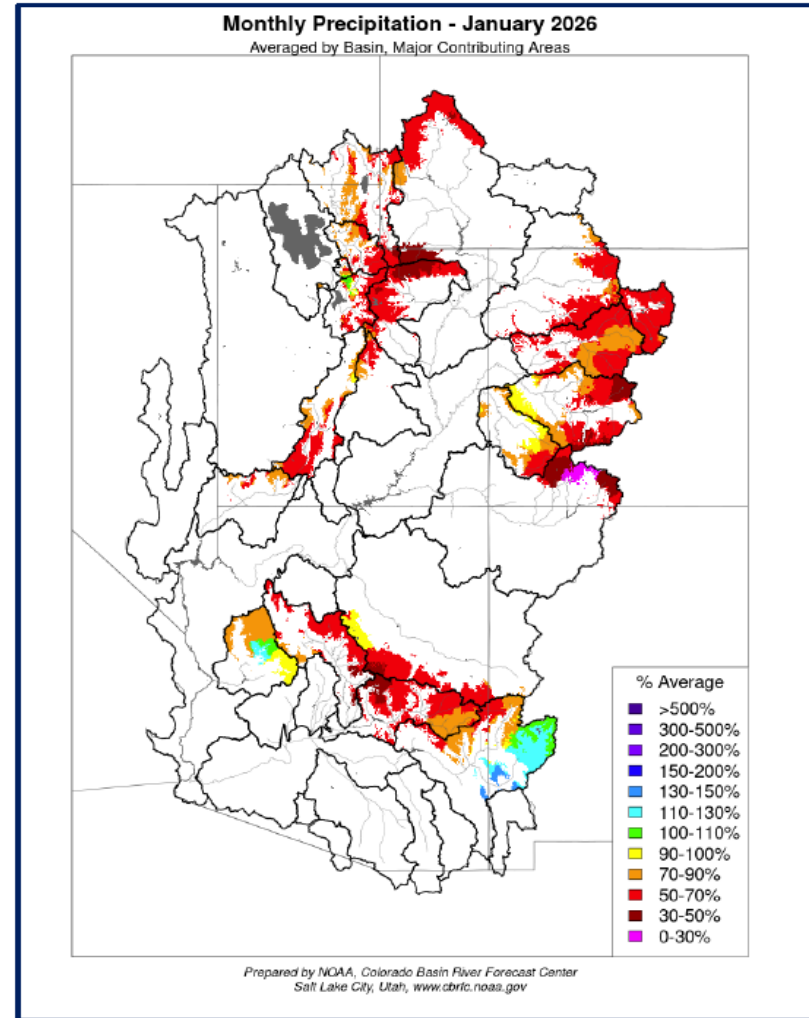
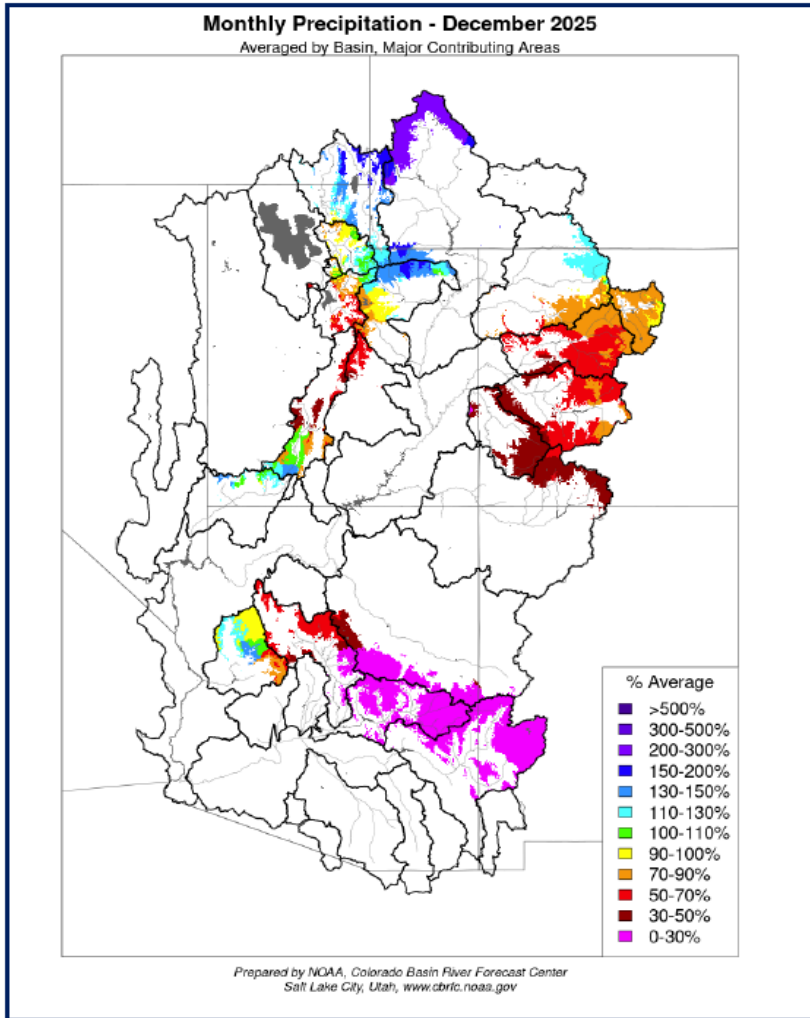




