

# Glen Canyon Monthly Operations Call

## Basin Hydrology and Operations

June 22, 2022

## 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."

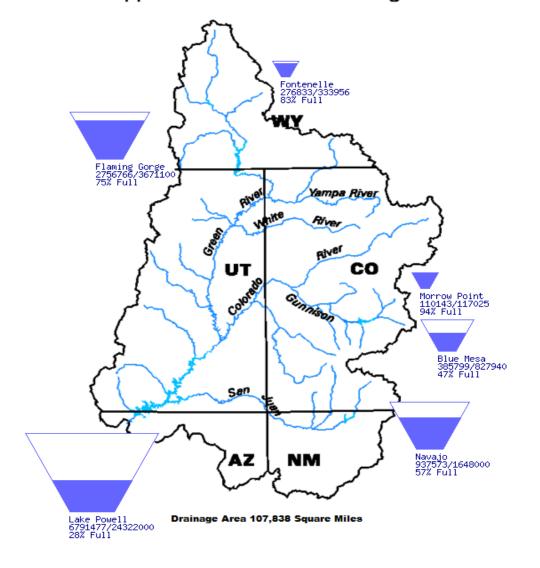


## Upper Basin Storage (as of June 20, 2022)

Data Current as of: 06/20/2022

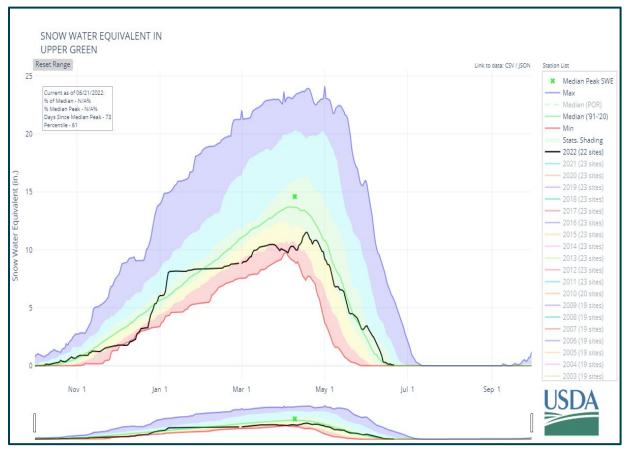
#### Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

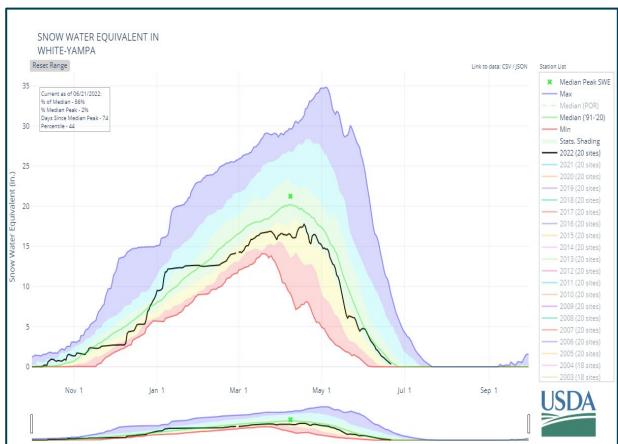
Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Fontenelle	83	0.28	0.33	6,498.44
Flaming Gorge	75	2.76	3.67	6,015.39
Blue Mesa	47	0.39	0.83	7,463.00
Navajo	57	0.94	1.70	6,027.72
Lake Powell	28	6.79	24.32	3,538.51
UC System Storage	36	11.28	30.94	





## Flaming Gorge and Yampa River SWE



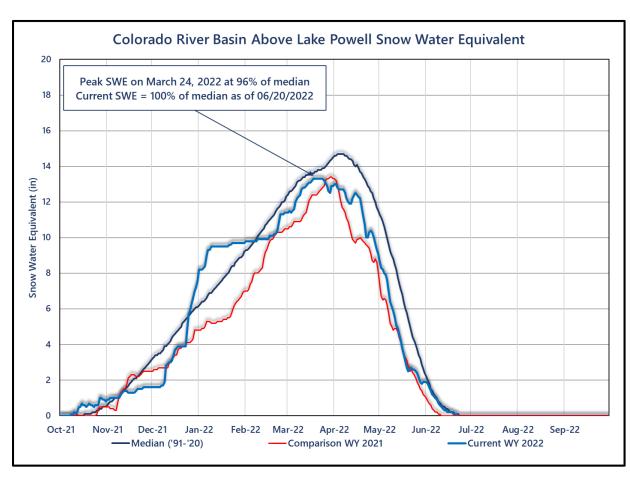


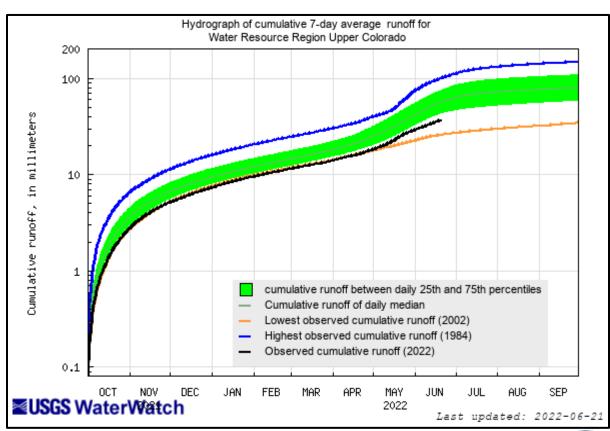
FG June April-July Forecast = 520 kaf (54% of avg)

Yampa June April-July Forecast = 880 kaf (74% of avg)



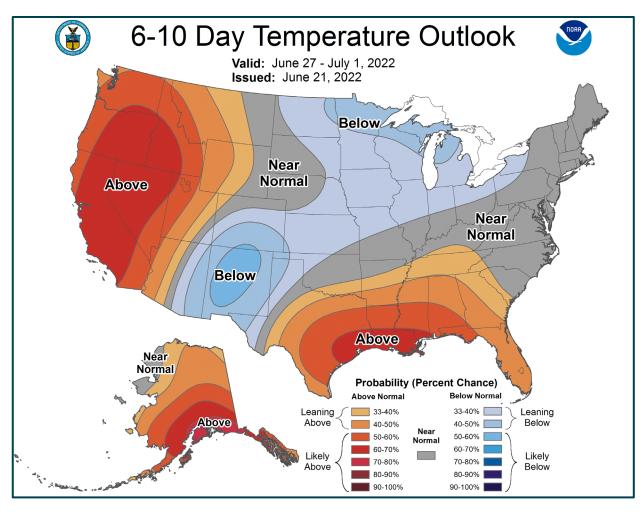
## **Upper Colorado SWE and Observed Inflows**

