



Arizona Reconsultation Committee Meeting #6

November 4, 2022



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Meeting Logistics Summary

- Roll Call
 - Members will unmute and acknowledge their attendance when their name is called.
- ARC Delegates
 - If in the room, please raise your hand.
 - If online, use the Teams “raise hand” feature to request to speak or ask questions.
 - Wait to be recognized before speaking to ensure clear communication and remain muted when not speaking.
- Livestream Attendees
 - Electronic public comment forms are available at cap-az.com/ARC for anyone wishing to submit a comment or question during the meeting.
 - All submissions will be addressed during the Call to the Public at the end of the meeting, unless relevant to a specific topic in the presentation.



ARC #6 Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- July ARC meeting summary
- Hydrologic projections
- Department of the Interior announcements
- Inflation Reduction Act
- Basin States Discussion update
- Arizona Discussion
- Call to the Public

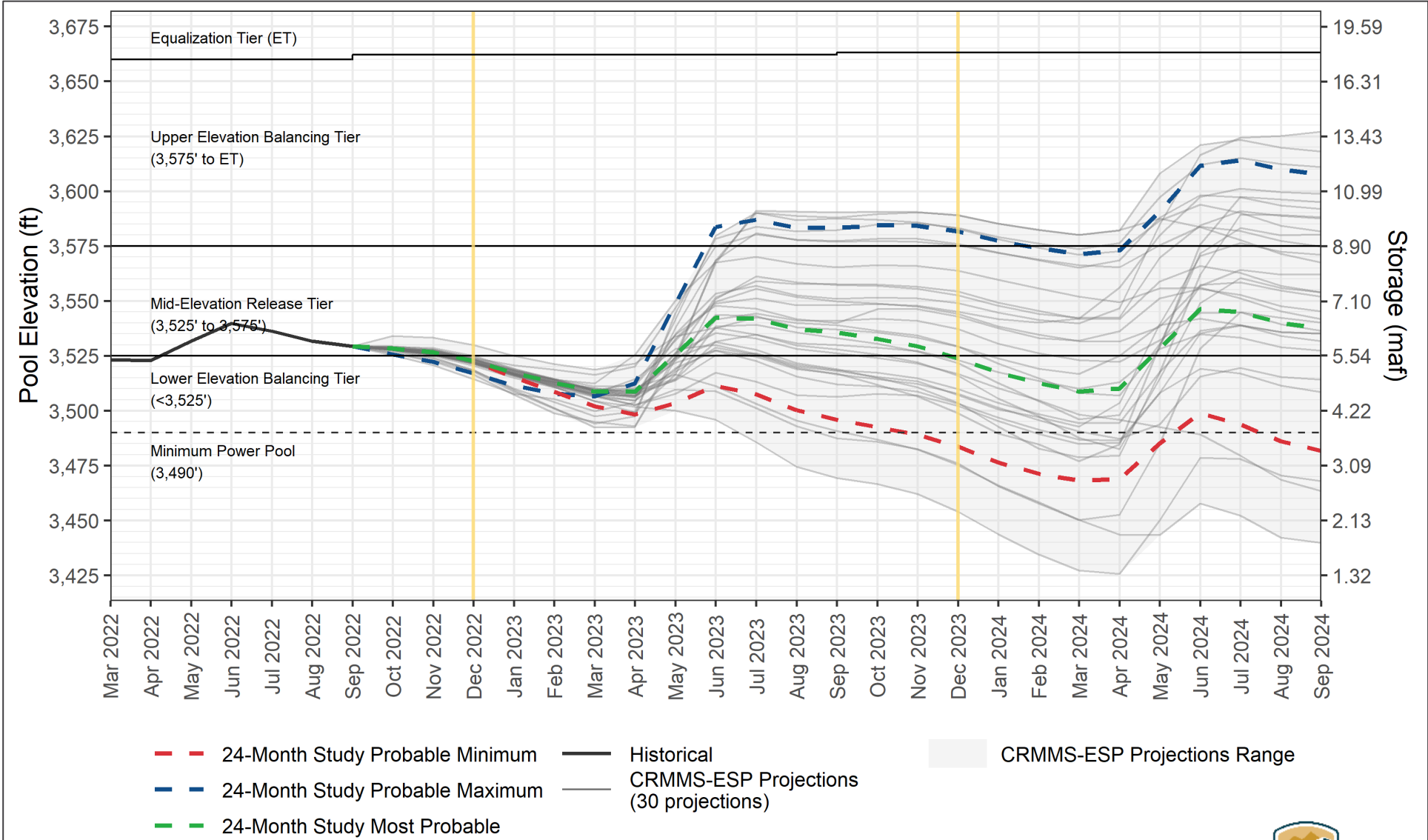


July 13 ARC Meeting Summary

- Reclamation presented recent hydrologic conditions and emphasized the need for unprecedented actions to protect the Colorado River system, i.e. 2-4 maf of additional conservation
- Update on Basin States' discussions regarding ways in which additional reductions could be implemented.
- Anticipated deeper reductions in 2023 than previously anticipated under Tier 2 or Tier 3.
- Recognized that achieving an additional two million acre-feet in reductions in 2023 will be challenging, *but necessary*.
- Committed to convene ARC meetings or distribute communications as additional information becomes available and key decision points occur



