

Attachments to the Framework
2026 Drought Response Operations Plan
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Attachment A

Summary of 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

1. Current (as of April 2026) and Projected Hydrological Information:

1.1 Insert current and projected elevations at Lake Powell, including graphic representation from the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) multi-year projections;

The April forecast for water year 2026 (October 2025-September 2026) ranges from a minimum probable of 2.78 million acre-feet (maf) (29 percent of average¹) to a maximum probable of 5.73 maf (60 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2026 of 3.88 maf (40 percent of average) (Figure 1). There is a 10 percent chance that inflows could be higher than the current maximum probable forecast and a 10 percent chance that inflows could be lower than the minimum probable forecast.

Based on the April 2026 most probable forecast of 3.88 maf unregulated inflow for water year 2026, the Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System 24-Month Study (24-Month Study) Most Probable scenario projects Lake Powell will end water year 2026 near elevation 3,483.15 feet with approximately 3.44 maf in storage (15 percent of capacity). Note that projections of elevation and storage for water year 2026 have considerable uncertainty at this point in the season. Projections of end of water year 2026 Powell elevations using the April 2026 24-Month Study Minimum Probable and Maximum Probable inflow forecast results model runs are 3,474.57 feet (13 percent of capacity) and 3,508.22 feet (20 percent of capacity), respectively (Figure 2). The annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2026 is 7.48 maf as determined under Section 6.C.1 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and may be adjusted in accordance with the 2024 Record of Decision for the Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (2024 SEIS).

Powell elevation as of April 10, 2026, is 3526.82 feet (24 percent of capacity). The projected elevation based on the April 2026 24-Month Study for December 2026 is 3,471.06 feet (13 percent of capacity) under the Most Probable scenario and 3,464.07 feet (11 percent of capacity) under the Minimum Probable projection.

¹ Percent of average is based on the historical unregulated inflow for the period of record between October 1, 1990 through September 30, 2020 comprising the 1991 through 2020 water years.

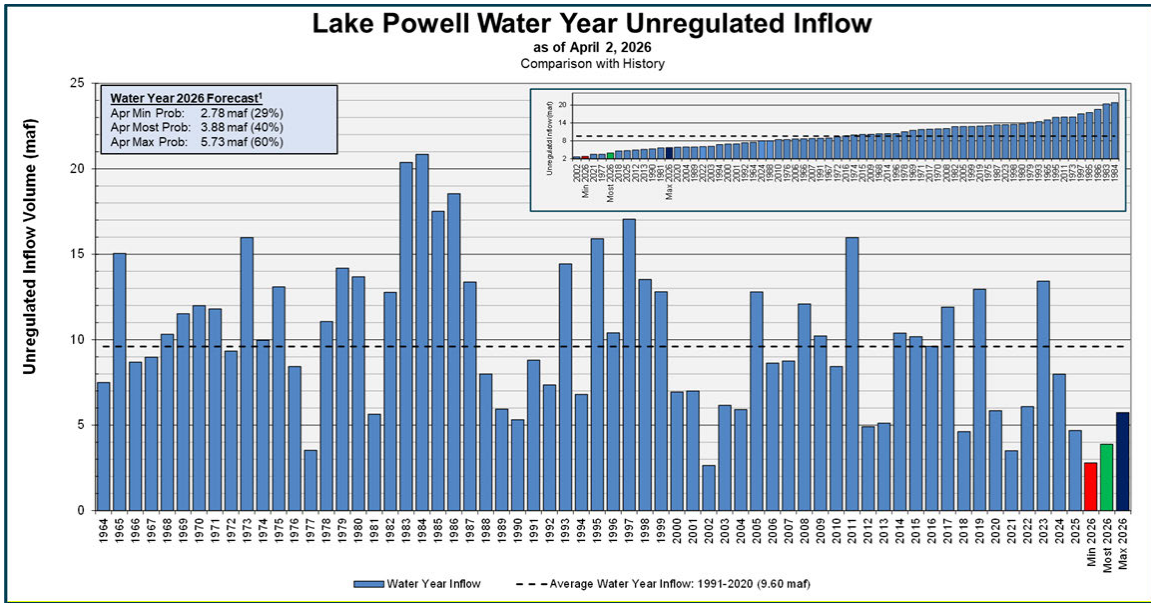
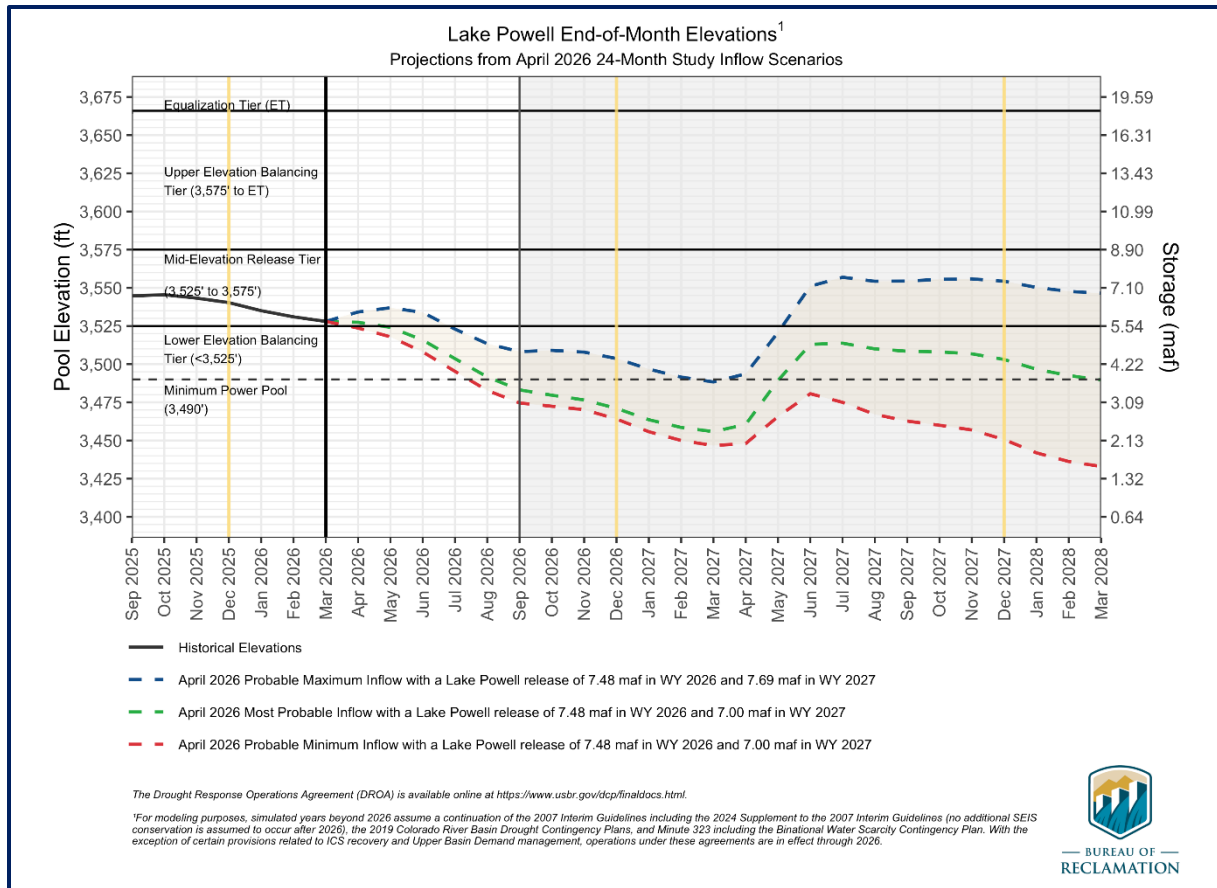


Figure 1. Lake Powell unregulated inflow for Water Year 2026 with the forecast issued April 2, 2026, for minimum, maximum and most probable forecasts as compared against chronological historical water year unregulated inflow forecasts.

Figure 2. Lake Powell historical and projected end of month elevations using the Maximum, Minimum and Most Probable forecasts from the April 2026 24-Month Study.



1.2 Insert Reclamation’s most recent Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System 24-Month Study (24-Month Study);

Reclamation’s April 2026 24-Month Study Most Probable scenario can be found using this hyperlink:

<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/index.html>

Reclamation’s April 2026 24-Month Study Minimum Probable scenario can be found using this hyperlink:

<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/index.html>

Reclamation’s April 2026 24-Month Study Maximum Probable scenario can be found using this hyperlink:

<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/index.html>

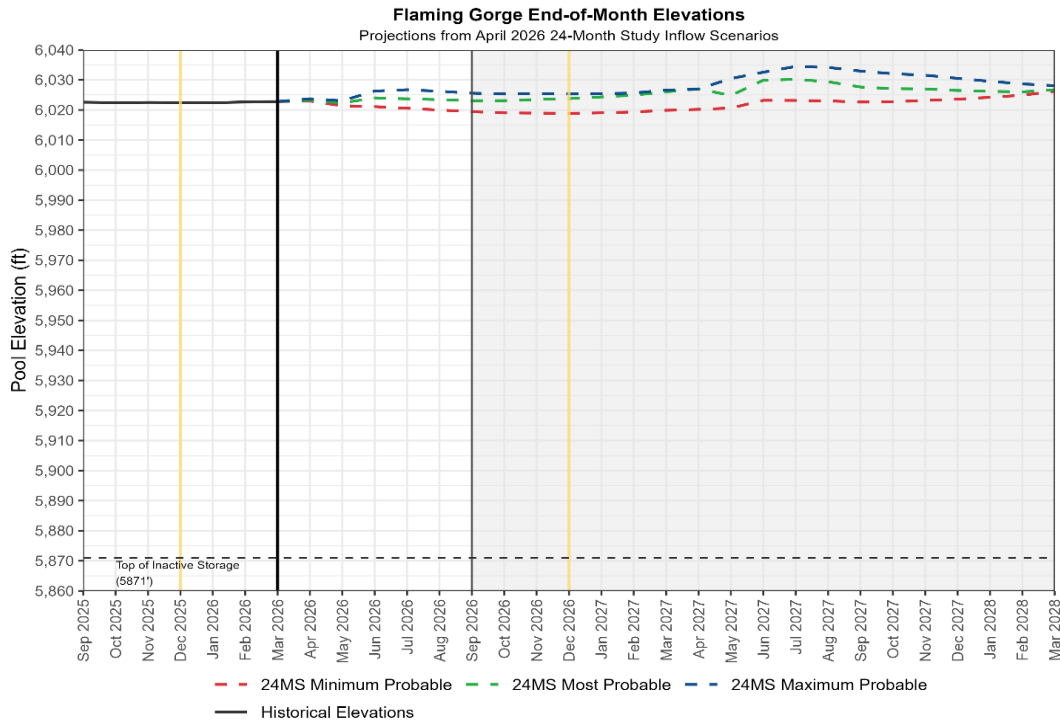
1.3 Insert identification of months when the 24-Month Study Minimum Probable inflow and the Most Probable inflow each projected Lake Powell to be at an elevation below the Target Elevation;

Monthly 24-Month Study Reports present hydrological descriptions and projected operations for the Colorado River system reservoirs for the next two years. The 24-

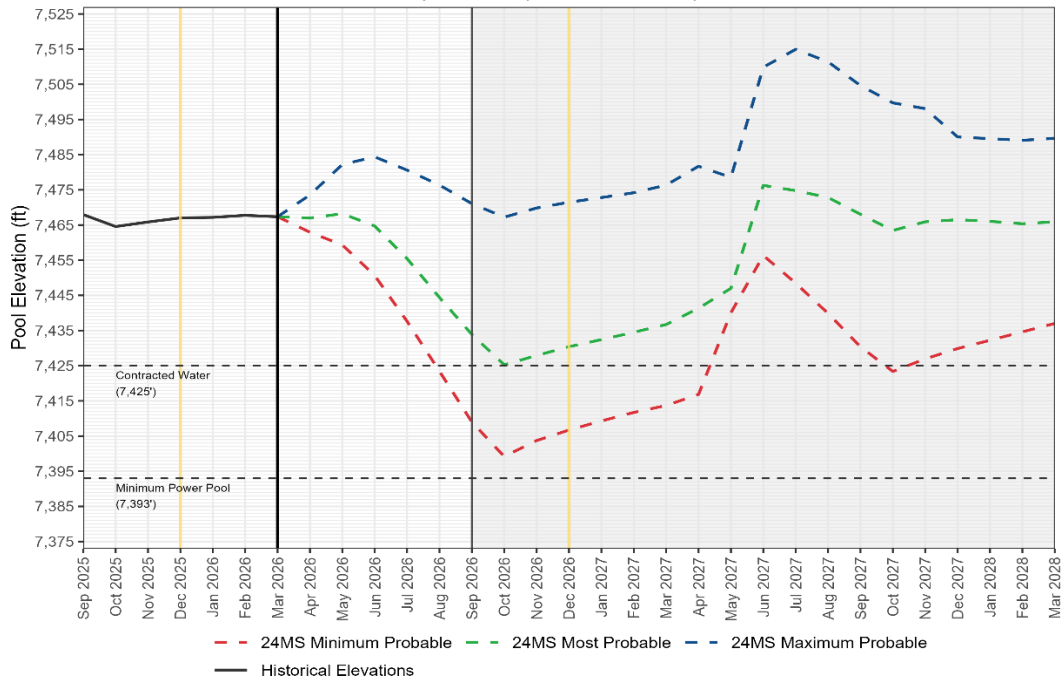
Month Study computer model projects future reservoir conditions and potential dam operations for the system reservoirs given existing reservoir conditions; inflow forecasts and projections; and a variety of operational policies and guidelines. Monthly reservoir inflow forecasts and projections are produced by the National Weather Service, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center.

Powell elevations based on the Most Probable April 2026 24-Month Study decrease below the Target Elevation in May and remain below the Target Elevation through the end of the Most Probable April 2026 24-Month Study model run. Powell elevations based on the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study decrease below the Target Elevation in April 2026 and remain below the Target Elevation through the end of the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study model run. The elevation decreases below minimum power pool in July ending the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study model run at elevation 3,433.01 feet at the end of March 2028.