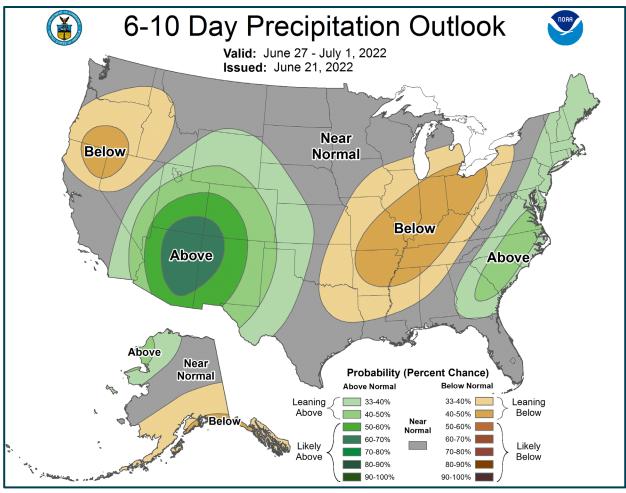




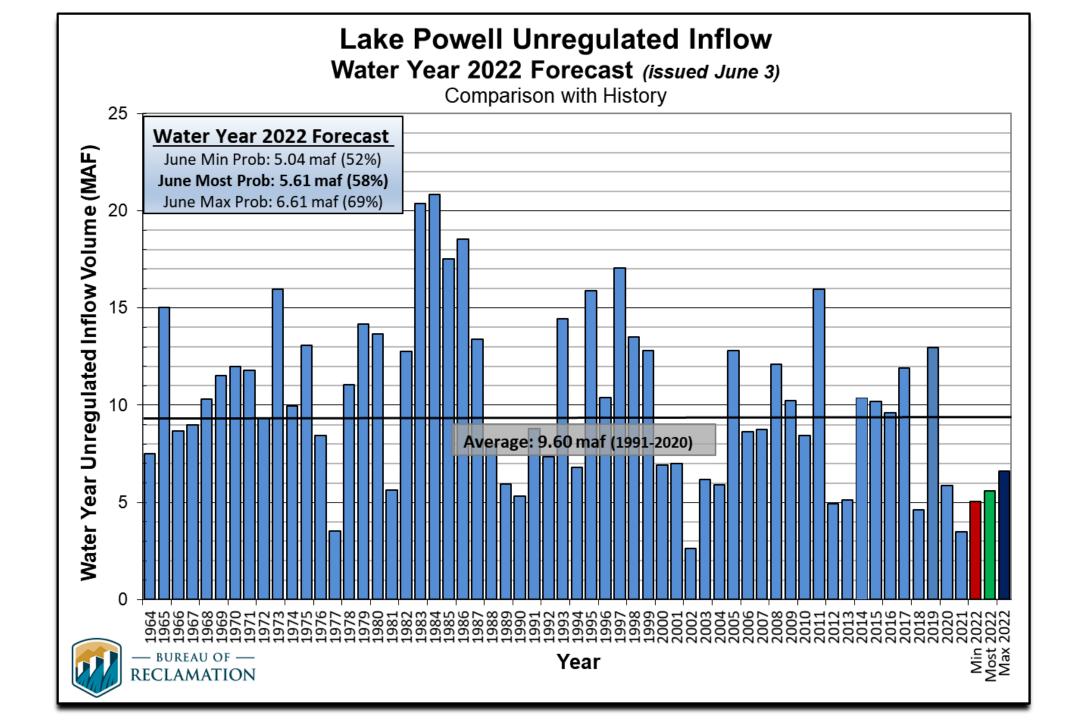
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php

## **Precipitation and Temperature Outlook**











## Most Probable June Forecast Water Year 2022

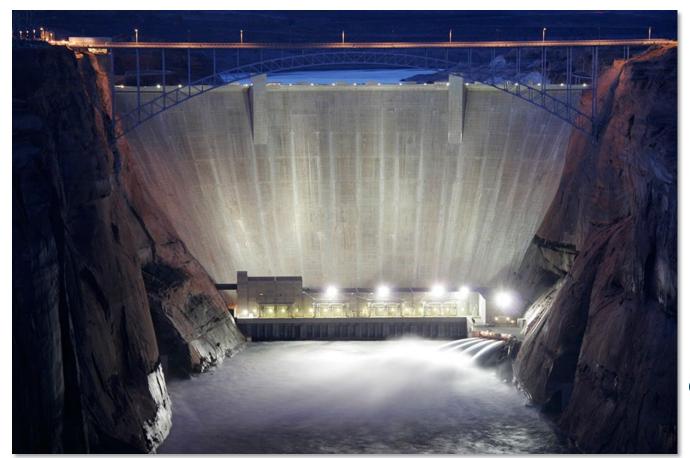
April – July 2022 Forecasted Unregulated Inflow as of June 2, 2022

Reservoir	Unregulated Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg
Fontenelle	435	59
Flaming Gorge	520	54
Blue Mesa	430	68
Navajo	310	49
Powell	3,500	55

#### Water Year 2022 Forecasted Unregulated Inflow as of June 3, 2022

Reservoir	Unregulated Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg
Fontenelle	717	67
Flaming Gorge	861	61
Blue Mesa	637	70
Navajo	457	50
Powell	5,610	58





### **Upper Colorado Basin**

Projected Operations for Water Years 2022 and 2023 Based on and June 2022 Modeling

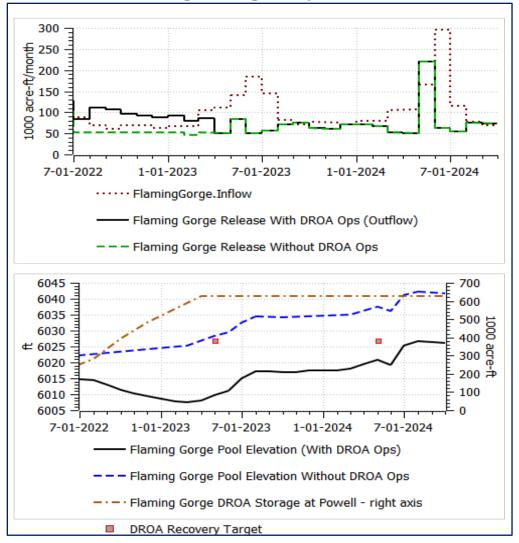


## **Upper Basin Drought Response Actions**

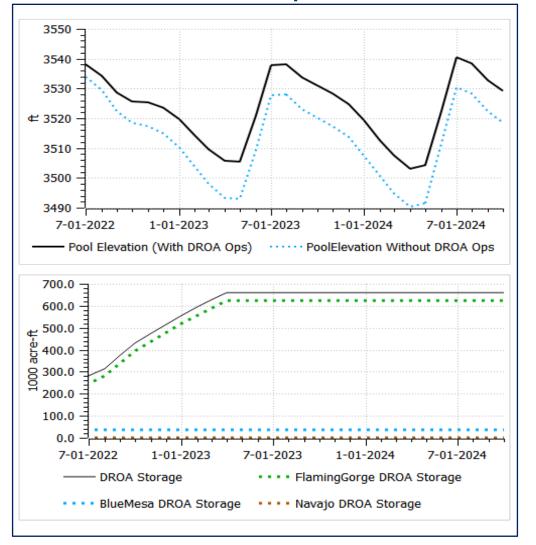
- The Bureau of Reclamation announced on May 3, 2022, two separate urgent drought response actions that will help prop up Lake Powell by nearly 1 million acre-feet (maf) of water over the next 12 months (May 2022 through April 2023). To protect Lake Powell, more water will flow into the lake from upstream reservoirs and less water will be released downstream:
  - Under a Drought Contingency Plan adopted in 2022, approximately 500 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water will come from Flaming Gorge Reservoir, located approximately 455 river miles upstream of Lake Powell (2022 Plan).
    - For more information: <a href="https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220429-2022DroughtResponseOperationsPlan-ApprovalMemo-508-DOI.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220429-2022DroughtResponseOperationsPlan-ApprovalMemo-508-DOI.pdf</a>.
  - Another 480 kaf will be left in Lake Powell by reducing Glen Canyon Dam's annual release volume from 7.48 maf to 7.00 maf (GC Operational Adjustment), in accordance with Sections 6 and 7.D of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
    - For more information: <a href="https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf</a>