# Wyoming Colorado River Advisory Committee

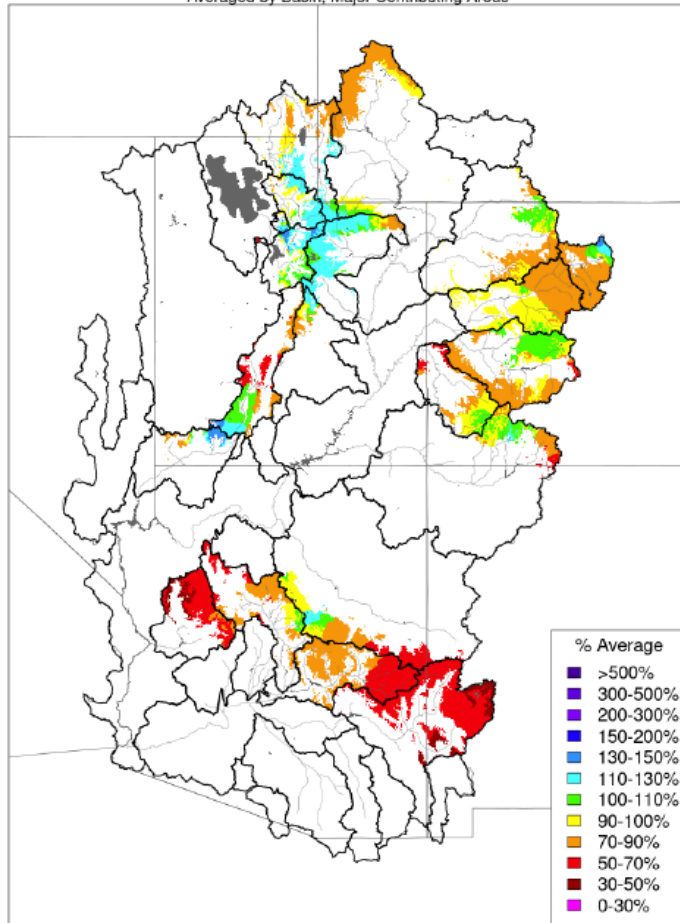
Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) Update  
Lake Powell Operations - Section 6.E Release Adjustment

April 10, 2026



### Monthly Precipitation - February 2026

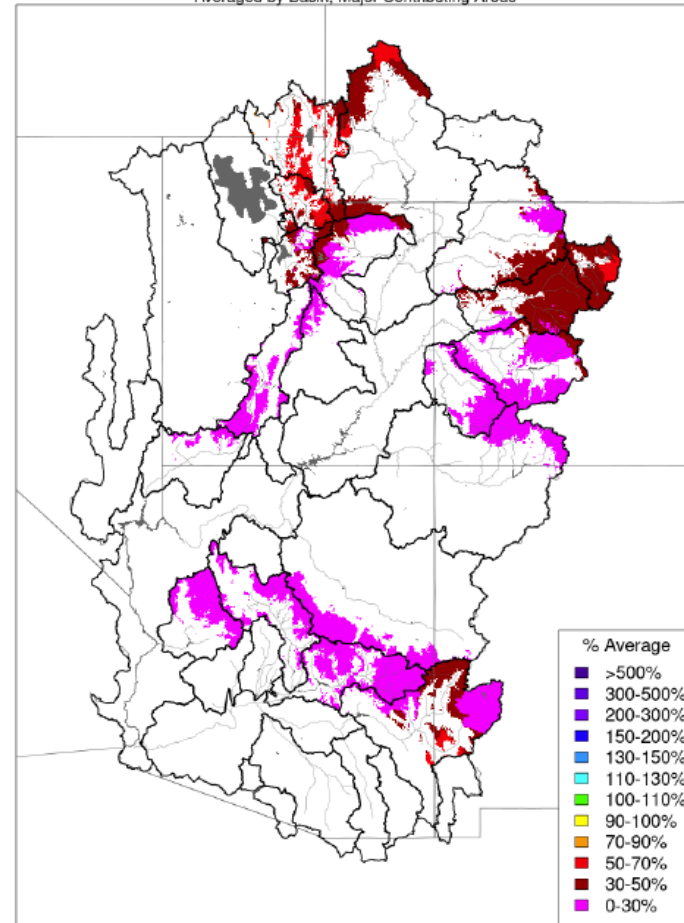
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



