



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Colorado River Basin Overview

Colorado River Symposium
September 23, 2026

Colorado River Basin Storage

(as of September 20, 2026)

Reservoir	Percent Full	Storage (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Lake Powell	22%	5.11	3,517.21
Lake Mead	26%	6.86	1,038.22
Total System Storage	31%	17.99	-

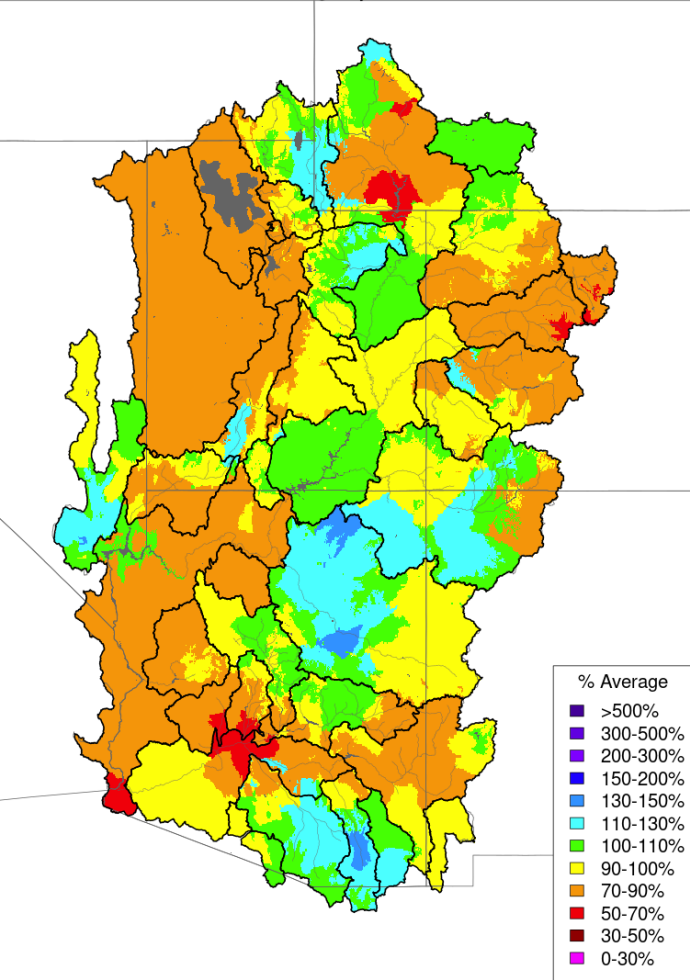
Total system storage was 37% of capacity, or 21.90 maf in storage, at this time last year.