## June 2022 24MS 2022 Plan Operations

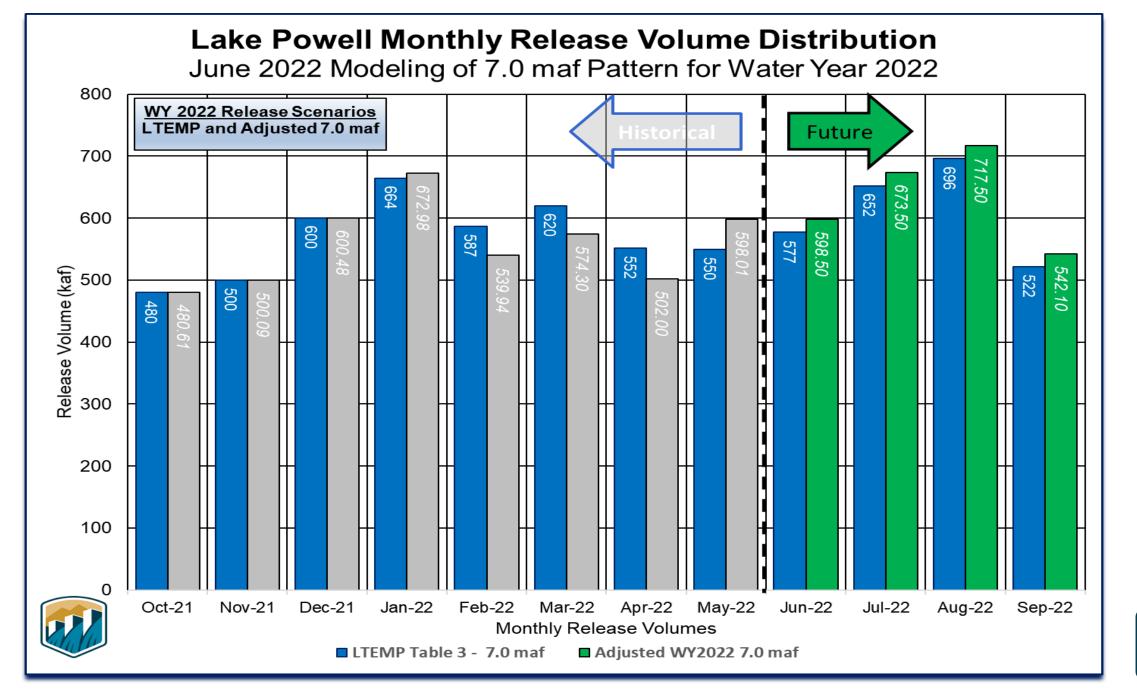
#### **Flaming Gorge Operations**



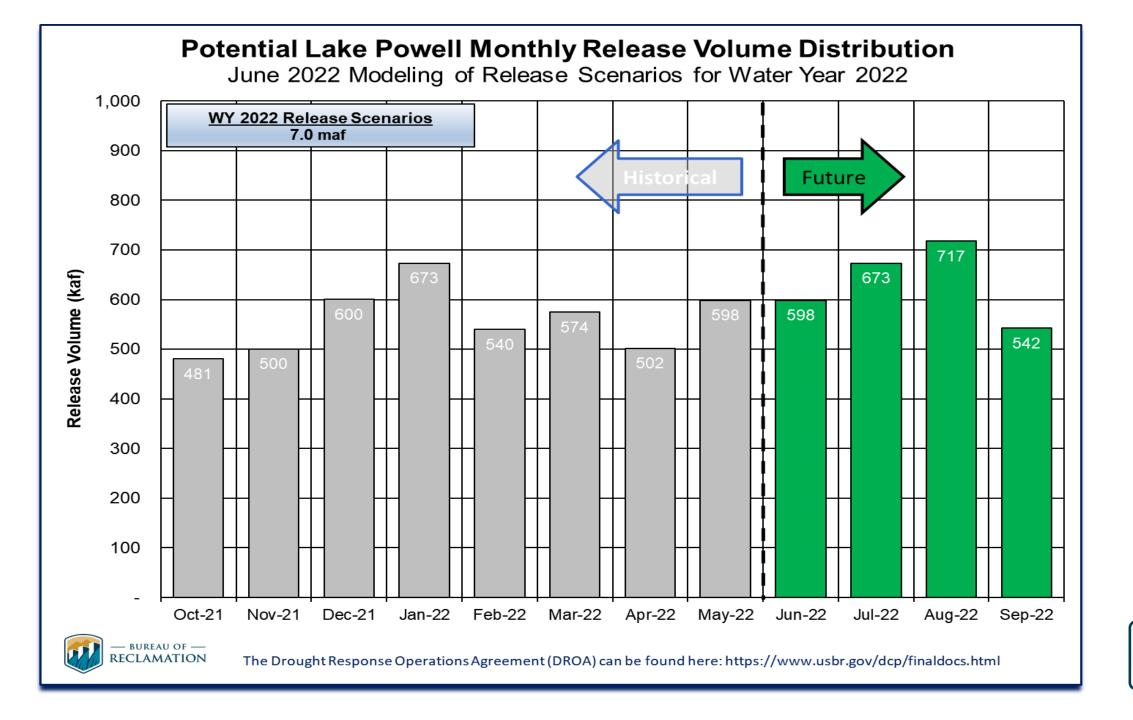
#### **Lake Powell Operations**







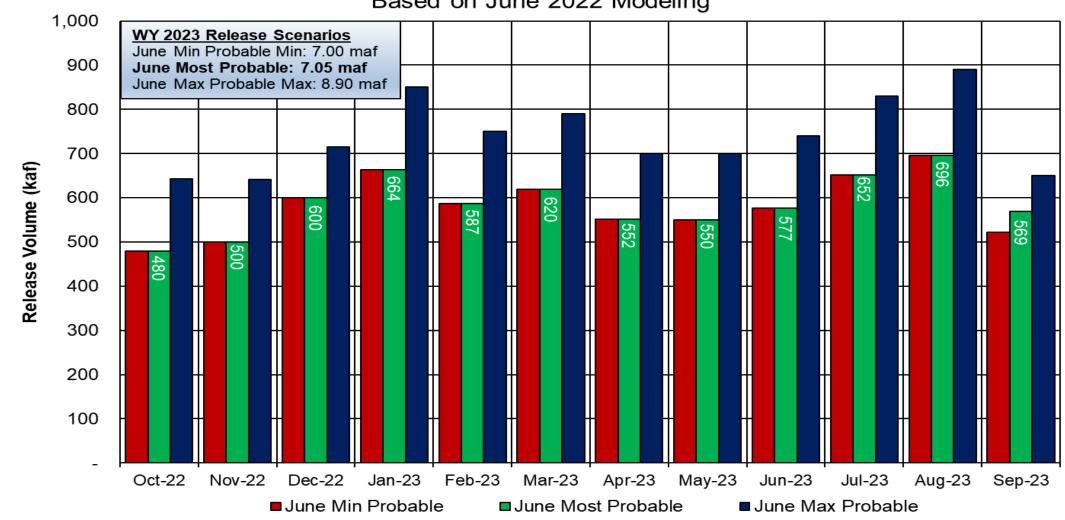








Release Scenarios for Water Year 2023
Based on June 2022 Modeling



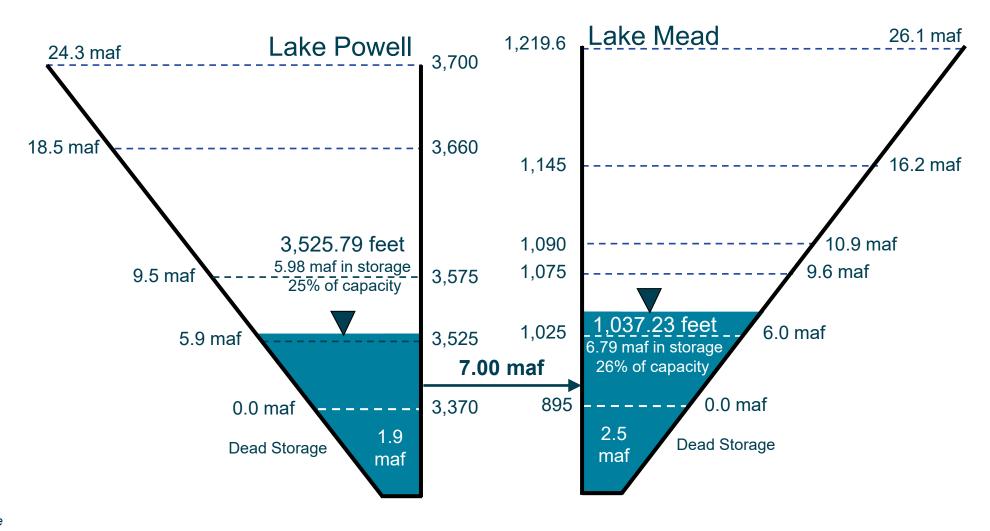
The operating determination for upcoming years will be based on a projected "tier" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on June 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Powell's operating condition for water year 2023 is projected to be within the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work with the Basin States to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of the drought actions are preserved.