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

### Monthly Precipitation - March 2026

Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas

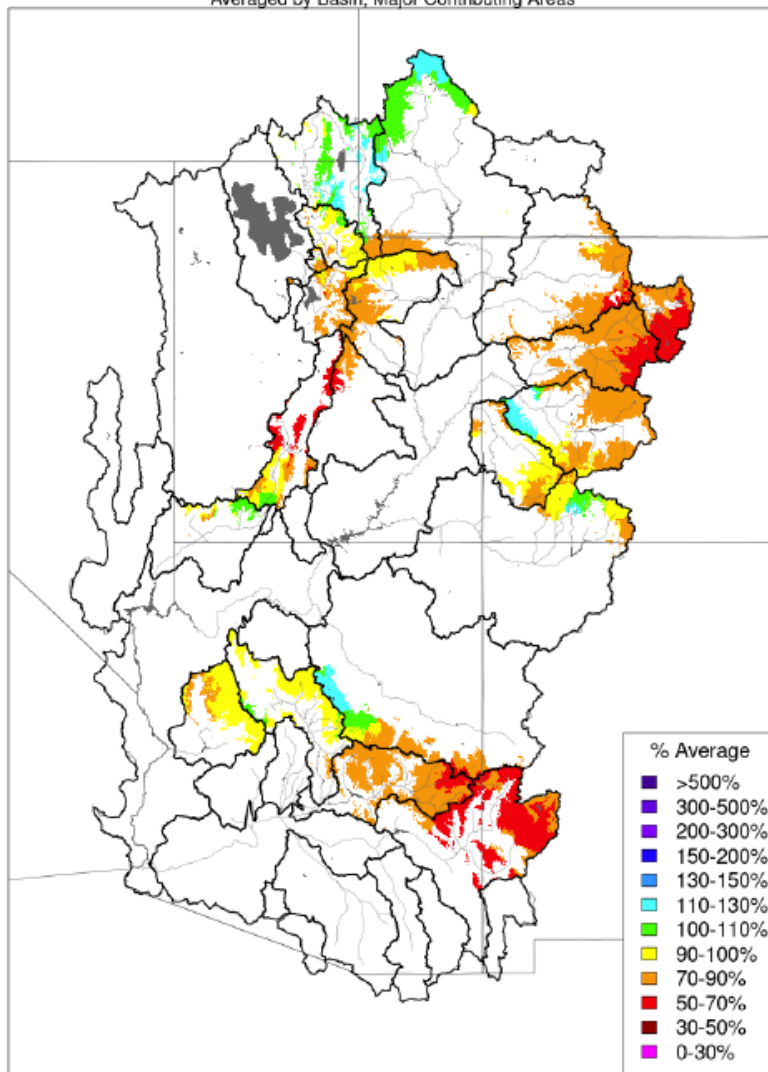


Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah, [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)



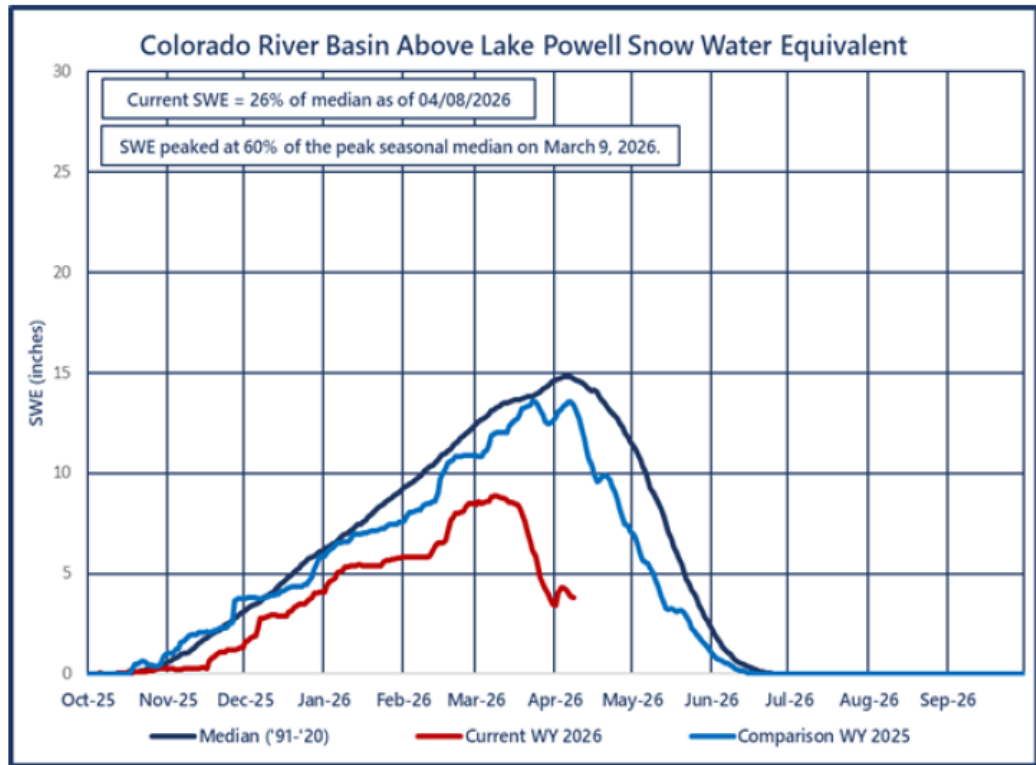
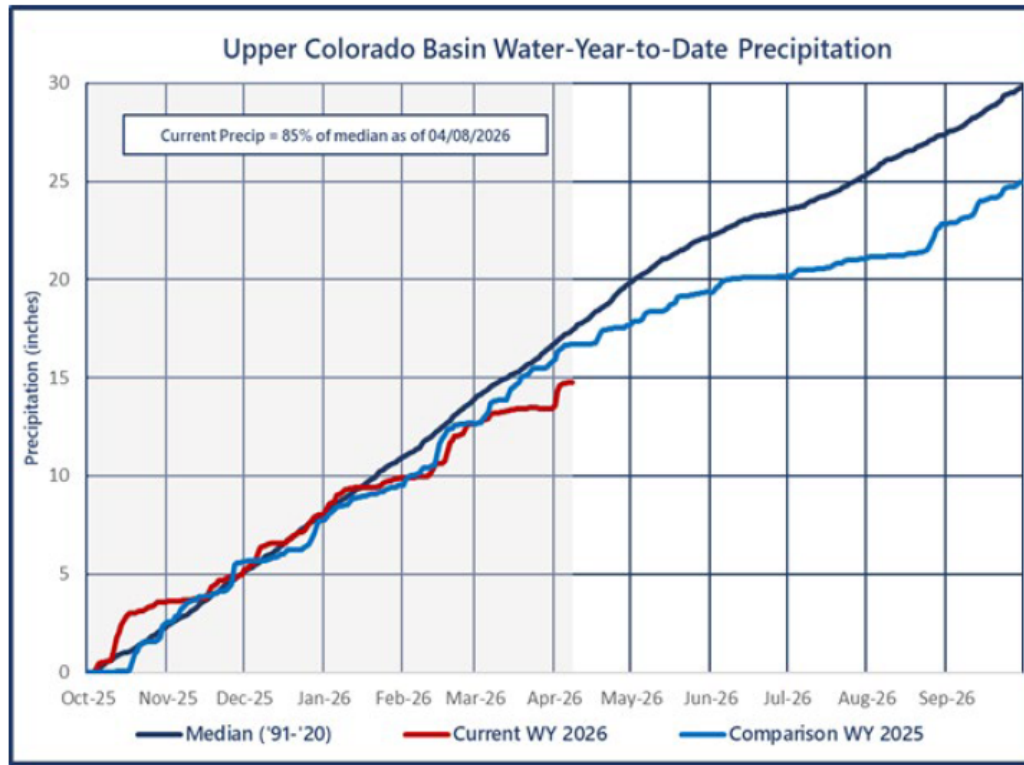
### Water Year to Date Precipitation, October 01 - April 08 2026

Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



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

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



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



# Colorado River Basin Storage

(as of April 5, 2026)

Only about  
1.51 MAF  
above 3,500'

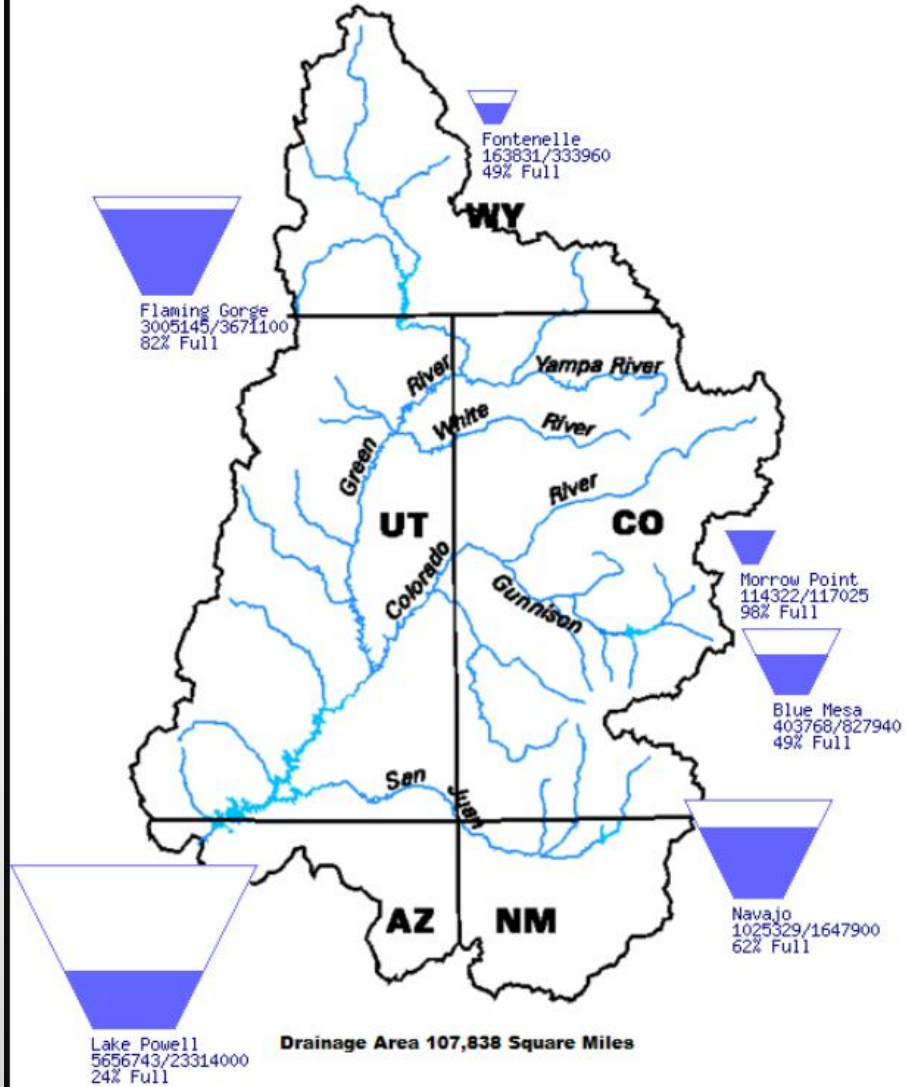
Reservoir	Percent Full	Storage (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Lake Powell	25%	5.73	3,528.13
Lake Mead	33%	8.49	1,060.87
Total System Storage	36%	21.24	- - -

Total system storage was 41% of capacity, or 23.76 maf in storage, at this time last year.



Data Current as of:  
04/08/2026

## Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



# Most Probable April Forecast Water Year 2026

April – July 2026  
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow  
as of April 2, 2026

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from Mar	Percent of Avg <sup>1</sup>
Fontenelle	440	-105	60
Flaming Gorge	490	-125	51
Blue Mesa	240	-80	38
Navajo	173	-107	28
Powell	1,400	-900	22