WY 2026 Precipitation and Temperature

Water Year to Date Precipitation, October 01 - September 21 2026

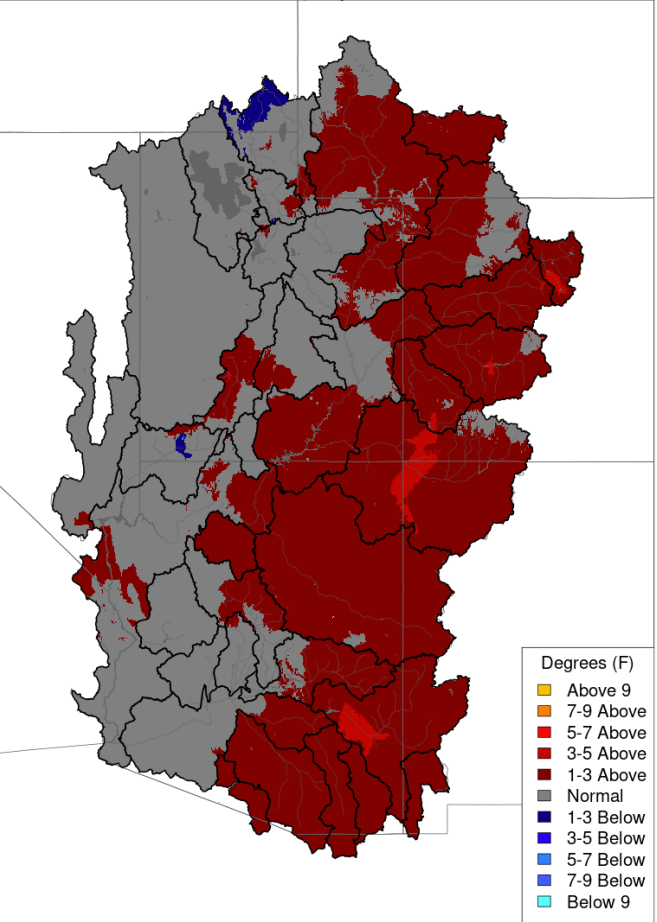
Averaged by Basin



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

Max Temp - Monthly Deviation - October 2025

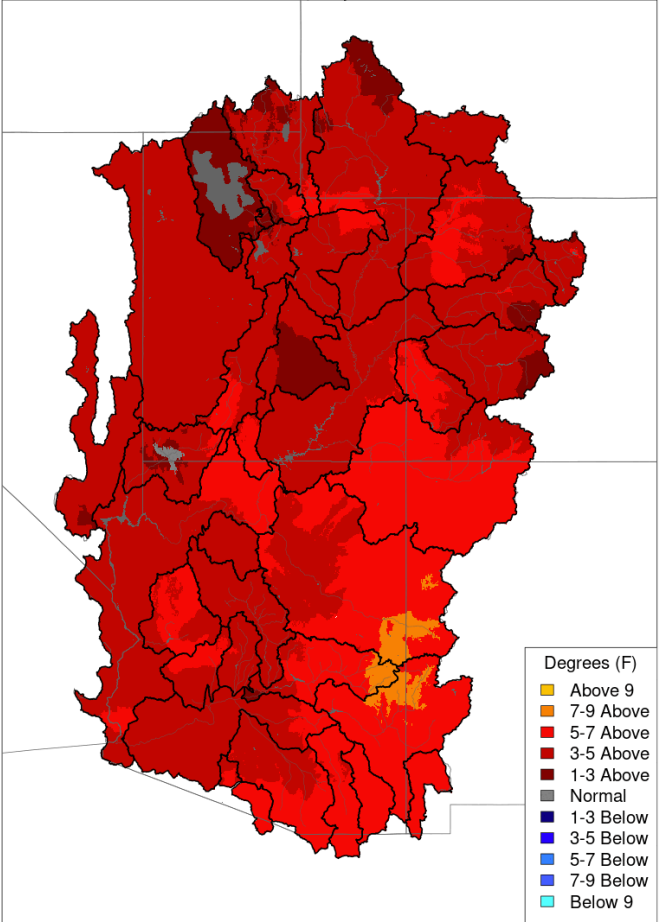
Averaged by Basin



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

Min Temp - Monthly Deviation - October 2025

Averaged by Basin



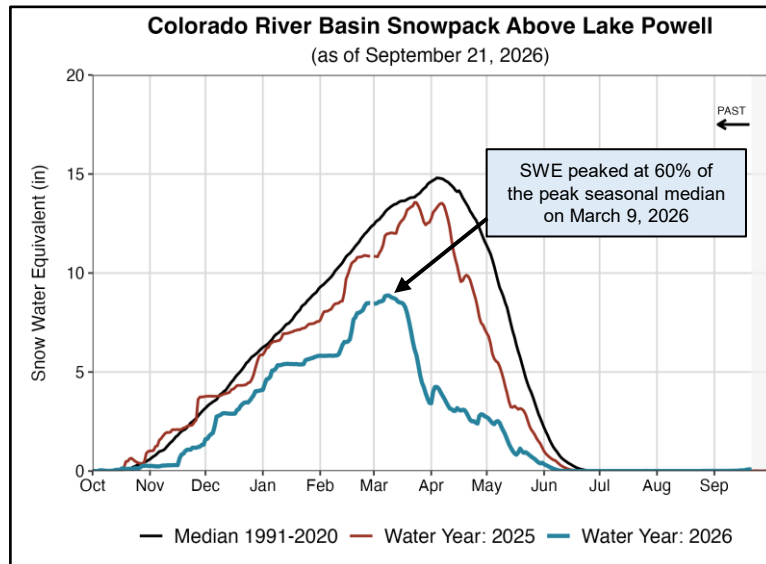
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Water Year 2026 Snowpack¹