### **End of Water Year 2022 Projections**

June 2022 24-Month Study Most Probable Inflow Scenario<sup>1, 2</sup>

Based on a Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow Forecast of 5.61 maf (58% of average)





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> WY 2022 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is based on the CBRFC forecast dated 6/3/22.

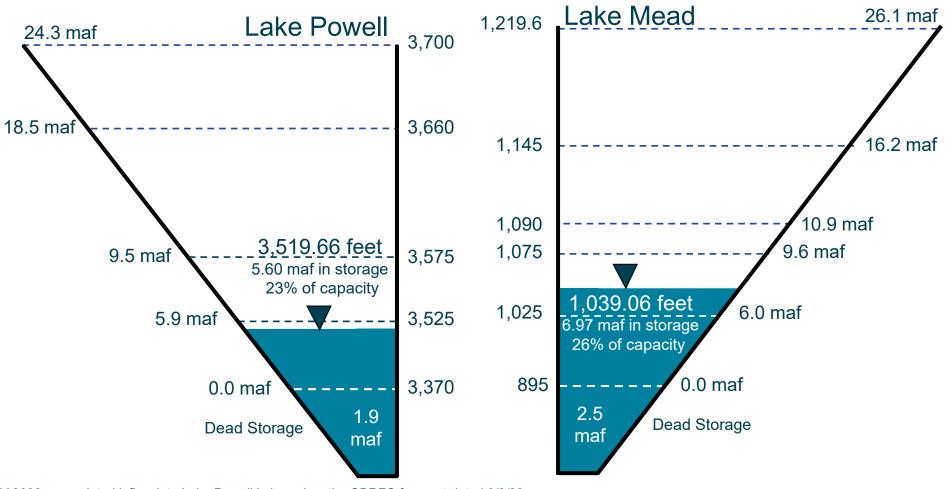


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The teacup diagram displays projected "physical" elevations and storages for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

#### **End of Calendar Year 2022 Projections**

June 2022 24-Month Study Most Probable Inflow Scenario<sup>1, 2</sup>

Based on a Lake Powell release of 7.00 maf in WY 2022 and 7.05 maf in WY 2023



Not to Scale



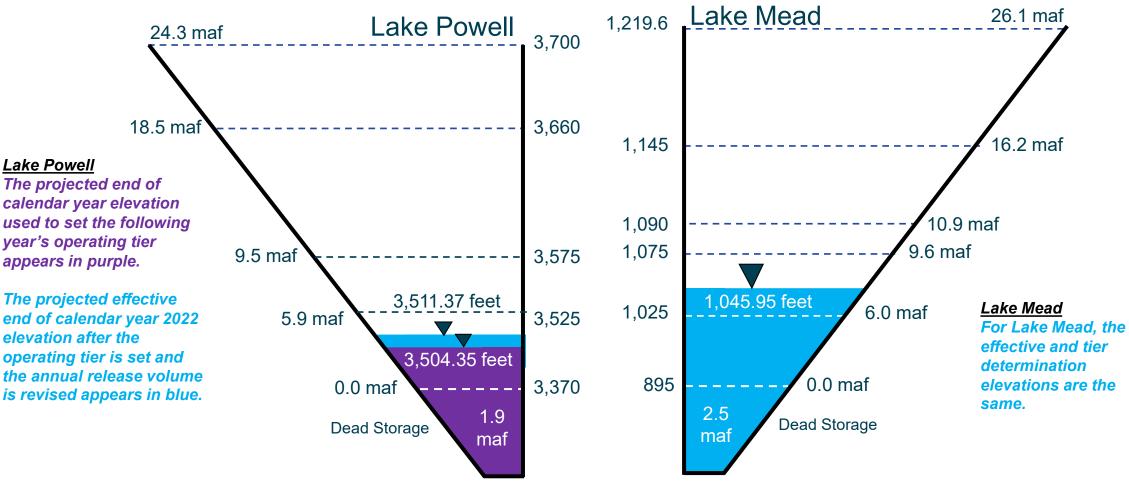
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> WY 2022 & WY 2023 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is based on the CBRFC forecast dated 6/3/22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The teacup diagram displays projected "physical" elevations and storages for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The operating determinations for upcoming years, however, will be determined by projected "effective" elevations. Based on June 2022 24-Month Study modeling, the effective elevations for end of calendar year 2022 for Lake Powell is 3,511.37 feet and 1,045.95 feet for Lake Mead.

## End of Calendar Year 2022 Projections: Effective and Tier Determination Elevations

June 2022 24-Month Study Most Probable Inflow Scenario<sup>1</sup>

Based on a Lake Powell release of 7.00 maf in WY 2022 and 7.05 maf in WY 2023



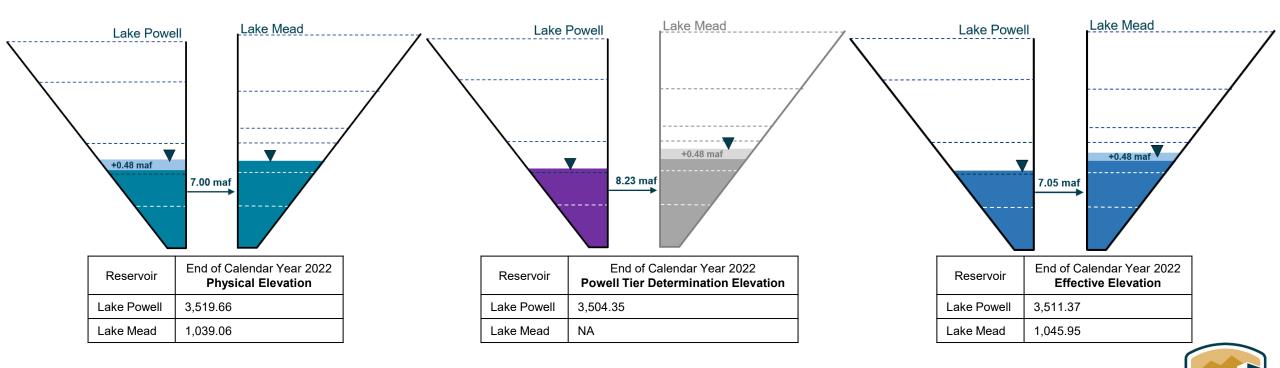


## End of Calendar Year 2022 Lake Powell and Lake Mead Elevations<sup>1,2</sup>

**Physical Elevations:** Real-time or projected elevations based on a 7.00 maf release from Lake Powell in WY 2022 and 7.05 maf in WY 2023.

**Powell Tier Determination:** Projected elevation "as if" the additional 0.48 maf were released from Powell in WY 2022 and with an 8.23 maf WY 2023 Powell release.

