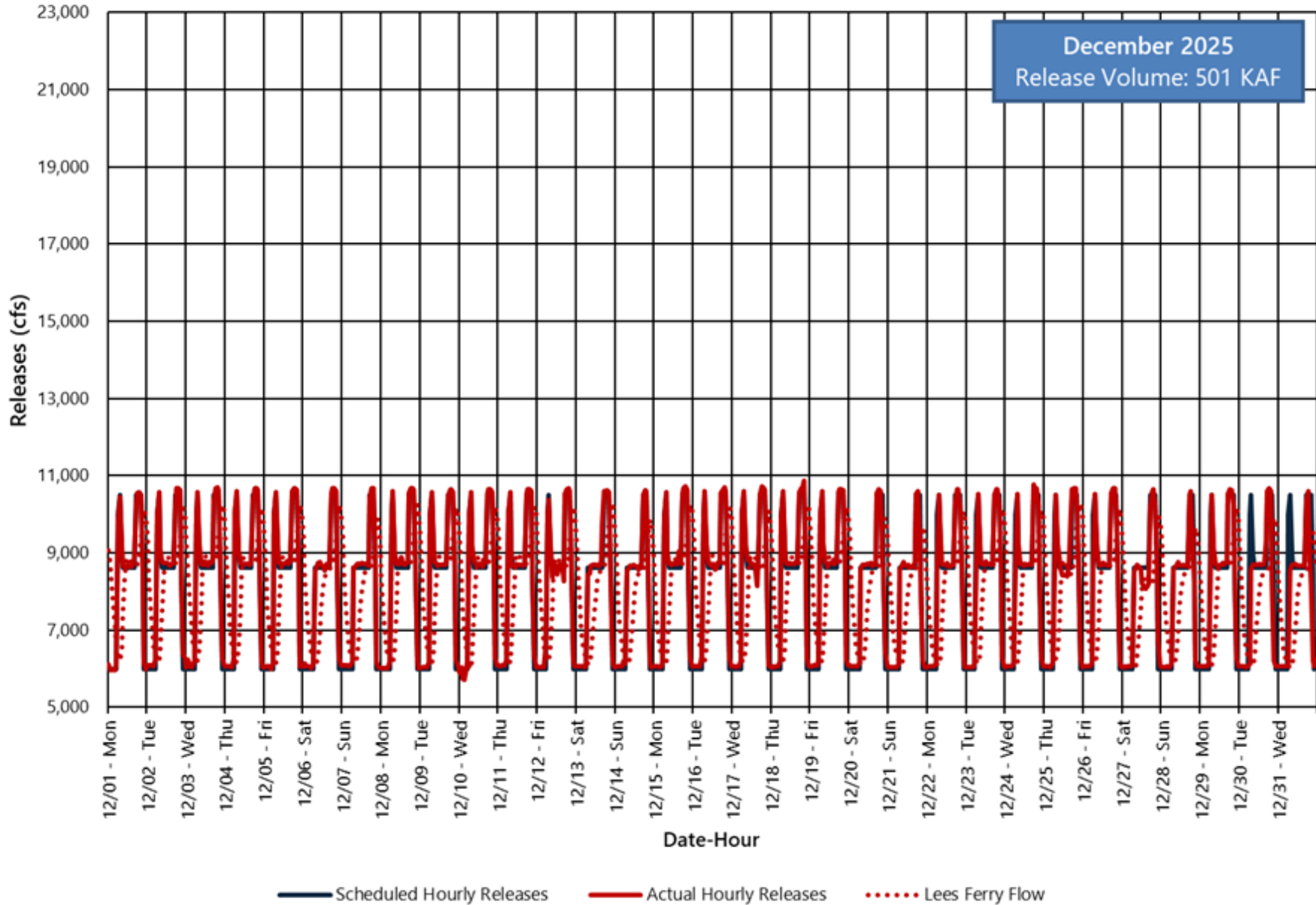
# Glen Canyon Power Plant Planned Unit Outage Schedule for Water Year 2027

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1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
Units Available	6	8	8	8	6	6	7	8	8	8	8	6	
Penstock Capacity (cfs)	17,800	23,200	24,100	22,400	17,300	17,300	21,600	23,500	25,700	25,700	25,600	18,700	JAN MOST <sup>2</sup>
Penstock Capacity (kaf/month)	1,150	1,380	1,490	1,380	1,000	1,060	1,290	1,440	1,530	1,580	1,550	1,110	JAN MOST
Max (kaf) <sup>1</sup>	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	568	7.48 maf
Most (kaf) <sup>1</sup>	480	500	600	664	587	620	552	550	577	652	696	522	7.00 maf
Min (kaf) <sup>1</sup>	480	500	600	664	587	620	552	550	577	652	696	522	7.00 maf
										(updated 1/21/2026)			