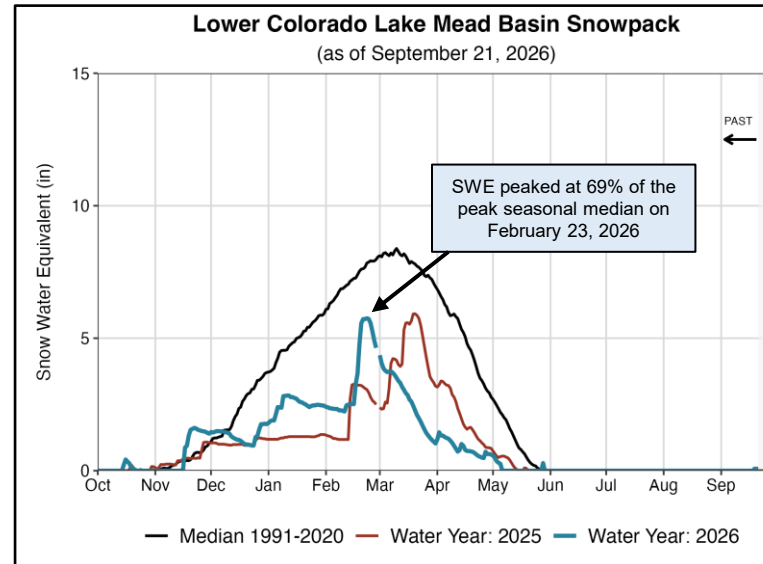
as of September 21, 2026

Upper Colorado River Basin



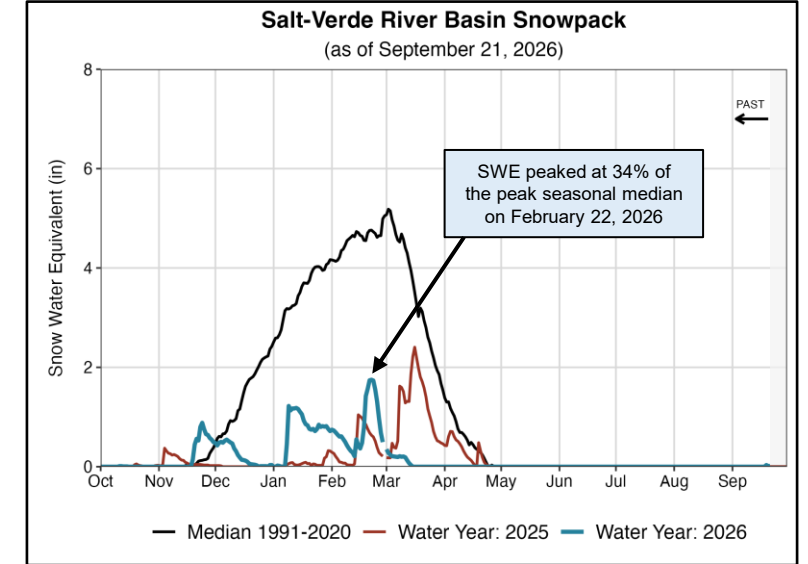
Basin Snowpack - NA

Lake Mead Basin



Basin Snowpack - NA

Salt - Verde River Basin



Basin Snowpack - NA