**Effective Elevation & Mead Operating Condition Determination:** Projected elevation "as if" the additional 0.48 maf were released from Powell in WY 2022, with an adjusted WY 2023 Powell release of 7.05 maf.



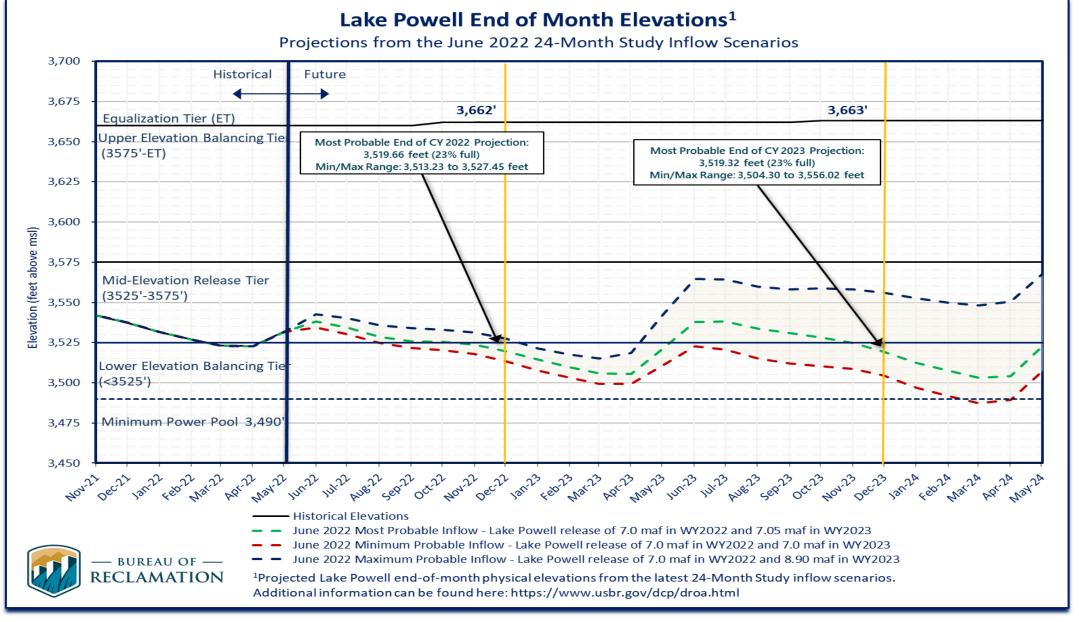
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more information: https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Both the Powell Tier Determination and Effective Elevations are "as if" the additional 0.48 maf were released from Powell in WY 2022. Powell's Tier Determination elevation is used to set the WY 2023 operating tier. For Mead, the Effective Elevation is used to set the CY 2023 operating condition. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work with the Basin States to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of these actions are preserved.

## Reclamation Operational Modeling Model Comparison

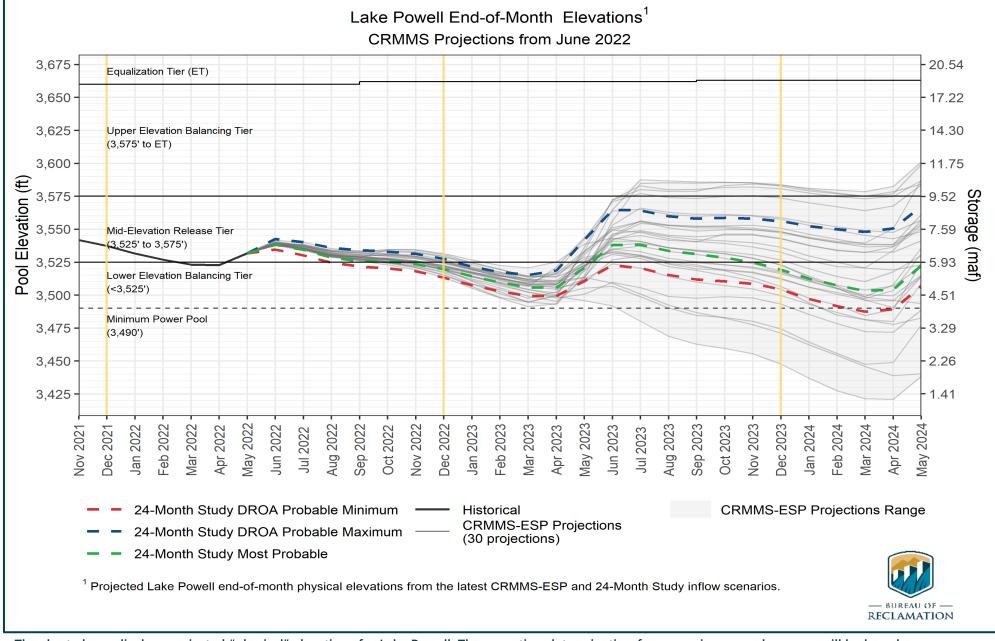
	Colorado River Mid-terr		
	24-Month Study Mode (Manual Mode)	Ensemble Mode (Rule-based Mode)	CRSS
Primary Use	AOP tier determinations and projections of current conditions	Risk-based operational planning and analysis	l.ong-term planning, comparison of alternatives
Simulated Reservoir Operations	Operations 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 appro	Developed with LB users	



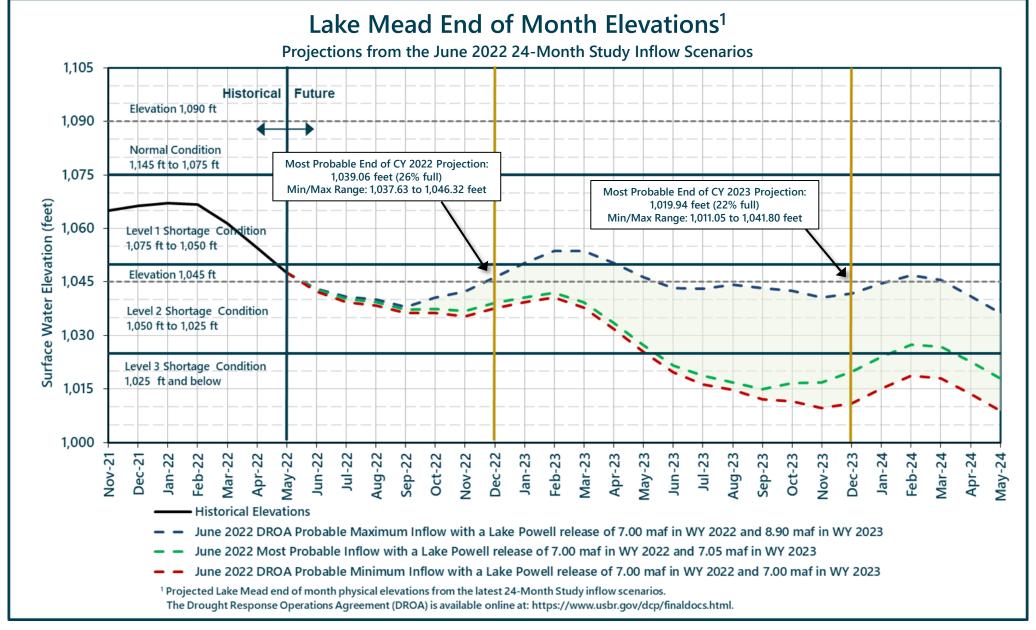


The chart above displays projected "physical" elevations for Lake Powell. The operating determination for upcoming years, however, will be based on a projected "tier" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on June 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Powell's operating condition for water year 2023 is projected to be within the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work with the Basin States to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of the drought actions are preserved.