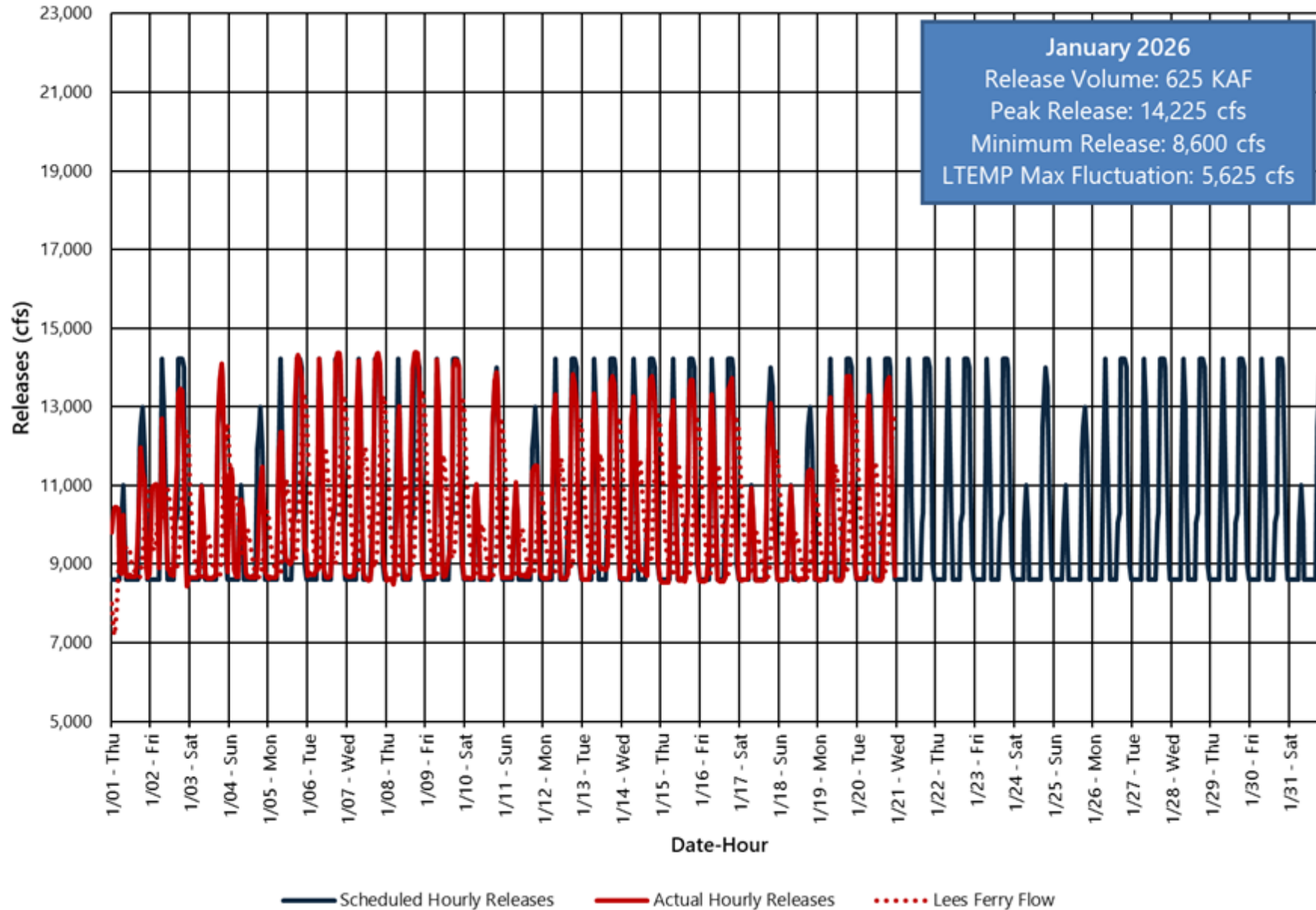
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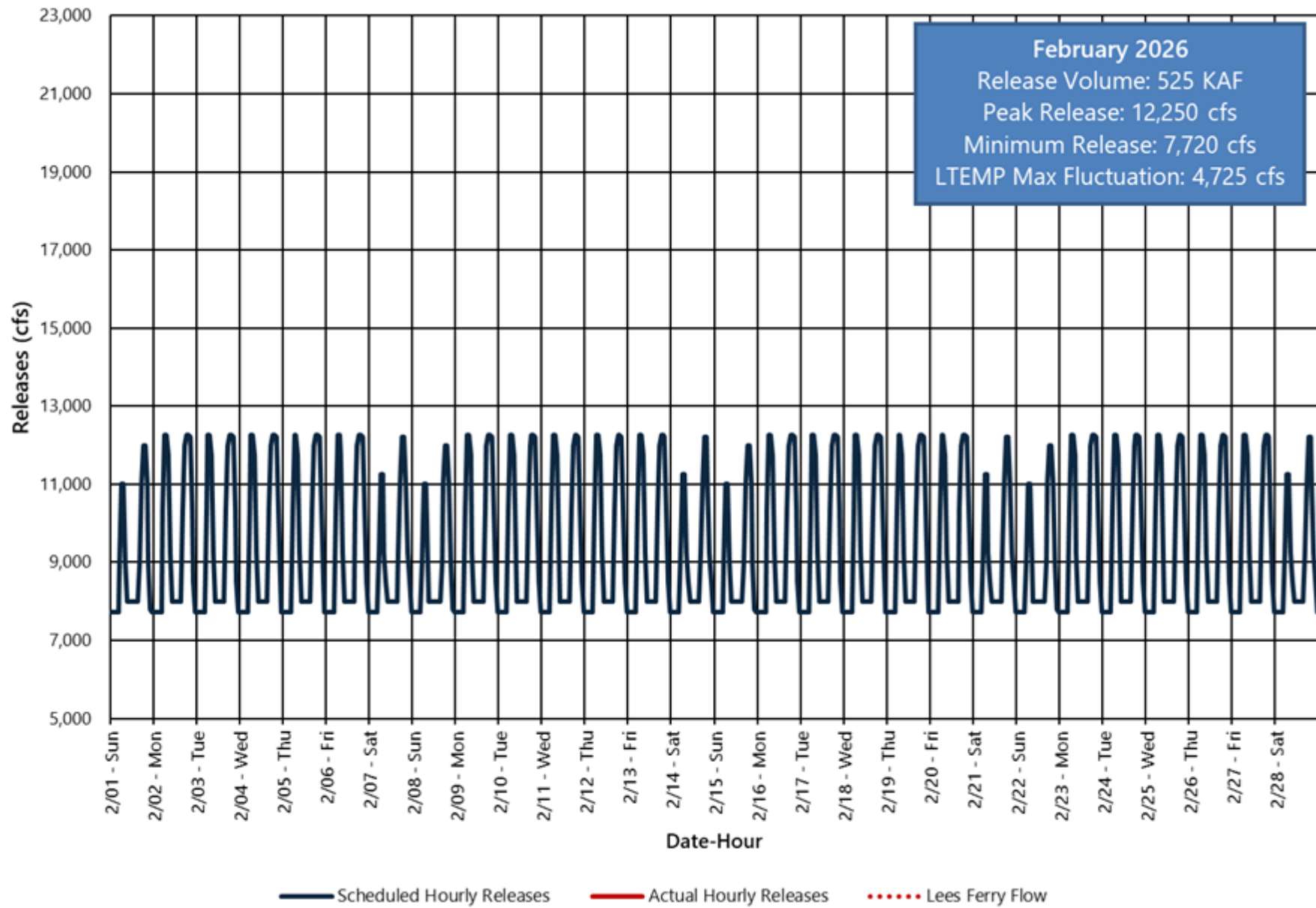
# Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - December 2025



