BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Glen Canyon Monthly Operations Call

Basin Hydrology and Operations

September 18, 2024

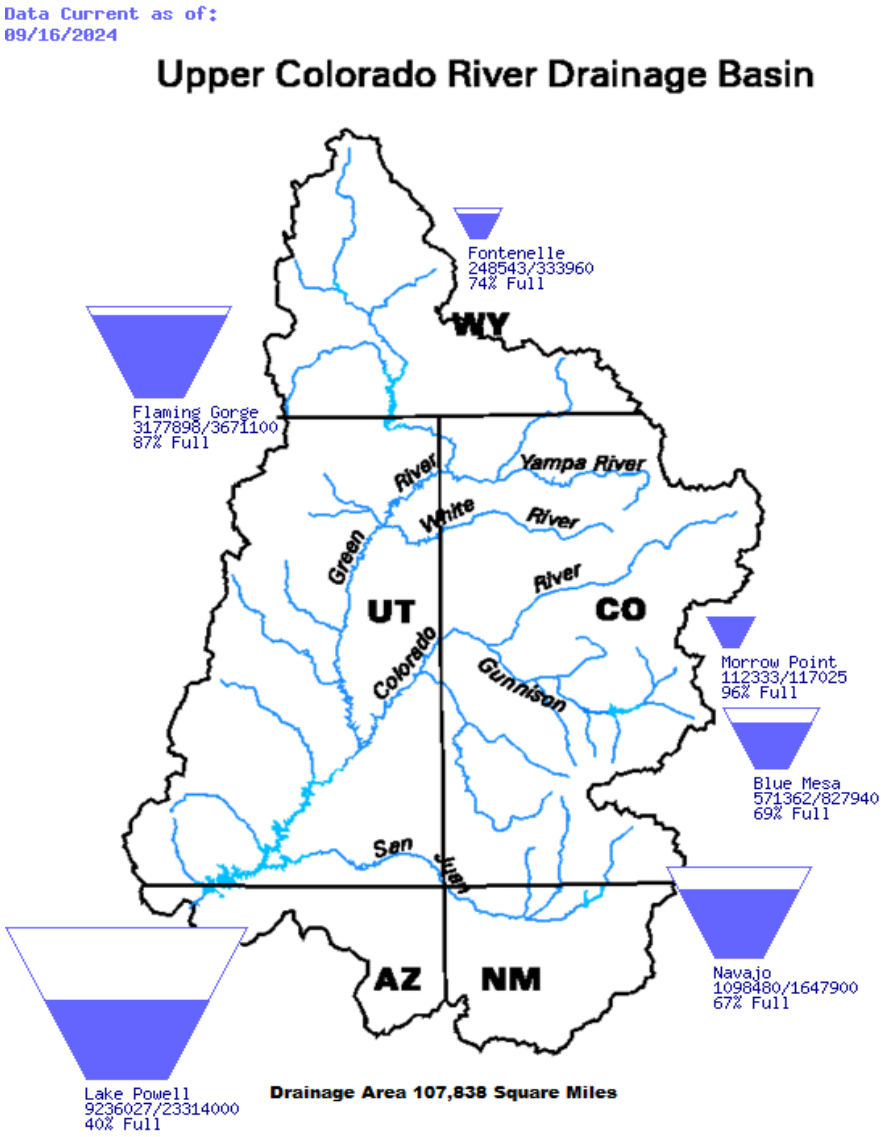
Background

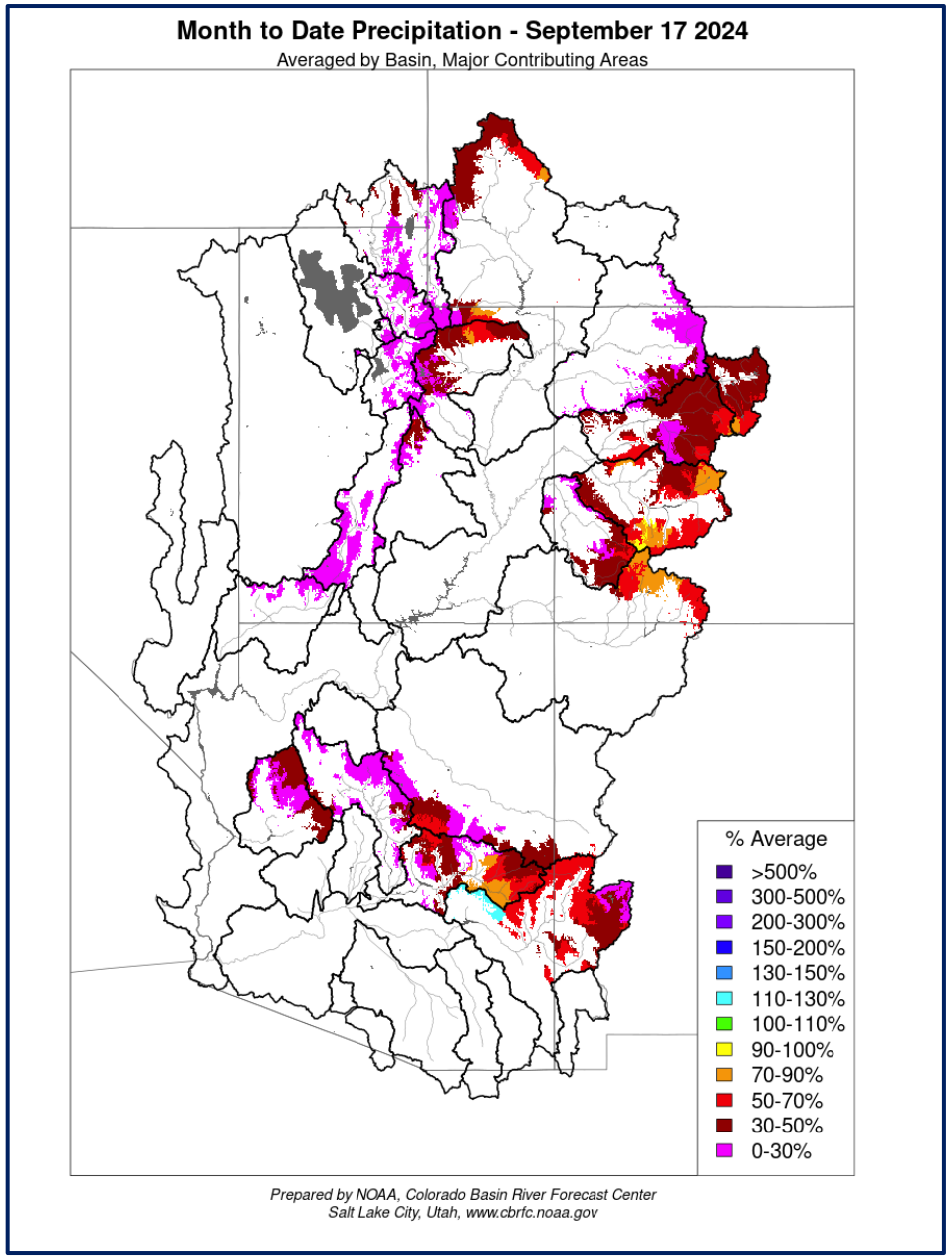
This briefing is being provided consistent with the provision in Attachment B - Section 1.1 of the LTEMP ROD which states:

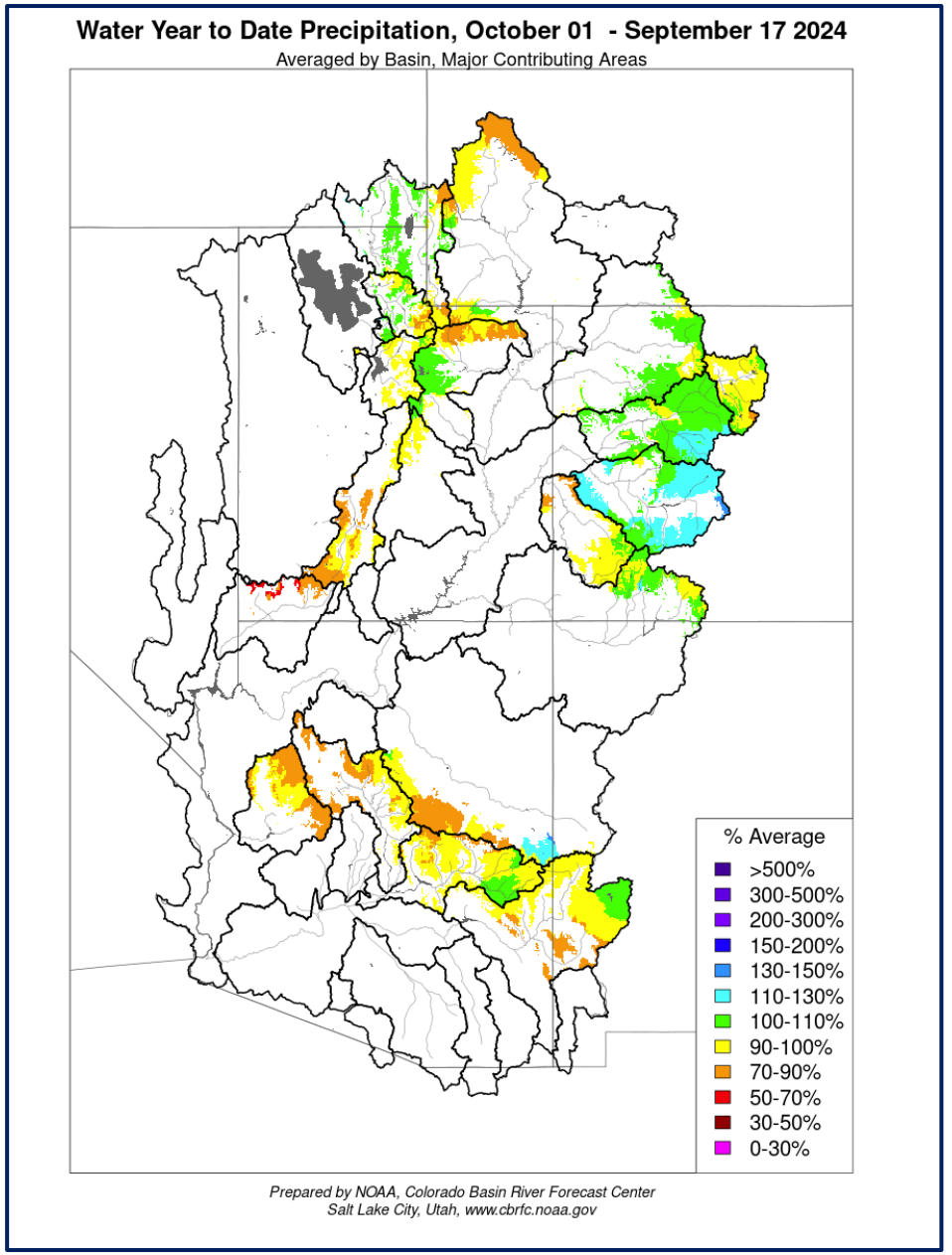
"Annually, Reclamation will develop a hydrograph based on the characteristics above. Reclamation will seek consensus on the annual hydrograph through monthly operational coordination calls with governmental entities, and regular meetings of the GCDAMP Technical Working Group (TWG) and AMWG. Reclamation 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 September 16, 2024)

Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Fontenelle	74	0.25	0.33	6,494.47
Flaming Gorge	86	3.18	3.67	6,027.67
Blue Mesa	69	0.57	0.83	7,489.19
Navajo	67	1.10	1.65	6,043.54
Lake Powell	40	9.24	23.31	3,579.27
UC System Storage	48	14.46	29.79	
Total System Storage	43	25.36	58.48	




Month to Date Precipitation - September 17 2024
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas
% Average
>500%
300-500%
200-300%
150-200%
130-150%
110-130%
100-110%
90-100%
70-90%
50-70%
30-50%
0-30%
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov