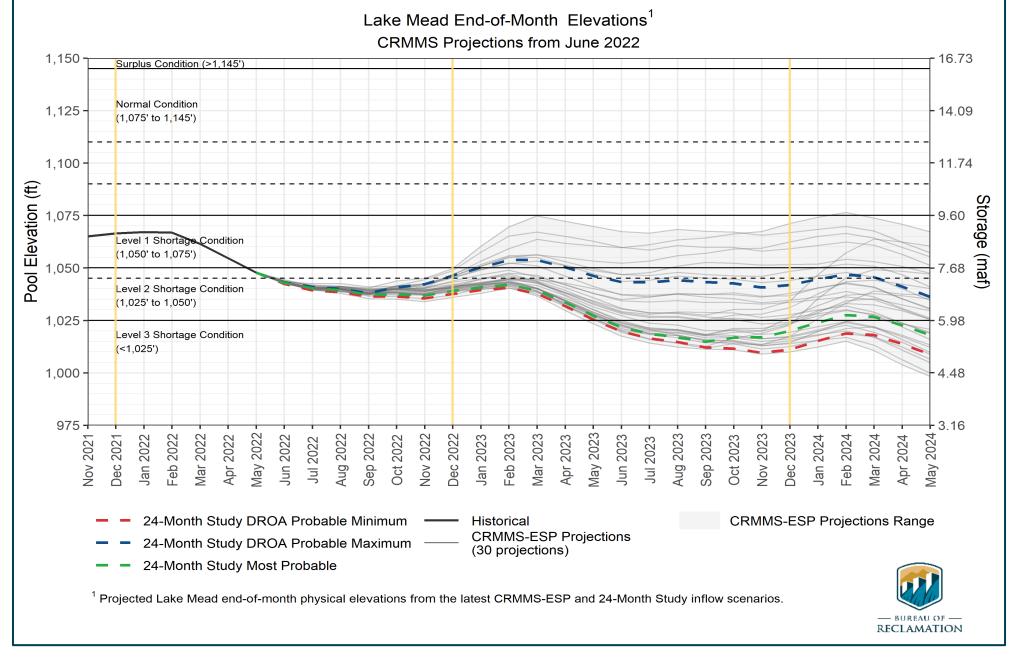


The chart above displays projected "physical" elevations for Lake Powell. The operating determination for upcoming years, however, will be based on a projected "tier" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on June 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Powell's operating condition for water year 2023 is projected to be within the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work with the Basin States to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of the drought actions are preserved.



The chart above displays projected "physical" elevations for Lake Mead. The operating determination for upcoming years, however, will be based on a projected "effective" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on June 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Mead's operating condition for calendar year 2023 is projected to be within the 1,045 – 1,050 elevation band.





The chart above displays projected "physical" elevations for Lake Mead. The operating determination for upcoming years, however, will be based on a projected "effective" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on June 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Mead's operating condition for calendar year 2023 is projected to be within the 1,045 – 1,050 elevation band.

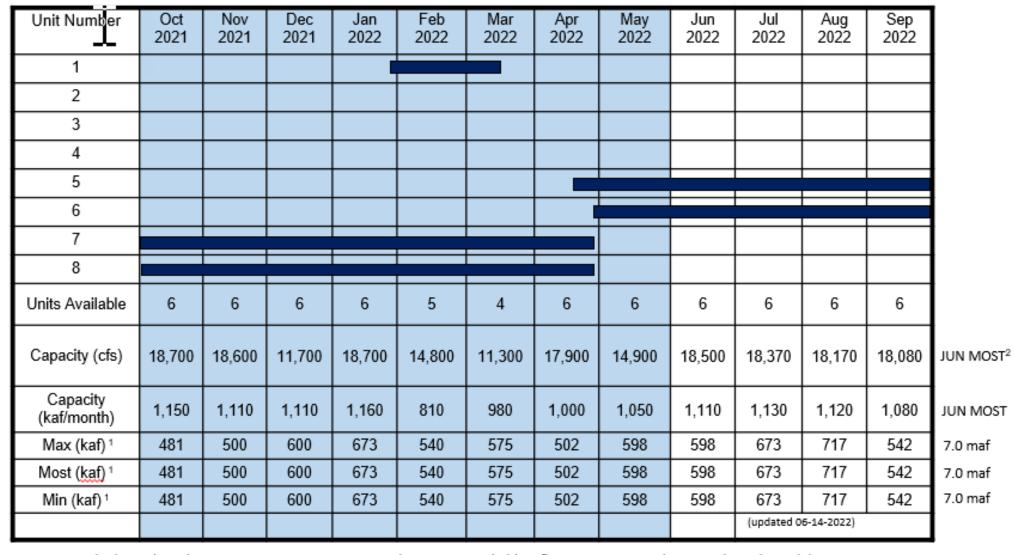


## **Upper Colorado Basin**

## **Hydropower Maintenance**



### Glen Canyon Dam Power Plant Unit Outage Schedule for 2022

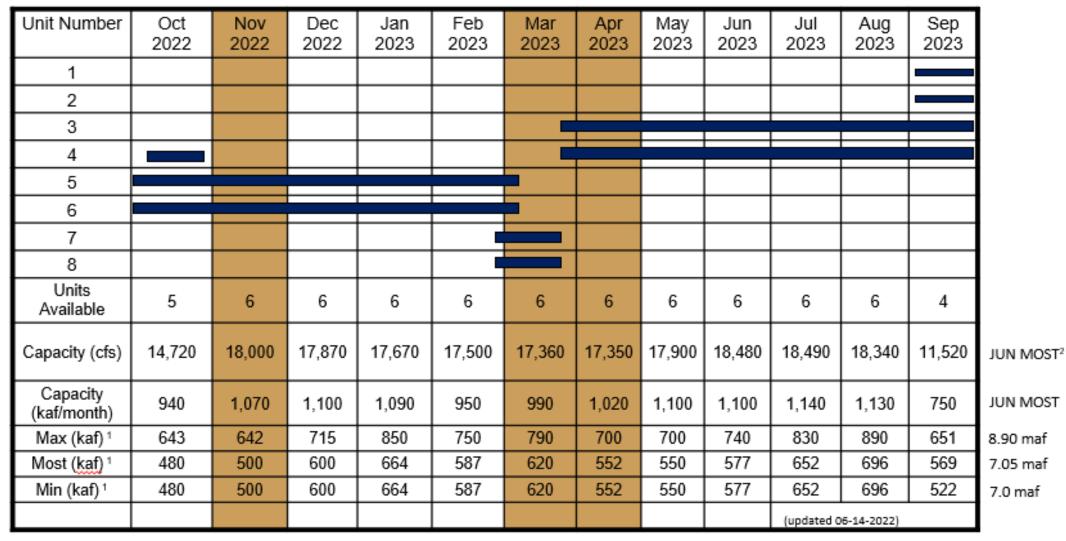


<sup>1</sup> Projected release, based on June 2022 minimum, most and maximum probable inflow projections and 24-Month Study model runs.



<sup>2</sup> Dependent upon availability to shift contingency reserves, which will increase capacity by 30-40MW (3%) at current efficiency.