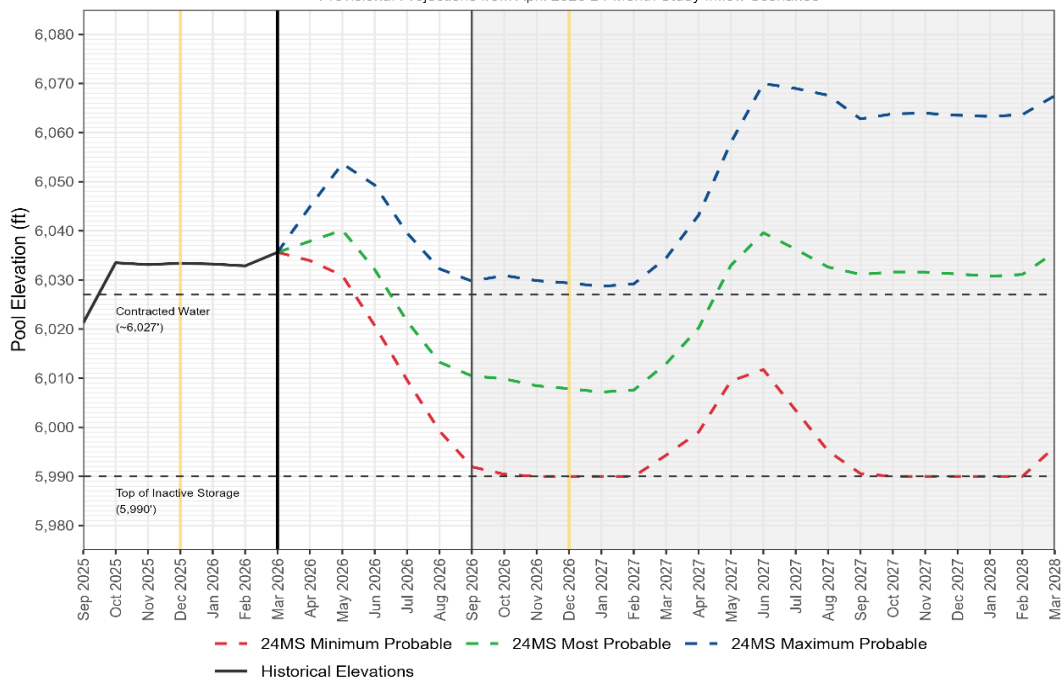
1.4 Insert current and projected elevations at each of the Initial Units for the following 24 months;



Blue Mesa End-of-Month Elevations
 Provisional Projections from April 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

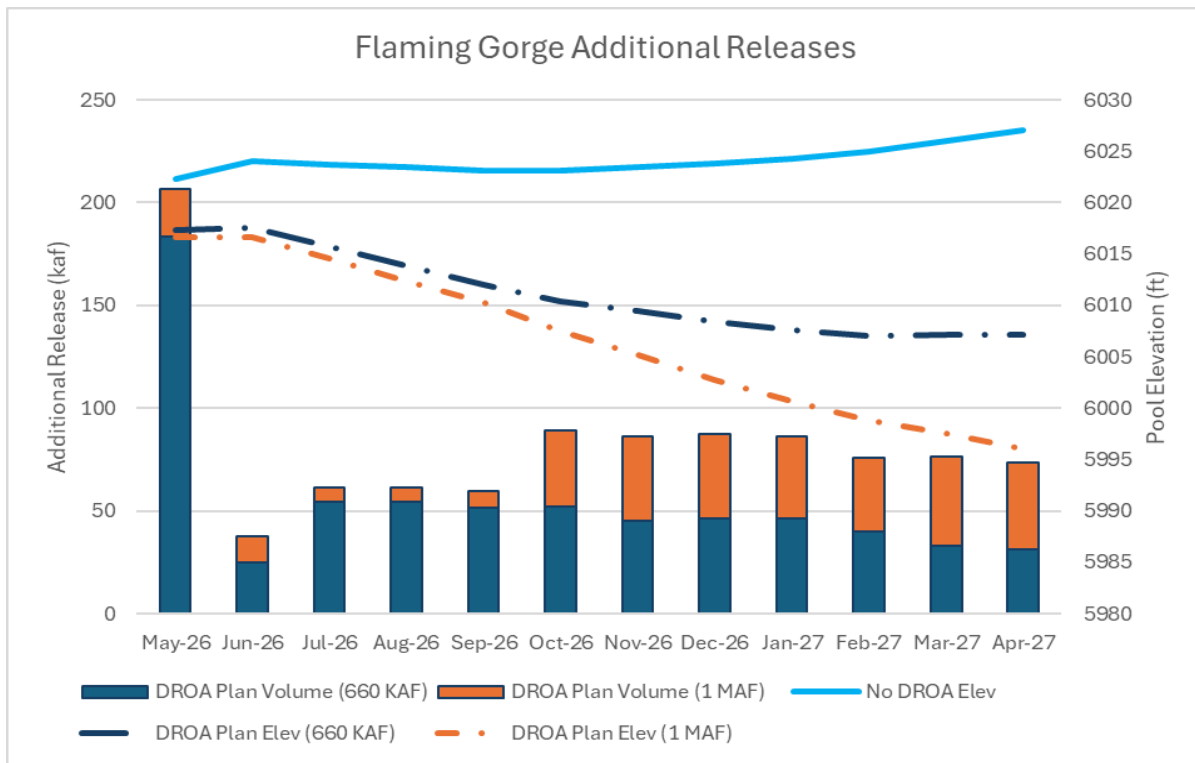


Navajo End-of-Month Elevations
 Provisional Projections from April 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



1.5 Insert availability of water for Drought Response Operations at each of the Initial Units and the timing of such water availability;

- i. Glen Canyon: Glen Canyon Dam operational adjustments during fall 2026 through spring 2027 will be evaluated pursuant to 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2, Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments.
- ii. Flaming Gorge: After consideration of potential Drought Response Operations release scenarios by the Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group and the Flaming Gorge Working Group, the volume of Drought Response Operations releases from Flaming Gorge under current conditions will be from approximately 660,000 acre-feet up to approximately 1 million acre-feet as follows:



- iii. Aspinall: Based on the current conditions, inflow forecast, existing contractual and release obligations, no Drought Response Operations Release will occur in Water Year 2026. In early water year 2027, the DROA Parties will reconsider Drought Release Operations based on conditions at that time.

- iv. Navajo: Based on the current conditions, inflow forecast, existing contractual and release obligations, and the potential for the reservoir to fall into inactive pool without additional Drought Response Operations Releases, no Drought Response Operations Release will occur in water year 2026. In early water year 2027, the DROA Parties will reconsider Drought Release Operations based on conditions at that time.

1.6 Insert summary of previous Drought Response Operations at each Initial Unit (Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Aspinall, Navajo), if any. The summary will include:

1.6.1 Previous Drought Response Operation Agreement Actions Prior to Current Plan

1.6.1.1 Previous Drought Response Operation Agreement Actions Prior to current plan at Glen Canyon Dam

Reclamation began monthly adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam on December 1, 2025, taking initial steps to protect Lake Powell dropping below the Target Elevation. The monthly volume of water released from Glen Canyon Dam was adjusted to hold back 598 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water in Lake Powell from December 2025 to April 2026. These actions are further addressed in Attachment B.

1.6.1.2 Previous Drought Response Operation Agreement Actions prior to current plan at upstream Initial Units

Previous DROA Plan releases can be found here:

<https://usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/droa.html>

1.6.2 Estimated effect on Lake Powell from Drought Response Operation Releases based upon best available information

Reclamation estimates, based on its existing models, for 2026, the total estimated increase is up to approximately 19 feet by the end of the DROA Plan. Additional analysis will continue that could improve estimates of the effect of Drought Response Operations releases on Lake Powell.

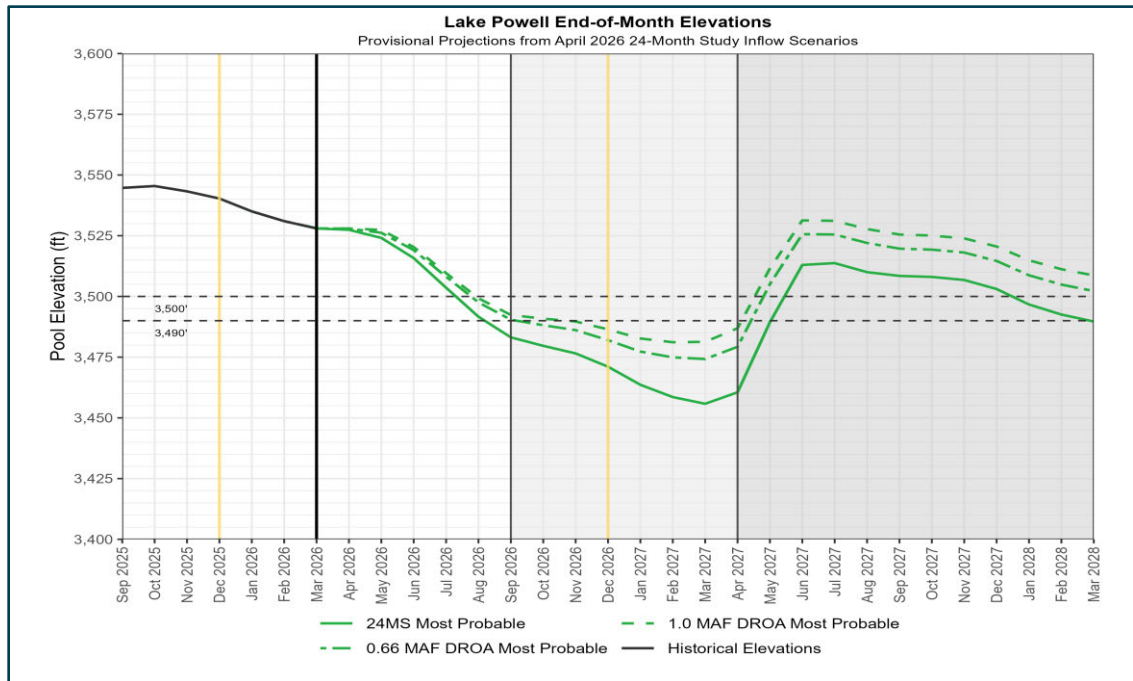
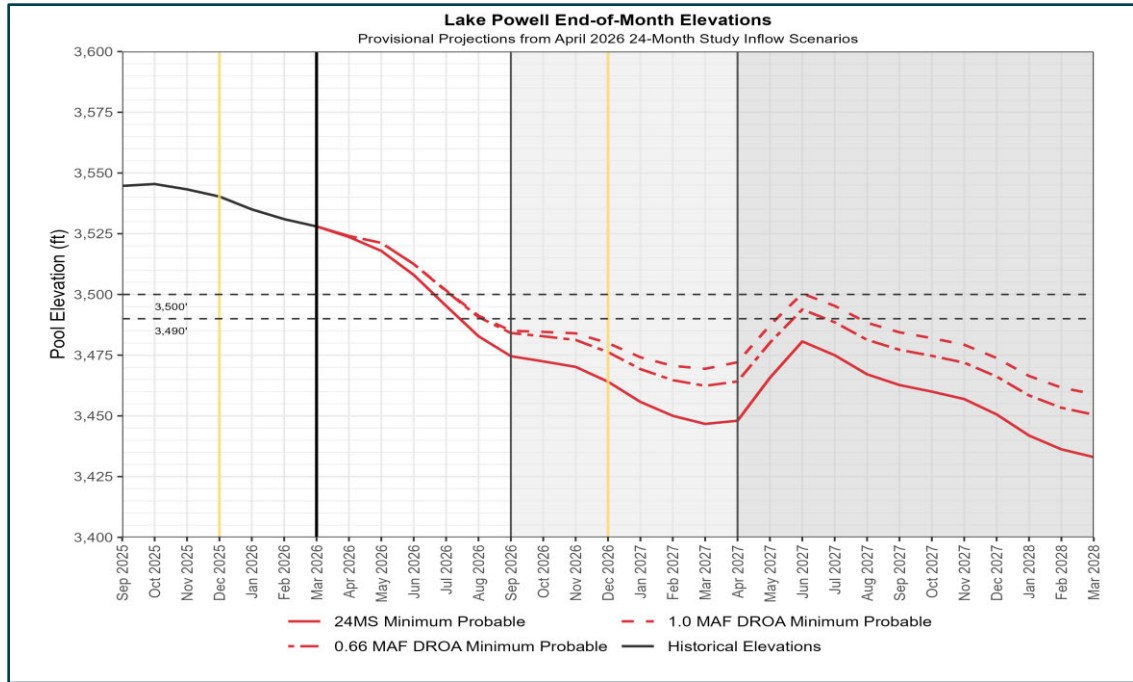
1.6.3 Status of Recovery from previous Drought Response Operation Releases, including any releases pursuant to Emergency Actions

To date, prior DROA releases have been fully recovered. Previous DROA Plan recovery can be found here:

<https://usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/droa.html>

2. Insert summary of 2026 Drought Response Operations. This summary will include the following:

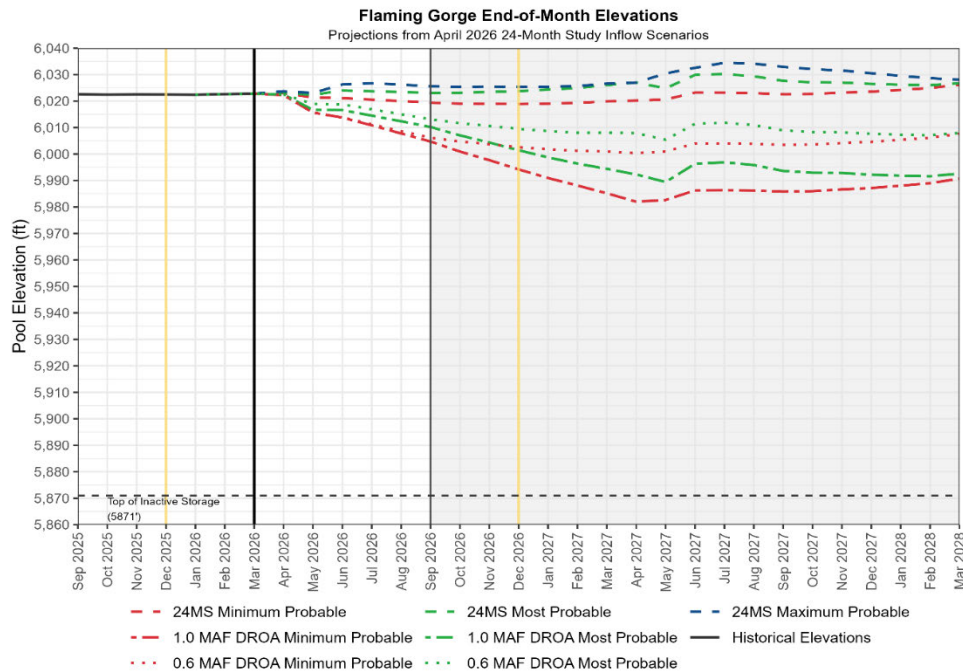
2.1 Projections for the Drought Response Operations incorporated for the Minimum and Most Probable inflow traces.