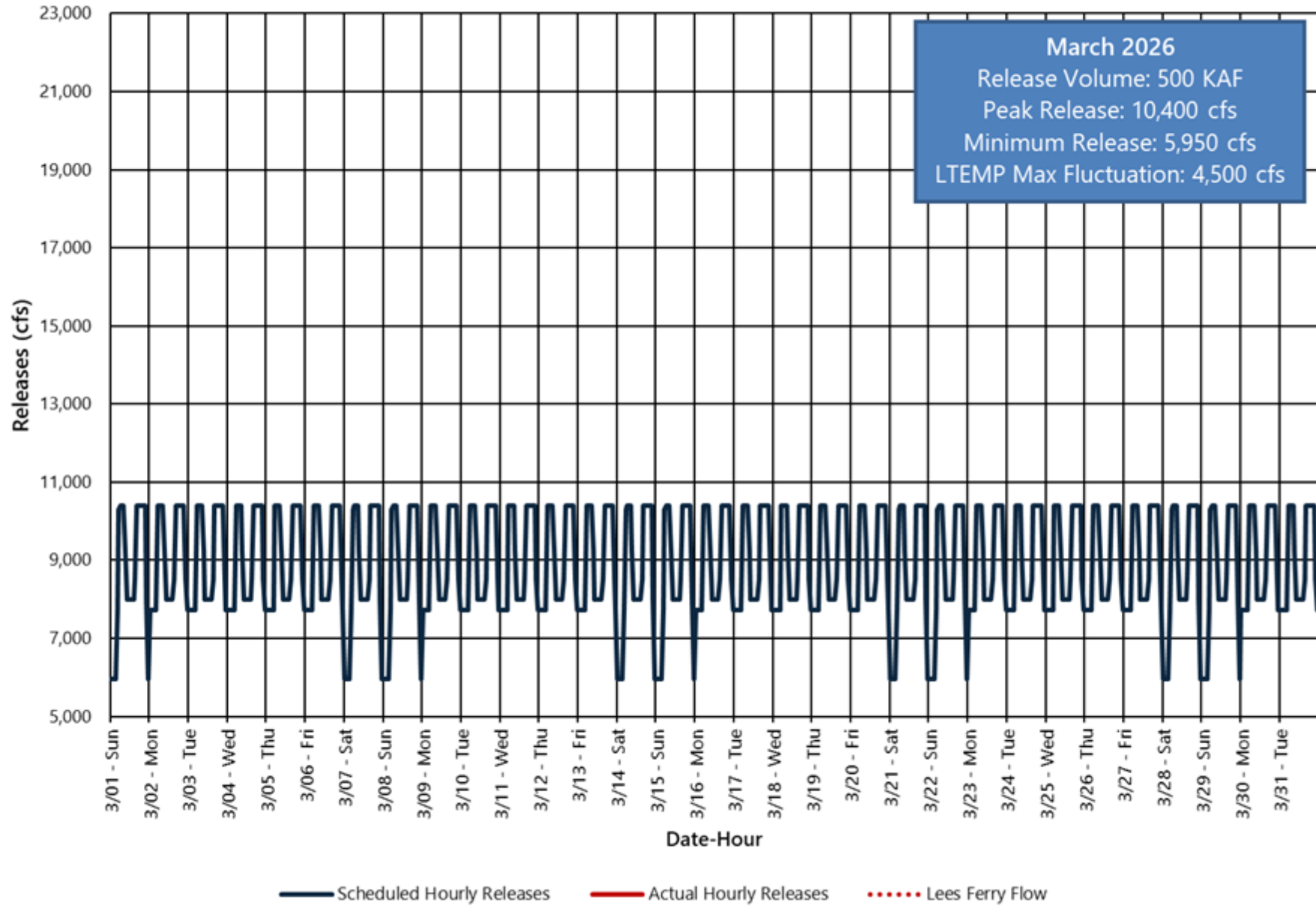
### Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - January 2026



### Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - February 2026



### Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - March 2026





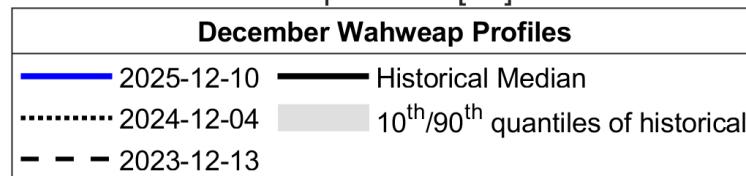
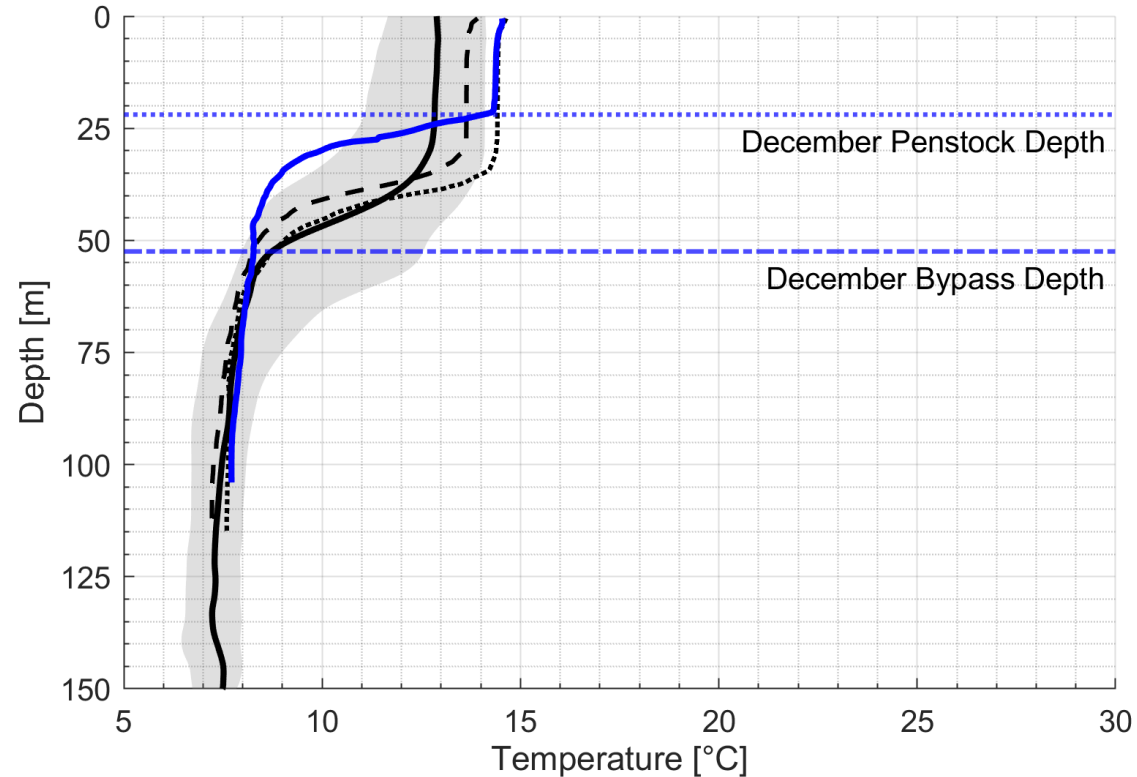
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# Water Quality Update