Water Year 2026  
Unregulated Inflow Forecast  
as of April 2, 2026

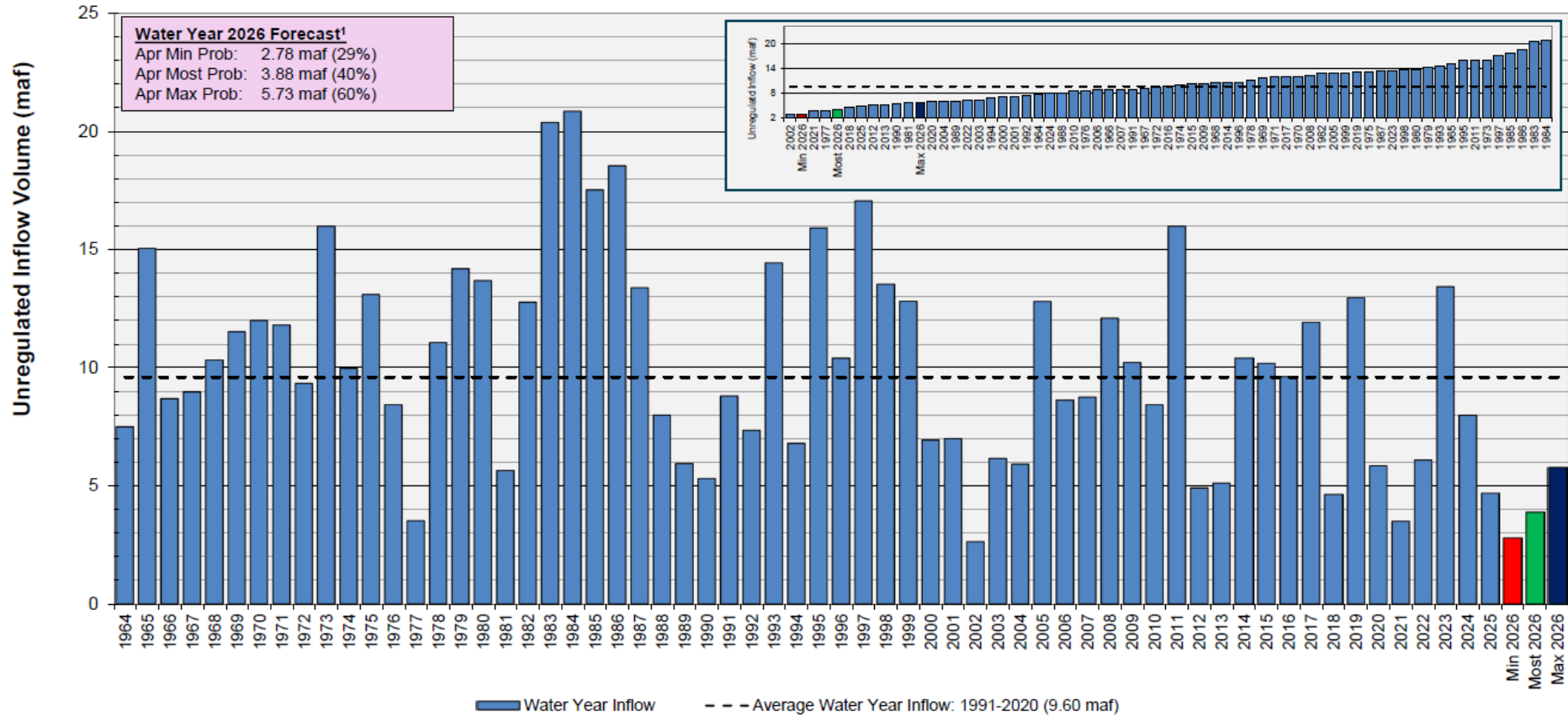
Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from Mar	Percent of Avg <sup>1</sup>
Fontenelle	726	-126	68
Flaming Gorge	806	-163	57
Blue Mesa	479	-86	53
Navajo	598	-73	66
Powell	3,879	-1,072	40

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



# Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of April 2, 2026  
Comparison with History