Water Year to Date Precipitation, October 01 - September 17 2024
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas
% Average
>500%
300-500%
200-300%
150-200%
130-150%
110-130%
100-110%
90-100%
70-90%
50-70%
30-50%
0-30%
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
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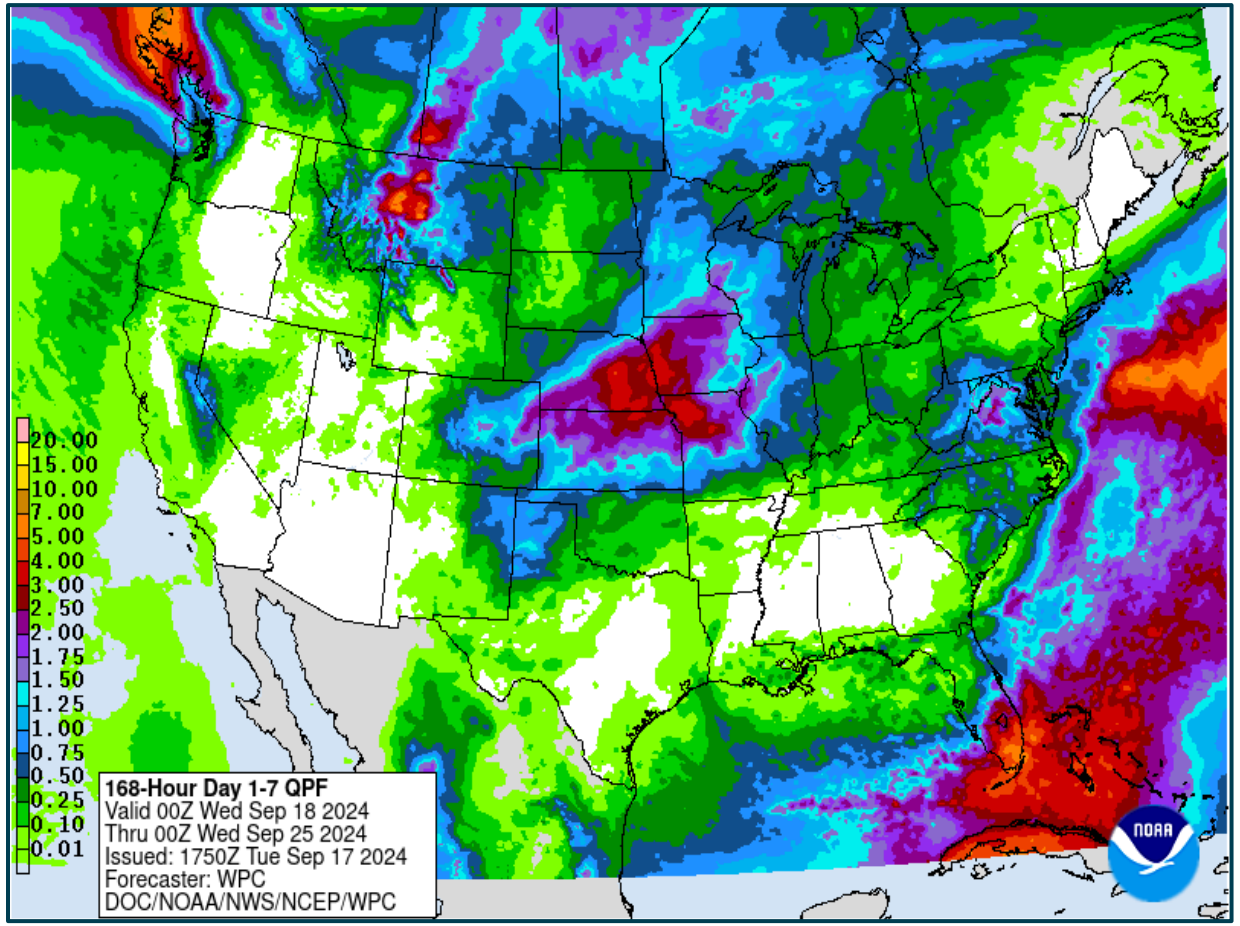
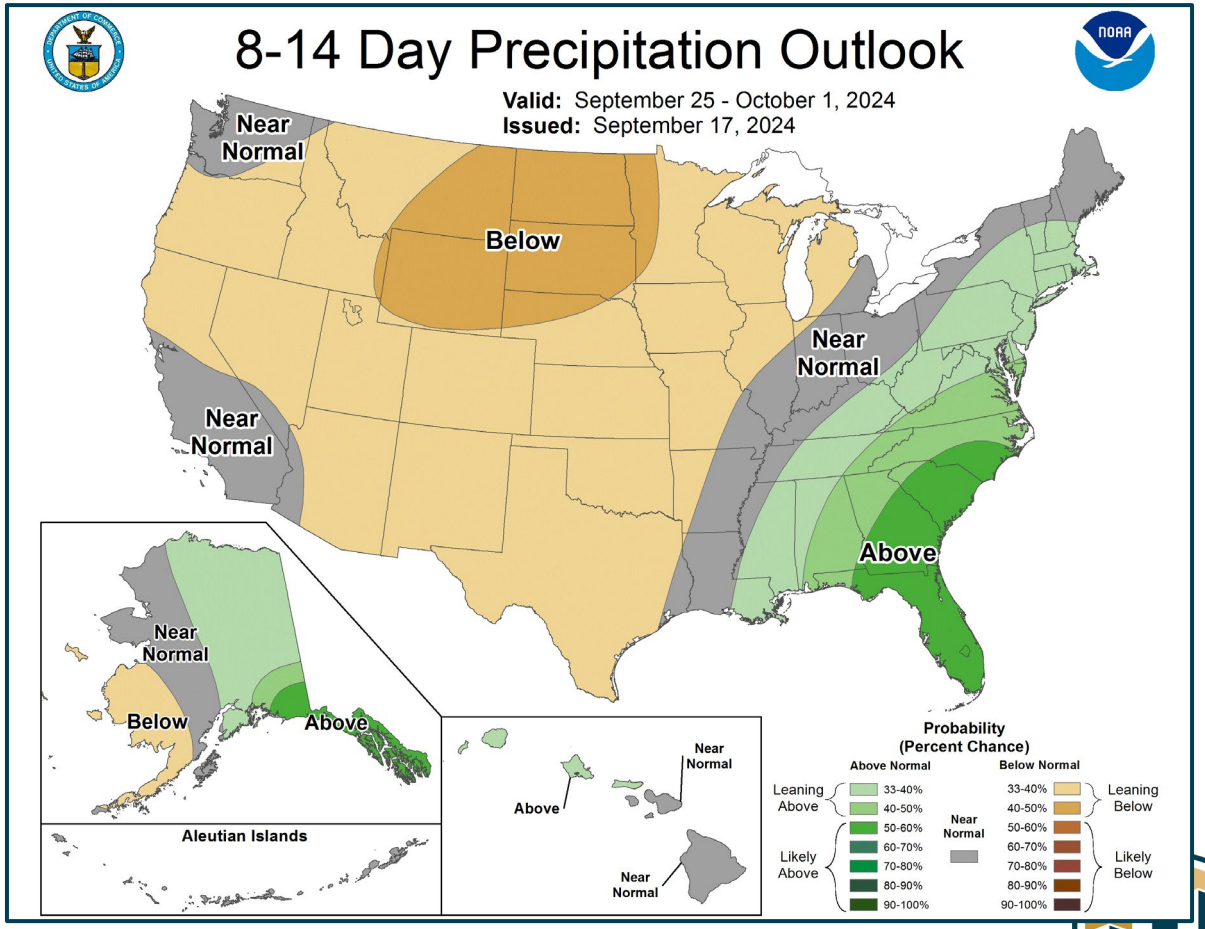
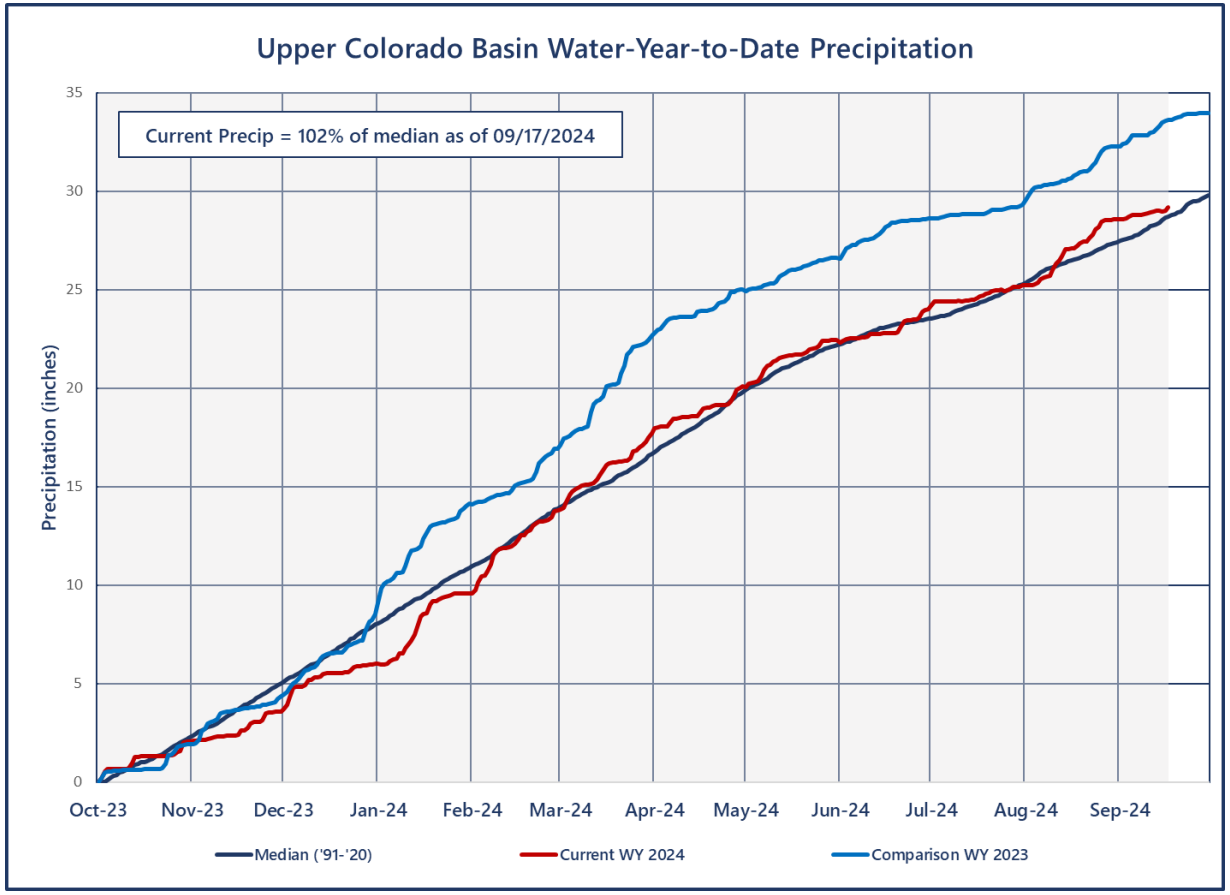
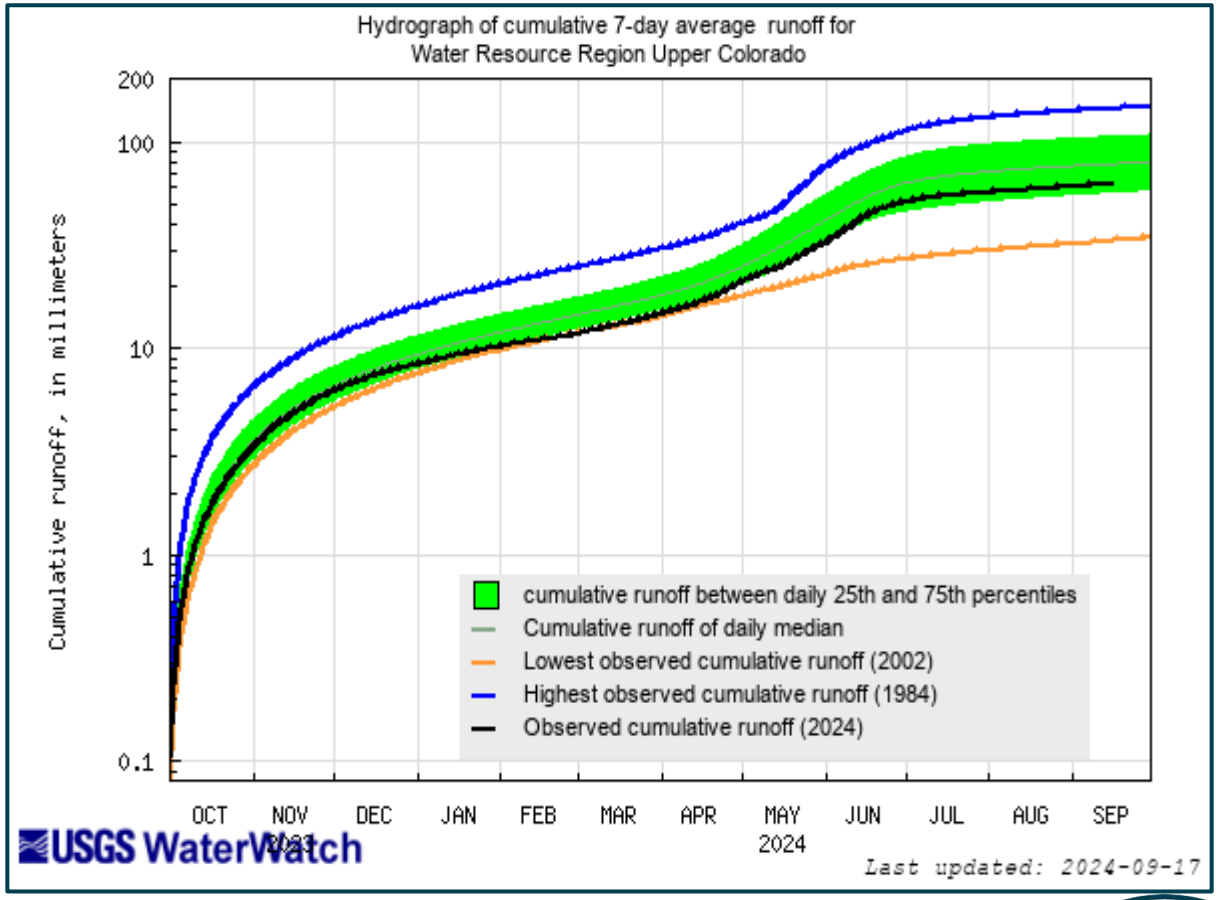
Weather Prediction Center and Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecasts





Upper Colorado SWE and Precipitation





Most Probable September Forecast
Water Year 2024

April – July 2024
Observed Unregulated Inflow
as of September 2, 2024

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg[1]
Fontenelle	516	70
Flaming Gorge	713	70
Blue Mesa	653	103
Navajo	448	71
Powell	5,328	83

Water Year 2024
Unregulated Inflow Forecast
as of September 2, 2024

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg[1]
Fontenelle	837	78
Flaming Gorge	1,180	84
Blue Mesa	914	101
Navajo	589	65
Powell	8,078	84

[1]Averages are based on the 1991 through 2020 period of record.

Most Probable September Forecast
Water Year 2025

April – July 2025
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow
as of September 2, 2024

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg[1]
Fontenelle	635	86
Flaming Gorge	810	84
Blue Mesa	631	99
Navajo	580	92
Powell	6,070	95

Water Year 2025
Unregulated Inflow Forecast
as of September 2, 2024

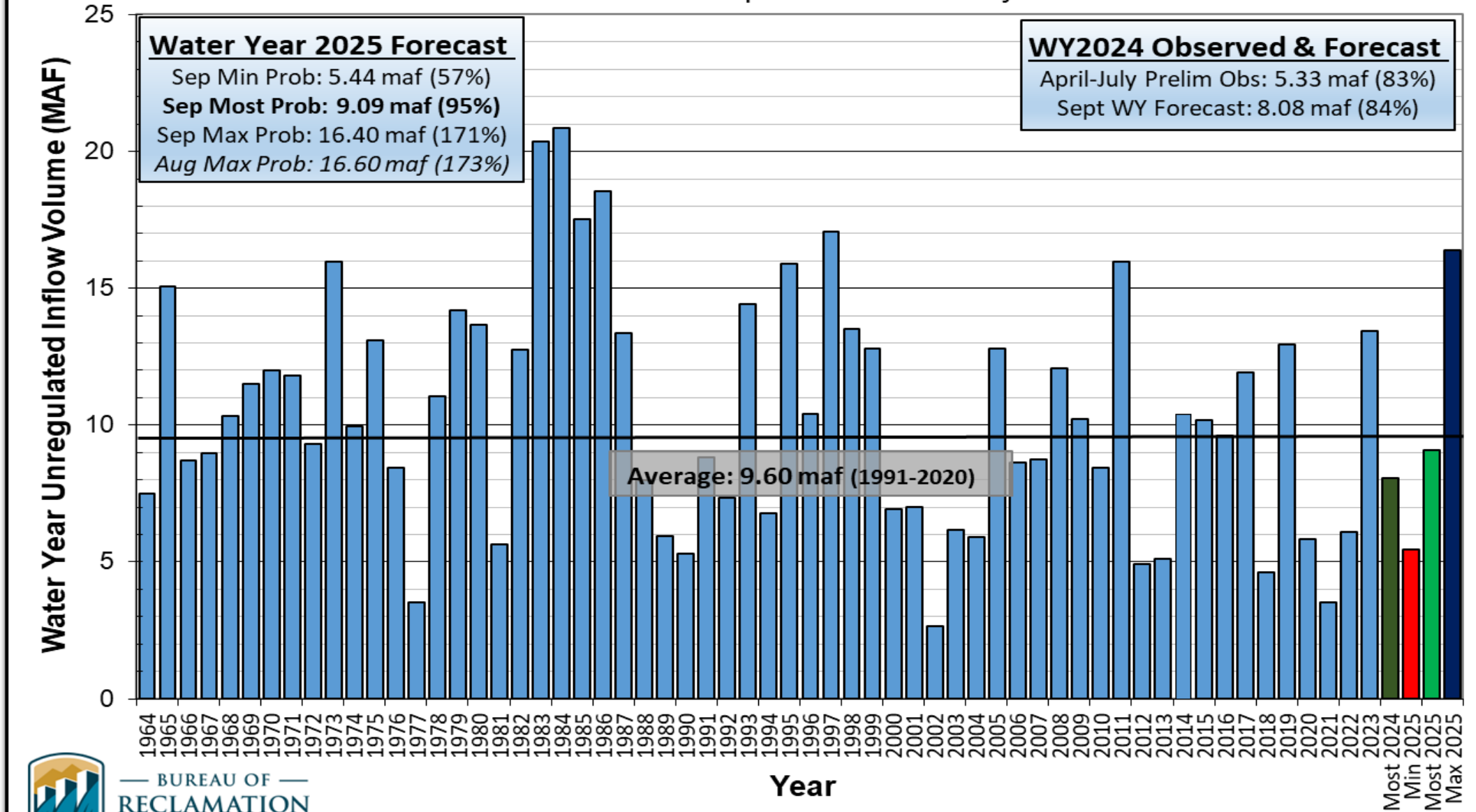
Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg[1]
Fontenelle	938	87
Flaming Gorge	1,210	86
Blue Mesa	890	98
Navajo	820	90
Powell	9,090	95

[1]Averages are based on the 1991 through 2020 period of record.

Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow

Water Year 2024 and 2025 Forecast *(issued September 2)*

Comparison with History

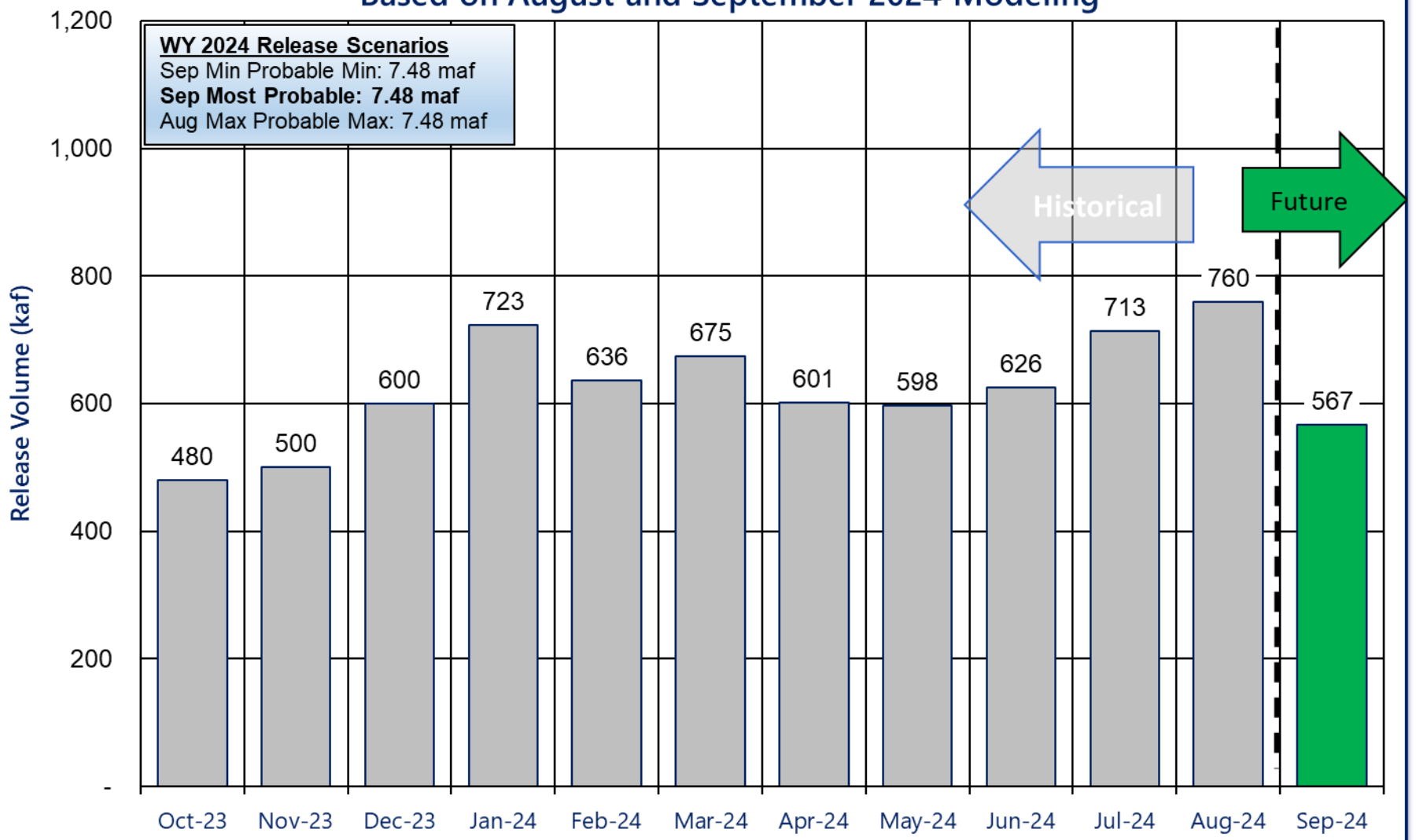


— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

Release Scenarios for Water Year 2024

Based on August and September 2024 Modeling



Upper Colorado Basin

Hydrology and Operations Projections Based on August and September 2024 24-Month Study

Upper Basin Reservoir Operations
Water Years 2024 and 2025

- 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 2024 will operate in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier where Lake Powell will release 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) https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/interimguidelines/seis/index.html
- July operations and 24-Month Study will include Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (2024 LTEMP SEIS ROD, signed July 3, 2024) https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/EnvironmentalImpactStatements/GlenCanyonDamLong-TermExperimentalManagementPlan/20240703-GCDLTEMP-FinalSEIS-RecordofDecision-508-AMWD.pdf
- 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[1]

Lake Powell

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
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)
3,575	**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	8.90
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
3,500	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	4.22
3,370		0

3,568.99 ft Jan 1, 2025 Projection

Lake Mead

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

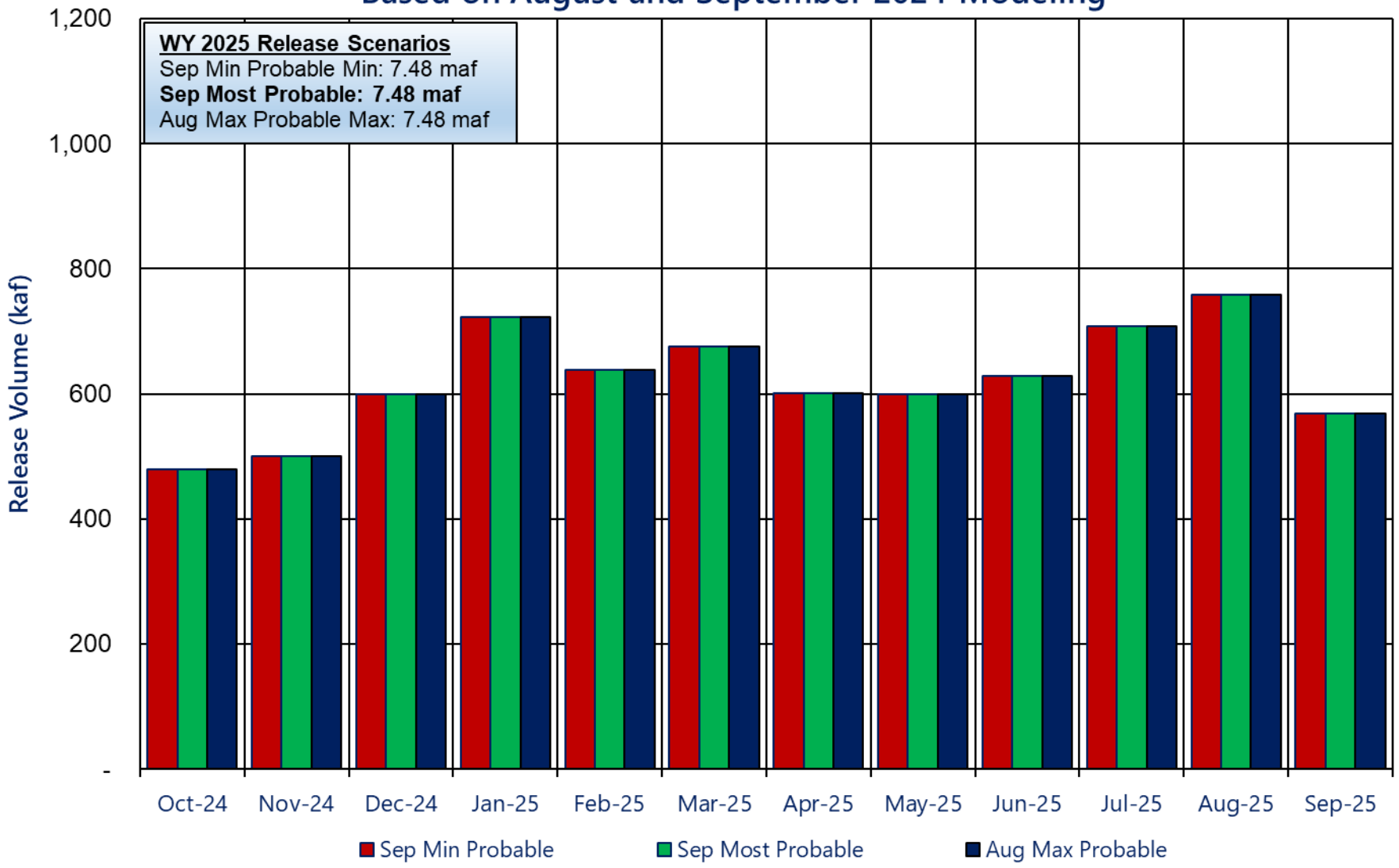
1,062.32 ft Jan 1, 2025 Projection

[1] Lake Powell and Lake Mead operational tier determinations will be documented in the draft 2025 AOP.

Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

Release Scenarios for Water Year 2025

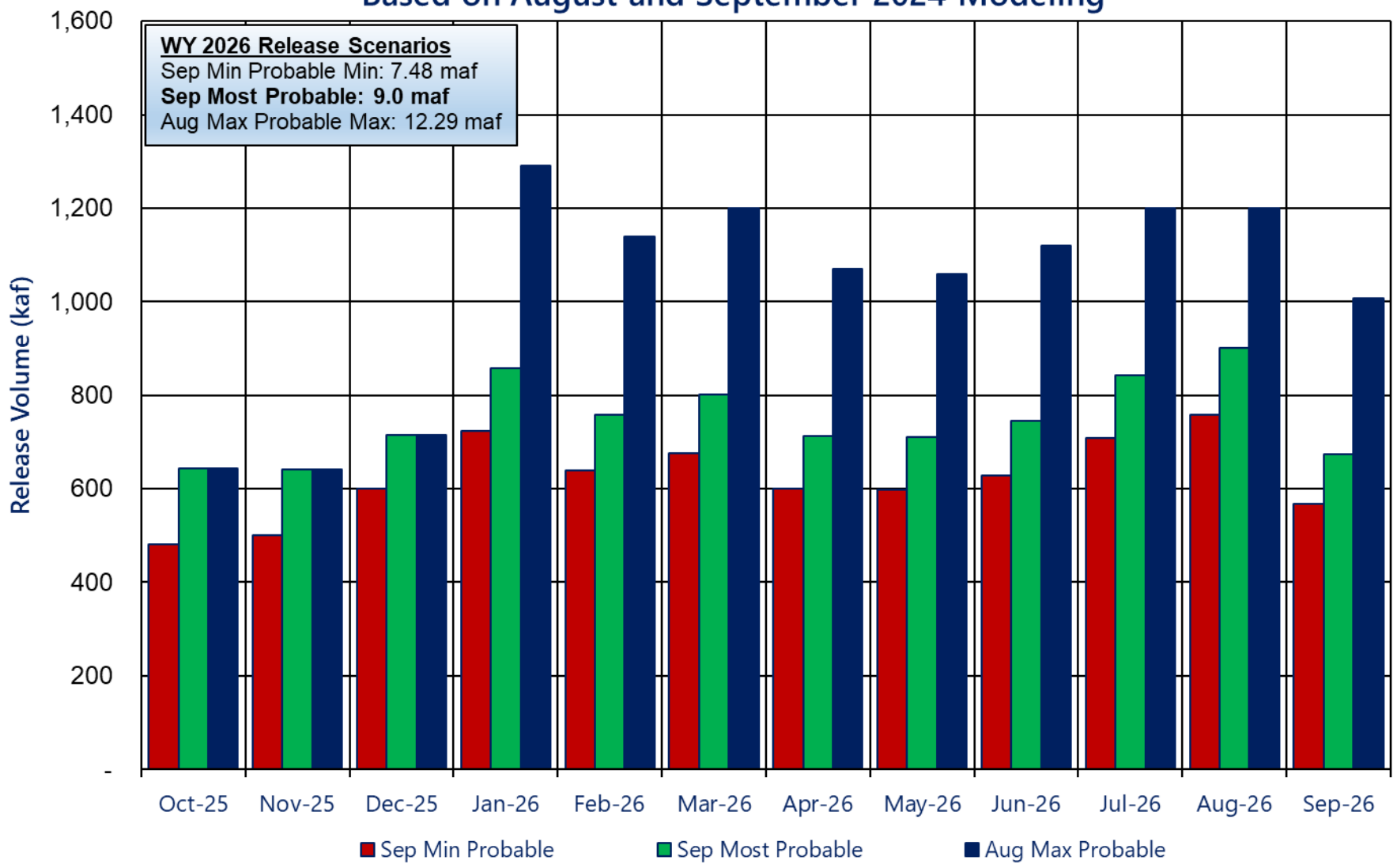
Based on August and September 2024 Modeling