### Glen Canyon Dam Power Plant Unit Outage Schedule for 2023



JUN MOST 8.90 maf

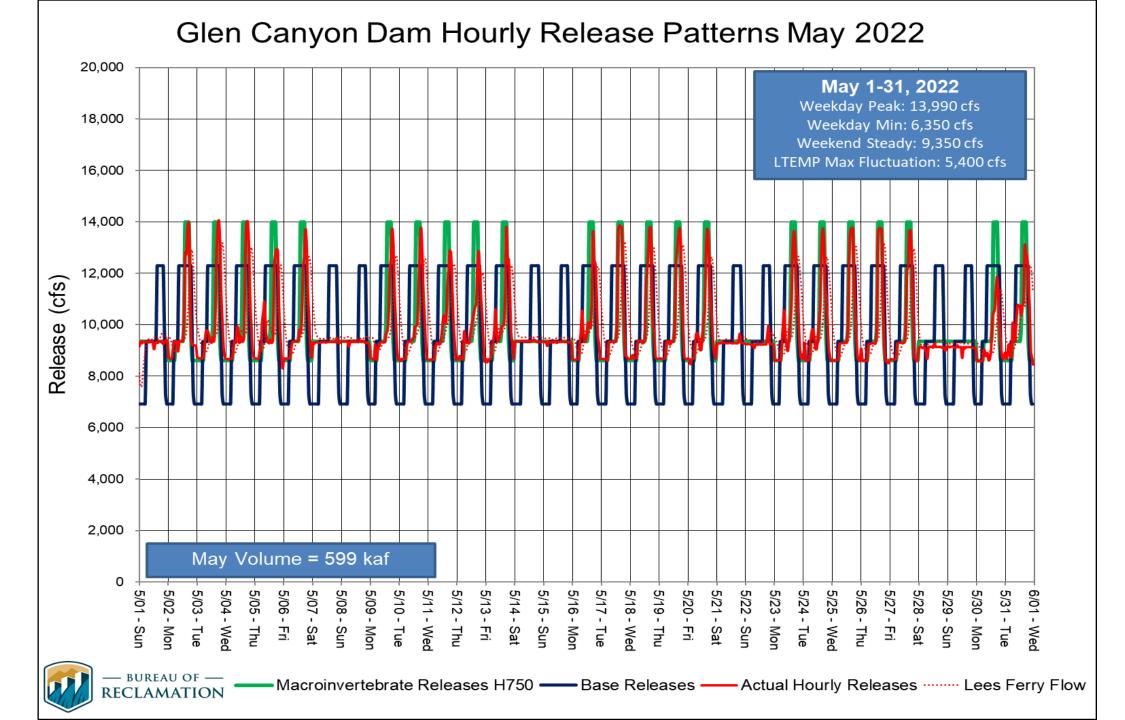
7.05 maf

7.0 maf

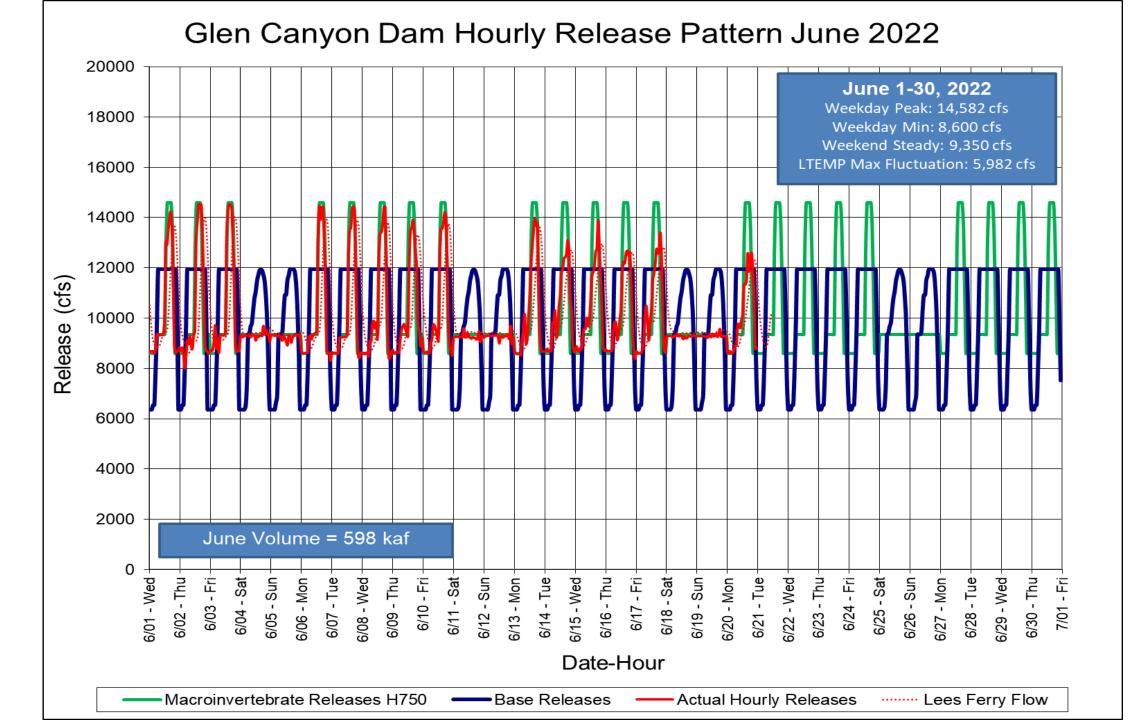


<sup>1</sup> Projected release, based on June 2022 minimum, most and maximum probable Inflow Projections and 24-Month Study model runs.

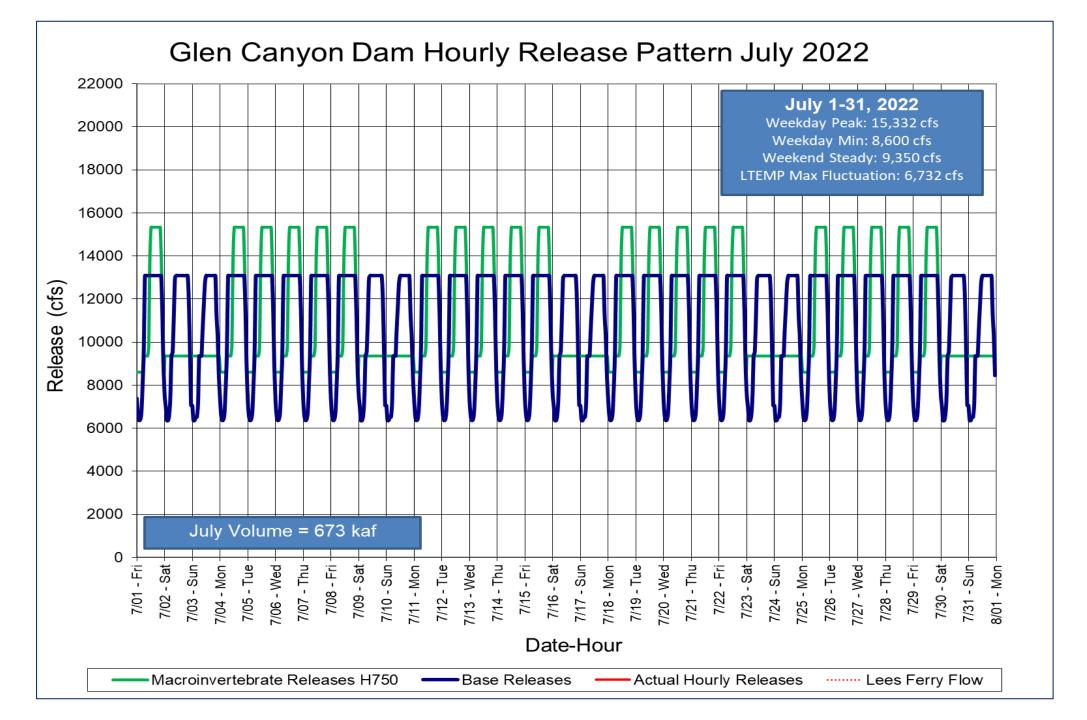
<sup>2</sup> Dependent upon availability to shift contingency reserves, which will increase capacity by 30-40MW (3%) at current efficiency.