01/22/2026

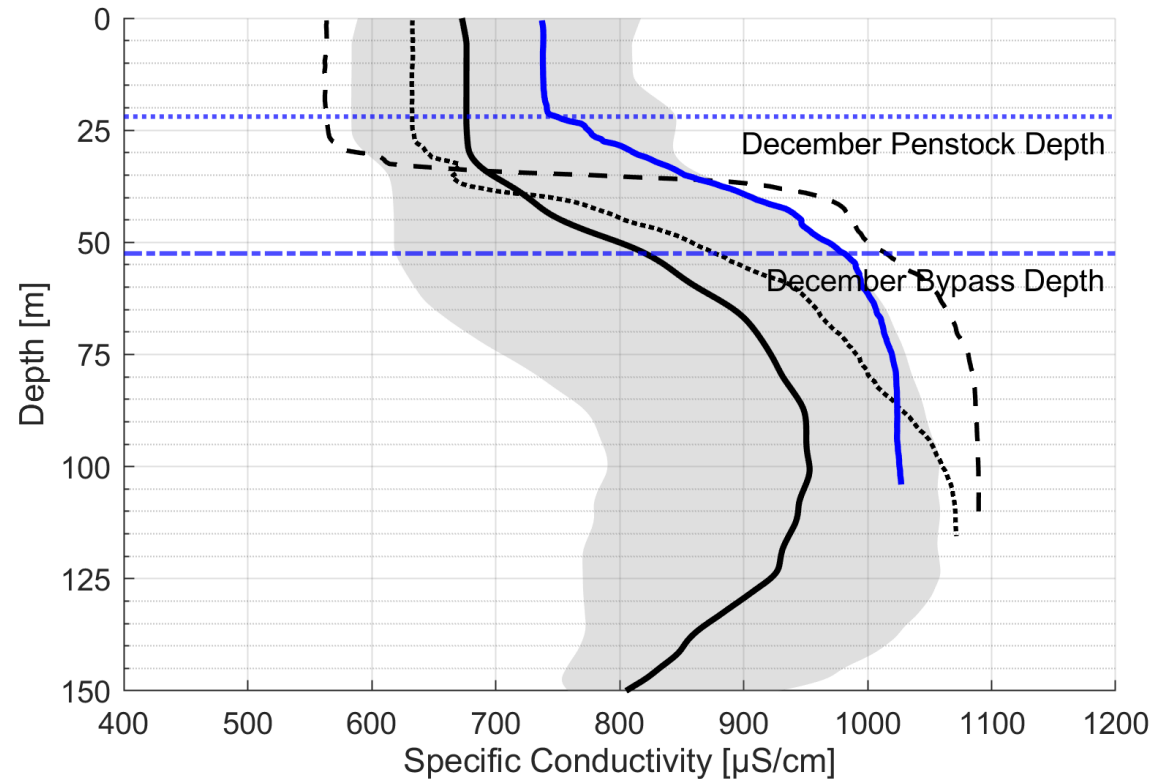
# Lake Powell Forebay – Temperature

## December 8-12 Sampling Trip



# Lake Powell Forebay – Specific Conductivity

## December 8-12 Sampling Trip

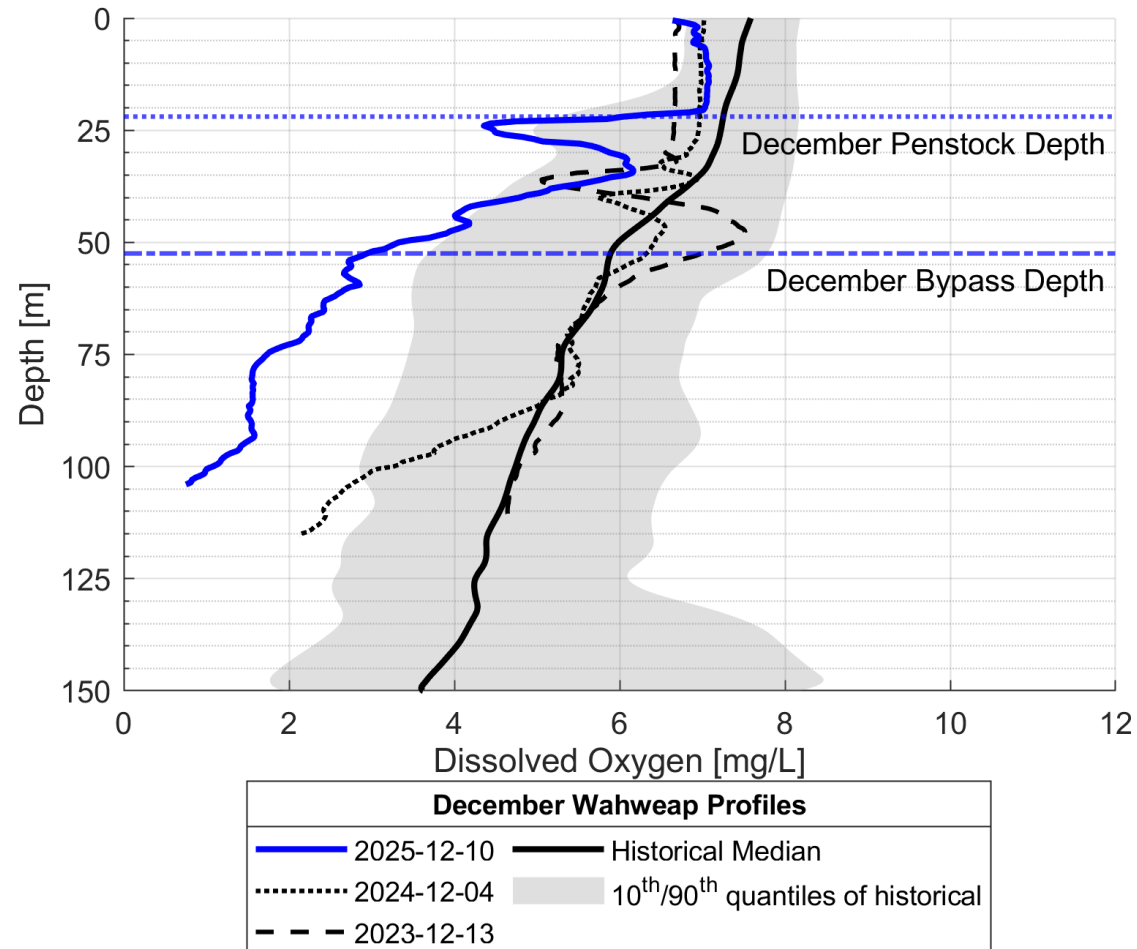


December Wahweap Profiles	
— (Blue)	2025-12-10
— (Black)	Historical Median
⋯ (Dotted)	2024-12-04
- - - (Dashed)	2023-12-13
█ (Grey)	10 <sup>th</sup> /90 <sup>th</sup> quantiles of historical