Potential Lake Powell Monthly Release Volume Distribution

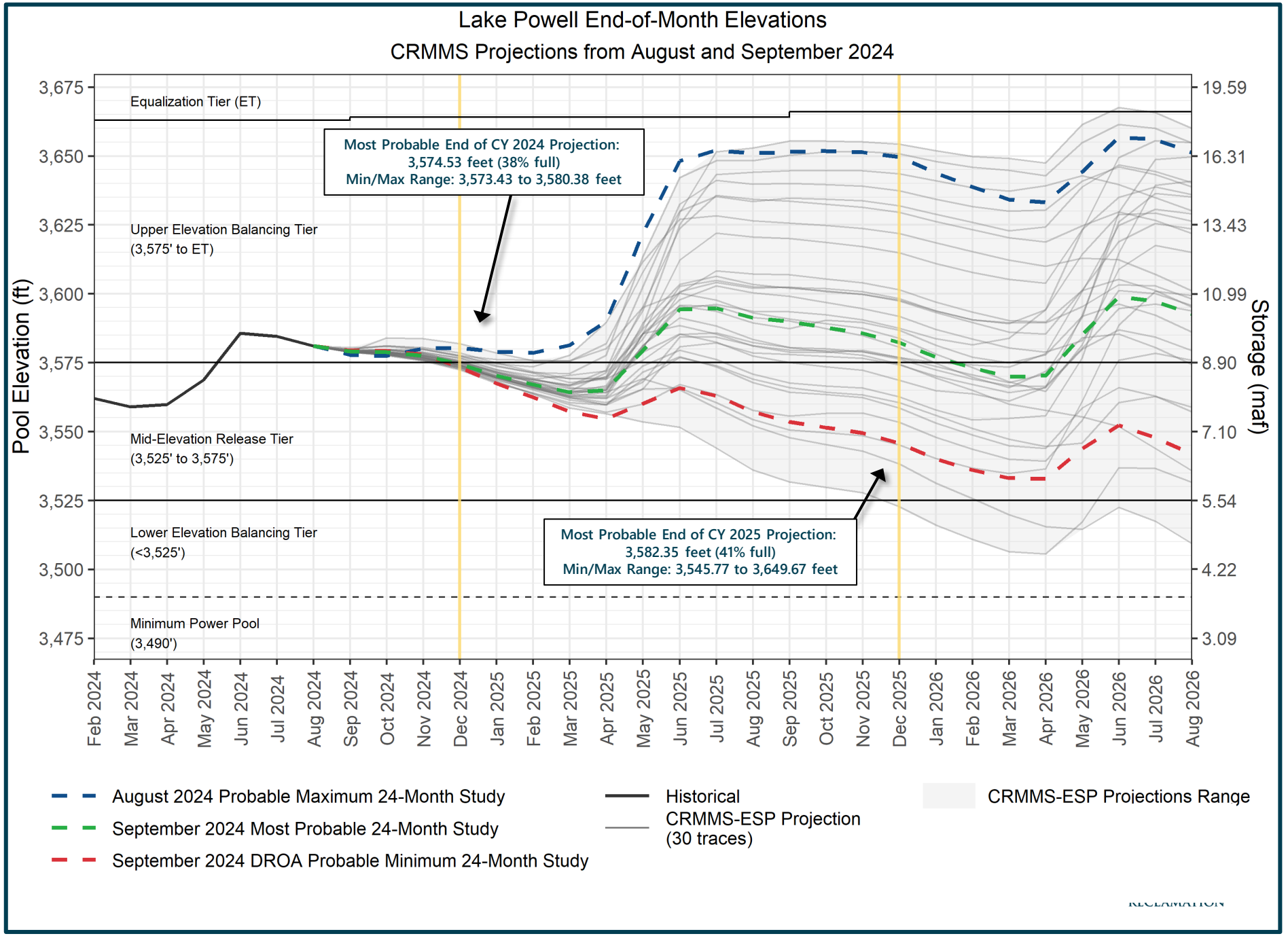
Release Scenarios for Water Year 2026

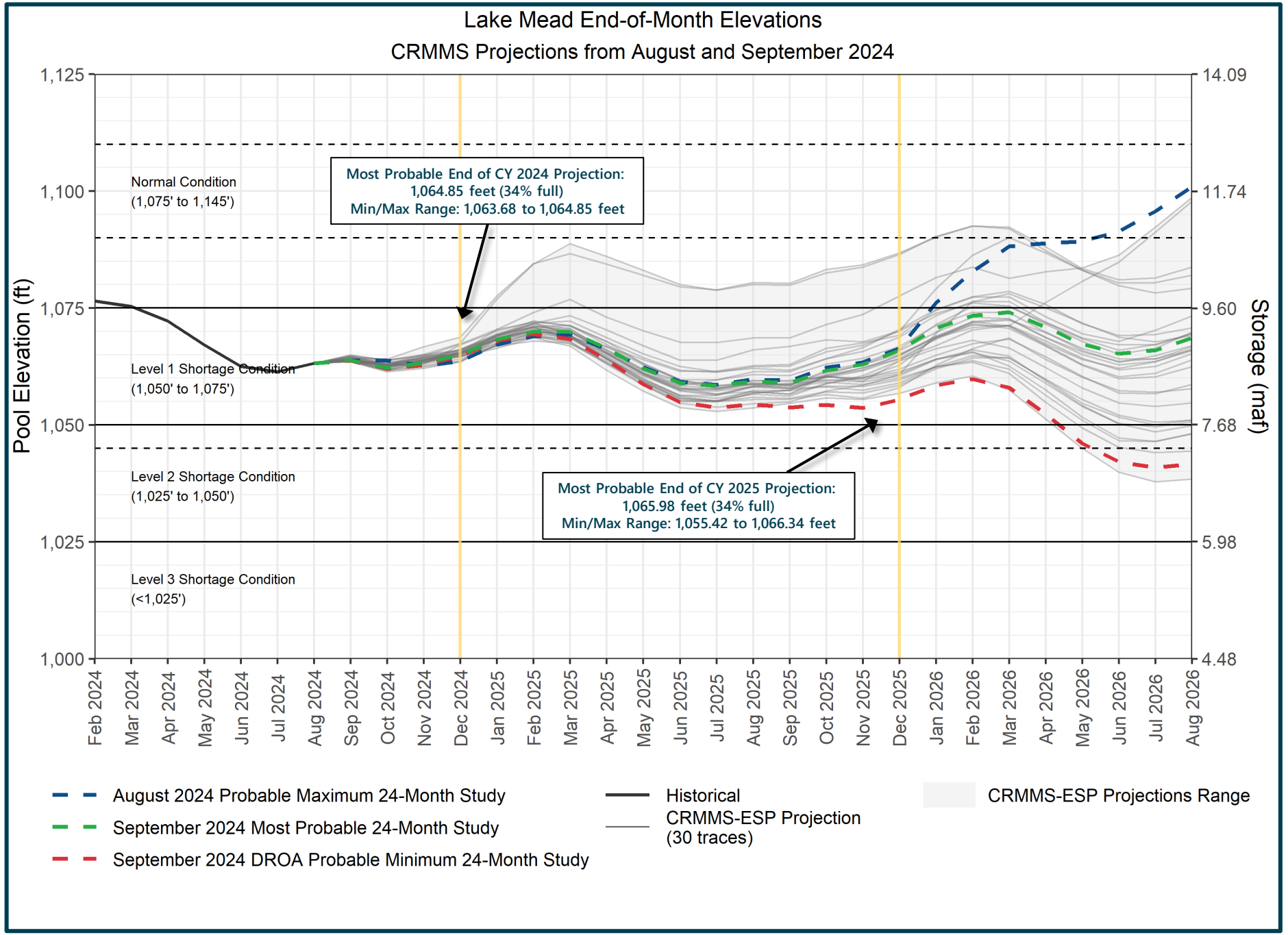
Based on August and September 2024 Modeling



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

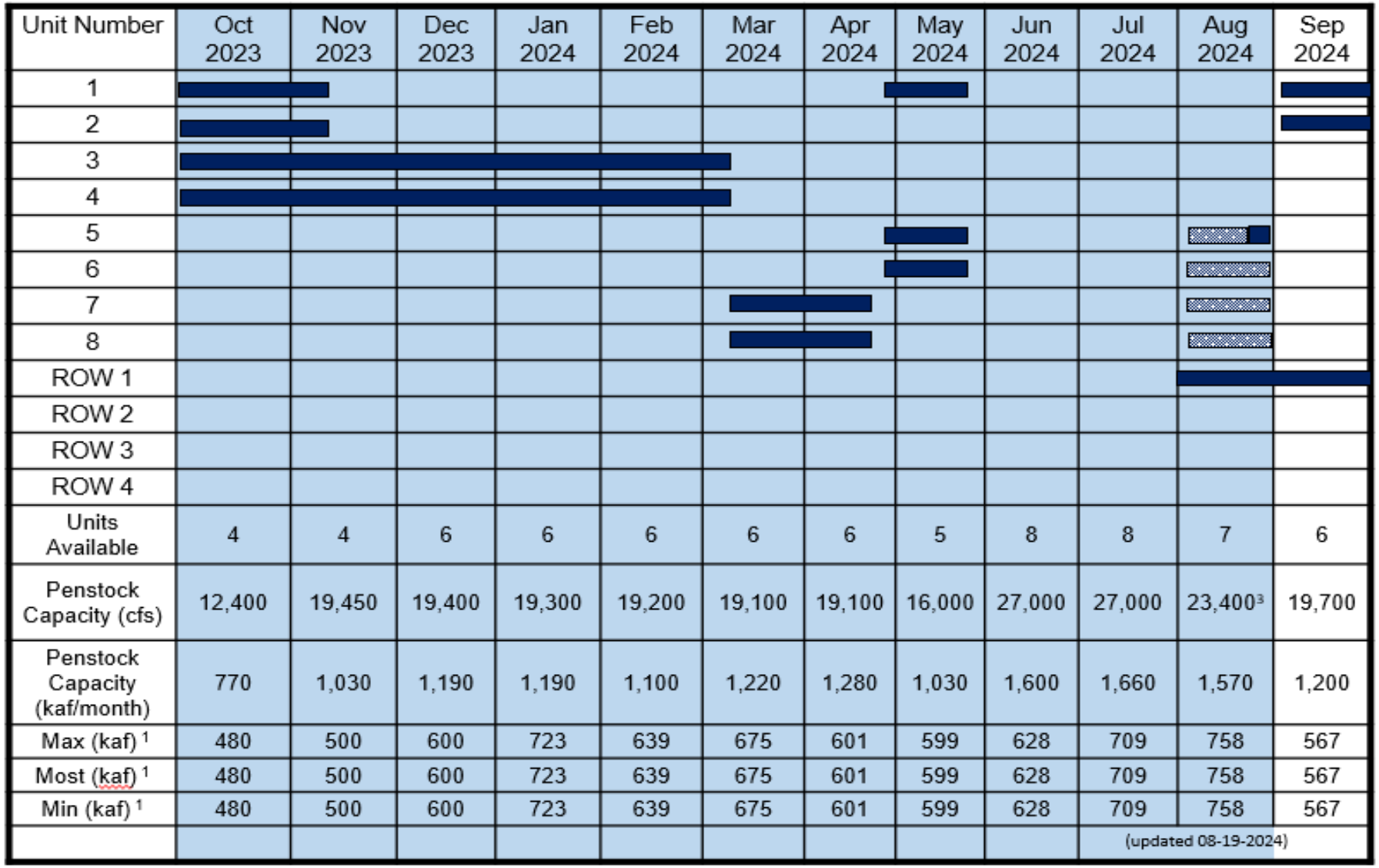

Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations
CRMMS Projections from August and September 2024
Pool Elevation (ft)
Storage (maf)
3,675
3,650
3,625
3,600
3,575
3,550
3,525
3,500
3,475
19.59
16.31
13.43
10.99
8.90
7.10
5.54
4.22
3.09
Equalization Tier (ET)
Upper Elevation Balancing Tier
(3,575' to ET)
Mid-Elevation Release Tier
(3,525' to 3,575')
Lower Elevation Balancing Tier
(<3,525')
Minimum Power Pool
(3,490')
Most Probable End of CY 2024 Projection:
3,574.53 feet (38% full)
Min/Max Range: 3,573.43 to 3,580.38 feet
Most Probable End of CY 2025 Projection:
3,582.35 feet (41% full)
Min/Max Range: 3,545.77 to 3,649.67 feet
Feb 2024
Mar 2024
Apr 2024
May 2024
Jun 2024
Jul 2024
Aug 2024
Sep 2024
Oct 2024
Nov 2024
Dec 2024
Jan 2025
Feb 2025
Mar 2025
Apr 2025
May 2025
Jun 2025
Jul 2025
Aug 2025
Sep 2025
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Dec 2025
Jan 2026
Feb 2026
Mar 2026
Apr 2026
May 2026
Jun 2026
Jul 2026
Aug 2026
August 2024 Probable Maximum 24-Month Study
September 2024 Most Probable 24-Month Study
September 2024 DROA Probable Minimum 24-Month Study
Historical
CRMMS-ESP Projection
(30 traces)
CRMMS-ESP Projections Range


Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations
CRMMS Projections from August and September 2024
Pool Elevation (ft)
Storage (maf)
1,125
1,100
1,075
1,050
1,025
1,000
14.09
11.74
9.60
7.68
5.98
4.48
Normal Condition
(1,075' to 1,145')
Level 1 Shortage Condition
(1,050' to 1,075')
Level 2 Shortage Condition
(1,025' to 1,050')
Level 3 Shortage Condition
(<1,025')
Most Probable End of CY 2024 Projection:
1,064.85 feet (34% full)
Min/Max Range: 1,063.68 to 1,064.85 feet
Most Probable End of CY 2025 Projection:
1,065.98 feet (34% full)
Min/Max Range: 1,055.42 to 1,066.34 feet
Feb 2024
Mar 2024
Apr 2024
May 2024
Jun 2024
Jul 2024
Aug 2024
Sep 2024
Oct 2024
Nov 2024
Dec 2024
Jan 2025
Feb 2025
Mar 2025
Apr 2025
May 2025
Jun 2025
Jul 2025
Aug 2025
Sep 2025
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Dec 2025
Jan 2026
Feb 2026
Mar 2026
Apr 2026
May 2026
Jun 2026
Jul 2026
Aug 2026
August 2024 Probable Maximum 24-Month Study
September 2024 Most Probable 24-Month Study
September 2024 DROA Probable Minimum 24-Month Study
Historical
CRMMS-ESP Projection
(30 traces)
CRMMS-ESP Projections Range

Upper Colorado Basin

Hydropower Maintenance

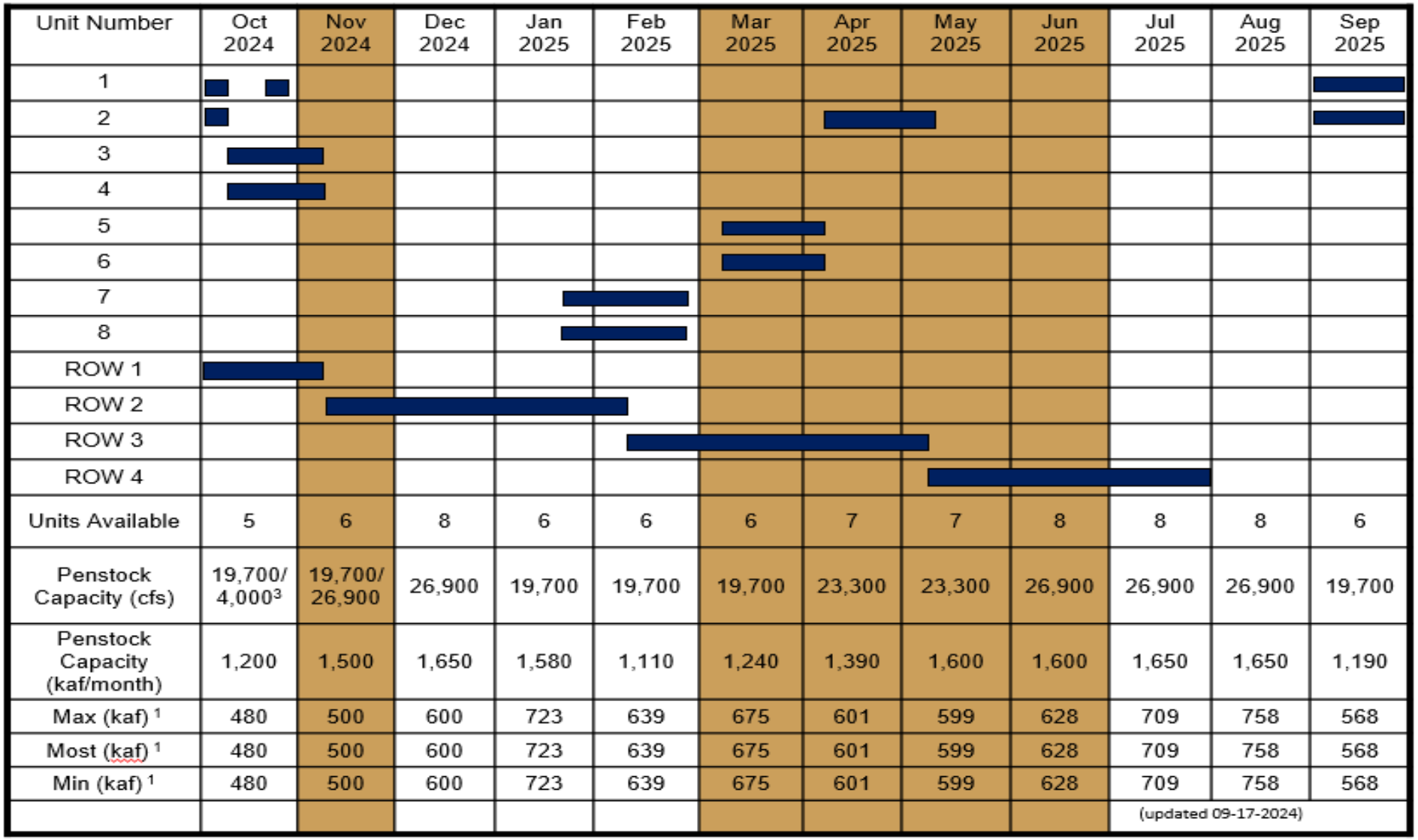
Glen Canyon Dam Power Plant Unit Outage Schedule for 2024