2.2 A description of operational adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam, if any, which will include a comparison of such operational adjustments to operations when no adjustments are made. This comparison may be provided through text, tables, figures, and graphs as needed.

Glen Canyon Dam operational adjustments during fall 2026 will be evaluated pursuant to 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2², Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments. These operational adjustments will be based on projections of the Target Elevation at Lake Powell during winter and spring 2027.

2.3 A description of Drought Response Operations releases and recovery at affected Initial Units, as applicable, as set forth in Attachments C through E. This will include the amount of water involved (rate, volume, and timing), a description of each reservoir’s water level over the following 24 months.



3. Summary of the application of the effectiveness criteria described at Section 5.3. These criteria include, without limitation:

The Parties have analyzed the effectiveness of the 2026 DROA Plan pursuant to the terms described in Section 5.3. Due to uncertainty regarding water year 2027 operations, the Upper Division States have determined they are currently unable to

² The 2007 Interim Guidelines and 2019 Drought Contingency Plans expire at end of calendar year 2026. A NEPA process is underway to analyze potential annual operations at Lake Powell (beginning October 1, 2026) and Lake Mead (beginning January 1, 2027).

analyze the effectiveness of the 2026 DROA Plan beyond water year 2026. Additionally, the Upper Division States have analyzed the 2026 DROA Plan consistent with the September 2023 Resolution³. This analysis used the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center's (Forecast Center) April 1, 2026, minimum probable and most probable forecasts consistent with Reclamation's April 2026 24-Month Study projections. The evaluation of effectiveness considers the DROA Target Elevation of 3,525' at Lake Powell and also the critical infrastructure elevation of 3,490' at Lake Powell. The DROA identified the target elevation of 3,525' as the level at which to begin to take proactive measures to protect Lake Powell from declining below elevation 3,490'. There are increasing risks to water management, infrastructure and hydropower resources as Lake Powell declines towards 3490'. Reclamation has identified 3,500' as the operational elevation to provide protection from declining to 3,490'⁴. Accordingly, the analysis considered the reduction in risk of Lake Powell declining below elevation 3,525' and 3,500' in order to protect critical infrastructure at 3,490' with contemplated release volumes ranging from approximately 660,000 acre-feet up to approximately 1 million acre-feet from the Upstream Initial Units⁵. The DROA Parties will consider additional potential Drought Response Operations during the course of their monitoring activities.

Moreover, the overall effectiveness of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan will require operational actions the Secretary of the Interior has planned to take at Lake Powell during water year 2026, in particular reducing Glen Canyon Dam releases from 7.48 MAF to as low as 6.0 MAF, consistent with his authorities under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, as supplemented by the 2024 SEIS (6E reduction). Taken together, the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan and the Secretary's planned 6E reduction in release volumes from Lake Powell during water year 2026 will delay or avoid the operational uncertainties associated with Lake Powell elevations declining below 3,490'. In addition, Reclamation's operation of Glen Canyon Dam in WY 2027 will impact the effectiveness of operations under the 2026 DROA Plan which will be evaluated by the Parties when Water Year 2027 operations are determined.

Analyses of the effectiveness of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan are based on Reclamation's 2026 April 24-Month Study and Reclamation's operational plan for Lake Powell through water year 2026. The analyses are limited to the effectiveness of the proposed 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan based on the 2026 April 24-Month Study and do not create precedent for future DROA Plan effectiveness determinations.

³ Resolution of the Upper Colorado River Commission, *Clarifying Principles for Future Releases from Upstream Initial Units Under the 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement*, dated September 21, 2023.

⁴ Elevation 3,500' is identified as the elevation to "maintain" in Section 6(E) of the 2024 Near-Term Operations SEIS.

⁵ End of Water Year 2026 DROA release volume is approximately 650,000 acre-feet to 750,000 acre-feet.

The Parties analyzed the effectiveness of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan based on the following criteria, without limitation:

3.1 The likelihood that the Drought Response Operation will increase the risk of a net decrease in the elevation at Lake Powell over any consecutive 12-month period based on the most recent 24-Month Study;

Analyses of the April 2026 24-Month Study shows that the inclusion of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan will not cause a net decrease to Lake Powell elevations through the end of water year 2026. Analyses of risk of net decrease in elevation in water year 2027 will be evaluated when Reclamation determines water year 2027 operations.

3.2 The extent to which conducting a Drought Response Operation for certain durations and at certain times during the water year might affect the ability of the released water to reach Lake Powell;

The operations under the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan are coincident with the timing of the 2026 runoff period and extended baseflow releases for Recovery Implementation Program experiments, thereby increasing the proportion of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan releases reaching Lake Powell. Downstream uses from the mainstem Green River are satisfied by baseflows, even under minimum baseflow conditions under the Flaming Gorge Record of Decision.

3.3 The extent to which a Drought Response Operation changes the risk of Reclamation being unable to meet obligations related to an Upstream Initial Unit in future years at times after the 12-month period when a Drought Response Operation would occur;

The DROA Parties, in the development of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, considered the necessity of maintaining appropriate storage such that the Upstream Initial Units can continue to meet operational requirements and commitments. Reclamation has determined that it can continue to meet its contractual and operational requirements after the 12-month period concluding the 2026 DROA Plan. These commitments are further described in Attachment C. The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan does not increase the risk of the Upstream Initial Units failing to meet their operating requirements and commitments by maintaining sufficient storage at the end of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan through April 30, 2027.

3.4 The degree to which a Drought Response Operation minimizes, to the extent practicable, impacts of the Drought Response Operation to natural resource conditions;

The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan provides natural resource benefits downstream of Flaming Gorge by facilitating enhanced experimental flows from Flaming Gorge in accordance with the 2005 Biological Opinion and 2006 Record of Decision for the reservoir. Without the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, experimental flows from Flaming Gorge would be limited to Larval Trigger Study Plan experiments and smallmouth bass spike releases, along with baseflow transition periods. However, with the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, additional experimental flows, including experimental Colorado pikeminnow base flows, are coincident with and facilitated by the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, thus providing an additional natural resource benefit.

Impacts to river flows and Flaming Gorge reservoir water levels related to recreation and the reservoir fishery were also considered, along with potential downstream flooding risks.

3.5 The degree to which a Drought Response Operation minimizes, to the extent practicable, impacts to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and impacts to the reliability of the Western Interconnected Bulk Electrical System;

The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan will provide releases from Flaming Gorge, and the potential for releases from Aspinall Unit (Blue Mesa) in Water Year 2027, and thus an incremental increase in hydropower generation. However, this increase may be offset by a seven-day bypass release from Flaming Gorge as part of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan. Consequently, there is the potential for a negative impact to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund due to reduced power revenues and increased costs resulting from the bypass operation. Navajo Reservoir was not considered in this analysis because it does not generate CRSP hydropower.

The potential negative impacts to hydropower production at Flaming Gorge are offset by reduction of risk to interruption in hydropower production at Glen Canyon Dam. If Lake Powell elevation falls below 3,490 ft. the loss of power generation at Glen Canyon Dam would represent 65-80% of the power deliveries and a loss of 65-80% of energy revenues. Analysis of the full range of hydrologic scenarios using the April 24 Month Study model ensemble demonstrates that the Plan reduces the risk of falling below elevation 3,490 ft. by approximately 10%, increasing the likelihood of Lake Powell maintaining hydropower generation capability throughout the period of the Plan to over 80%. Hydropower operations at Glen Canyon Dam are a significant resource in protecting the stability of the Western Interconnected Bulk Electrical System and in meeting customer demand during peak power months.

3.6 The extent to which a Drought Response Operation minimizes adverse effects to resources and infrastructure in the Upper Basin and provides additional certainty on Colorado River water management, including but not limited to associated economic implications;

The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan minimizes potential adverse impacts to resources and ultimately maintains and protects infrastructure at the Initial Units. The DROA Parties note that the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan provides additional certainty to Colorado River water management by reducing the risks of Lake Powell declining below critical operating elevations, which would result in reservoir releases conducted solely through the Glen Canyon Dam river outlet works. There is a risk to Colorado River water management and power operations and critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam resulting from the exclusive use of the river outlet works for releases.

3.7 The extent to which a Drought Response Operation recovery at a particular Initial Unit will occur or has occurred.

The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan does not contemplate recovery of DROA release volumes through the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan year. The required recovery volumes from the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan will be based on analysis of Operations Without Drought Response.

Attachment B

2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

Operational Adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam

1. Glen Canyon Dam Operations Without Drought Response

The 2007 Interim Guidelines, as supplemented, control annual release volumes. Any monthly adjustments to Glen Canyon Dam releases cannot and do not change annual release volumes. Monthly releases from Glen Canyon Dam are determined by the 2016 Record of Decision for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), as supplemented, which addresses hourly, daily, monthly, and experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam and a variety of resources below Lake Powell in accordance with the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992. These operational parameters determine the flexibility for any Drought Response Operation.

2. Current Hydrology

The April forecast for water year 2026 ranges from a minimum probable of 2.78 maf million acre-feet (maf) (29 percent of average⁶) to a maximum probable of 5.73 maf (60 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2026 of 3.88 maf (40 percent of average) (Figure 1). There is a 10 percent chance that inflows could be higher than the current maximum probable forecast and a 10 percent chance that inflows could be lower than the minimum probable forecast.

Based on the April 2026 most probable forecast of 3.88 maf unregulated inflow for water year 2026, the Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System 24-Month Study (24-Month Study) Most Probable scenario projects Lake Powell elevation will end water year 2026 near 3,483.15 feet with approximately 3.44 maf in storage (15 percent of capacity). Note that projections of elevation and storage for water year 2026 have considerable uncertainty at this point in the season. Projections of end of water year 2026 Powell elevations using the April 2026 24-Month Study Minimum Probable and Maximum Probable inflow forecast results model runs are 3,474.57 feet (13 percent of capacity) and 3,508.22 feet (20 percent of capacity), respectively (Figure 2). Under these scenarios, there is a 10 percent chance that inflows will be higher, resulting in higher elevation, and a 10 percent chance that inflows will be lower, resulting in lower elevation. Under Section 6.C.1 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2026 will be 7.48 maf, unless adjusted in accordance with the 2024 SEIS.

⁶ Percent of average is based on the historical unregulated inflow for the period of record between October 1, 1990 through September 30, 2020 comprising the 1991 through 2020 water years.

Powell elevation as of April 10, 2026, is 3,526.86 feet (24 percent of capacity). The projected elevation based on the April 2026 24-Month Study for December 2026 is 3,471.06 feet (13 percent of capacity) under the Most Probable scenario and 3,464.07 feet (11 percent of capacity) under the Minimum Probable projection.

Based upon the April 2026 24-Month Study, Powell elevations, under the Most Probable scenario, are expected to decrease below the Target Elevation beginning May 2026 and remain below the Target Elevation through the end of the model run.

Powell elevations based on the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study decrease below the Target Elevation in April 2026 and remain below the Target Elevation through the end of the model run. The elevation decreases below minimum power pool in July 2026 and is projected to remain below minimum power pool through the remainder of the model run.

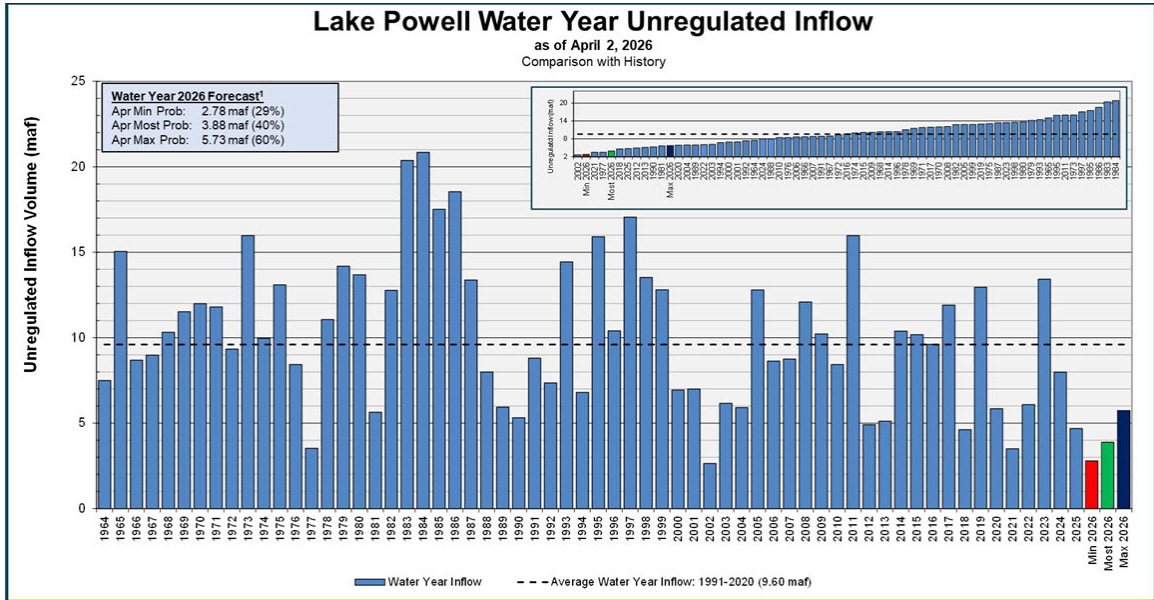


Figure 1. Lake Powell unregulated inflow for Water Year 2026 with the forecast issued April 2, 2026, for minimum, maximum, and most probable forecasts as compared against chronological historical water year unregulated inflow forecasts.