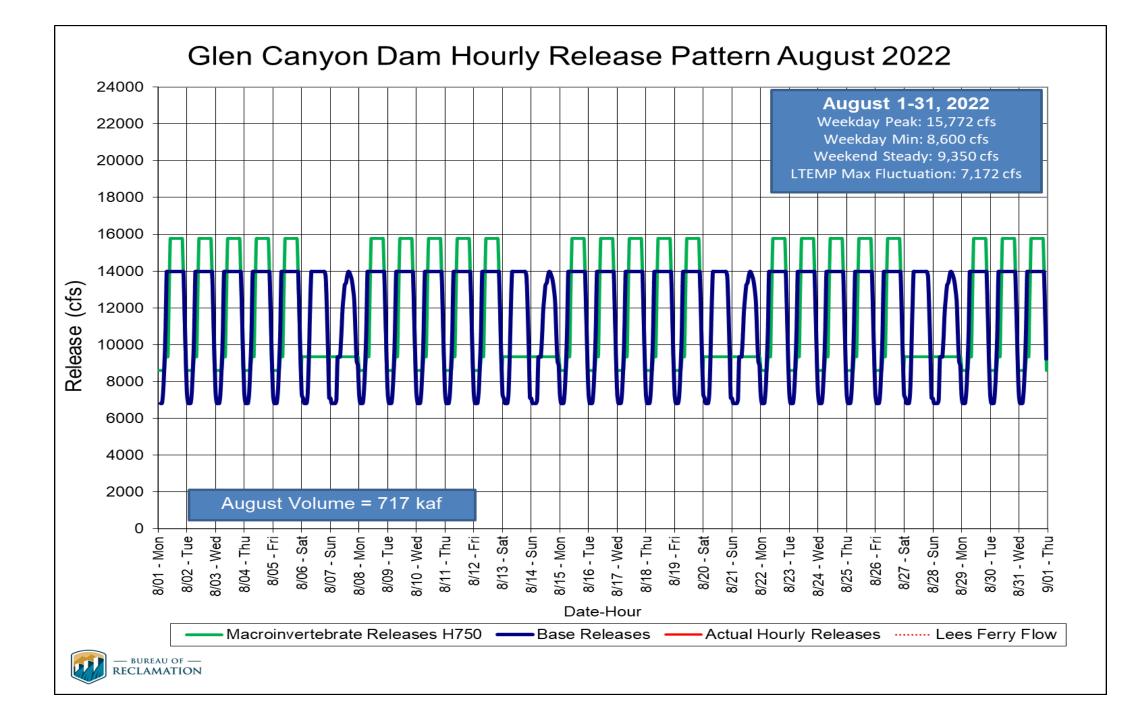










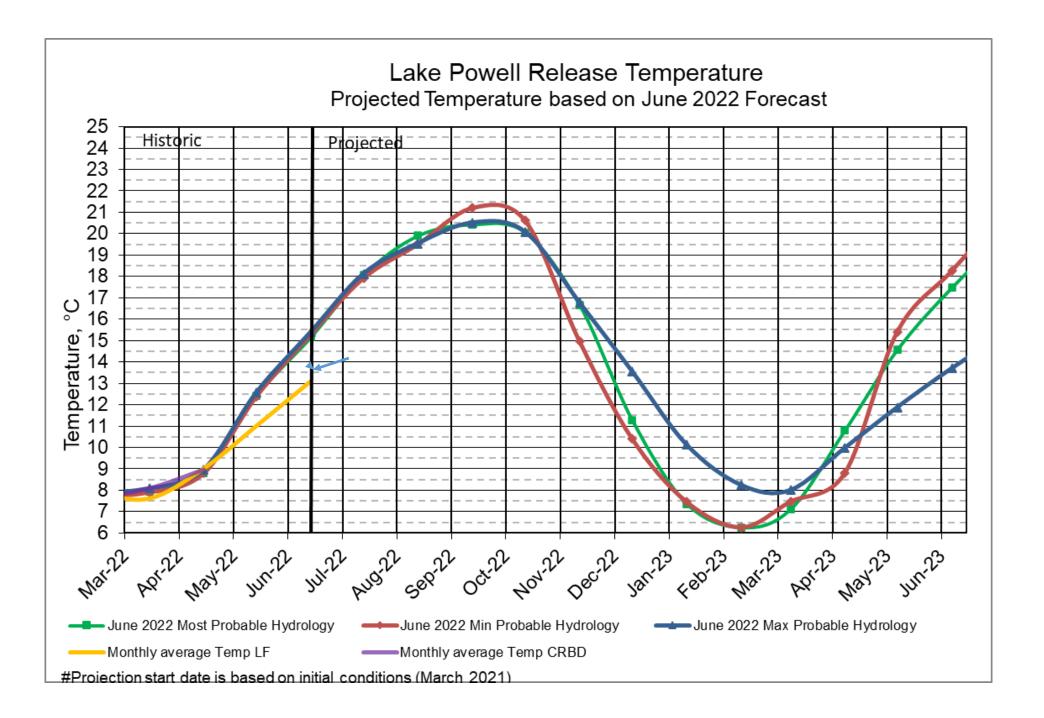


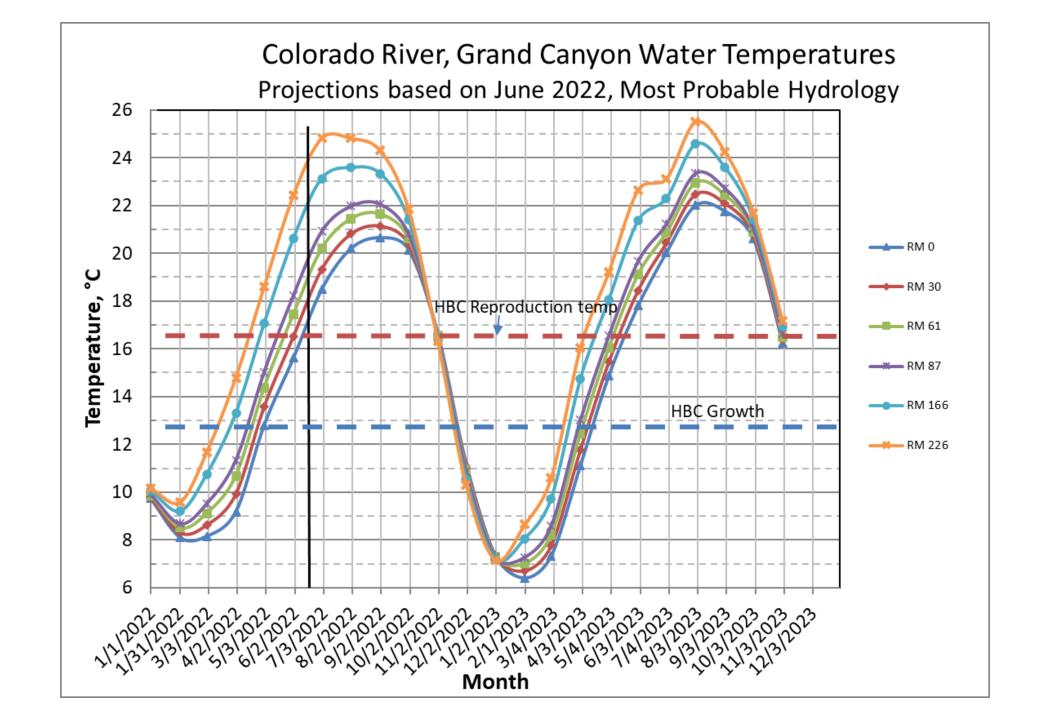


## **Water Quality**









01\_LPCR0024\_220613\_F\_A\_D\_LE\_bin.cnv Temperature [ITS-90, deg C] Specific Conductance [uS/cm] 920 940 1040 1060 1080 960 1000 1020 1100 6.0 6.5 7.0 7.5 8.0 8.5 9.0 Oxygen, SBE 43 [mg/l] 8.0 7.8 7.9 8.2 8.3 8.4 рΗ

10

20

30-

80

90-

100

Depth [fresh water, m]