Unit Number	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
ROW 1													
ROW 2													
ROW 3													
ROW 4													
Units Available	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	5	8	8	7	6	
Penstock Capacity (cfs)	12,400	19,450	19,400	19,300	19,200	19,100	19,100	16,000	27,000	27,000	23,400[3]	19,700	SEP MOST[2]
Penstock Capacity (kaf/month)	770	1,030	1,190	1,190	1,100	1,220	1,280	1,030	1,600	1,660	1,570	1,200	SEP MOST
Max (kaf) [1]	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	567	7.48 maf
Most (kaf) [1]	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	567	7.48 maf
Min (kaf) [1]	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	567	7.48 maf
										(updated 08-19-2024)			

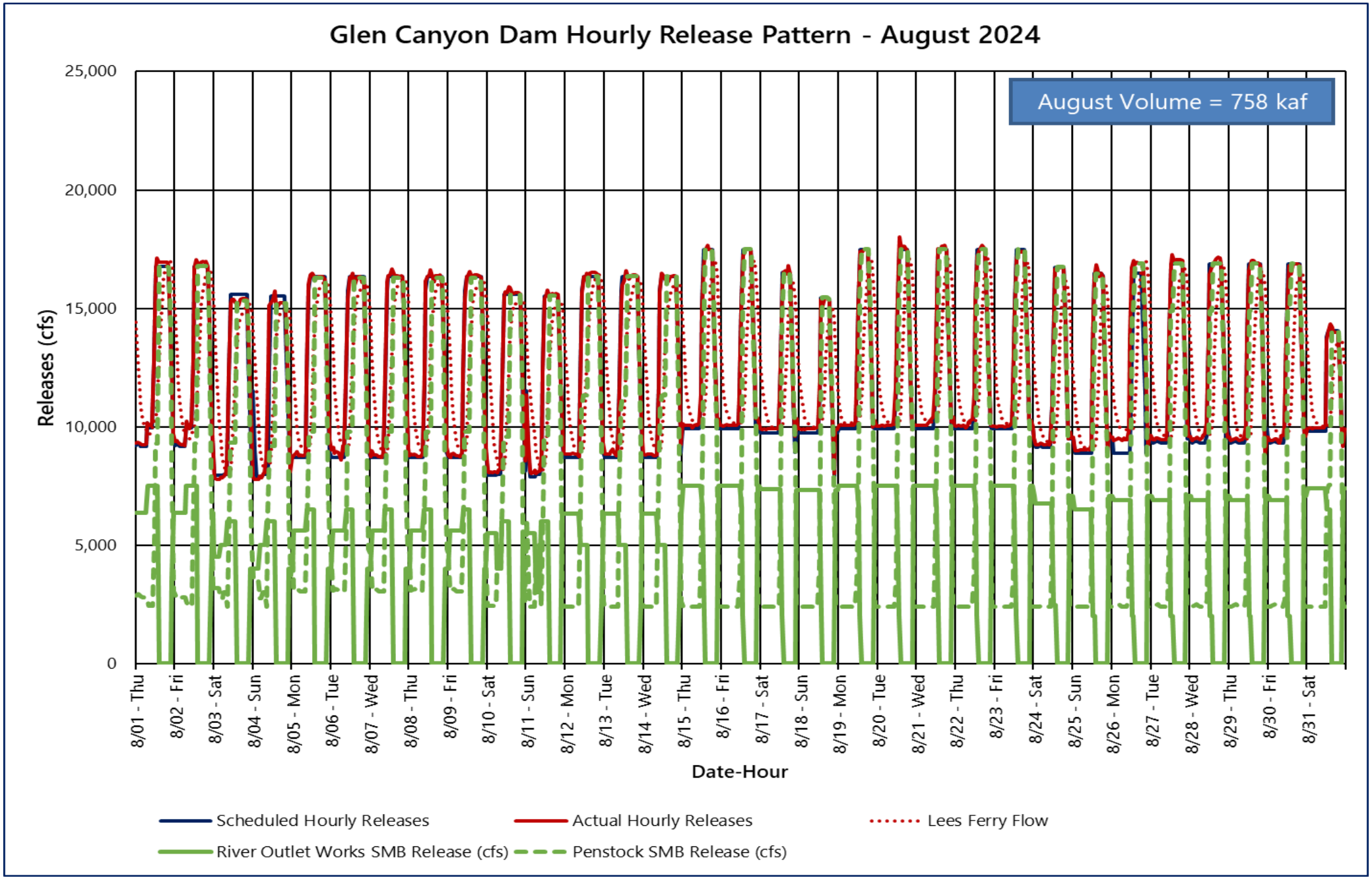
1 Projected release, based on August 2024 24MS for the minimum, most probable and the maximum probable 24-Month Study model runs.
2 Dependent upon availability to shift contingency regulation, which will increase capacity by 30-40MW (3%) at current efficiency.
3 NERC testing with occasional removal of penstock generating capacity.

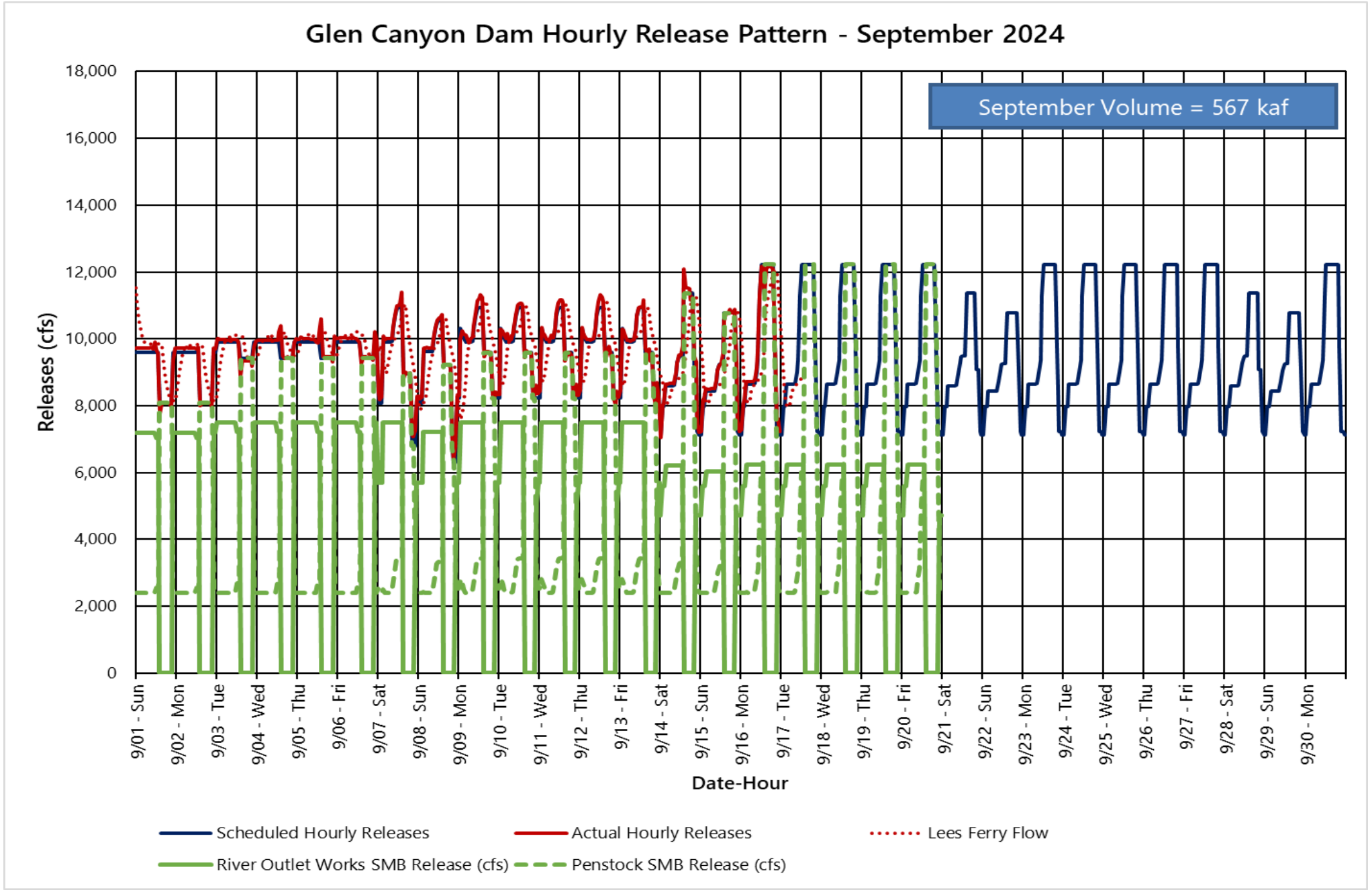
Glen Canyon Dam Power Plant Unit Outage Schedule for 2025



Unit Number	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
ROW 1													
ROW 2													
ROW 3													
ROW 4													
Units Available	5	6	8	6	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	6	
Penstock Capacity (cfs)	19,700/ 4,000[3]	19,700/ 26,900	26,900	19,700	19,700	19,700	23,300	23,300	26,900	26,900	26,900	19,700	SEP MOST[2]
Penstock Capacity (kaf/month)	1,200	1,500	1,650	1,580	1,110	1,240	1,390	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,190	SEP MOST
Max (kaf) [1]	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	568	7.48 maf
Most (kaf) [1]	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	568	7.48 maf
Min (kaf) [1]	480	500	600	723	639	675	601	599	628	709	758	568	7.48 maf
										(updated 09-17-2024)			

1 Projected release, based on September 2024 24MS for the minimum and most probable and the August 2024 24MS maximum probable 24-Month Study model runs.
2 Dependent upon availability to shift contingency regulation, which will increase capacity by 30-40MW (3%) at current efficiency.
3 Tailwater/Forebay inspection from October 21-24 will require one day at 4,000 cfs, and possibly two if necessary.


Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - August 2024
August Volume = 758 kaf
Releases (cfs)
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
8/01 - Thu
8/02 - Fri
8/03 - Sat
8/04 - Sun
8/05 - Mon
8/06 - Tue
8/07 - Wed
8/08 - Thu
8/09 - Fri
8/10 - Sat
8/11 - Sun
8/12 - Mon
8/13 - Tue
8/14 - Wed
8/15 - Thu
8/16 - Fri
8/17 - Sat
8/18 - Sun
8/19 - Mon
8/20 - Tue
8/21 - Wed
8/22 - Thu
8/23 - Fri
8/24 - Sat
8/25 - Sun
8/26 - Mon
8/27 - Tue
8/28 - Wed
8/29 - Thu
8/30 - Fri
8/31 - Sat
Date-Hour
Scheduled Hourly Releases
Actual Hourly Releases
Lees Ferry Flow
River Outlet Works SMB Release (cfs)
Penstock SMB Release (cfs)

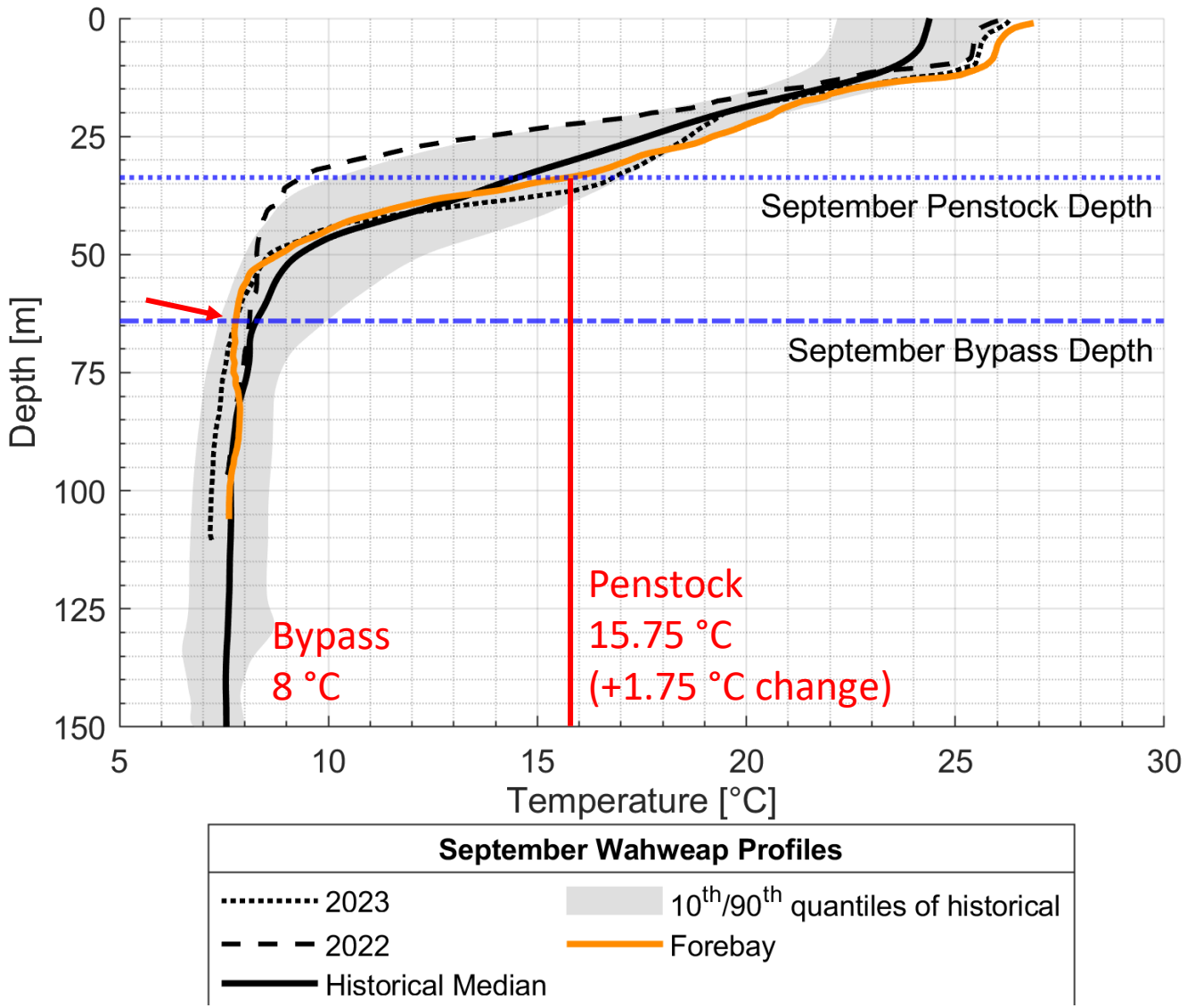

Glen Canyon Dam Hourly Release Pattern - September 2024
September Volume = 567 kaf
Releases (cfs)
18,000
16,000
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
9/01 - Sun
9/02 - Mon
9/03 - Tue
9/04 - Wed
9/05 - Thu
9/06 - Fri
9/07 - Sat
9/08 - Sun
9/09 - Mon
9/10 - Tue
9/11 - Wed
9/12 - Thu
9/13 - Fri
9/14 - Sat
9/15 - Sun
9/16 - Mon
9/17 - Tue
9/18 - Wed
9/19 - Thu
9/20 - Fri
9/21 - Sat
9/22 - Sun
9/23 - Mon
9/24 - Tue
9/25 - Wed
9/26 - Thu
9/27 - Fri
9/28 - Sat
9/29 - Sun
9/30 - Mon
Date-Hour
Scheduled Hourly Releases
Actual Hourly Releases
Lees Ferry Flow
River Outlet Works SMB Release (cfs)
Penstock SMB Release (cfs)