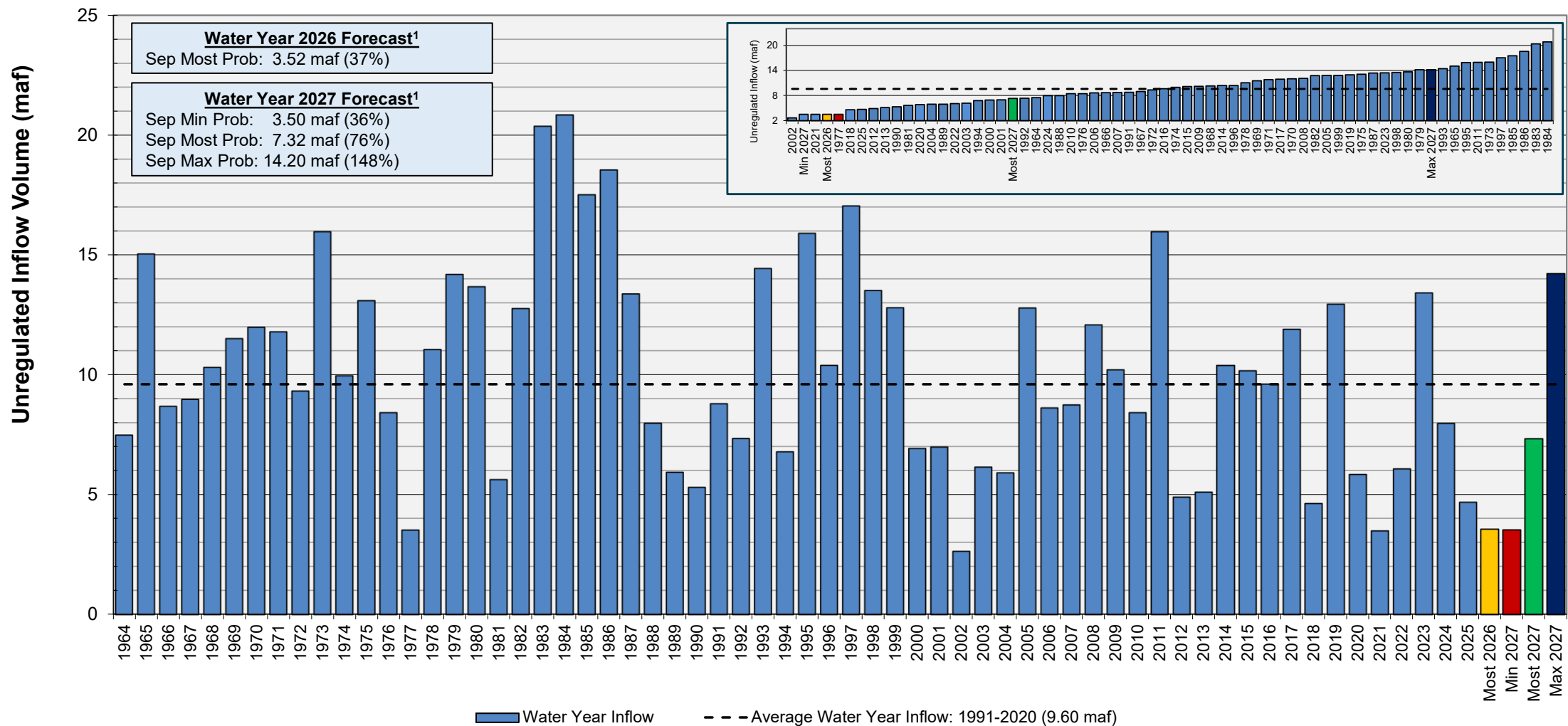
¹ Percent of normal precipitation is based on an arithmetic mean, or average; percent of normal snowpack is based on the median value for a given date. Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period from 1991-2020.



Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of September 1, 2026

Comparison with History



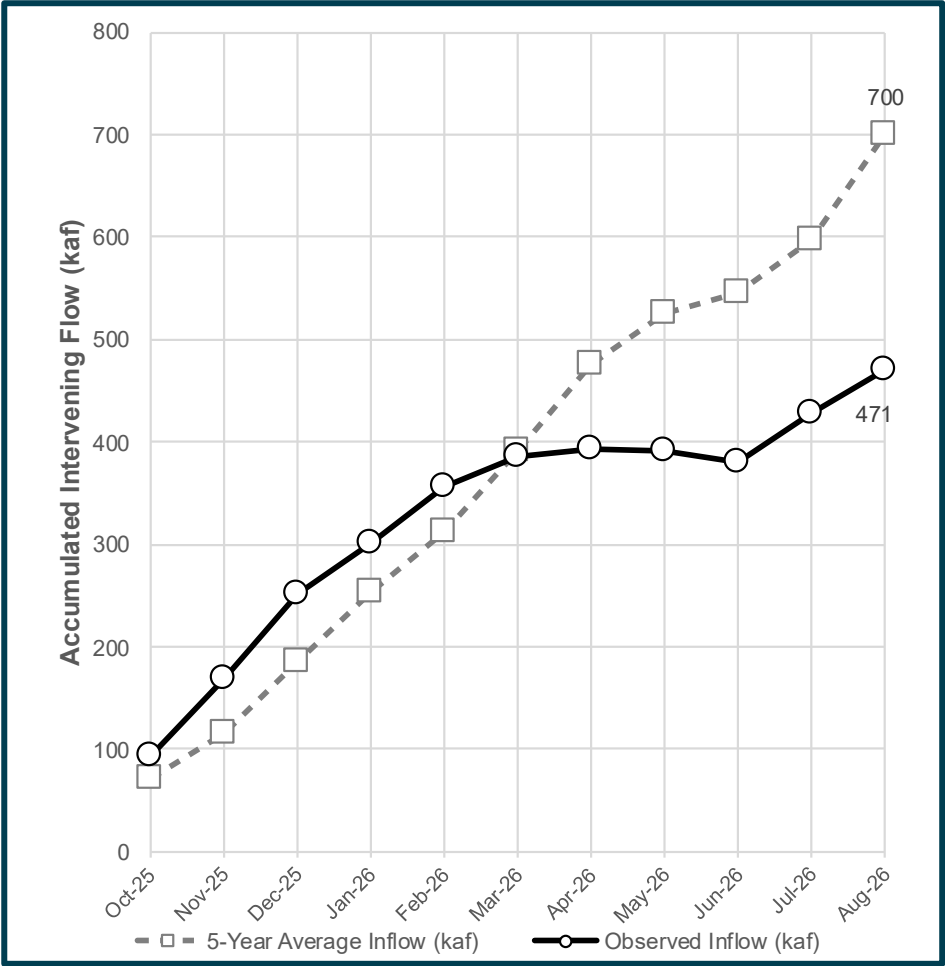
¹Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.



Lower Basin Side Inflows – WY/CY 2026^{1,2}

Intervening Flow from Glen Canyon to Hoover Dam

Month in WY/CY 2026		5-Year Average Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (% of Average)	Difference From 5-Year Average (kaf)
Observed	October 2025	71	93	131%	22
	November 2025	45	75	169%	31
	December 2025	70	82	118%	12
	January 2026	67	50	75%	-17
	February 2026	60	55	93%	-4
	March 2026	80	29	37%	-51
	April 2026	83	8	10%	-75
	May 2026	50	-3	-6%	-53
	June 2026	20	-11	-57%	-31
	July 2026	53	48	90%	-5
	August 2026	102	44	43%	-58
Projected	September 2026	91			
	October 2026	71			
	November 2026	45			
	December 2026	70			
WY 2026 Projection		791	562	71%	-229
CY 2026 Projection		791	497	63%	-294



¹ Values were computed with the LC’s gain-loss model for the most recent 24-month study.

² Percents of average are based on the 5-year mean from 2021-2025.



Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Diagram from the 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines