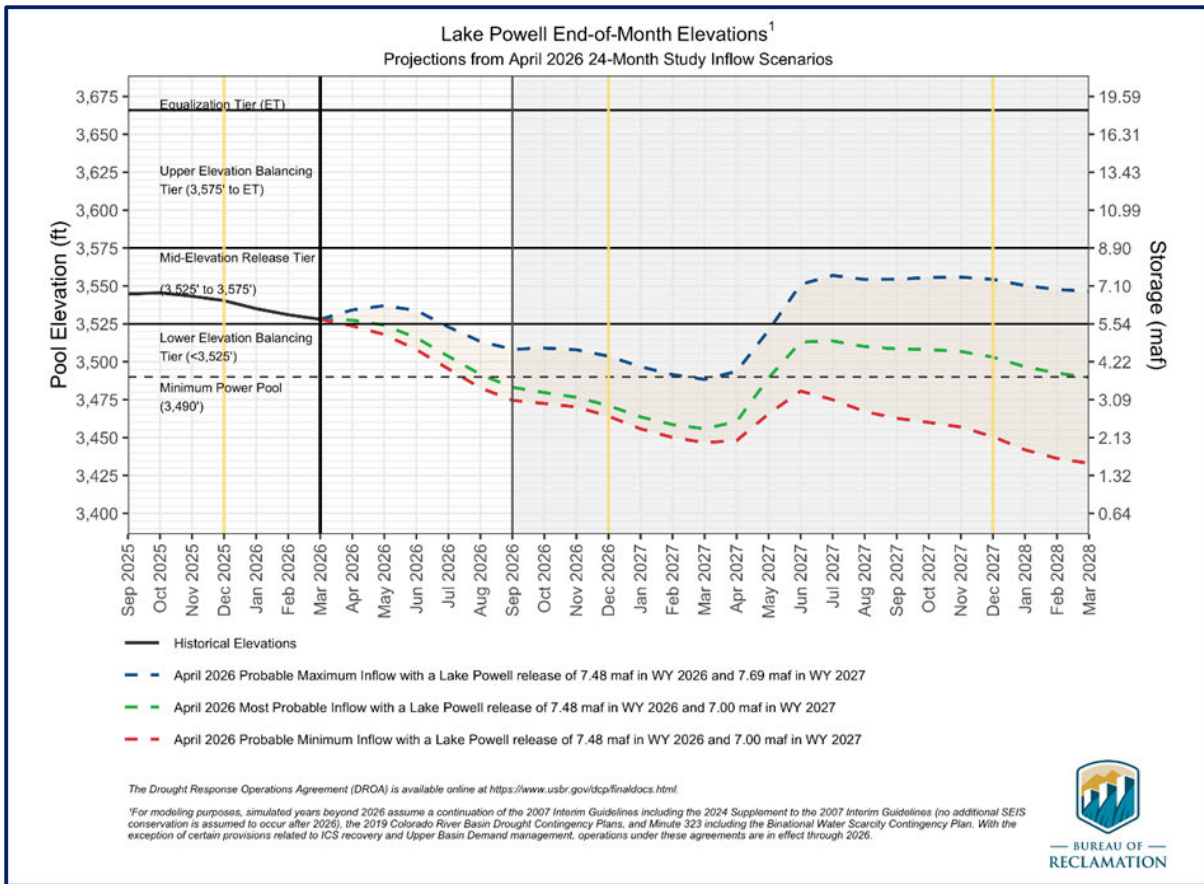


Figure 2. Lake Powell historical and projected end of month elevations using the Maximum, Minimum and Most Probable forecasts from the April 2026 24-Month Study.

3. Glen Canyon Dam without Drought Response during Plan year

The operation of Lake Powell in the April 2026 24-Month Study is pursuant to the Interim Guidelines and reflects the 2026 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Pursuant to the Interim Guidelines, the August 2025 24-Month Study projections of the January 1, 2026, system storage and reservoir water surface elevations set the operational tier for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell during 2026.

The August 2025 24-Month study projected the January 1, 2026, Lake Powell elevation to be less than 3,575 feet and at or above 3,525 feet. Consistent with Section 6.C.1 of the Interim Guidelines the operational tier for Lake Powell in water year 2026 is the Mid-Elevation Release Tier and the water year release volume from Lake Powell is 7.48 maf, unless adjusted to as low as 6.0 MAF, consistent with authorities under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, as supplemented by the 2024 SEIS (6E reduction).

As described in the 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement and the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2, Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments, Lake Powell monthly release volumes are determined by the 2016 Record of Decision for

the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), which addresses hourly, daily, monthly, and experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam. The standard monthly release volume patterns for a range of annual flows, including for a 7.48 maf water year release volume, is contained in Attachment B of the LTEMP ROD. (Figure 3).

Monthly Release Volume (thousand ac-ft) ^a										
Total Annual	7,000	7,480	8,230	9,000	9,500	10,500	11,000	12,000	13,000	13,000
October	480	480	643	643	643	643	643	643	643	643
November	500	500	642	642	642	642	642	642	642	642
December	600	600	716	716	716	716	716	716	716	716
January	664	723	763	857	919	1,041	1,102	1,225	1,347	1,470
February	587	639	675	758	813	921	975	1,083	1,192	1,300
March	620	675	713	801	858	973	1,030	1,144	1,259	1,373
April	552	601	635	713	764	866	917	1,019	1,121	1,223
May	550	599	632	710	761	862	913	1,014	1,116	1,217
June	577	628	663	745	798	905	958	1,064	1,171	1,277
July	652	709	749	842	902	1,022	1,082	1,202	1,322	1,443
August	696	758	800	899	963	1,091	1,156	1,284	1,413	1,537
September	522	568	600	674	722	819	867	963	1,059	1,160

^a Release volumes in October, November, and December typically do not vary in years with annual volumes ≥ 8.23 maf because the forecasted annual release volume is not known in the beginning of the water year. In other months, release volumes generally follow the proportions shown in the third column of Table 2, up to the maximum and minimum flow constraints presented in Table 1. Within a year, monthly operations may be increased or decreased based on factors referenced in Section 1.2 and 1.3.

Figure 3. LTEMP Attachment B, Table 3 setting forth the monthly volume releases for each water year release monthly release volume determined under the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

4. Glen Canyon Dam Drought Response Operations

a. Previous Drought Response Operations Agreement Actions Prior to Current Plan – Spring 2026

Based upon the October 2025 24-Month Study, Powell elevations under the Minimum, and Most Probable scenarios were projected to decrease below the Target Elevation beginning February 2026. Projections in the October 2025 24-Month Study rebounded above the Target Elevation in the Most Probable scenario in May 2026; however, Lake Powell projections did not rebound above the Target Elevation under the Minimum Probable scenario. Accordingly, Reclamation began monthly adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam on December 1, 2025, taking initial steps to protect Lake Powell dropping below the Target Elevation. The adjusted releases are designed to help protect the Target Elevation at Lake Powell until spring runoff materializes. The monthly volume of water released from Glen Canyon Dam is being adjusted to hold back 598 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water in Lake Powell from December to April 2026. Under DROA, the monthly adjustments do not change the annual release volume from Lake Powell. However, for

water year 2026, the Secretary is planning an annual release volume adjustment under 6E of the 2024 SEIS.

The adjusted monthly release patterns during the December through April 2026 period for Glen Canyon Dam were discussed during the Glen Canyon Dam operational coordination meeting, and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group hydrology and operations discussion.

Current estimates of Lake Powell elevation below the Target Elevation based on the Most Probable April 2026 24-Month Study is projected to be 53.94 feet, which corresponds to 2.62 maf below the Target Elevation at the end of the calendar year.

b. Drought Response Operations (May 2026-April 2027)

Glen Canyon Dam operational adjustments during the 2026 DROA Plan Year will be evaluated pursuant to 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2, Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments. These operational adjustments will be based on projections of the Target Elevations at Lake Powell during winter and spring 2027. Operations in water year 2027 are uncertain at this time, and will impact the effectiveness of 2026 DROA Plan, as described in Attachment A, Section 3.

5. Contracts

Existing water supply contracts and agreements at Glen Canyon Dam are described below. Any future contracts which become executed will be described here. Water supply contracts and agreements are not impaired by monthly release volumes.

- i. City of Page: 2,740 af/yr.
- ii. Navajo Nation – LeChee Chapter (expires 12/23/2049): 950 af/yr.

6. Coordination regarding Glen Canyon operations

The resource impacts identified in LTEMP Attachment B, Section 1.3 were analyzed and specifically discussed for water delivery, sediment, hydropower production and WAPA's assessment of the Basin Fund, and Tribal concerns.

Attachment C

2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

Operations at Flaming Gorge

1. Flaming Gorge Operations Without Drought Response

Flaming Gorge is operated for authorized purposes, including water storage, contract releases, power production, recreation, and environmental conditions downstream of the reservoir for endangered fish recovery pursuant to the 2005 Biological Opinion and 2006 Flaming Gorge Record of Decision (FG ROD). Operating criteria have been developed to produce the necessary environmental parameters under a variety of hydrologic conditions⁷.

The allowable range of Flaming Gorge operations is a function of the period of the year, the three reaches⁸, hydrologic conditions, and ongoing or planned studies related to adaptive management in support of the endangered fish recovery program. The flow request letter is received annually from the Recovery Program and prioritizes experiments based on hydrologic classification for that year. Current operations at Flaming Gorge reflect ongoing experimentation that has been coordinated by and through the Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group (FGTWG) and with the Flaming Gorge Working Group (FGWG) stakeholders.

Flaming Gorge operations are established in the spring based on forecasted runoff for the upcoming 12 months. The year is broken into three periods: Spring, Base Flow, and Transition.

The Flaming Gorge Annual Operation Plan (FG AOP) describes specific annual operations and releases made within the flexibility of the 2006 FG ROD. Specific operations for the Spring Period are established in the FG AOP for each given year and its timing varies depending on yearly hydrology. The Base Flow Period follows the Spring Period and typically constitutes flows from mid-July through the end of February. The Transition Period runs from March 1st through the beginning of the Spring Period or peak release. The FG AOP may be amended. Details of potential flows during each of the periods can be found in the FG AOP.

The Spring Period marks the beginning of the FG AOP. It is characterized by the timing of the Spring Runoff and typically includes the months of April through mid-July. The

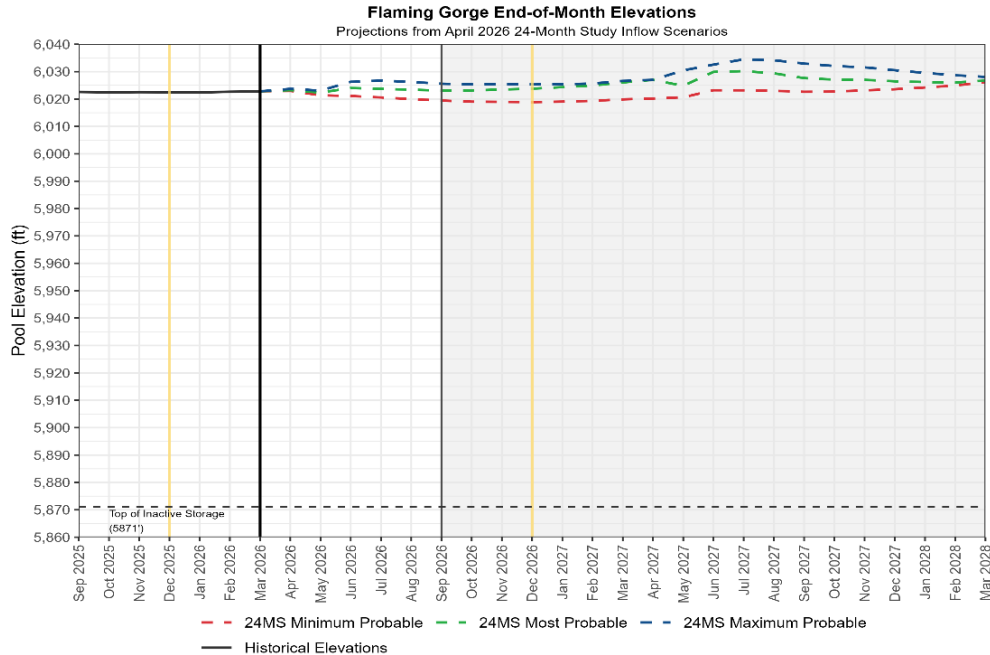
⁷ These criteria are found in several documents, including the Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, Biological Opinion, and the FG AOP, among others.

⁸ Reach 1 is from Flaming Gorge Dam to the Yampa River confluence. Reach 2 is from the Yampa River confluence to the White River confluence. Reach 3 is from the White River confluence to the Colorado River confluence.

timing of the spring runoff period varies depending on yearly hydrology of the basin and is established in the FG AOP. The Base Flow Period follows the Spring Period and typically constitutes flows from mid-July through the end of February. The Base Flow Period is further categorized by the Summer, Autumn, and Winter Base Flows which vary according to downstream targets (2006 ROD) established in approved study plans and are dependent on Yampa River flows and Flaming Gorge reservoir surface elevation. The Transition Period comprises releases from March through April. The Transition Period is primarily used for flood control operations, ensuring the Transition Period ends at a low enough elevation to safely pass Spring Period inflows.

2. Based on current hydrology, the current hydrologic classification is Moderately Dry. Section 2.5.3.1 of the 2005 EIS states that either 1 or 2 classifications higher (wetter) or one lower (drier) than the identified classification could be recommended for the Spring Period. As such, this 2026 DROA Plan utilizes the flexibility under the ROD to implement a spring target within the Average hydrologic classification, which is currently 1 classification above Moderately Dry, and could be 2 classifications above if in the Dry classification. Section 2.5.3.3 further states that the hydrologic classification for the Base Flow Period will be based on the unregulated inflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir during the Spring Period. Additionally, paragraph II of the FG ROD provides that Reclamation's "decision includes the potential for refinement of the flow and temperature recommendations if relevant new information gained through adaptive management supports that possibility." The upper range of the 2026 DROA Plan assumes maintaining the Average classification targets through the summer, fall, and winter baseflow season, consistent with the provisions of paragraph II of the FG ROD. The DROA operation within the Moderately Dry and Average classification targets are further described in Table 1 below. Current Hydrology

Reclamation's April 2026 24-Month Study forecast for the April through July inflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 490,000 acre-feet, or 51 percent of average. The hydrologic classification for the Upper Green is moderately dry per the FG ROD. Forecasted exceedance flow volumes from the Yampa River Basin fell into the dry hydrologic condition. There is flexibility in the FG ROD that allows for a change in hydrology classification; two higher and one lower than that designated by the forecasted unregulated inflow volume on May 1. Based upon the May 1 forecasted unregulated inflow (based on the April 2026 24-Month Study forecast) the hydrologic classification is moderately dry.



3. Flaming Gorge Operations without Drought Response during the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Year

Flaming Gorge operations without Drought Response Operations were developed through the established process for the FG AOP, but for the 2026 DROA Plan May 2026 through April 2027 timeframe.

The FG AOP outlines the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) flow request, which includes three scenarios, one equal to or less than 30 percent exceedance, one between 30 and 70 percent exceedance, and one above 70 percent exceedance. For 2026, the Recovery Program prioritized three experiments in the most likely scenario, a moderately dry scenario⁹. The highest priority is a smallmouth bass (SMB) flow spike, followed by the Colorado pikeminnow (CPM) proposed flows, and then the spring releases consistent with Larval Trigger Study Plan (LTSP). Water is released for these priorities if hydrology permits. The FG AOP includes dry, moderately dry, average, and moderately wet scenarios.

Before Spring Peak Releases (May) – Prior to the spring peak releases, releases will be maintained at 800 cfs.

Spring Peak Releases -- During the spring peak flow period, a spring peak release of approximately 4,600 cfs below the dam for one day will be targeted. Following the spring peak, releases will be ramped-down to 800 cfs until the SMB flow spike.