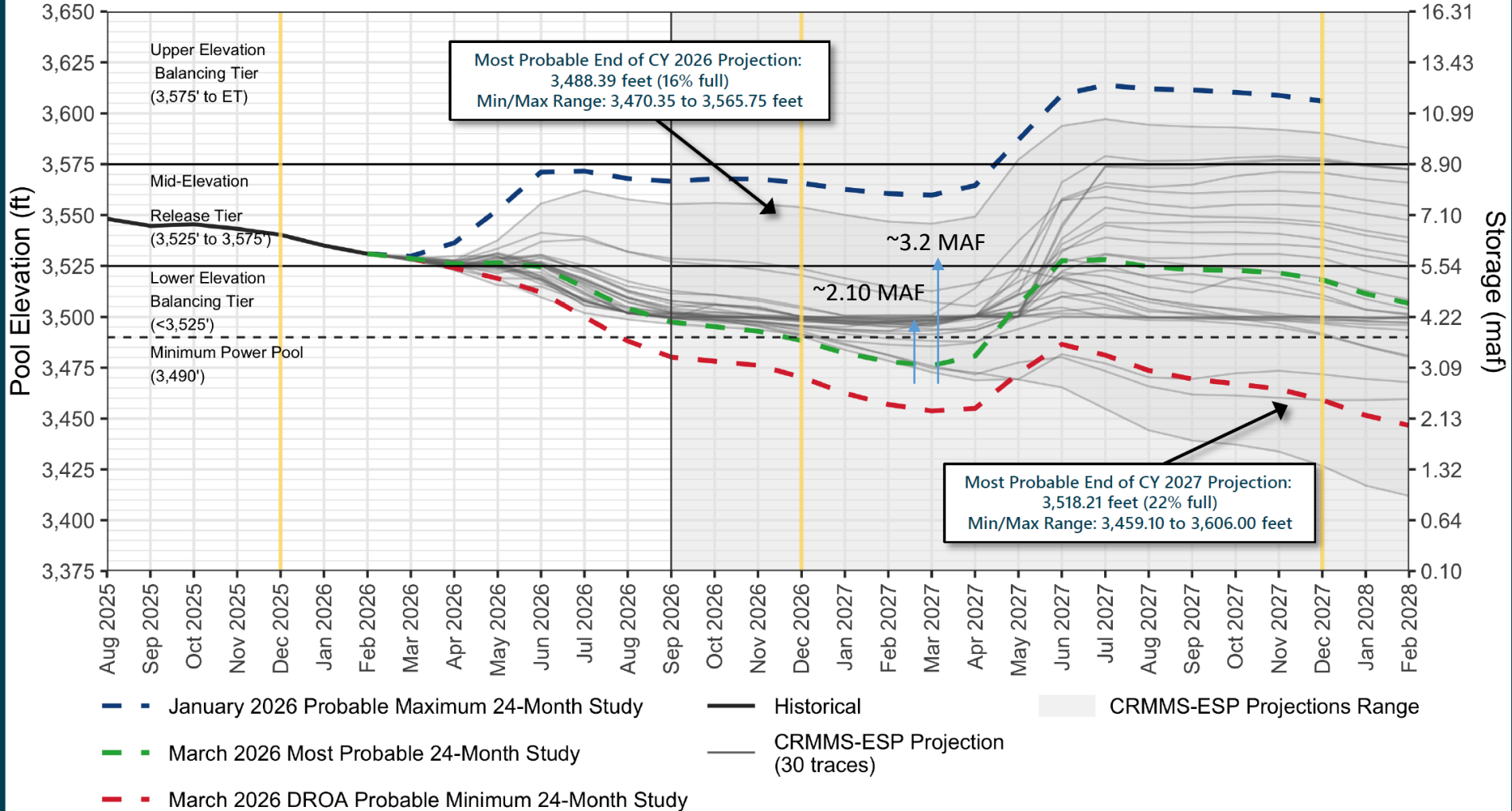


<sup>1</sup>Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.



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

## CRMMS Projections from January and March 2026



The decline in inflow forecast from March 1 to April will increase the “hole” to get to 3,500’ to ~2.1 maf

DROA releases alone are insufficient

Additional actions per 6.E are necessary

Understanding BOR’s 6.E Plan will inform the consideration of the effectiveness of DROA operations

<sup>1</sup>For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.

<sup>2</sup>For modeling purposes, this graphic contains existing operational assumptions built into CRMMS that constrain Glen Canyon Dam releases to prevent Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500 feet. As described in Sections 6.E and 7.B of the Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, Reclamation will consider all tools that are available to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet and any actual constraining of Lake Powell releases is subject to appropriate consultation between Reclamation and other Basin partners with respect to the implementation of potential releases. The Probable Minimum also shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.



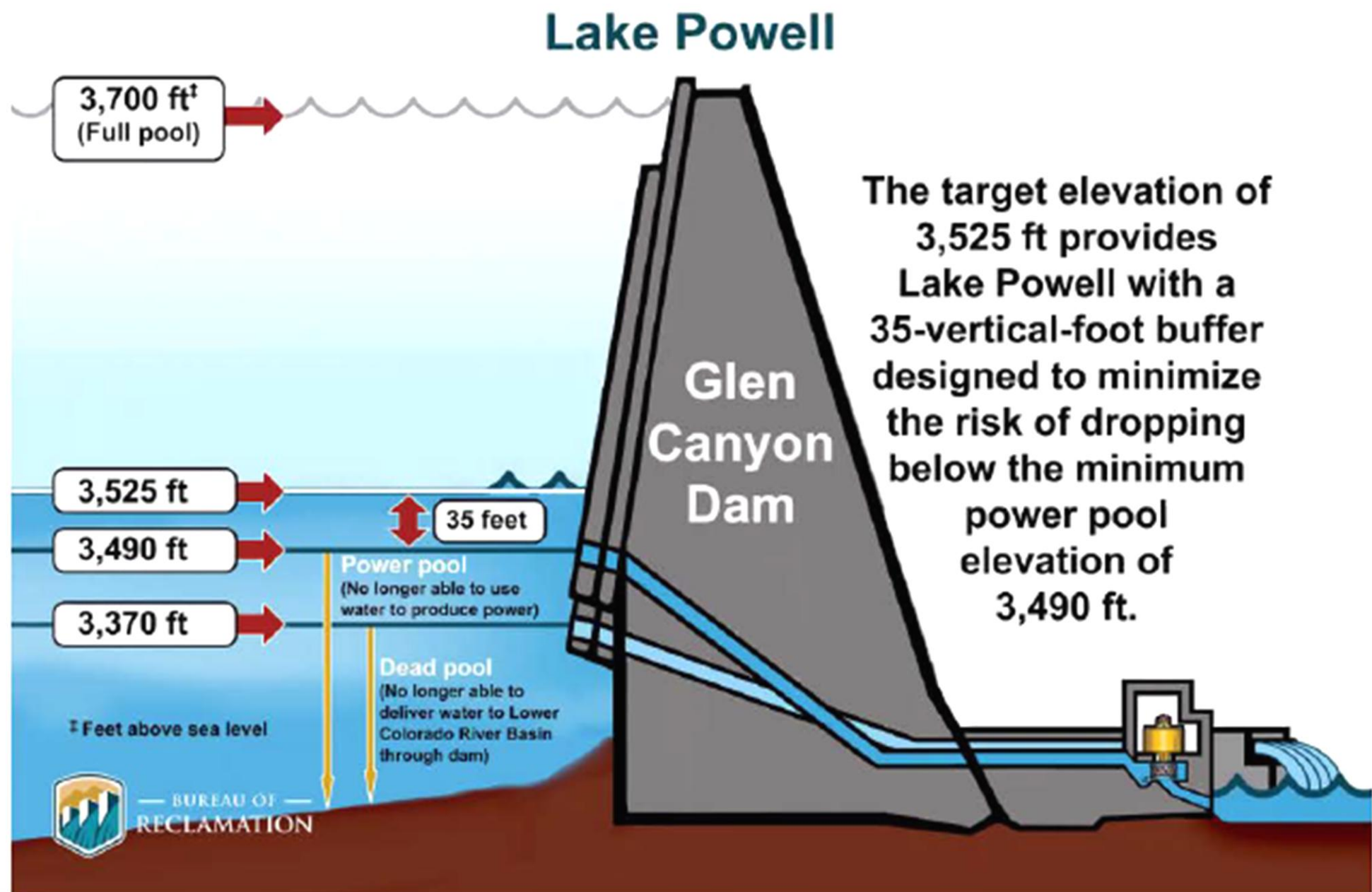
# 2026 Proposed Drought Response Actions

- Additional storage releases from the Upstream Initial Units under DROA.
  - First, monthly release adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam
    - The November 2025 24-Month Study incorporated ~ 600 kaf of monthly adjustments from December 2025 to April 2026
  - Flaming Gorge
  - Blue Mesa (Aspinall Unit)
  - Navajo Reservoir
- Section 6(E) of the 2024 SEIS Record of Decision
  - Reclamation will consider all tools that are available during the interim period to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet.
  - “the Secretary shall begin planning to reduce releases, as needed, to not less than 6.0 maf from Lake Powell in the Water Year to maintain an elevation of 3,500 feet.”
  - Current Lake Powell release as set at 7.48 maf by the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
  - Reclamation has indicated the need to reduce Lake Powell releases to 6 maf.