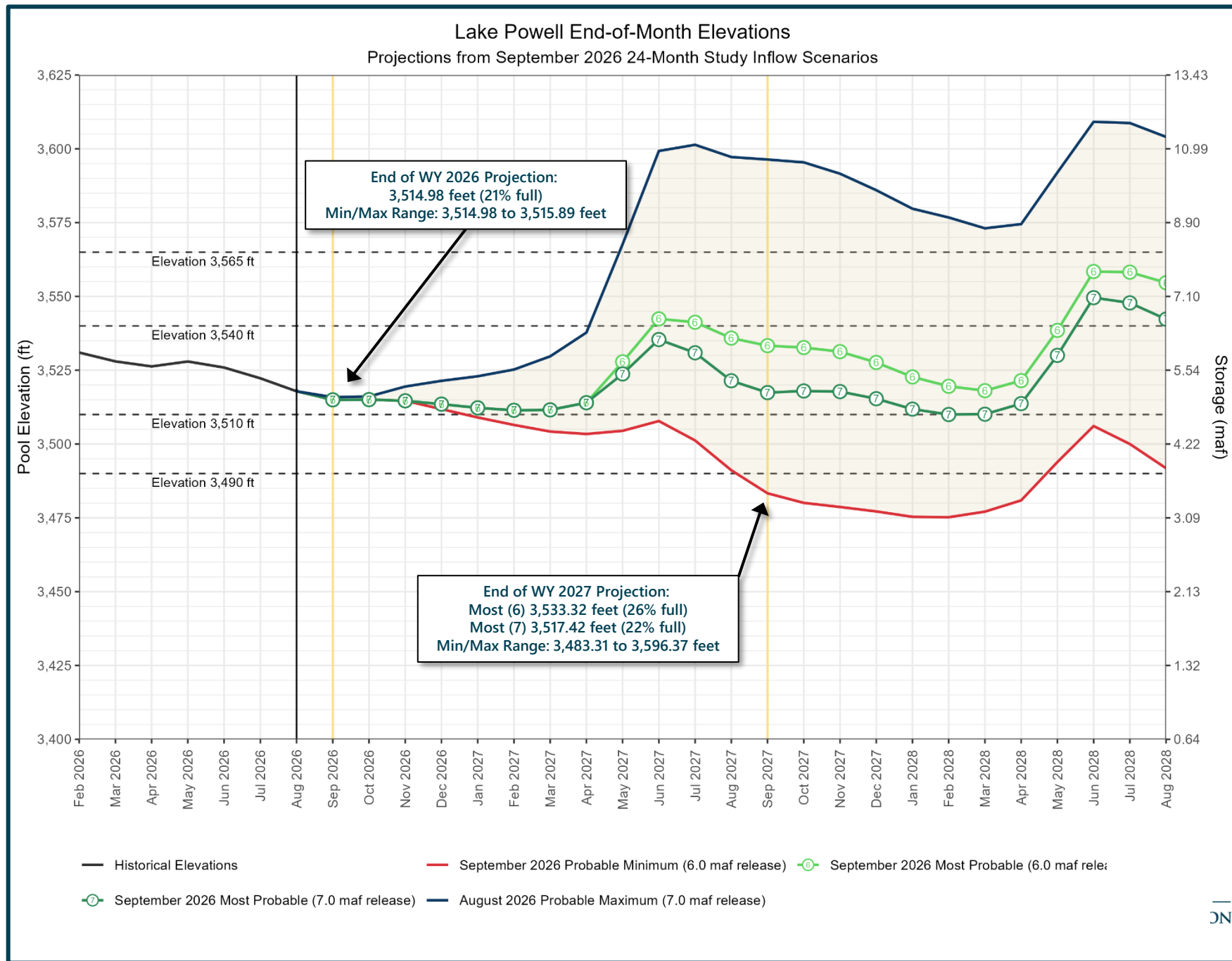
WY 2027 Lake Powell Operational Determination Run (aka “Exhibit Run”) with an LTEMP 7.00 maf Release¹

Lake Powell			Lake Mead		
Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)	Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)
3,700	Consult on releases consistent with Section 602(a) storage requirement contained in the Colorado River Basin Project Act.	23.31	1,220	Consult regarding the potential to increase apportionment above 6.25 maf.	26.18
3,665		18.20			
Upper Elevation Range			1,125		14.14
Release between 7.50 maf and 8.23 maf.				Shortage Condition Determination and Lower Basin Reductions	2027 Determination
3,565		8.15			
Mid-Elevation Range					
Release between 7.00 maf to 8.00 maf.					
3,540		6.45			
Low Elevation Infrastructure Protection Range			1,010		5.05
3,510	Release between 6.00 maf and 7.00 maf to maintain elevation 3,510 ft.	4.70		Consult to consider potential actions throughout the Basin to respond to and address hydrologic and operational conditions.	
3,500		4.22			
3,490	Extraordinary Circumstances	3.74	950		2.01
Consult regarding potential actions to further protect critical Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure.			895		0
3,370		0			