⁹ Flow request letter dated December 11, 2025.

Smallmouth Bass Flow Spike -- Following the post-LTSP period, the SMB flow spike will occur. This flow spike will consist of a ramp-up to full power plant capacity (about 4,600 cfs) in one day, an experimental flow of 72-hours duration maintained at full power plant capacity, and a down-ramp at 2,000 cfs per day, back down to a release rate of 800 cfs. The SMB flow spike is predicted to occur between mid-June and early July, with timing based on biologic triggers.¹⁰

Base Flow Period -- During the base flow period (early-mid July through February), releases from the dam will be approximately 1,050 cfs with Reach 2 targets in the lower Muth et al. moderately dry range of 1,100-1,500 cfs. This may include being within the +/-40% and +/-25% respective Reach 2 ranges. Adjustments to the hydrologic classification based on observed inflow may be considered beginning in August.

Transition Period (March through April) -- During the Transition Period, average releases are increased or decreased to achieve the Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3, see Table 4 below). Under normal operations during the Transition Period, releases would be limited to a range from 800 cfs to powerplant capacity (4,600 cfs). Under current projections, the anticipated release is 885 cfs.

4. Flaming Gorge Operations with Drought Response during the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Year

Potential Drought Response Operations were considered by the FGTWG in February 2026 and were included in the group's flow proposal presented at the FGWG on March 11, 2026. Generally, the magnitude and duration of Drought Response Operations will depend largely on the Yampa River contributions for Reach 2 targets.

After consideration of potential Drought Response Operations release scenarios by the FGTWG and the FGWG, the DROA Parties propose that the volume of Drought Response Operations release under current conditions, be from approximately 660,000 acre-feet up to approximately 1,000,000 acre-feet¹¹.

Drought Response Operations will be performed within the operating range for the year's hydrologic classification. Drought Response Operations must remain within the range prescribed in the tables for the corresponding hydrologic conditions within the authorized flexibilities, as described in Section 1 above.

Before Spring Peak Releases -- Before the spring flow peak, releases will be ~4,000 cfs daily average to full power generation.

¹⁰ <https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/TechnicalReport-NNA-Bestgen-2016-FR115-140.pdf>

¹¹ Range of the volume of DROA releases is dependent upon projected hydrology and Yampa River conditions and subject to change as hydrology forecasts and observed hydrology changes.

Spring Peak Releases -- The spring peak flow period would likely include a LTSP, which will be sustained for multiple days until targets are no longer obtainable. Bypass tubes may be used with a ramp-down rate of up to 2,000 cfs/day. Following the LTSP period, releases will be ramped-down to 1,000 cfs until the SMB flow spike.

Smallmouth Bass Flow Spike -- Following the post-LTSP period, the SMB flow spike will occur. This flow spike will consist of a ramp-up to full power plant capacity (about 4,600 cfs) in one day, an experimental flow of 72-hours' duration maintained at full power plant capacity, and a down-ramp at up to 2,000 cfs per day, back down to a release rate of 1,500 cfs. The SMB flow spike is predicted to occur between mid-June and early July, with timing based on biological triggers.

Base Flow Period -- The CPM base flows occur early through late summer, but per the 2026 FGTWG Proposal, may be extended through the end of the base flow period, after consideration of observed inflows and other conditions. In this Plan, base flow targets are assumed to be consistent with spring peak target classification.

Transition Period -- Average daily releases during the Transition Period are increased or decreased to achieve Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3) or other DRO targets. The Transition Period may be needed to provide additional Drought Response Operations.

Table 1. Difference between Flaming Gorge Operations without Drought Response Operations and with Drought Response Operations as of April 2026 24-Month Study Modeling.

Operation Period	Flaming Gorge Operation Without Drought Response Operations	Flaming Gorge Operation With Drought Response Operations*	
		660 KAF	1 MAF
Spring Peak LTSP Release– Release Volume (thousands of acre-feet or kaf) / Peak Release Rate (cfs) and Duration (days)	60 kaf / 4,600 cfs 1 day	243 kaf / 8,600 cfs 7 days	267 kaf / 8,600 cfs 7 days
June inc. SMB Release Volume (kaf) / Peak Release Rate (cfs) / Duration (days)	76 kaf / 4,600 cfs 3 days	100 kaf / 4,600 cfs 3 days	113 kaf / 4,600 cfs 3 days
Summer Base Flow Release Volume (kaf) / Average Release Rate (cfs)	192 kaf / 1,050 cfs	352 kaf / 2,050 cfs	374 kaf / 2,050 cfs
Fall and Winter Base Flow Release Volume (kaf) / Average Release Rate (cfs)	245 kaf / 800 cfs	473 kaf / 1,580 cfs	669kaf / 2,235 cfs
Transition Period Release Volume (kaf) / Average Release Rate (cfs)	107 kaf / 885 cfs	171 kaf / 1,425 cfs	257 kaf / 2,125 cfs
TOTAL Release Volume	680 kaf	1,340 kaf	1,680 kaf

**Release volumes dependent on Yampa River flows to achieve Reach 2 targets.*

Table 3. End of Month Elevation, Flaming Gorge Operations without Drought Response Operations and with Drought Response Operations as of April 2026 24-Month Study Modeling.

	Flaming Gorge Elevation Without Drought Response Operations	Flaming Gorge Elevation With Drought Response Operations 660 KAF	Flaming Gorge Elevation With Drought Response Operations 1 MAF
May-26	6,022.34	6,017.35	6,016.68
Jun-26	6,024.01	6,017.62	6,016.60
Jul-26	6,023.71	6,015.74	6,014.51
Aug-26	6,023.41	6,013.83	6,012.38
Sep-26	6,023.08	6,011.96	6,010.22
Oct-26	6,023.12	6,010.43	6,007.54
Nov-26	6,023.47	6,009.45	6,005.22
Dec-26	6,023.77	6,008.37	6,002.78
Jan-27	6,024.33	6,007.57	6,000.63
Feb-27	6,024.92	6,007.02	5,998.84
Mar-27	6,026.06	6,007.14	5,997.52
Apr-27	6,027.00	6,007.12	5,996.07

5. Upper Limit Drawdown Level

In addition to the operating ranges identified in the tables in Appendix 1 to this Attachment, Flaming Gorge has a range of operating elevations that correspond to hydrologic conditions. The Upper Limit Drawdown Level is defined in the 2005 EIS, Table 2-3, provided here in Table 4, and was established to provide safe operation of the reservoir. Generally, to provide adequate flood storage space, Flaming Gorge must be drawn down to at least the elevations in Table 4 by May 1 of each year.

Table 4 –Upper Limit Drawdown Levels for Flaming Gorge Reservoir (2005 EIS Table 2.3)

Unregulated Inflow Forecast Percentage Exceedance Range	May 1 Upper Limit Drawdown Elevation Level
1 to 10	6023
10.1 to 30	6024
30.1 to 40	6025
40.1 to 59.9	6027

6. Lower Drought Response Operations Limit

The lower Drought Response Operations limit is a function of hydrologic conditions and storage water demands necessary on May 1st. At Flaming Gorge, these demands are primarily releases made for the Recovery Program. Consistent with DROA, the DROA Parties will continue to monitor elevations throughout the 2026 DROA Plan.

7. Drought Response Recovery at Flaming Gorge.

There is currently no Drought Response Recovery planned for Flaming Gorge during the 2026 DROA Plan year. As provided in the DROA and herein, the 2026 DROA Plan will be completed only after storage is recovered.

Drought Response Recovery at Flaming Gorge will be completed only when:

- a. The Flaming Gorge Account Balance as defined in Section 6 of the Framework is zero; or
- b. Flaming Gorge elevation reaches the May 1 Upper Limit Drawdown Level. However, this Upper Limit Drawdown Level represents the maximum allowable elevation for dam safety purposes and operators have typically held a buffer from the maximum elevation as a prudent reservoir management measure. An evaluation of operations from 2006 to 2021 demonstrates the regular operating threshold is typically one-half foot below the May 1 Upper Limit Drawdown Level as shown in Table 5. When the targets in Table 5 are achieved, recovery will be complete.

Table 5 – Regular Operation Target Elevation

Unregulated Inflow Forecast Percentage Exceedance Range	Recovery May 1 Elevation Level
1 to 10	6023 (+/-0.5)
10.1 to 30	6024 (+/-0.5)
30.1 to 40	6025 (+/-0.5)
40.1 to 59.9	6027 (+/-0.5)
60.0 to 70	6027 (+/-0.5)
70.1 to 90	6026.75 (+/-0.75)
90.1 to 100	6026.5 (+/-1.0)

8. Contracts

Existing water supply contracts and agreements at Flaming Gorge are described below. Any future contracts which become executed will be described here. Water supply contracts and agreements are not impaired by any Drought Response Operations because the water under contract or agreement is considered unavailable under DROA.

- i. Daggett County (expires 3/5/2066): 1,000 af/yr

9. Coordination

The Recovery Program provided its flow request to Reclamation on December 11, 2025, regarding 2026 FG Operations and generally identified considerations with regard to potential Drought Response Operations at Flaming Gorge.

The FGTWG discussed Drought Response Operations during its February 2026 meeting. The discussions centered around the allowed flexibility of the proposed operation plan with and without Drought Response Operations. The FGTWG Proposal, which included experiments that considered Drought Response Operation releases, was shared with the FGWG on March 9th.

The FGWG met on March 11th and again on April 21st.

10. Accounting

DROA Releases and Recovery will be accounted for in accordance with Section 6 of the DROA Framework. Monthly accounting for current and prior DROA releases and recovery at Flaming Gorge can be found here:

<https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/dcp/DROA/DROSummarySheet.pdf>

As Drought Release Operations will be occurring from Flaming Gorge under the 2026 DROA Plan, there is no Drought Response Recovery planned for Flaming Gorge during the 2026 DROA Plan year.

Attachment D

2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

Operations at the Aspinall Unit (Aspinall)

1. Aspinall Operations Without Drought Response

Aspinall operates in accordance with multiple state-decreed water rights and agreements and pursuant to the 2012 Aspinall Record of Decision (Aspinall ROD).

At all times, Aspinall must meet Colorado water administration requirements as determined by the Division 4 Engineer, including the required amount of flow-through necessary to meet downstream water rights senior to Aspinall. Releases above the aforementioned flow-through requirements may be made for various purposes according to the water right decrees for the Aspinall Unit reservoirs including their power plants.

Releases above flow-through amounts necessary to meet downstream senior water rights may be made for other decreed purposes through the power plants at the Aspinall Unit reservoirs. Releases above that required for the aforementioned decreed purposes will not be considered as made pursuant to "Operations without Drought Response" as defined in 5.2.1 but would be calculated as "Drought Release Operations."

As the primary storage facility for the Aspinall Unit, Blue Mesa Reservoir is operated to store water during the spring runoff period. Reservoir elevations typically peak late in the spring runoff and then decline as releases are made to satisfy water administration requirements, to meet authorized purposes including power generation, for flood control, for downstream target flows pursuant to the 2012 Aspinall ROD and to meet the December 31 target elevation of 7,490 feet.

Downstream target flows pursuant to the Aspinall ROD are divided into spring peak and baseflow periods. Spring peak targets vary by hydrologic year type and are determined by the April through July forecasted inflow into Blue Mesa Reservoir as detailed in Figure 1. Baseflow targets may be adjusted based on actual and forecasted inflows into Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Operations for spring peak flows are typically timed to match the spring peak from the North Fork of the Gunnison River. Releases during the baseflow period meet multiple purposes including power generation and baseflow targets and to draw the reservoir down to 7,490 feet by December 31 to prevent icing issues upstream of the reservoir.

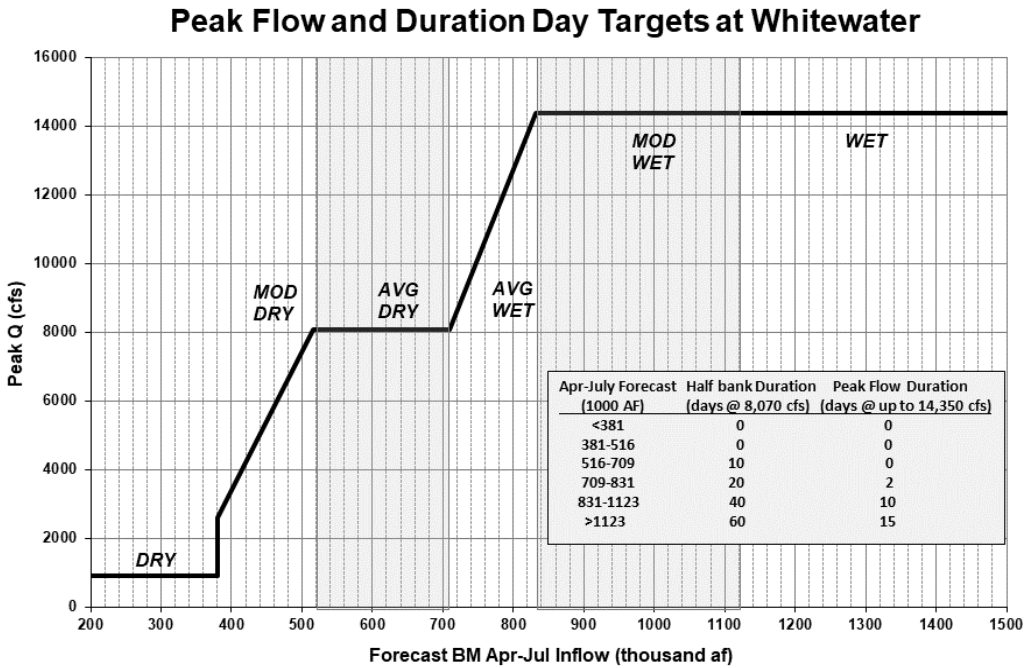
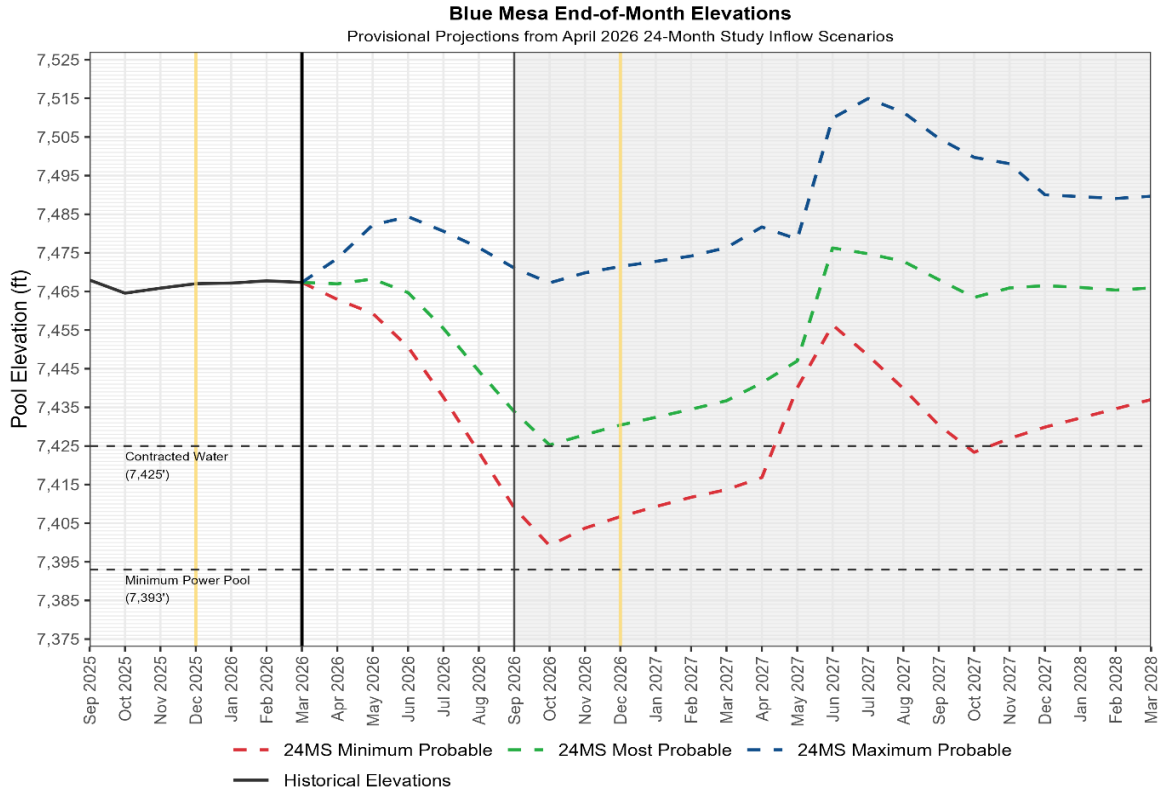