Lake Powell End-of-Month Physical Elevations¹

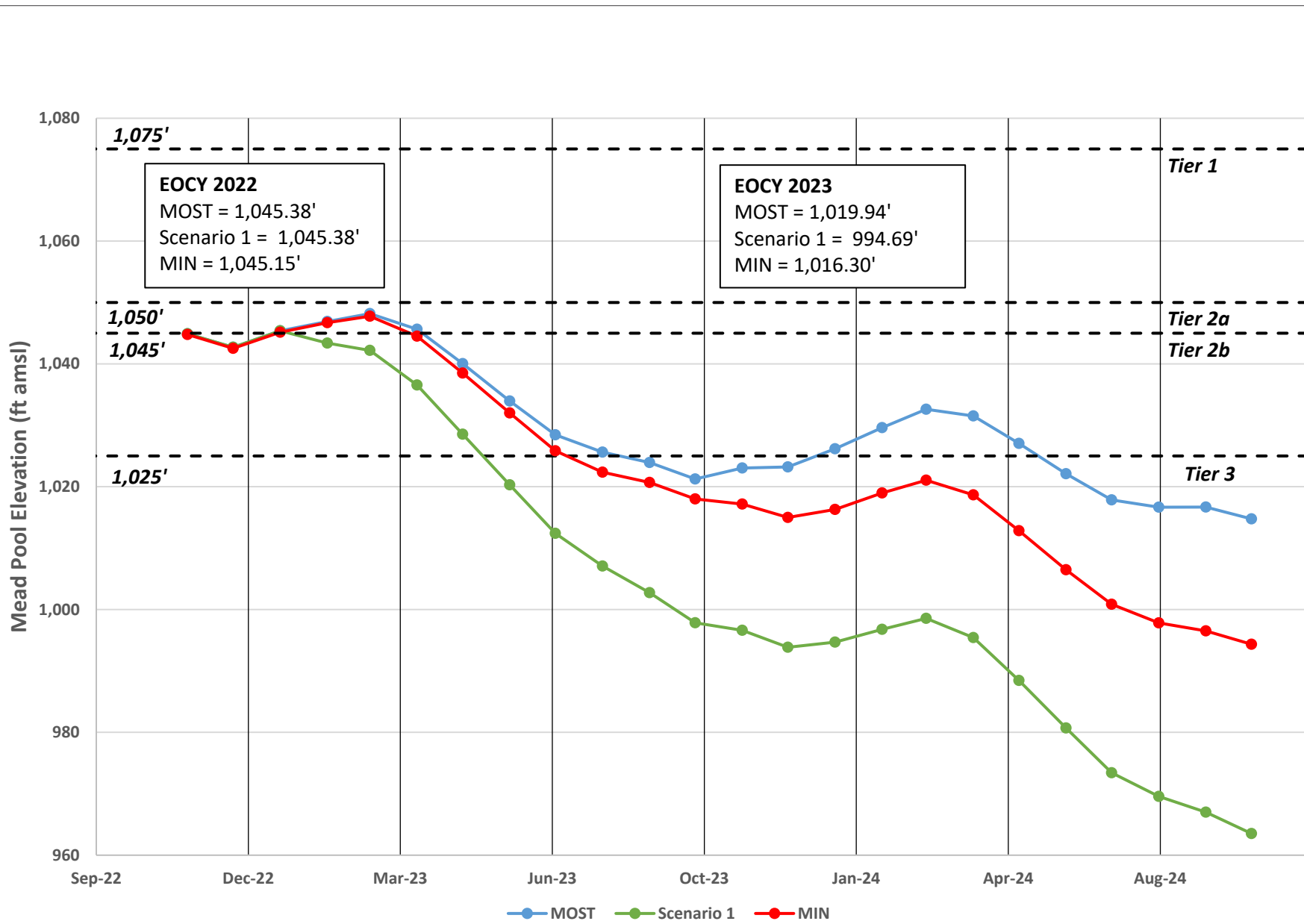


¹ Projected Lake Powell end-of-month physical elevations from the latest CRMMS-ESP and 24-Month Study inflow scenarios.



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Modeling Forecast using 5.5 MAF Powell Release-Mead



MOST:
 2023 Powell Release: 7 MAF
 Side inflow: 810 KAF

MIN:
 2023 Powell Release: 7 MAF
 Side Inflow: 633 KAF

Scenario 1:
 2023 Powell Release - 5.5 MAF
 2024 Powell release - 6.5 MAF



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August 24-Month Study Announcement

- Reclamation announced a Tier 2a Shortage for 2023 under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, DCP and Minute 323
- The Basin States were unable to meet the mid-August deadline for additional reductions beyond Tier 2a
- Reclamation also announced it would continue to:
 - Explore its authorities to implement protection volumes
 - Engage with the Basin States to identify voluntary actions in 2023
 - Initiate conversations with Mexico

*Source: "Interior Department Announces Actions to Protect Colorado River System, Sets 2023 Operating Conditions for Lake Powell and Lake Mead." *Bureau of Reclamation*, August 16, 2022. Press Release. Available at <https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/news-release/4294>



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September Announcements from DOI

- Continue to work with Lower Basin States on developing voluntary measures and agreements
- Working with Upper Basin States to support their 5-point plan
- Making investments in drought resilience and water management from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act

*Source: "Interior Department Announces Next Steps to Address Drought Crisis Gripping the Colorado River Basin", *U.S. Department of the Interior*, September 22, 2022. Press Release.
Available at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-next-steps-address-drought-crisis-gripping-colorado>



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Sept. Announcements from DOI, cont.

- Moving forward with administrative actions needed to authorize a **reduction of Glen Canyon Dam releases below 7 MAF to protect critical infrastructure**
- Preparing to take action to make additional reductions in 2023 through an administrative process to evaluate and adjust triggering elevations and/or **increasing reduction volumes pursuant to 2007 Interim Guidelines**
- Accelerating ongoing maintenance actions and studies of bypass tubes at Glen Canyon Dam
- Ensuring lower basin water use satisfy appropriate beneficial use standards, including consideration of health and safety requirements
- **Assessing how to account for system losses due to evaporation, seepage and other losses**

*Source: "Interior Department Announces Next Steps to Address Drought Crisis Gripping the Colorado River Basin", *U.S. Department of the Interior*, September 22, 2022. Press Release. Available at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-next-steps-address-drought-crisis-gripping-colorado>