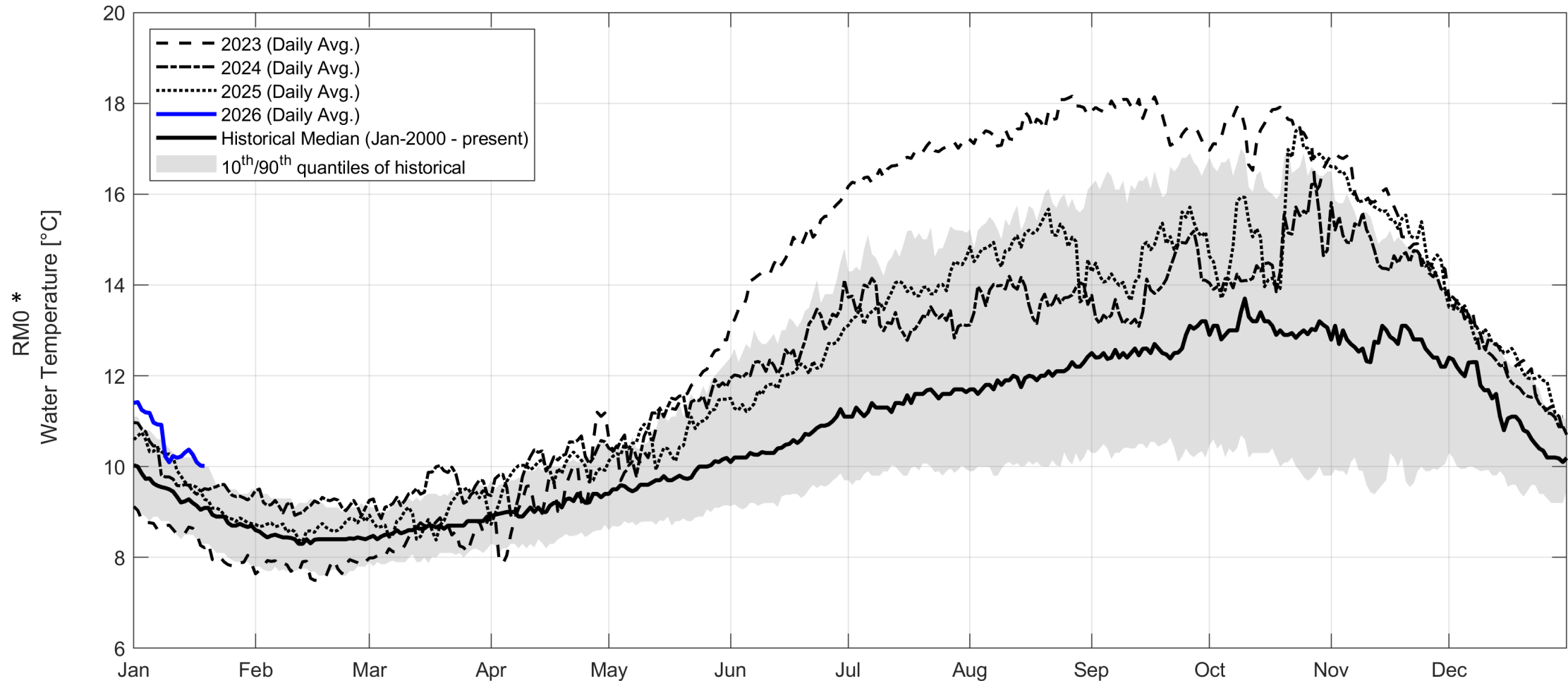


# Lake Powell Forebay – Dissolved Oxygen

## December 8-12 Sampling Trip



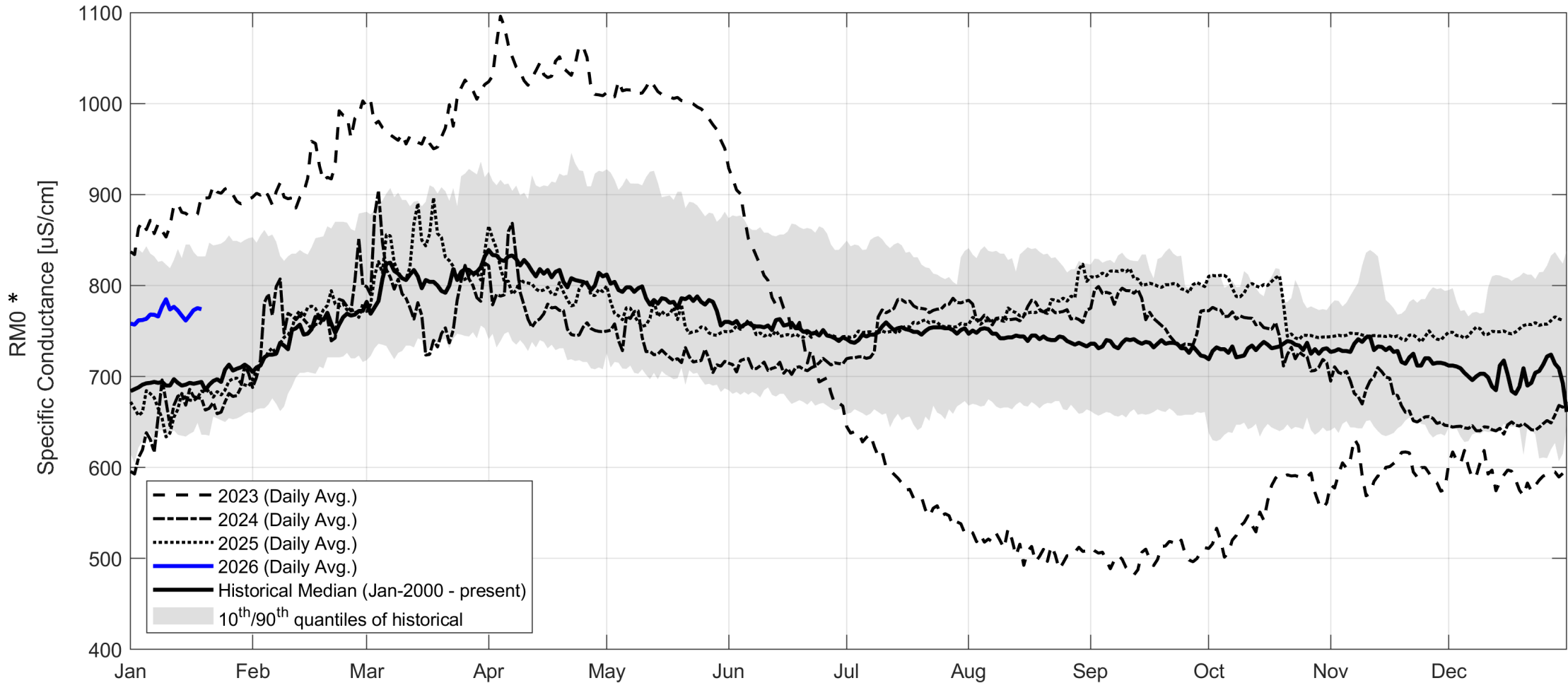
# Lees Ferry - Temperature