Figure 1.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wet	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1500	1500	1500	1050	1050	1050	1050
Mod Wet	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1500	1500	1500	1050	1050	1050	1050
Avg Wet	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1500	1500	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050
Avg Dry	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1500	1500	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050
Mod Dry*	750	750	750/790	750/890	750/890	1050	1050	1050	750/890	750/790	750/790	750
Dry*	750	750	750/790	750/890	750/890	1050	1050	750/890	750/890	750/790	750/790	750

*During March through November in Moderately Dry and Dry type years, additional releases will be made as necessary to provide flows above the 750 cfs anticipated to be diverted by the Redlands Water and Power Company, for the fish ladder and fish screen as shown.

2. Current Hydrology

The total live capacity at Blue Mesa Reservoir is 828,000 acre-feet. The active capacity at Blue Mesa Reservoir available for power generation exists above elevation 7393 ft, and totals 748,000 acre-feet. Below the elevation of 7393 ft, no releases through the power plant can be made.

As of April 6, 2026, Blue Mesa Reservoir is at 7,466.22 ft of elevation, with 406,000 acre-feet of live storage (49% of live capacity) and 217,000 acre-feet of active storage (34% of active capacity). The active content, less various commitments described further below, determines water available for a potential Drought Response Operations Release.

The April unregulated inflow forecast for Blue Mesa Reservoir in water year 2026 ranges from a minimum probable of 389,00 acre-feet (43 percent of average) to a maximum probable of 640,000 acre-feet (71 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2026 of 479,000 acre-feet (53 percent of average). There is a 10 percent chance that inflows could be higher than the current maximum probable forecast and a 10 percent chance that inflows could be lower than the minimum probable forecast.

Under the most probable unregulated inflow scenario, Blue Mesa Reservoir content is projected to peak at 420,00 acre-feet (elevation 7468.23 feet) and drop to a content of 213,000 acre-feet at the end of 2026 (elevation 7430.42 and 26 percent of live capacity). This corresponds to an active content of 133,000 acre-feet (18 percent of active capacity).

3. Aspinall Operations without Drought Response during Plan year

Under the most probable unregulated April-July inflow scenario, releases from Crystal Dam will be made to deliver water to the Gunnison Tunnel for diversion to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association starting in late March and continuing through October 2026.

Representatives from Reclamation and the State of Colorado will meet to discuss any operations of the Aspinall Unit to maintain flows in the Black Canyon for targets

described in the Black Canyon Reserved Water Right Decree. Based on the current forecast under the Black Canyon Reserved Water Right Decree, flows in the Black Canyon may be maintained above 300 cfs. The current forecast would include a spring peak release calculated as 482.95 cfs plus 1.44 times the Forecasted Inflow number divided by 1,000 expressed as cfs.

Releases from Crystal Dam may be made to help reach the Aspinall ROD (2012) spring peak and base flow targets in the Whitewater reach of the Gunnison River, recognizing the flow targets are not required minimum flows. Under the current forecast, the Aspinall ROD (2012) target for baseflows in April and May are 890 cfs in the Whitewater reach. The spring peak target is currently 900 cfs for a duration of one day in the Whitewater reach. The baseflow target in the Whitewater reach is about 900 cfs through September, followed by 790 cfs in October and November, and then will drop to 750 cfs for the remainder of 2026. These releases made to satisfy the Aspinall ROD (2012) result in Gunnison River flows that meet or exceed the flows described in the Black Canyon water rights decree.

4. Aspinall Drought Response Operations

The available water for a potential Drought Response Operations Release is determined to be the active content of Blue Mesa Reservoir excluding the volume of Taylor Park water stored within Blue Mesa Reservoir (see below for explanation of the Taylor Park Exchange Agreement) and excluding 60,000-acre feet of decreed water rights (see below for explanation of the decree in Case No. 03CW263 Water Division No. 4), and 1,400 acre-feet designated to contracts.

The calculation of available water for a Drought Response Operations Release can vary daily and will be directly affected by several factors including changes in operations and changes to inflow forecasts throughout spring 2026 and the determination of Black Canyon and Whitewater flow targets from the May 2026 forecasts.

a. Releases

No Drought Response Operations are contemplated for water year 2026. The volume of available DROA water will be re-evaluated at the beginning of water year 2027.

b. Recovery

There is no Drought Response Recovery planned for Aspinall during the 2026 DROA Plan year.

Recovery options are hydrology/year type dependent. For years with longer duration targets (such as moderately wet), opportunities to reduce durations to recover water will be pursued. This would require consultation with and concurrence from the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program).

If Drought Response Operations Releases result in Blue Mesa Reservoir elevation being below the spillway elevation when it otherwise would have been at or above the spillway elevation, the reductions in spring releases based upon elevation limitations can be accounted as recovered water.

When operations without Drought Response would cause releases to drop Blue Mesa Reservoir elevation to the Dec 31 icing target, accounting would include that volumetric difference as recovered.

There are two elevation targets, which, if reached, will “recover” all prior Drought Response Operation releases:

- 7517.4 - 7519.4 feet (full reservoir)
- Dec. 31: 7490.0 feet (icing target)

5. Contracts and Decrees

Existing water rights decrees, agreements, and supply contracts at Aspinall are described below. Any future contracts which become executed will be described here. Water rights decrees, agreements, and supply contracts are not impaired by any Drought Response Operations because the water decreed and under contract or agreement is considered unavailable under DROA.

a. Contract Deliveries

Aspinall currently has 1,400 acre-feet of water under contract for delivery downstream, or for augmentation of depletions for decreed water rights upstream in any given year. Water under contract is not available for Drought Response Operations pursuant to DROA.

b. Taylor Park Exchange Agreement

The Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement (1975) allows for the exchange of water stored in Taylor Park Reservoir and Aspinall (Blue Mesa Reservoir) to improve utilization and management of available water supplies under the water rights of the Uncompahgre Project and Blue Mesa Reservoir. The maximum amount of Taylor Park Reservoir exchange water that can be stored within Blue Mesa Reservoir at any time throughout the year is 106,230 acre-feet. The amount of Taylor Park Reservoir exchange water stored in Blue Mesa Reservoir is for diversion by the Uncompahgre Project at the Gunnison Tunnel and

is determined through accounting managed by the Colorado Division of Water Resources. This water is not available for release pursuant to DROA.

c. Decree Case No. 03CW263 Water Court, Water Division No. 4 (Subordination Agreement)

The Subordination Agreement, dated June 1, 2000, formalizes the commitment made by the United States during the planning of the Aspinall Unit to allow the depletion of Aspinall Rights up to 60,000 acre-feet per year to in-basin water users so that Aspinall would not interfere with water use in the Upper Gunnison River Basin. A decree entered in Case No. 03CW263 (October 10, 2006), Water Court, Water Division No. 4, for a plan for augmentation permitted depletion of up to 60,000 acre feet per year of Aspinall Rights to augment existing and future water rights exercised for all decreed beneficial purposes within the Gunnison River Basin through any decreed structure or facility upstream and downstream of the Crystal Reservoir Dam. Accounting for the plan for augmentation is the responsibility of the State of Colorado Division Engineer's Office, Water Division No. 4. This water is not available for release pursuant to DROA.

6. Coordination

Aspinall Unit stakeholder coordination meetings are held three times annually in January, April, and August. DROA plans will be presented for comment and feedback at these meetings to all interested parties. Additionally, Reclamation will reach out to stakeholders as needed for input and coordination on operations outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

7. Accounting

Accounting for prior and current DROA releases and recovery at Aspinall can be found here:

<https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/dcp/DROA/DROSummarySheet.pdf>

Attachment E

2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

Operations at Navajo Reservoir

1. Navajo Reservoir Operations Without Drought Response

Navajo Reservoir Operations are guided by the Record of Decision (ROD) for Navajo Reservoir, Navajo Unit which implements the operating criteria contained in the Preferred Alternative of the 2006 Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service transmitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) the Final Biological Opinion for Navajo Reservoir Operations on January 5, 2006, which outlined the intent for Reclamation through the proposed operations in the preferred alternative to mimic the San Juan River's natural hydrograph downstream from its confluence with the Animas River.

The ROD provides for potential refinement of the flow recommendations based on relevant new information that may be gained over time through an adaptive management process. The range of downstream releases specified in the Navajo Reservoir Operations ROD can vary from 250 to 5,000 cfs.

The Navajo Dam Operating Procedures for implementing the operating criteria are evaluated and revised as needed. The most recent operating procedures were adopted by the SJRIP and Reclamation in 2018. The Revised Operating Procedures document prescribe a year-round target baseflow in the San Juan of 500 to 1000 cfs in the critical habitat reach (from Farmington, NM to Lake Powell).

The flow recommendations recommend mimicry of a natural hydrograph in terms of flow magnitude, duration, and frequency during the spring runoff period. Duration and frequency minimums are specified in the Flow Recommendations document and are based on modeling of hydrology from 1928 to 1993. A spring peak release is considered every year to meet recommended flow targets in the critical habitat reach, based on water availability forecasts, projected contract water use, and releases to meet the target baseflow. A spring peak release calls for 5,000 cfs of water to be released continuously, over a period varying from 21 to 60 days.

The End of Water Year Storage Target (EWYST) is one of two target reservoir elevations on September 30th of each year. The lower EWYST, 6,050 ft, is used for the calculation of forecast available water for a spring peak release to benefit endangered fish and critical habitat. If there is not enough available water for a spring peak release, or after the spring peak release occurs, then the EWYST changes to 6,063 ft for the calculation of Excess Water (Excess Water). If there is water in the reservoir above 6,063 ft, that water is considered Excess Water. If Excess Water is available in a given year, it could be

released based on a request from the SJRIP to meet a variety of goals of the SJRIP.

Spring Peak Releases and Excess Water are both examples of water which release is timed to benefit the goals of the SJRIP.

In case of severe drought with anticipated shortages to the Navajo Reservoir water users, the ROD allows for consideration of a temporary revision to the spring peak release criteria or lowering of baseflow targets in the critical habitat reach.

2. Current Hydrology

As of April 7, 2026, Navajo Reservoir is at 6,036.5 ft of elevation, or 1,024 kaf of live storage (62% of live capacity) and 398 kaf of active storage (39% of active capacity).

The April modified unregulated inflow forecast for Navajo Reservoir in water year 2026 ranges from a minimum probable of 79 thousand acre-feet (kaf) (13 percent of average to a maximum probable of 360 kaf (57 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2026 of 173 kaf (28 percent of average). The inflow forecast for the minimum probable is the 2nd lowest since water year 1991 and is the 3rd lowest under the most probable forecast. There is a 10 percent chance that inflows could be higher than the current maximum probable forecast and a 10 percent chance that inflows could be lower than the minimum probable forecast.

3. Navajo Reservoir Operations without Drought Response during Plan year

Based on the April 2026 most probable forecast of 173 kaf modified unregulated inflow for water year 2026, the Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System 24-Month Study (24-Month Study) projects Navajo Reservoir elevation will end water year 2026 near 6,010.4 feet with approximately 784 kaf in live storage (48 percent of live capacity), or 158 kaf in active storage (15 percent of active capacity). The total live capacity at Navajo Reservoir is 1,647,940 acre-feet. The active capacity at Navajo Reservoir is above elevation 5990 ft, and totals 1,021,910 acre-feet. Below the elevation of 5990 ft, contract deliveries can no longer be made.

Note that projections of elevation and storage for water year 2026 have considerable uncertainty at this point in the season. Projections of end of water year 2026 Navajo elevations using the April 2026 24-Month Study Minimum Probable (drier hydrology) and Maximum Probable (wetter hydrology) inflow forecasts are 5,991.9 feet (39 percent of live capacity, 1 percent of active capacity) and 6,029.8 feet (58 percent of live capacity, 32 percent of active capacity), respectively (Figure 1). Under these scenarios, there is a 10 percent chance that inflows will be higher, resulting in higher elevation, and 10 percent chance that inflows will be lower, resulting in lower elevation.

Based on the current storage and the April 2026 inflow forecast, and pursuant to the ROD

for the Navajo Unit, the available water calculated for water year 2026 is insufficient for a spring peak release as recommended by the SJRIP under all three forecasts. The release throughout water year 2026 will be the minimum required to maintain the minimum downstream target baseflow as specified in the ROD and is likely to range between 250 cfs and 1,500 cfs.