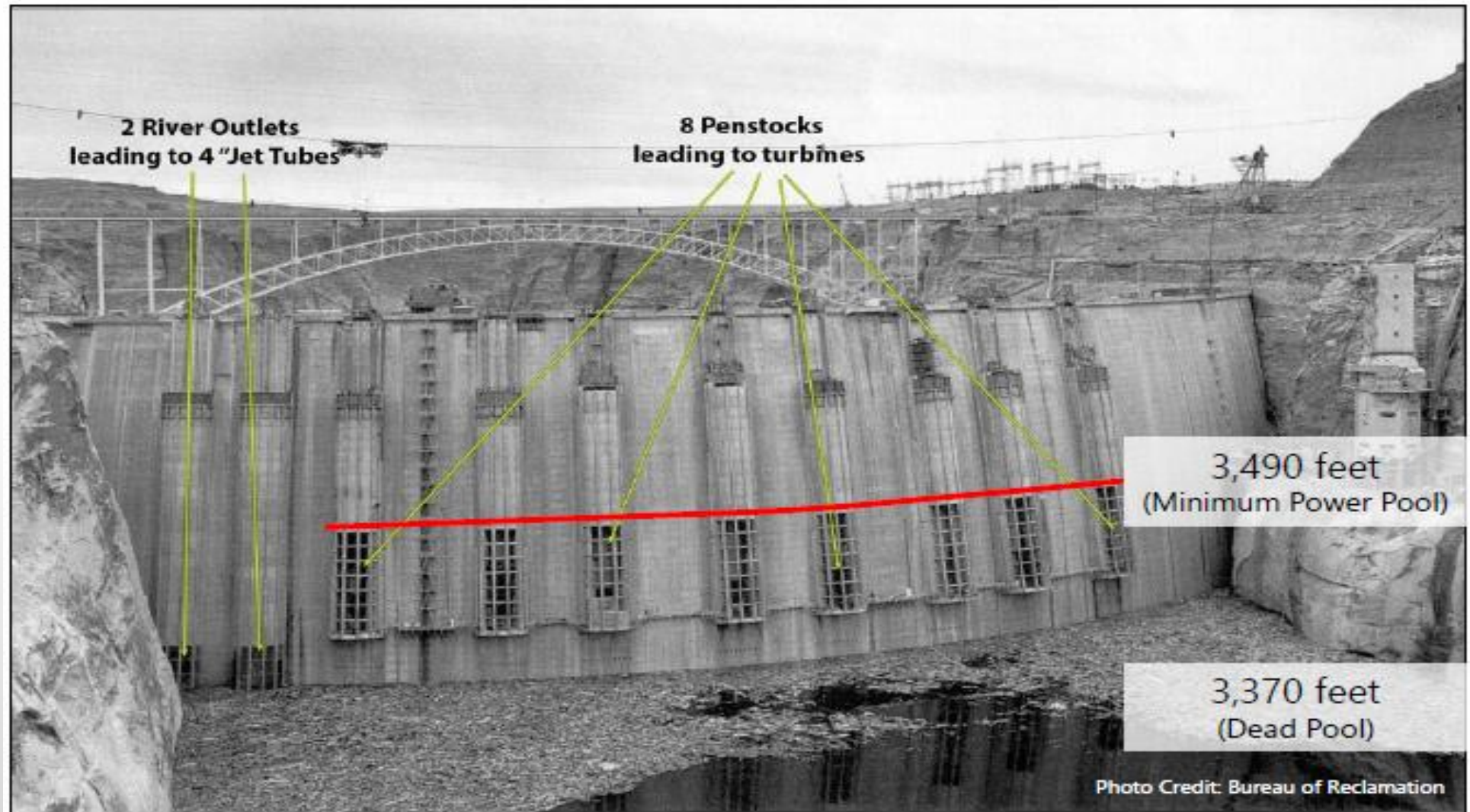
# Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA)

- Part of the 2019 Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan
- Goals are to minimize the risk of Lake Powell falling below the target elevation of 3,525' and thereby:
  - Help ensure Compact compliance and continued Upper Basin water use and development
  - Maintain ability to generate hydropower at Glen Canyon Dam
  - Minimize adverse effects to resources and infrastructure in the Upper Basin
- Provides a process to develop Drought Response Operations Plans to make operational adjustments at Lake Powell or releases from upstream CRSP Initial Unit reservoirs to protect the target elevation.
- Any plan is not concluded until the released volume is recovered: this requirement will remain in place even after 2026.