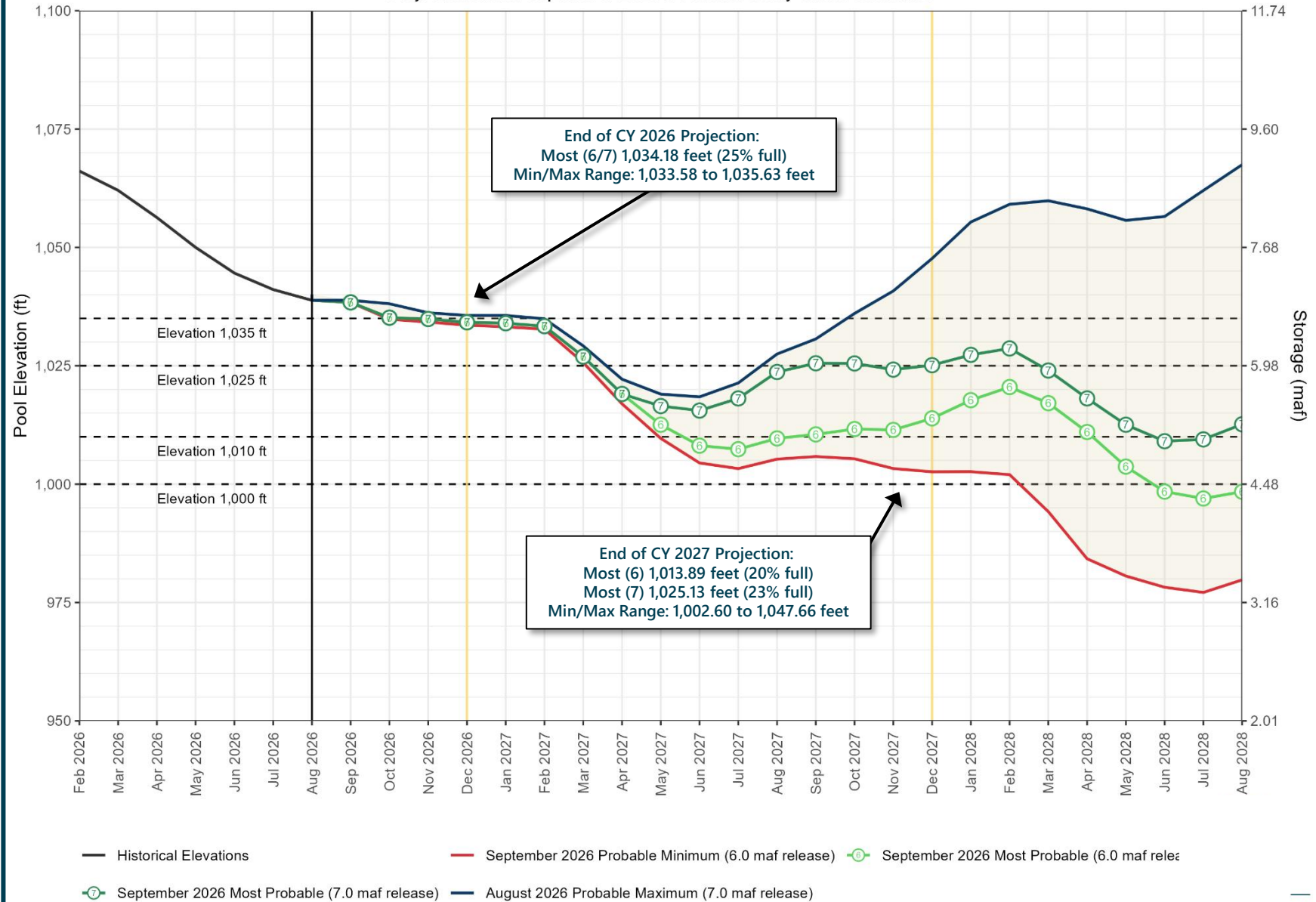
3,515.89 ft
Oct 1, 2026
Projection



¹ Lake Powell and Lake Mead operational determinations will be documented in the draft 2027 AOP.



Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations Projections from September 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



For further information please visit
<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html>

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