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

September 24 Month Study Water Quality Update

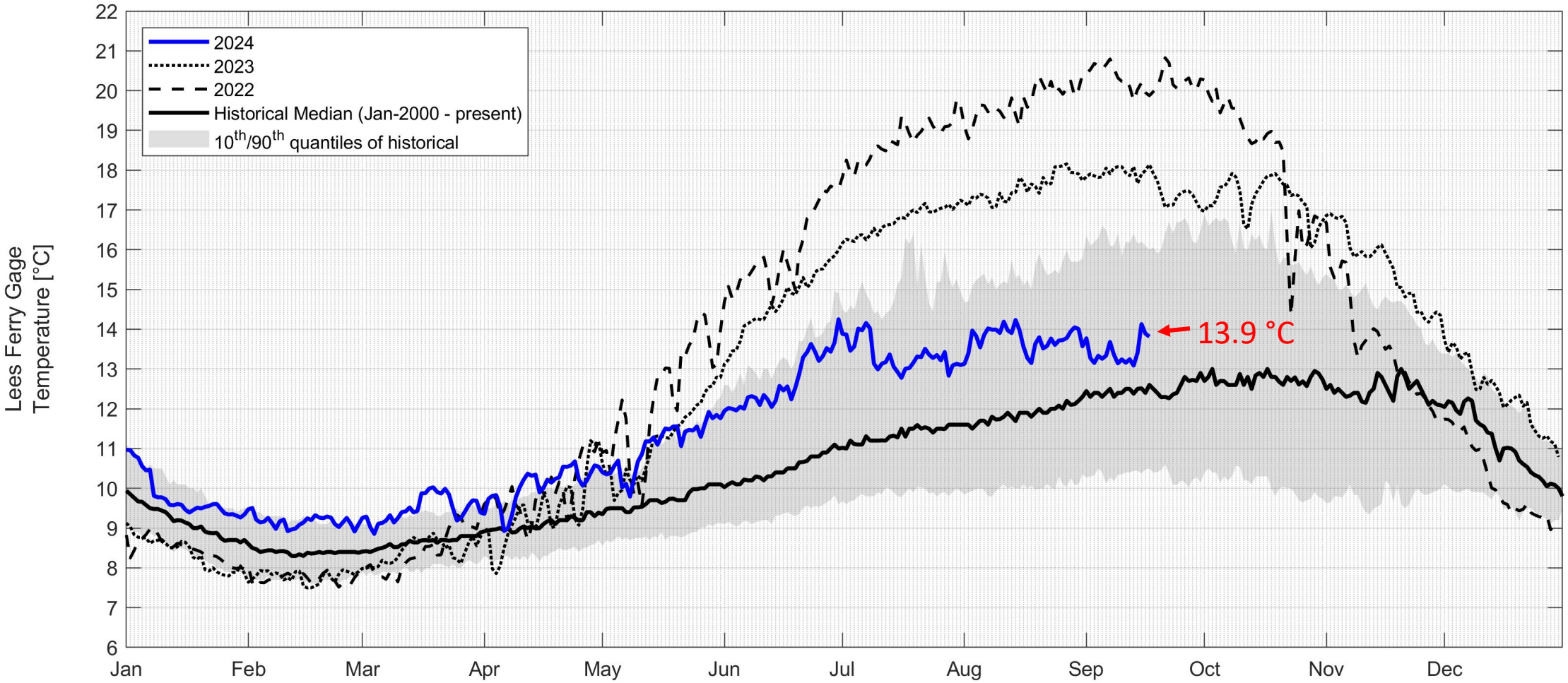
9/18/2024

~~Wahweap and~~ Forebay August Profile

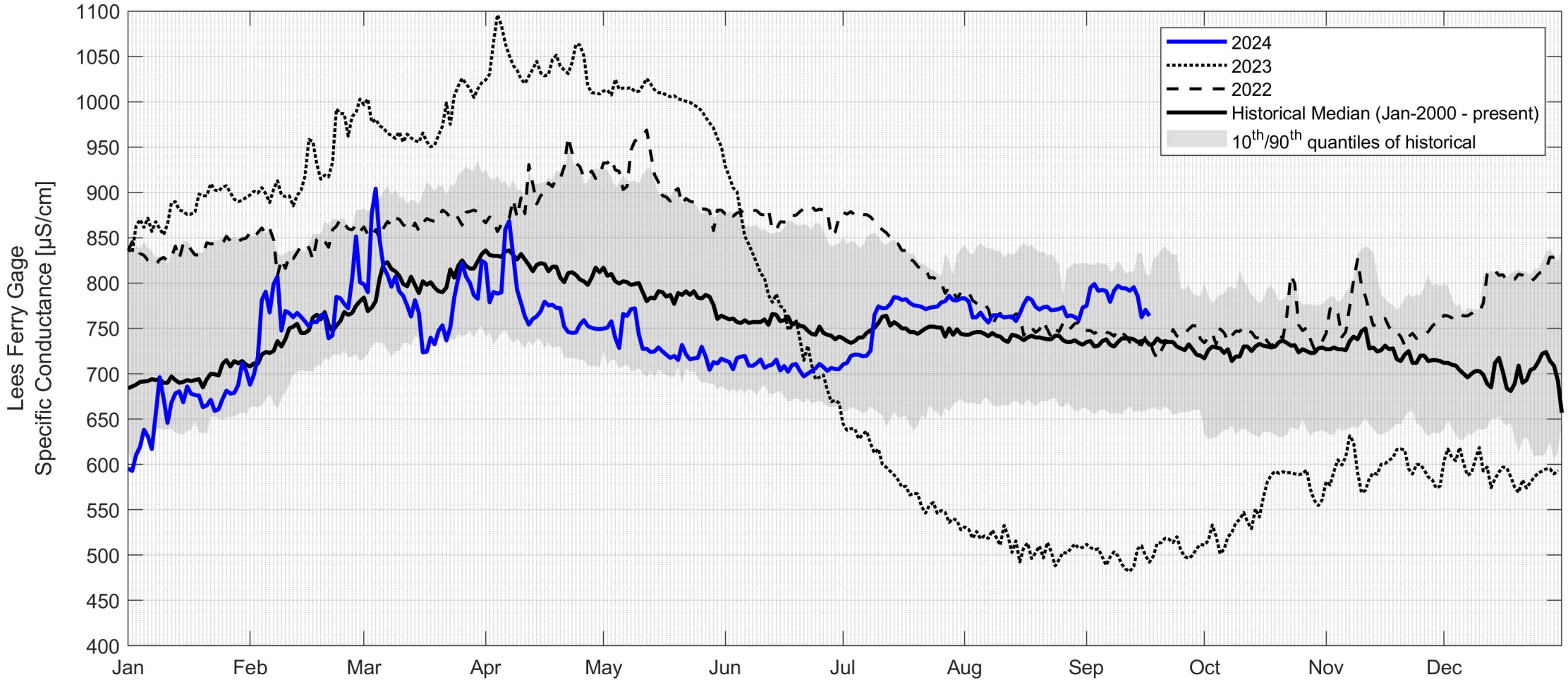


Profiles from Sept. quarterly trip are still being processed

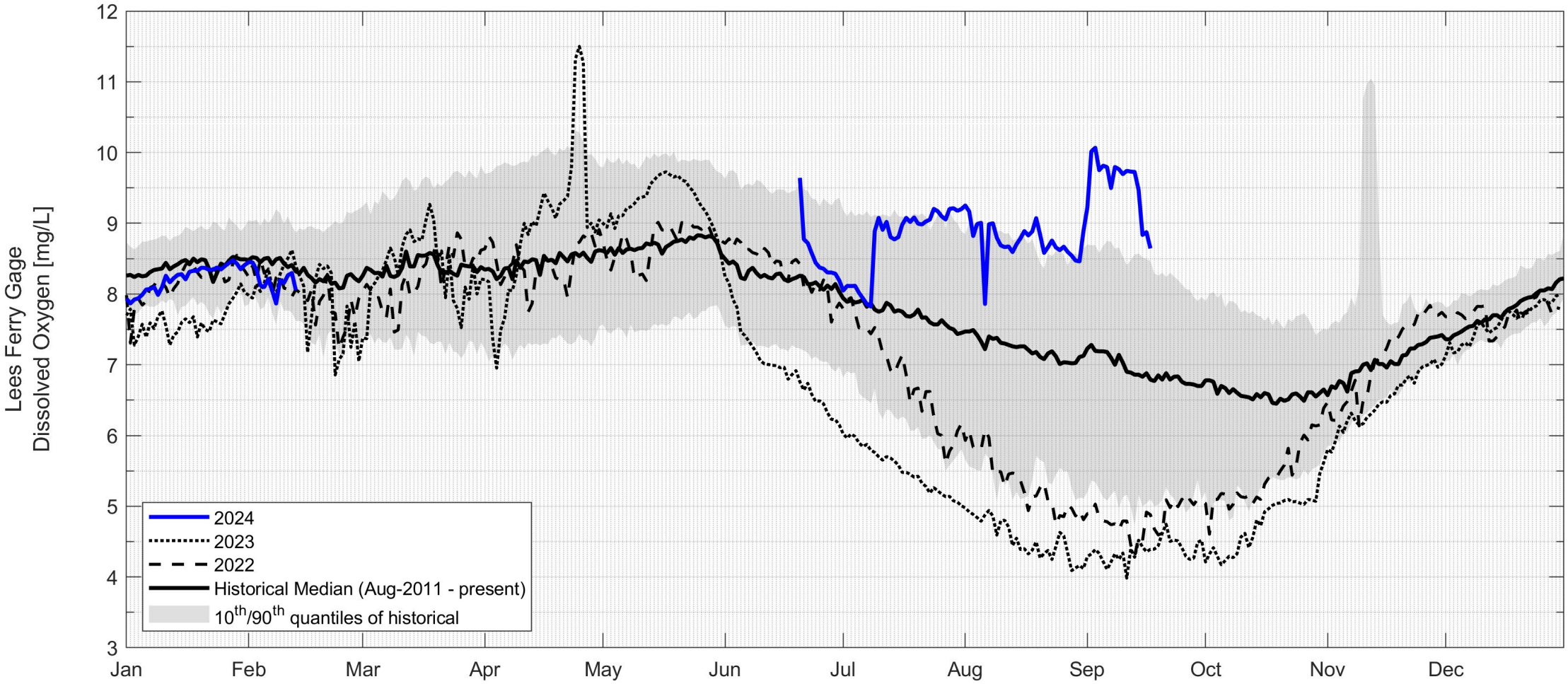
Lees Ferry Observations - Temperature



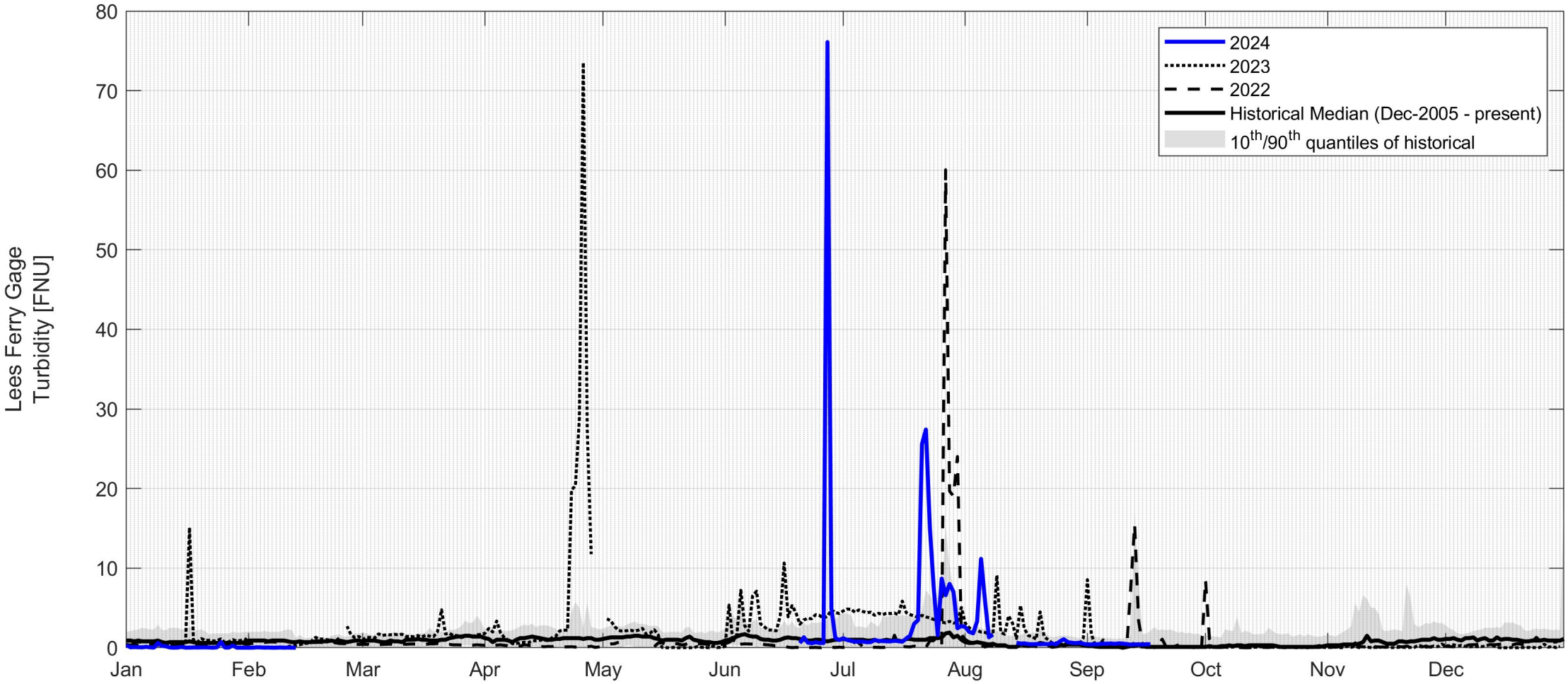
Lees Ferry Observations – Specific Conductance