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



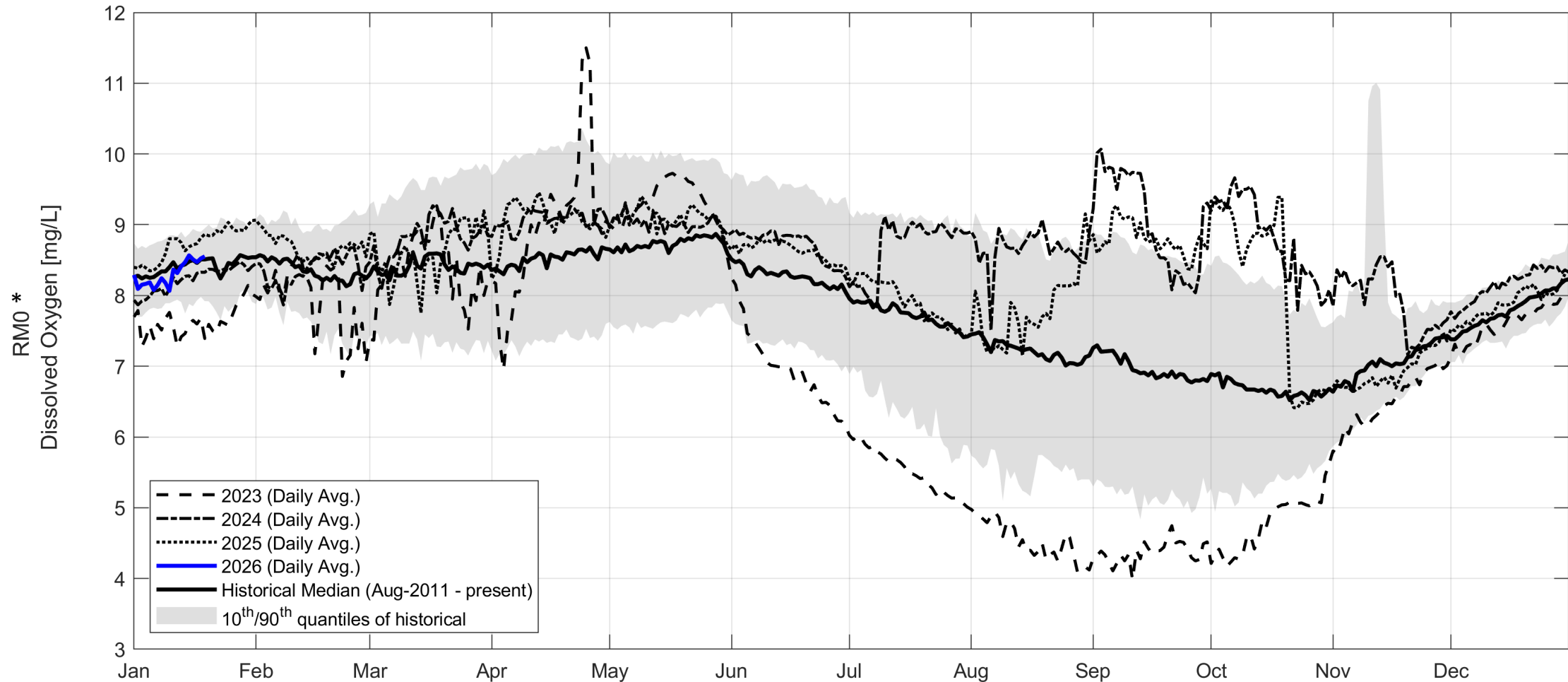
# Lees Ferry – Specific Conductance



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# Lees Ferry – Dissolved Oxygen