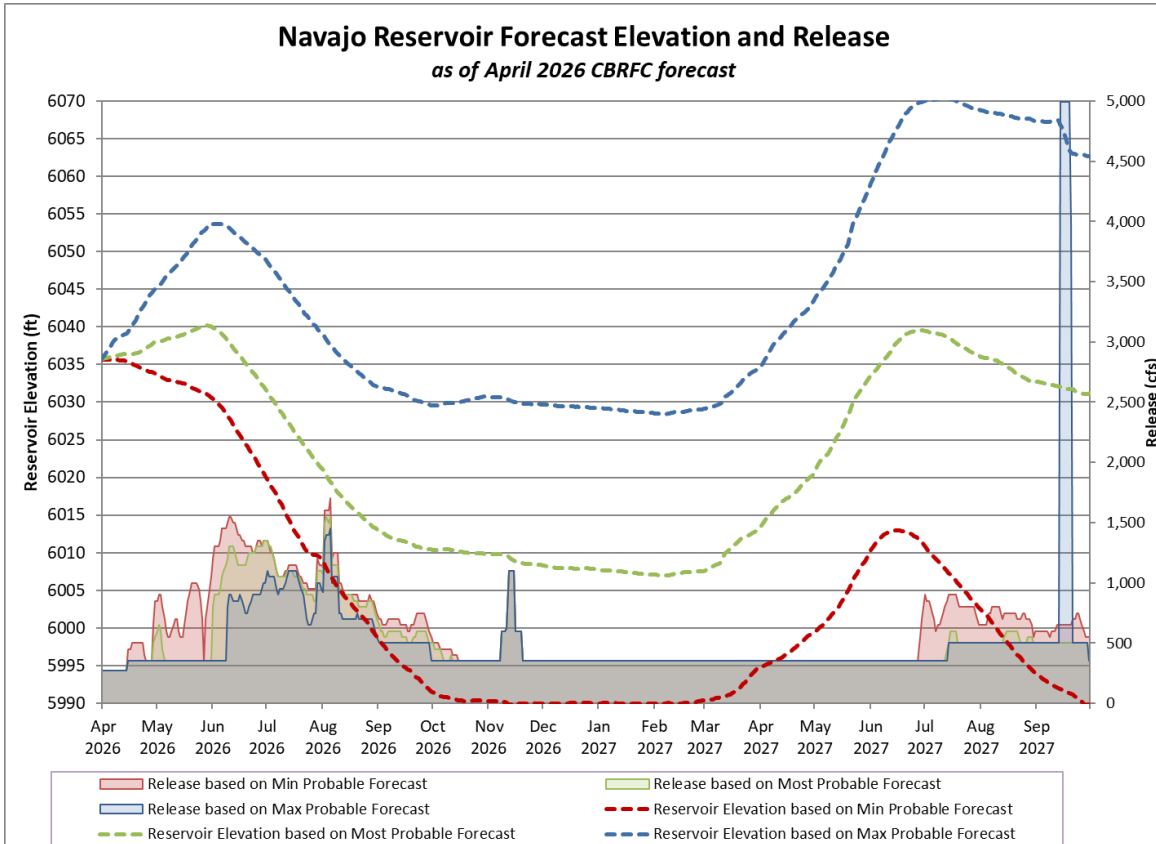


Figure 1.

4. Navajo Reservoir Drought Response Operations

Based on probabilistic modeling using the operational model used for the San Juan portion of the 24-Month Study with the Ensemble Streamflow Prediction (ESP) traces, there is a 0% risk of shortage in Water Year 2026, based on 0 of 30 traces that fall into inactive storage under normal operations without DROA.

a. Releases

No Drought Response Operations Release is contemplated for Water Year 2026.

b. Recovery

No releases have been made from Navajo Reservoir to date pursuant to DROA. Therefore, no recovery is necessary as of April 1, 2026.

Operational Flexibilities for Drought Response Recovery

a. Recovery Tools Under the Navajo Reservoir Operations:

i. Recovery of the Cumulative Volume of the Drought Response Operation Release

Recovery of the total Drought Response Operations volume can occur in one operation, or over several operations with partial recovery. The following are examples of potential operations that result in recovery. All recovery scenarios are dependent upon hydrological conditions. Recovery would not occur under any of the described scenarios if below-average hydrology persists in future years. Any reduction in Operations without Drought Response may count towards recovery. It should be noted that some of these scenarios for recovery may have an impact on the volume, frequency and duration of releases as specified in the Revised Operating Procedures document.

The variables used in the equations for these scenarios are as follows:

Dtot. = Total Drought Response Operations volume released in prior release(s)

Do = Drought Response Operations volume recovered under any of these recovery scenarios. If Do is less than or equal to zero, no Drought Response Operations volume is recovered.

Drem= Remaining Drought Response Operations Volume to be Recovered = Dtot - $\sum Do_i$ (i=1..n, representing total number of events that have resulted in the recovery of Drought Response Operations releases). Once Drem is reduced to zero, full recovery has occurred.

S6063 = Storage volume at 6063 ft

S6085 = Storage volume at 6085 ft (maximum active storage)

Sfcm = Maximum flood control storage as defined by the USACE water control manual, based on forecast inflows and date.

S = Observed storage

AW = Available Water = Projected available water volume for a spring peak release

SPR= minimum volume required to make a spring peak release

SPRING OPERATIONS: A spring peak release (Spring Peak) from Navajo Reservoir, as recommended and described by the SJRIP, will occur when, after accounting for forecast inflows, regular releases and contract uses, and evaporation, it is projected that there will be enough Available Water over the lower EWYST of 6050 ft to make a spring peak release for the recommended duration. There is opportunity for partial or full Drought Response Operations recovery under this scenario. The equation below illustrates how such recovery would be calculated.

$$Do = AW + Drem - SPR$$

FALL OPERATIONS: If the Excess Water is available, withholding some, or all of that Excess Water could result in partial or full Drought Response Operations recovery. If Excess Water is not available, there could still be a potential for partial recovery depending on the storage in the reservoir. The equation below illustrates how such recovery would be calculated.

$$Do = S + Drem - S6063$$

FLOOD CONTROL OPERATIONS: The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines variable flood control space to allow for forecast inflows without spilling during runoff season. This flood control space is based on the inflow forecast and day of the year. Partial or full Drought Response Operations recovery could occur if the difference between the maximum flood control storage volume and the actual storage is less than or equal to Drem. The equation below illustrates how such recovery would be calculated.

$$Do = S + Drem - Sfc$$

Similarly, partial or full Drought Response Operations recovery could occur if the difference between the top of active storage and the actual storage is less than or equal to Drem.

$$Do = S + Drem - S6085$$

There are four elevation targets, which, if reached, will “recover” all prior Drought Response Operation releases. These elevation targets are also used in the previous section for recovery by tracking volumes.

- September 30th: 6063 ft or higher
- September 30th: 6050 ft or higher – Recovery complete (only if a spring peak release was made that calendar year).

- January 1st – July 15th: If the reservoir elevation intersects the maximum flood control elevation allowed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at any point in this timeframe.
- Jan 1st – Dec 31st: 6085 ft

5. Contracts

Existing water supply contracts and agreements at Navajo Reservoir are described below. Any future contracts which become executed will be described here. Water supply contracts and agreements are not impaired by any Drought Response Operations because the water under contract is considered unavailable under DROA.

Navajo Reservoir contracted water volumes listed below represent the full allocation of water contract:

- i. Williams Gas Processing (expires 3/31/28): 50 af/yr.
- ii. Navajo Nation Settlement Contract (no expiration): 508,000 af/yr for NIIP which includes 22,650 af/yr of diversion (20,780 af/yr of depletion) for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.
- iii. Jicarilla Apache Nation Settlement Contract (no expiration): not to exceed 33,500 af/yr diversion (25,500 af/yr of depletion) from the Navajo Reservoir Supply for use by the Nation or for subcontracting outside the reservation, in accordance with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992.
- iv. Hammond Conservancy District Contract (no expiration): 23,000 af/yr of depletion.

Shortages to contracts at Navajo Reservoir will be handled according to the provisions of Public Law No. 87-483, as amended by Public Law No. 111-11.

6. Coordination

Navajo Unit stakeholder coordination meetings are held three times annually in January, April, and August. Operational plans are presented for comment and feedback at these meetings. Additionally, Reclamation reaches out to stakeholders as needed for input and coordination on operations outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

There is a formal process for coordination between Reclamation and the SJRIP on spring peak releases from Navajo Reservoir. Reclamation provides an available water calculation by April 1st to the SJRIP, and a recommendation for the size and shape of a

spring peak release is made by mid-April. This process can also be used for any Drought Response Operation that may occur as a spring peak. Outside of the spring, direct coordination between Reclamation and the SJRIP is conducted through updates at Biology Committee and Coordination Committee meetings, which are scheduled regularly throughout the year. Additional meetings with the SJRIP will be conducted as needed with each Drought Response Operation from Navajo Reservoir.

7. Accounting

No releases have been made from Navajo Reservoir to date pursuant to DROA. Therefore, no accounting or recovery has been necessary as of April 1, 2026.

Accounting for current DROA releases and recovery at Navajo can be found here:

<https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/dcp/DROA/DROSummarySheet.pdf>

Attachment F
2026 Drought Response Operations Plan
Natural Resources Consideration

Overview of consideration of Natural Resource Conditions, as applicable:

Lake Powell:

- Minimizing reservoir elevation drop to address considerations of non-native predators potentially passing through Glen Canyon Dam and the potential effects on listed species. The 2026 Plan is designed to raise the elevation of Lake Powell. Research regarding the effect of low reservoir elevations in Lake Powell is ongoing concerning the elevations where passthrough increases because the temperature zones suitable for non-natives are overlapping with the penstocks. Higher elevations, particularly those at or above 3,525 ft., could potentially reduce the risk of warm-water predators passing through Glen Canyon Dam. 2024 LTEMP SEIS provides additional tools to mitigate this risk. Elevations above 3,600 ft. would provide cooler water temperatures below Glen Canyon Dam that would likely create unsuitable conditions for spawning by predators down to the confluence with the Little Colorado River. These conditions could reduce the risk to the ESA-listed and other native fish below Glen Canyon Dam.
- The Department of the Interior will work with the Adaptive Management Program to identify potential release options and assess their potential effects, including but not limited to experimental releases that could address predation by non-natives and sediment retention.
- Consideration of effects on sediment erosion and river temperature concerns related to warm water nonnative fish breeding: Effects of Drought Response Operations regarding Lake Powell releases on sediment erosion and river temperature will be considered by the Department of the Interior working with the Adaptive Management Program to identify potential release options and assess their potential effects.

Flaming Gorge:

- Razorback Sucker: Floodplain wetland habitats provide important ecological functions to benefit endangered fishes of the Green River if those habitats are hydrologically connected to the main channel at a frequency and duration to meet life history needs. Drought Response Releases to extend the duration or augment the magnitude of spring peak flows can benefit razorback sucker recruitment if the Drought Response Releases are scheduled according to the Larval Trigger Study Plan experiment. Drought Response Releases from Flaming Gorge Dam should occur after razorback sucker larvae first presence is documented in the Green River, based on real-time capture information. Augmenting the magnitude or duration of spring peak flows increases the likelihood of inundating floodplain wetland habitats and entraining larval razorback sucker into those nursery habitats. Floodplain wetlands are important nursery habitats for early life stages of the razorback sucker, and it is assumed that peak flows of sufficient magnitude, duration, and frequency that occur when larval suckers are drifting and can be entrained in wetlands also benefit other endangered fishes. Drought

Response Releases would augment spring peak flows to support endangered species by filling wetlands that otherwise may not have connected. Longer connections also provided by Drought Response Releases add more water to wetland systems, increasing their likelihood of maintaining water through the subsequent summer.

- Colorado Pikeminnow: Drought Response Releases to augment base flows in summer through autumn could benefit Colorado pikeminnow larvae and juveniles by assisting in larval transport from the spawning bar to nursery habitats, and by maintaining those habitats through summer. Years of moderate summer baseflows consistent with the ranges described in the Flaming Gorge Record of Decision tend to be years with higher abundance of Colorado pikeminnow. The Drought Response Releases, timed to create suitable habitat conditions prior to Colorado pikeminnow arrival from the Yampa River downstream into Green River nursery habitat, could enhance the survival of Colorado pikeminnow larvae. Suitable timing involves implementing baseflows up to one week prior to arrival of Colorado pikeminnow larvae. These types of releases could also increase and maintain backwater nursery habitats. Releases extended through the winter at the summer release volumes or less could extend the presence of the backwater nursery habitat through the fall and winter when the species may be vulnerable. Releases higher than summer through winter base flow ranges described in the Flaming Gorge Record of Decision may substantially reduce nursery habitats and displace small Colorado pikeminnow during a vulnerable time of year, which is why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends Drought Response Releases remain in the suggested pikeminnow baseflow release targets after summer.
- Smallmouth Bass: Although a smallmouth bass flow spike is considered part of this year's baseline flow releases and is not part of the Drought Response Releases in 2026, Drought Response Releases can be used to implement the smallmouth bass flow spike experiment. This experiment is intended to reduce the reproductive success of this invasive, nonnative predator, which will benefit endangered fishes by reducing predation.
- Channel complexity and vegetation: Drought Response Releases to extend the duration or augment the magnitude of spring peak flows can help to maintain channel complexity and reduce vegetation encroachment; however, releases that augment base flows could encourage vegetation establishment and encroachment, and erode channel topography, particularly in years when sediment supplies (from the Yampa) are low (drought years) . The Drought Response Releases that include bypass flows in spring could support channel maintenance functions, which may be especially valuable now due to multiple years of low-flow conditions. Consecutive years of Drought Response Operations may impact interannual variability of flow regimes between years, with low variability (that includes consistent elevated baseflows during the growing season) this may lead to increased vegetation establishment. Vegetation establishment and encroachment is discouraged, stopped, or reversed by longer-duration higher-magnitude spring peak flows as augmented by Drought Response Operations.
- Consideration of experimental recommendations of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program: Drought Response Releases in the form of a spring peak flow, a Smallmouth Bass flow spike, and summer base flows to benefit Colorado Pikeminnow will

address all three experimental priorities from the Recovery Program's 2026 flow request letter, assuming dry to average hydrology. The currently proposed Drought Response Releases from Flaming Gorge attempt to meet these experimental requests and are within the range of flows recommended by the Recovery Program to benefit ESA-listed fish species. Applying Drought Response Release volumes to these experiments will increase the likelihood of achieving individual experimental requests, as well as increasing the chances of implementing more experiments than otherwise might occur in a moderately dry flow scenario.

- Consideration of Drought Response Operations relative to recommended baseflows between December and March: Under currently projected hydrology, Drought Response Releases in winter (December through March) could be higher than base flow recommendations listed in Muth et al. (2000). Winter base flow releases proposed as part of Drought Response Releases are consistent with experimental base flow recommendations that are proposed to benefit Colorado Pikeminnow nursery habitat and could maintain those habitats during the winter. Winter base flows higher than the experimental recommendations (scaled to hydrology) should be avoided, since higher flows in winter could "overtop" nursery backwaters with the main channel, create flow-through conditions and displace juvenile Colorado pikeminnow during a vulnerable life stage and critical time of year.