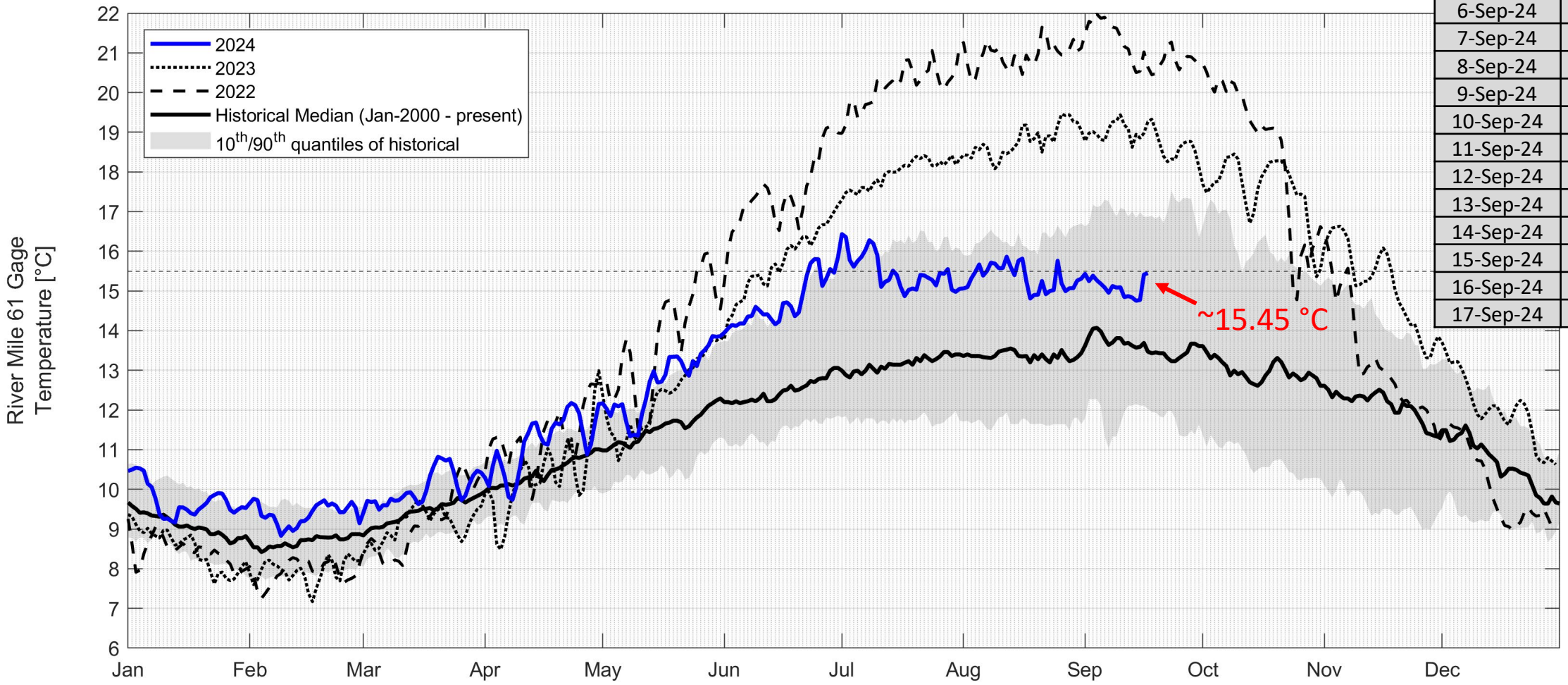
Lees Ferry Observations – Dissolved Oxygen



Lees Ferry Observations – Turbidity

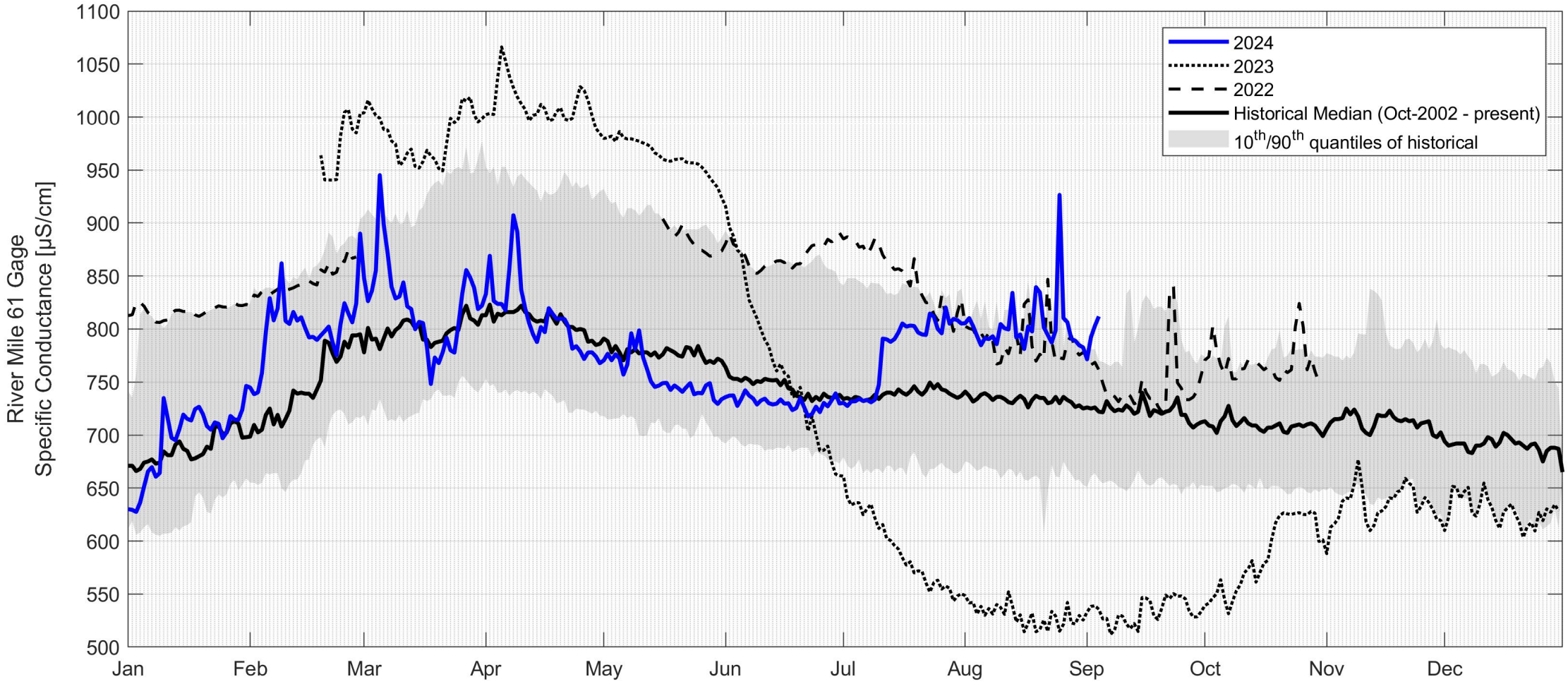


RM61 Observations - Temperature

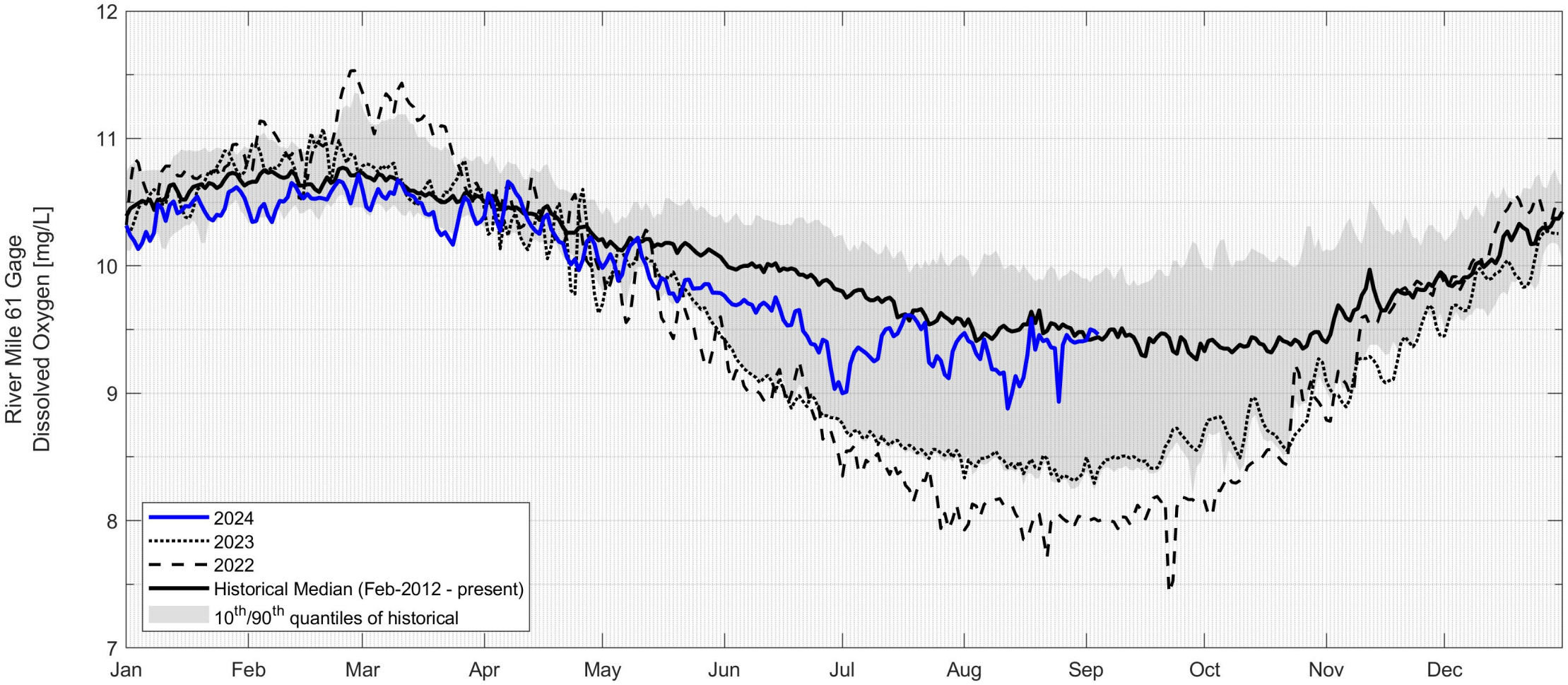


Date	RM61 Daily Avg. Temp
1-Sep-24	15.43
2-Sep-24	15.25
3-Sep-24	15.38
4-Sep-24	15.27
5-Sep-24	15.18
6-Sep-24	15.08
7-Sep-24	14.95
8-Sep-24	15.12
9-Sep-24	15.08
10-Sep-24	15.09
11-Sep-24	14.84
12-Sep-24	14.87
13-Sep-24	14.83
14-Sep-24	14.75
15-Sep-24	14.77
16-Sep-24	15.41
17-Sep-24	15.45

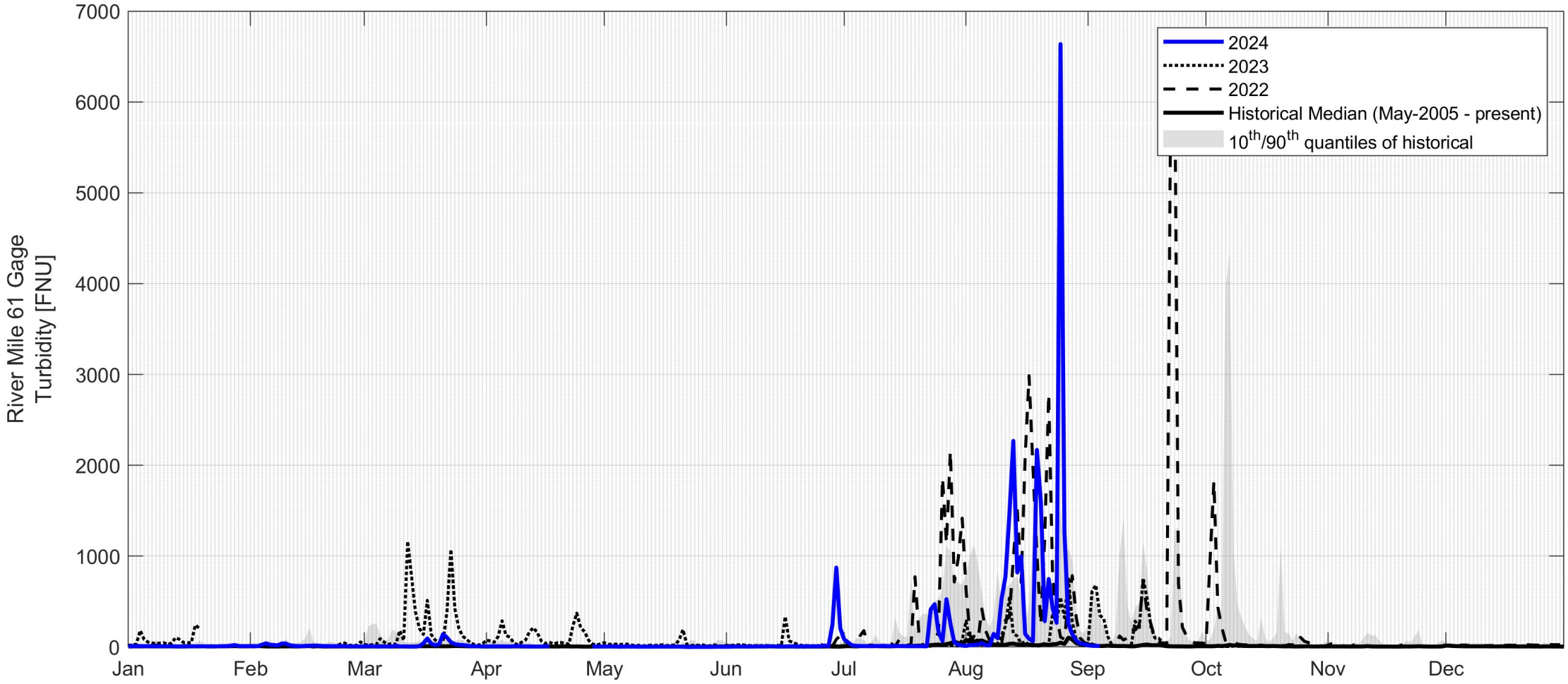
RM61 Observations – Specific Conductance