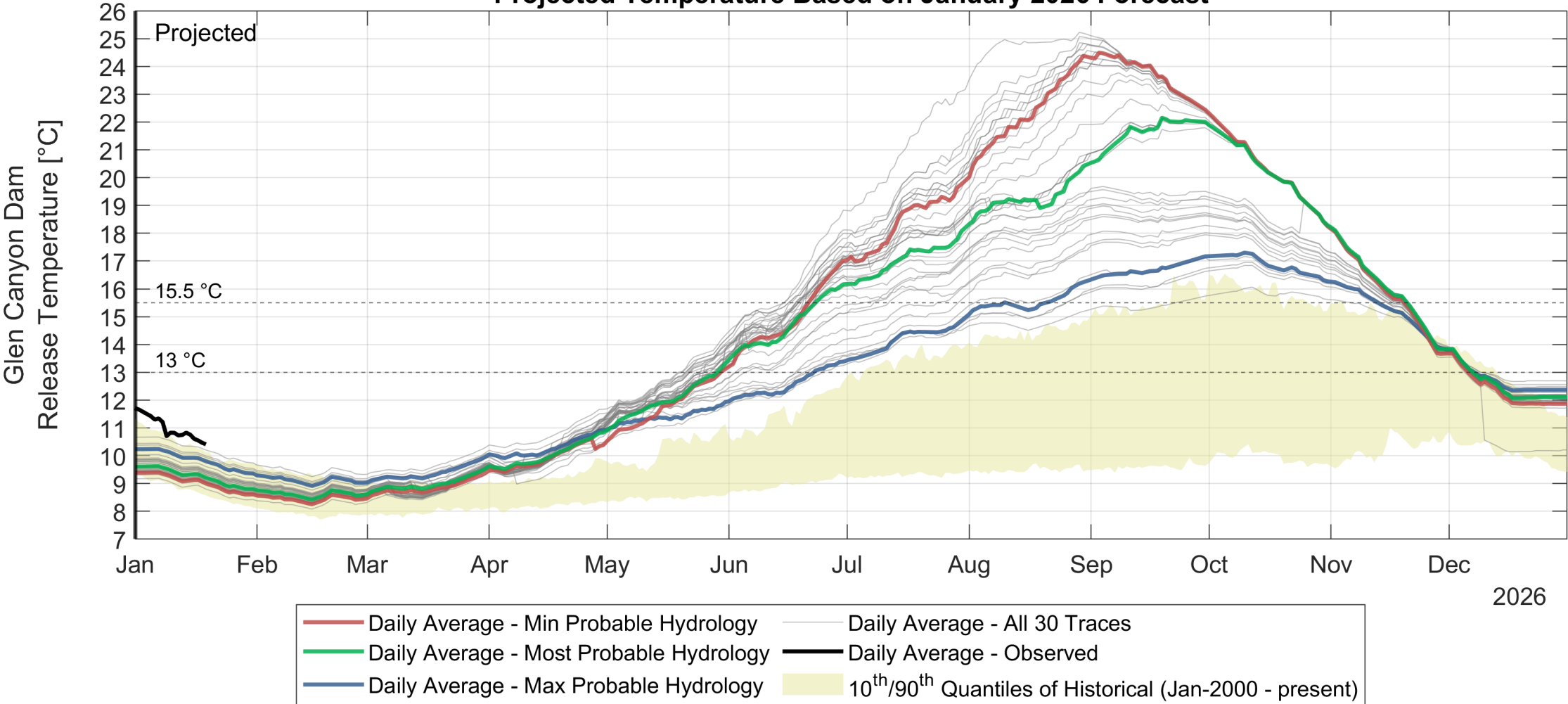


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# Glen Canyon Dam Release Temperature (\*Eppehimer et al, 2024 model)

Projected Temperature Based on January 2026 Forecast



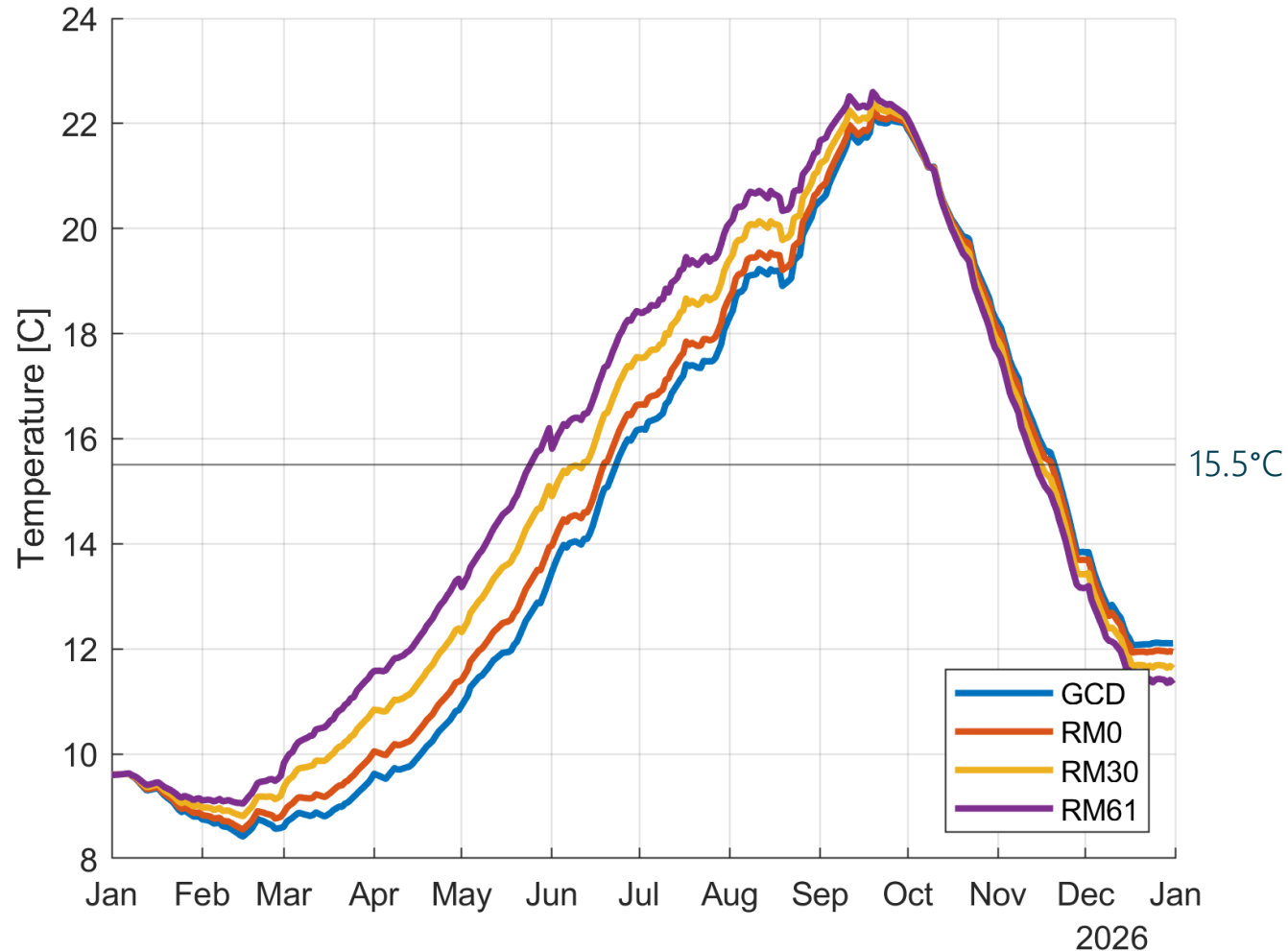
2026

- Daily Average - Min Probable Hydrology
- Daily Average - All 30 Traces
- Daily Average - Most Probable Hydrology
- Daily Average - Observed
- 10<sup>th</sup>/90<sup>th</sup> Quantiles of Historical (Jan-2000 - present)
- Daily Average - Max Probable Hydrology

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



# Combined Temperature Predictions January 2026 Most Probable Hydrology



(\*Dibble et al, 2020 model)

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



# Questions?



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