# Lake Powell Key Elevations



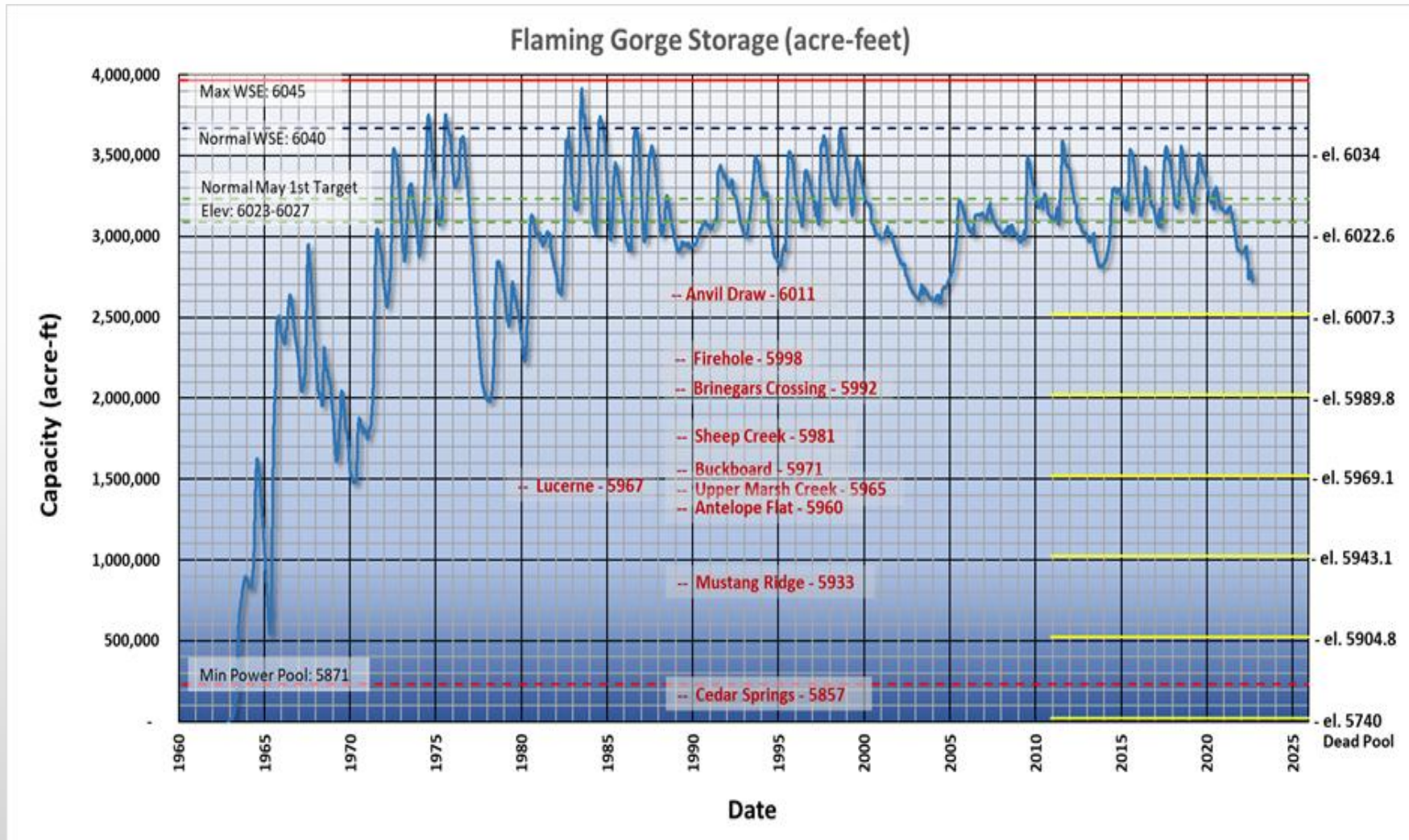
# Glen Canyon Dam: 1963



# Potential Flaming Gorge Releases

- As of mid-March, Reclamation was still predicting a Flaming Gorge release similar to 2022, or about 500,000 acre-feet.
- Hydrology has continued to worsen, and the projected hole in Lake Powell—dropping below elevation 3,500’—keeps getting larger.
- Reclamation is currently analyzing an additional Flaming Gorge release of about 635,000 acre-feet to about 1,000,00 acre-feet.
  - Any release must protect critical elevations at Lake Powell (3,500’) and comply with governing law—including the Records of Decision.
  - Reclamations analysis is not finished, and we have not completed our review and assessment of that analysis.
  - No final DROA plan can be approved until the April 24-month study is completed, which we expect on or about April 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Reclamation has indicated the intent to start making additional releases prior to May 1.
  - Assessing effectiveness of releases will continue throughout release period: changing hydrologic and operational conditions at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Will be effective only if Lake Powell releases also reduced to 6 maf.
- We will continue to asses availability of water from the other Upstream Initial Units.

# Potential Flaming Gorge Releases



Preliminary analysis indicates that Flaming Gorge DROA releases could result in Flaming Gorge elevations ranging from 6,008' and 5,992' at the end of April, 2027.

- Buckboard Ramp: 5,974'
- Marsh Creek: 5,966'
- Firehole Ramp: 5,998'
- Anvil Ramp: 6,011'
- Brinegar's Ferry: 5,992'

# DROA 2026 Planning Timeline

- *October 2025 - BOR and UDS outline need and capacity for intra-year adjustment to Powell releases, UCRC provides concurrence letter*
- *November 2025 - BOR initiates intra-year adjustment to Powell releases (Nov-April)*
- *January - Early March - UDS-BOR-LB meetings to review UIU operations, outline consultation process and share information*
- *3/20 - DROA Framework and Attachment A-G update with UDS-BOR drafting group (intent to share with LB after BOR review)*
- **4/06 Tentative DROA Framework Discussion on Range of Releases with DROA drafting group**
- **4/8 - DROA Framework and Attachment A-G draft prepared with UDS-BOR drafting group based on provisional data from BOR**
- **4/8 - Meet with Lower Division States**
- **4/13 - DROA parties provide Draft Plan & Attachments**
- **4/20 - Comments due - Final draft 2026 DROA Framework and Attachments**
- **4/24 (earlier?) - Final 2026 DROA Framework and Attachments considered for approval by Upper Division States through the UCRC**
- **5/1 - Administration approval and implementation**
- **5/1 - 4/30/27 - DROA operations (monthly DROA parties updates and regular updates to the LB interested stakeholder)**