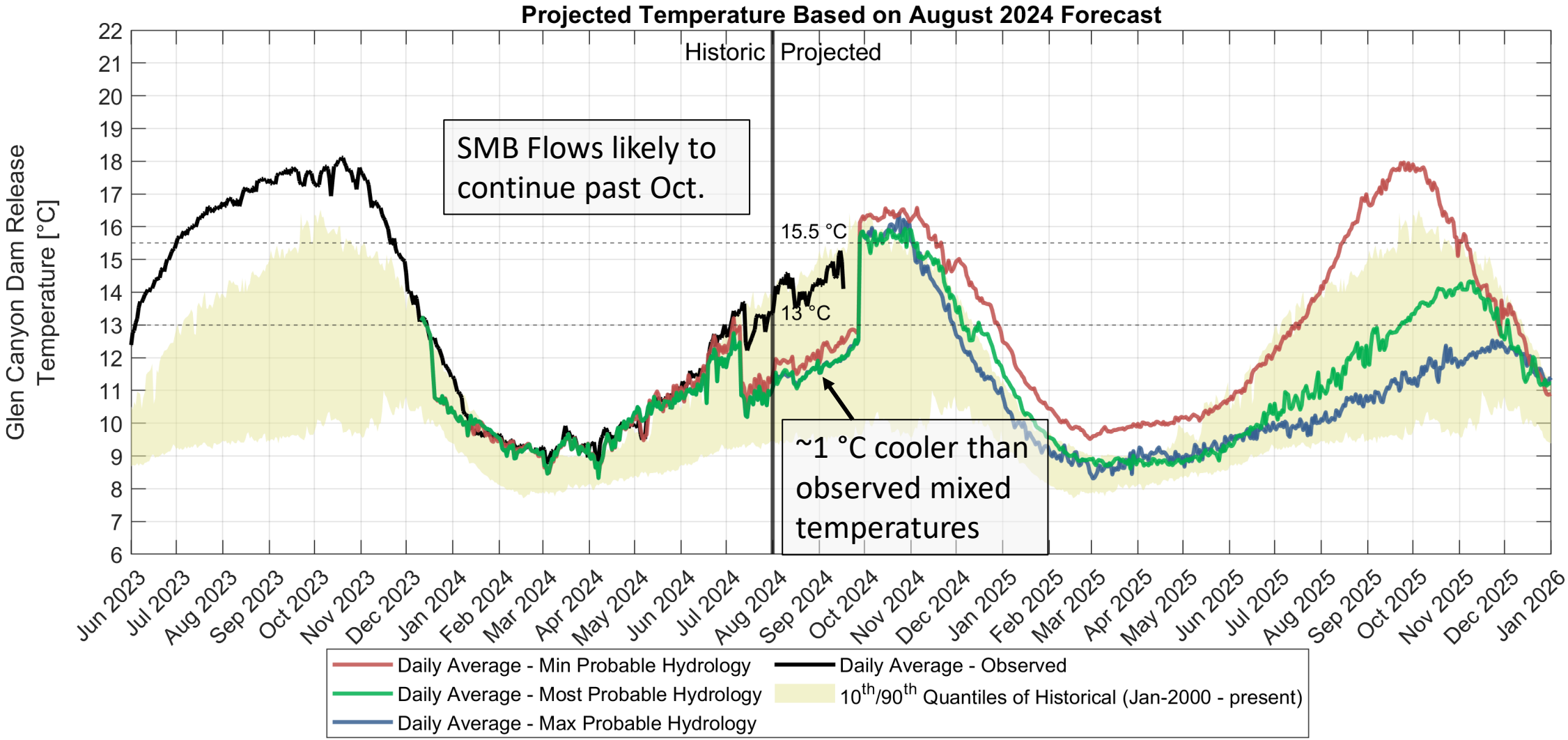
RM61 Observations – Dissolved Oxygen



RM61 Observations – Dissolved Oxygen

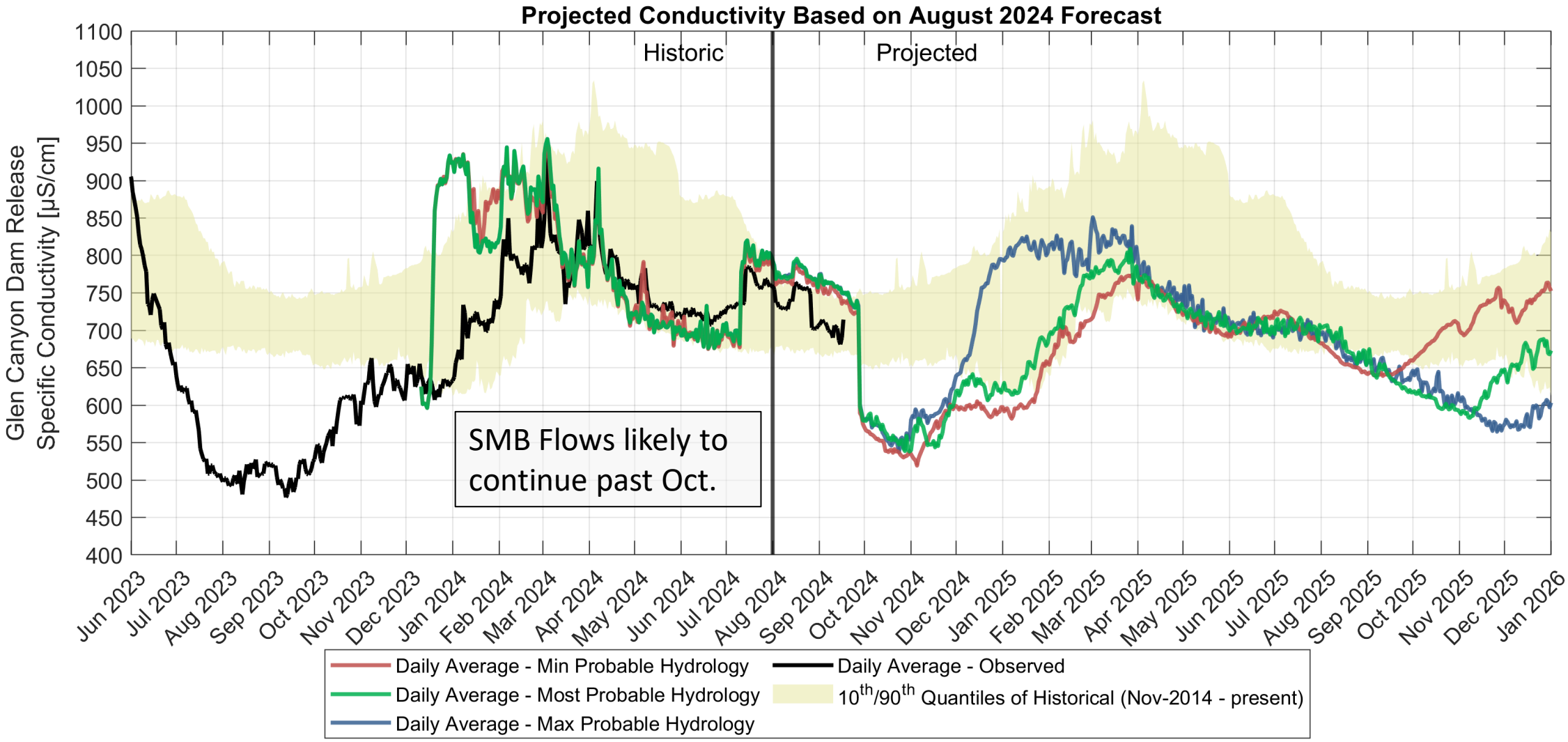


CE-QUAL-W2 Modeled Temperature (August 24MS*)



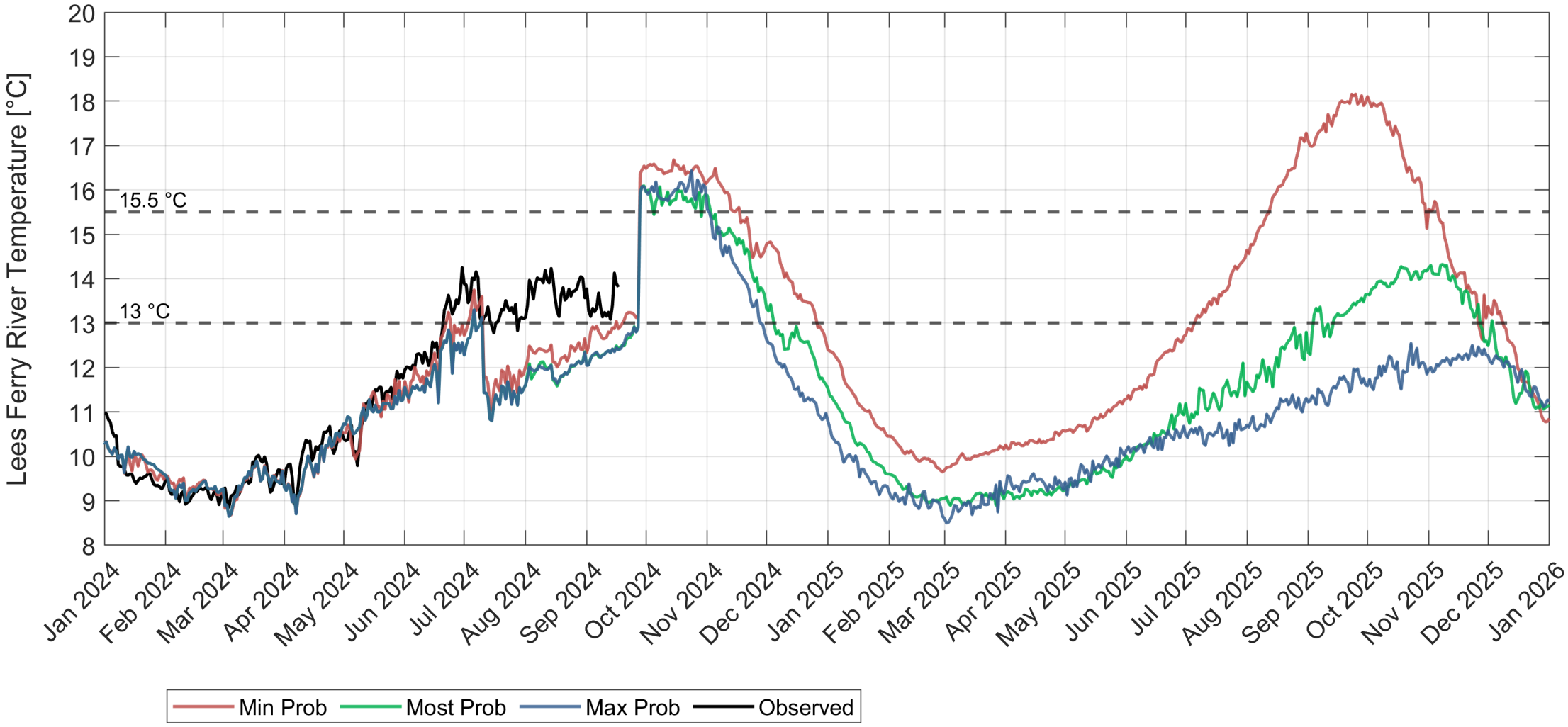
*Showing Aug. because Sept. 24 MS water quality models had errors

CE-QUAL-W2 Modeled Conductivity (August 24MS*)



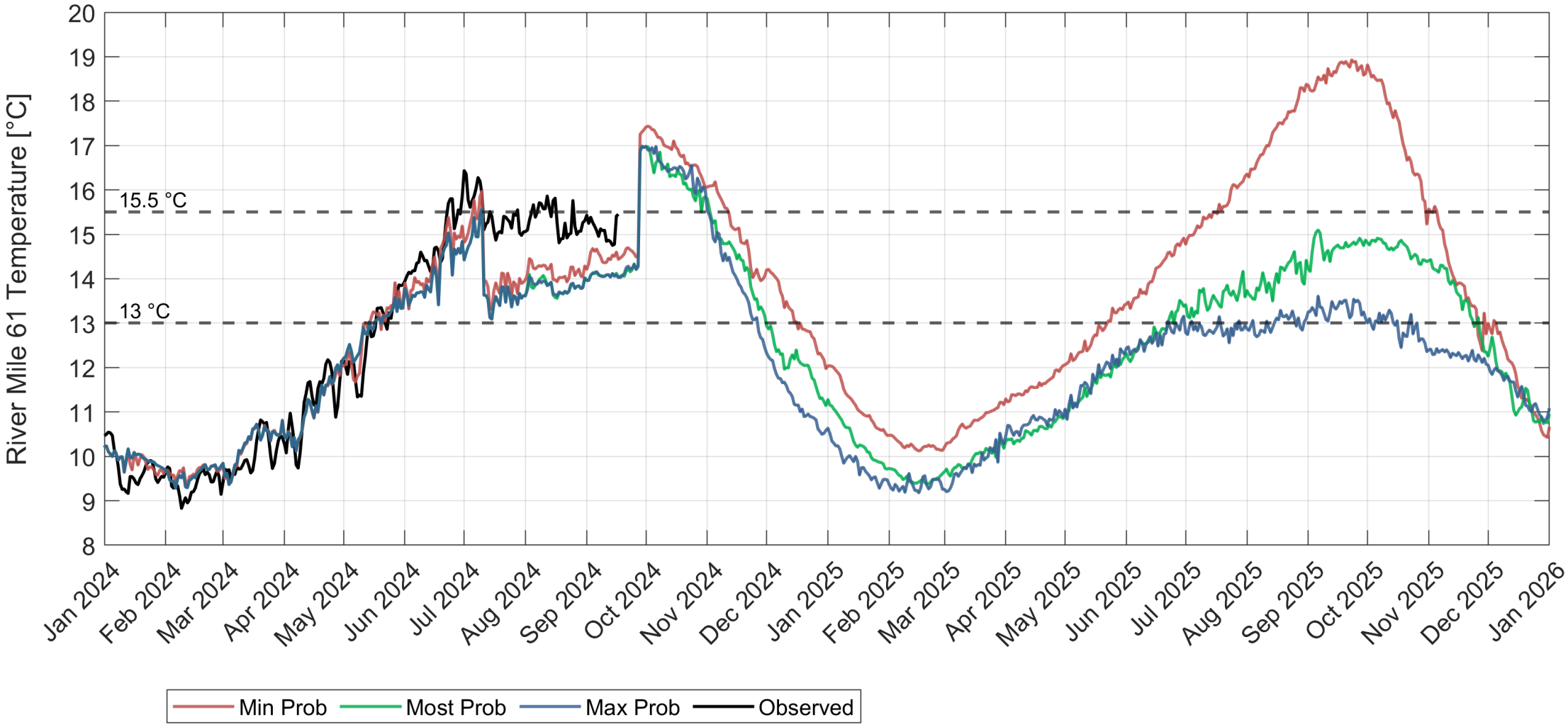
*Showing Aug. because Sept. 24 MS water quality models had errors

Dibble et al. Grand Canyon Model (August 24MS*) Lees Ferry



*Showing Aug. because Sept. 24 MS water quality models had errors

Dibble et al. Grand Canyon Model (August 24MS*) River Mile 61



*Showing Aug. because Sept. 24 MS water quality models had errors


Questions?
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