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Implementing the Inflation Reduction Act

- Reclamation has established the new Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program to increase system conservation and efficiency opportunities.
- Components of the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency program:
 - 1a: System conservation agreement with Reclamation at a set price of \$330/af (1-yr term), \$365/af(2-yr term) & \$400/af (3-yr term)
 - 1b: Conservation plan proposals resulting in reduction of consumptive use, including price/af, economic justification, proposed conservation and other information
 - 2: Proposals for long-term system efficiency improvements (details in 2023)
- Deadline for proposals for 1a or 1b is November 21, 2022



Implementing the Inflation Reduction Act, cont.

The Department of the Interior has conveyed the following to the Basin States:

- Vast majority of the \$4B IRA funds will be specifically for water management and conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin.
- Interior expects the majority of funding will go to long-term conservation.
- Interior is expecting 1b to be the smallest bucket. Expecting to see an economic justification from anyone submitting under the 1b bucket.
- The funding made under either 1a or 1b should be merely a bridge.
- Without improved hydrology, there is still a very real possibility that Reclamation will have to make mandatory, uncompensated cuts.



Long-term System Efficiency Improvements under the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program

Longer-term projects (Bucket 2) could include initiatives such as:

- Canal lining
- Re-regulating reservoirs
- Ornamental and non-functional turf removal
- Salinity projects
- Other infrastructure or “on the ground” activities
- Aquatic ecosystem restoration and impacts mitigation
- Crop water efficiency, rotational fallowing, and marginal land idling.

Potential Projects*:

** Not all-inclusive*

CAP/SRP Interconnect
Santa Rosa Canal WQ Improvement
New Bartlett Dam
Butler Valley Transportation
Brock Reservoir
Senator Wash
242 Wellfield



Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS

- Builds on steps announced in August and September to reduce water consumption across the Basin.
- To ensure that Glen Canyon Dam continues to operate under its intended design, there may be a need to modify current operations and reduce downstream releases.
- To protect Hoover Dam operations, system integrity, and public health and safety, may need to modify current operations and reduce downstream releases.
- The scoping period is open through December 20, 2022.



Supplemental EIS potential alternatives

Framework Agreement Alternative: A consensus-based alternative that would build on commitments and obligations as part of the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Authorization Act

Reservoir Operations Modification Alternative: Would consider how the Secretary's authority could complement a consensus-based alternative that may not sufficiently mitigate current and projected risks

No Action: Will describe the continued implementation of existing agreements that control operations of Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams. These include the 2007 Interim Guidelines and agreements adopted pursuant to the 2019 DCP



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Basin States Discussion Update

- There is no consensus among the seven states. California has not agreed to a fundamental basin-wide conservation target.
- We believe the Basin is heading towards litigation.
- Some Basin stakeholders have endorsed the idea of assessing evaporation and system losses in the Lower Basin.
- Reclamation's announcements thus far have focused on voluntary actions without giving clearer ideas of what administrative actions may be imposed.
- While there is acknowledgment that the CAP cannot realistically be reduced to zero, there has been no proposal that would avert that outcome.
- We have conveyed Arizonans' reluctance to conserve water in 2023 if the system will crash regardless of our conservation actions.
- Extreme uncertainty in the Basin is not helping water users make informed choices.



CAWCD and ADWR Offering Funding to Preserve ICS in Lake Mead

- 2023 is a Tier 2a Shortage year and requires 75% NIA mitigation per the DCP.
- Providing DCP mitigation water in 2023 will require release of ICS.
- CAWCD and ADWR will be working with CAWCD water users in concert with Reclamation's conservation efforts to avoid the release of ICS.



ARC Delegates Roundtable Discussion



Call to the Public

- Submit questions or comments using the electronic public comment form at cap-az.com/ARC



For continued information
and updates, visit
new.azwater.gov/ARC or
cap-az.com/ARC



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