Aspinall:

- Effects of Drought Response Operations involving Blue Mesa will be described in potential modifications to the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, if applicable.

Navajo Reservoir:

- Effects of Drought Response Operations involving Navajo Reservoir will be described in potential modifications to the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, if applicable.

All Upstream Initial Units:

- Effects of future Drought Response Recovery: Though no Drought Response Recovery is proposed for the 2026 Plan, DROA mandates that no DROA Plan is complete until recovery has been achieved. Recovery should consider recommendations concerning the effects of Drought Response Recovery on natural resource conditions.

Attachment G
2026 Drought Response Operations Plan
Impacts to the Basin Fund and Bulk Electric System

1. Overview of effects to the Basin Fund

- a. Describe the estimated financial impacts to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund (Basin Fund) if Drought Response Operations do not occur. This description will include the underlying operational assumptions and other factors upon which the estimate is based, for each Initial Unit.*

Assumptions:

- The Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) powerplants are electrically integrated. Impacts described below are for the system and for individual CRSP units.
- The firm power rate in place during this period was approved under Rate Order No. WAPA-206¹² (WAPA-206), which continues to shift firming and replacement energy costs directly to power customers as originally established under Rate Order No. WAPA-199.
- The scope of possible hydrological scenarios throughout this period consists of minimum and most probable inflow 24-month study for March 2026.
- The Basin Fund balance is \$233 million and is anticipated to total \$185 million by the end of this fiscal year, assuming no experiments that require bypass are conducted in 2026.
- Reclamation implements the proposed 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan from May 2026 to April 2027 and may consider further adjustments to the Plan if hydrological conditions worsen.
- In the analysis of the Basin Fund that follows, if Glen Canyon generation were to cease, CRSP transmission and merchant function revenues and operations

¹² The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Rate Order No. WAPA-206 June 12, 2024 (EF24-1-000), placing the Salt Lake City Integrated Area Projects (SLCA/IP) firm power rate into effect January 1, 2024. The CRSP Project makes up the major set of powerplants of SLCA/IP; therefore, in this document, we will refer to the firm power rate as the SLCA/IP rate. Under the SLCA/IP Marketing Plan (81 FR 85946) and preceding SLCA/IP firm power rates, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) commits to firm electric service, contractually, and purchases firming energy from market sources in order to meet its contractual obligations. In years 2021 and 2022, due to drought conditions affecting the Colorado River and projected high prices associated with purchases to meet firm power obligations, WAPA, in consultation with its customers, developed and implemented the deliverable sales amount (DSA) forecasted generation methodology. Approved under Rate Order No. WAPA-199 (WAPA-199), sales are limited to the DSA that can be generated. WAPA will make firming purchases to meet the projected DSA amount rather than Sustainable Hydropower (SHP) levels as it has done in the past. Customers must provide the difference between generation and contractual allocations. For those customers who elect, WAPA will offer Western Replacement Firming (WRF) purchased power to customers to firm to SHP levels. WRF is a pass-through product where, upon customer request, WAPA purchases the additional power at market rates, the cost is passed onto the customer, and the customer must pay for the additional purchases in the current year in order to tie repayment to cost occurrence. This avoids negative impact on the Basin Fund. Customers electing not to take WRF will receive the DSA. To date, customers have largely chosen to mitigate the firming expense by electing to schedule only the amount of CRSP power projected to be available from the CRSP Initial Units.

expenditures would continue. Furthermore, revenue from capacity sales would continue; however, revenue from energy sales will be substantially reduced.

Impacts to the Basin Fund without Drought Response Operations:

- The Basin Fund balance will decline in all scenarios, but the driest hydrological scenario drops the Basin Fund below the minimum balance required to maintain operations.
- Power revenues to meet operational expenses come from SLCA/IP capacity and energy sales. Revenue from capacity sales is independent of the SLCA/IP energy generated and sold. Capacity revenue is approximately one half of total sales revenue.
- Under the current rate, WAPA will have little to no firming expenses.
- The potential for experimental releases or other bypass flows exists at the Initial Units with or without Drought Response Operations. The Basin Fund may be required to fund experimental flows within the Plan year. This may reduce the Basin Fund balance by \$1 to \$50 million depending on the number and design of experiments.
- In a majority of hydrological scenarios, when Lake Powell elevations are above 3490 ft. and the Glen Canyon Powerplant is generating power, WAPA expects that firming expenses through April 2027 will be similar to recent years.
- If the driest hydrological scenario occurs, Lake Powell elevations could fall below 3490 ft. as early as July 2026.
 - If Glen Canyon generation is lost, while revenue from capacity sales would continue, revenue from energy sales will be substantially reduced.
 - WAPA estimates that revenue from the CRSP project will total \$183 million in FY 2026; \$89 million from capacity sales, \$30 million from transmission service and merchant sales and \$64 million from CRSP energy sales. If Lake Powell elevations fall below 3490 ft., then Glen Canyon generation, which is about 65-80% of total CRSP energy, would be lost. Therefore, energy sales revenue without Glen Canyon generation is expected to fall from \$64 million to \$39 million. Revenue from capacity, energy, and other sales is expected to fall to \$161 million (\$89 million in capacity sales + \$39 million in energy sales + \$33 million for other).
 - Assuming expenses would remain at \$222 million in FY 2026 or about \$18.5 million/month, revenue would total \$161 million or about \$13.4 million per month. The difference between revenue and expenses (\$5 million per month) would have to be withdrawn from the balance in the Basin Fund.
 - The Basin Fund is projected to be \$185 million at the beginning of FY 2027. If, to meet operational expenses, WAPA and Reclamation drew exclusively on the Basin Fund at the rate of \$19 million per month, the Basin fund would have an FY 2027 ending balance of \$83 million.
 - Absent additional actions, the Basin Fund would be depleted before the end of FY 2028.

- At present, WAPA and Reclamation are developing a plan to reduce expenses, but most expenses are fixed and required for operation and maintenance.
- It would be difficult, if not impossible, for WAPA and Reclamation to reduce expenses while maintaining a sustainable balance in the Basin Fund and maintain system reliability.

b. Describe the estimated financial impacts to the Basin Fund if the proposed Drought Response Operations occur. This description will include the underlying operational assumptions and other factors upon which the estimate is based, for each Initial Unit.

Impacts to the Basin Fund with Drought Response Operations:

- As described above, for this analysis, it is assumed Reclamation will implement the proposed 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan. If hydrological conditions worsen, Reclamation will increase Drought Response Operations Releases from Upstream Initial Units, or take other necessary actions, over this time period to maintain elevation 3490 ft. at Lake Powell.
- Under the current rate structure, WAPA will have little to no firming expenses.
- A Drought Response Operation reduces the risk of negative impacts to the Basin Fund because it increases the probability of maintaining Lake Powell elevation at or above 3490 ft. This will result in the power customers continuing to receive hydropower energy. The projected revenues would be collected in the Basin Fund for WAPA and Reclamation expenses.
- The potential for experimental releases or other bypass flows exists at the Initial Units with or without Drought Response Operations. The Basin Fund may be required to fund experimental flows within the Plan year. This may reduce the Basin Fund balance by \$0.5 million to \$50 million depending on the number and design of experiments.

2. Overview of effects to the Bulk Electric System

a. Describe the potential effects if Drought Response Operations do not occur. This description will include the underlying operational assumptions and other factors upon which the estimate is based, for each Initial Unit.

Assumptions:

- WAPA's CRSP Region (CRSP) will remain with its current marketing structure throughout this time period.
- Glen Canyon has "black start" responsibilities within the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC), (a Western US reliability council).
- The CRSP Region participates in emergency assistance which requires that CRSP powerplants respond to system emergencies when they occur.

Impacts to the bulk electrical system without Drought Response Operations:

- Over the majority of hydrological conditions, WAPA is able to meet its reliability, emergency assistance requirements and black-start conditions.
- However, some hydrological conditions result in Lake Powell elevations that eliminate electrical production at the Glen Canyon powerplant. When there is no electrical production at Glen Canyon:
 - Glen Canyon black start obligations cannot be met.
 - The loss of Glen Canyon generation would require power customers to utilize replacement resources, which would be limited during peak demand months.
 - Flaming Gorge and Aspinall may respond to reserve emergencies where additional generation may be needed to stabilize the electric grid. However, responding to emergencies with these Initial Units would change these dams' water releases and could have environmental impacts.

b. Describe the potential effects if Drought Response Operations occur. This description will include the underlying operational assumptions and other factors, including timing, upon which the estimate is based, for each Initial Unit.

Assumptions:

- Over the timeframe described, Reclamation implements the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan.
- If hydrological conditions worsen, Reclamation will make adjustments to Drought Response Operations Releases from Upstream Initial Units, or take other necessary actions, over this time period to maintain elevation 3490' at Lake Powell.

Impacts to Bulk Electrical System with Drought Response Operations:

- With Glen Canyon's powerplant in operation – even at low Lake Powell elevations, WAPA will be able to maintain its commitments to the reliability of the bulk electrical system.
 - Glen Canyon black start obligations are met.
 - Electrical emergencies are responded to using Glen Canyon Dam.

3. *Overview of effects to the SLCA/IP Firm Power contracted power deliveries*

- a. *Describe the estimated effects to the Power Customers if Drought Response Operations do not occur. This description will include the underlying operational assumptions and other factors upon which the estimate is based, for each Initial Unit*

Assumptions:

- During the time frame described, firm electric service customers will receive WAPA's contractual delivery of available SLCA/IP Firm Power as forecasted by WAPA under the current rate construct.

Impacts without Drought Response Operations:

- Under the current rate construct, firm power customers are voluntarily taking reductions of their contracted SLCA/IP firm power allocation. Reductions have been up to one third of CRSP energy – compared to historic power deliveries by WAPA (pre WAPA-199). The reductions are greater in the winter months than in the summer months.
- These reductions in energy deliveries to customers will continue through the scheduled time frame of the current rate construct, under Rate Order No. WAPA-206, which expires in December 2028.
- Without Drought Response Operations, in cases where Lake Powell elevation falls below 3490 ft, the loss of Glen Canyon power generation, which represents 65-80% of the SLCA/IP resource, would result in a proportional decrease in electric power deliveries of approximately 65-80%. Customers would have to replace lost generation with more expensive replacement power, especially in the peak months of July, August, December and January.

- b. *Describe the estimated effects to the Firm Power Customers if the proposed Drought Response Operations occur. This description will include the underlying operational assumptions and other factors upon which the estimate is based, for each Initial Unit.*

Impacts with Drought Response Operations:

- Ensuring sufficient water elevation at Glen Canyon would allow customers to continue receiving energy deliveries and provide continued revenue to the Basin Fund. It allows customers to optimize the use of their capacity allocation to reduce their power costs.
- Power customers are working with WAPA to create a long-term solution for rate-making purposes. Having some certainty in deliveries from Glen Canyon allows customers time to craft both replacement options and rate structures with WAPA.
- Power customers would continue to receive hydropower energy and resulting revenues would be collected in the Basin Fund for WAPA and Reclamation expenses.

Attachment H
2026 Drought Response Operations Plan
Consultation, Coordination, and Outreach

1. Describe how Consultation, Coordination, and Outreach occurred for the Plan.

- a. The Drought Response Operations draft Framework and Attachments were developed by the DROA Parties in accordance with DROA. Together, the Framework and Attachments form the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan.

In March 2025, monthly DROA Monitoring calls began where updates to hydrology were provided and the status of potential DROA actions was discussed. While drafting the 2026 DROA Plan, the DROA Parties engaged with stakeholders and interested parties as further described below.

On April 15, 2026, an e-mail with a link to the draft 2026 DROA Plan documents was provided to the Lower Division States, applicable Federal agencies, Tribes, NGOs and stakeholders for review and comment by April 20. Fifteen comments were received, considered, and incorporated to the extent appropriate. Comments will be made available on Reclamation's website.

On April 17, 2026, Reclamation held a webinar for Upper and Lower Division States, Federal agencies, Tribes and stakeholders to discuss the results of the April 24-Month Study, as well as present Reclamation's proposal for additional actions needed to protect critical elevation 3,500 at Lake Powell. This proposal included releases from Upstream Initial Units of approximately 660,000 acre-feet to approximately 1 million acre-feet, and reducing annual releases from Lake Powell from 7.48 maf to 6.0 maf.

- b. The following describes the consultation, coordination, and outreach that occurred, as referenced in Section 7 of the Framework, for the development of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan.

i. Consultation with the Lower Division States

Beginning in November 2025, the DROA Parties consulted with Arizona, California and Nevada, including federal contractors in these states, regarding 2026 DROA planning. This consultation included meetings to provide a more detailed explanation of the operation of the Upstream Initial Units, including their respective Records of Decision, and describe the general structure of the Framework and Attachments.

ii. Outreach to and Consultation with Native American Tribes

The Upper Division States, through the Upper Colorado River Commission, provided regular updates to the Upper Basin Tribes during

monthly Tribes-States Dialogue meetings. The Upper Basin Tribes participated in the drafting of the 2026 DROA Plan, as provided for in Section 7.2 of the DROA Framework document.

Additionally, all Colorado River Basin Tribes were invited to attend an April 9, 2026, virtual meeting which informed the Basin Tribes of the proposed 2026 DROA Plan release volumes. Updates regarding the status of the DROA Plan were provided during regularly scheduled meetings beginning in March 2025, such as the Tribal Information Exchange and meetings with Colorado River Basin Tribes.

iii. Coordination within the Department of the Interior

Since March 2025, DOI agencies have participated in regular monthly meetings on the status of DROA efforts. Additionally, coordination with National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service occurred during the development of the 2026 DROA Plan, which provided the basis for information contained in Attachment F – Natural Resources Consideration.

iv. Coordination with WAPA

Since March 2025, WAPA has participated in regular monthly meetings on the status of DROA efforts. Additionally, coordination with WAPA occurred during the development of the 2026 DROA Plan, which provided the basis for information contained in Attachment G – Impacts to the Basin Fund and Bulk Electrical System.

v. Coordination with Initial Unit Workgroups

Workgroups regarding each Initial Unit regularly meet at various times throughout the water year. Description of specific coordination with each initial unit workgroup is contained in Attachments B through E, which provide information for each Initial Unit.

vi. Outreach to other stakeholders and interested entities

On April 15, 2026, through e-mail, a link to the draft 2026 DROA Plan documents was provided to the NGOs and stakeholders for review and comment by April 20.