Historical Information for the Roundtable

1. Connections

Compacts, agreements, and any possible future programs are all CONNECTED. Rights to Colorado River water and Compact Compliance (under variable water supplies). For further details on specific compacts, acts, and agreements, visit: https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g1000/lawofrvr.html

1.1. Colorado River Compact (1922 – Perpetuity)

- Divides watershed into Upper and Lower Basins
- 7.5 MAF consumptive use apportioned to each Upper and Lower Basins
- Requires the Upper Basin to not cause the flow to be depleted at Lee Ferry below 75 MAF over a ten-year rolling average
- For further details see: Article III(a) – Apportionment; Article III(d) – Non-Depletion Clause; Article III(e) – Operational Provisions; Article IV

1.2. Boulder Canyon Project Act (1928 – Perpetuity)

- Ratified the 1922 Compact
- Authorized the construction of Hoover Dam and related irrigation infrastructure in the Lower Basin
- 7.5 MAF divided amount the lower basin states: 2.8 MAF for Arizon, 4.4 MAF to California, and 0.3 MAF to Nevada
- Authorized and directed the Secretary of Interior to function as the sole contracting authority for the Colorado River water use in the Lower Basin

1.3. Treaty with Mexico (1944 – Perpetuity)

- Guarantees Mexico an annual quantity of 1.5 MAF and if a system surplus exists, amount can increase to 1.7 MAF
- In "extraordinary drought" allotment can be reduced in proportion to reduction of uses with the U.S. however the Treaty does not define "extraordinary drought" and any definition would apply to the Lower Rio Grande too
- For further details see: Article 10(b); Schedule II(e)

1.4. Upper Colorado River Basin Compact (1948 – Perpetuity)

- Colorado apportioned of 51.57% of available consumptive use
- Tasks the Upper Colorado River Commission with determining volume of water for each Upper Basin state
- For further details see: Article III; Article VIII

1.5. Colorado River Storage Project Act (1956 - Perpetuity)

- A compressive Upper Basin wide water resource development plan
- Authorized the construction of Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Navajo and Curecanti dams for river regulation, power production, irrigation projects, and other uses

1.6. Arizona V California Supreme Court Decree (1964 – Perpetuity)

- Decision to settle a 25-year dispute between Arizona and California

    - Arizona: desire to build the Central Arizona Project to utilize its full Colorado River apportionment
    - California: objected and argued that Arizona's use of water from a Colorado River tributary constituted use of its Colorado River apportionment , which under doctrine of prior appropriation, precluded Arizona from developing the project
    - Ruling: Supreme Court rejected California's arguments and ruled that lower basin states have a right to appropriate and use tributary flows before the tributary co-mingles with the Colorado River and that the doctrine of prior appropriate did not apply to apportionments in the Lower Basin
- In 1964, the Supreme Court issued its decree with the decree directing the Secretary of the Interior from delivering water outside the framework of apportionments and mandated the preparation of annual reports documenting the uses of water in the lower basin states
- In 1979, the Supreme Court issued a Supplemental Decree addressing present perfected rights referenced in the Colorado River Compact and in the Boulder Canyon Project Act

1.7. Colorado River Basin Project Act (1968 - Perpetuity)

- Authorized construction of water development projects in the Upper and Lower Basins
    - This includes the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and made the priority of the CAP water supply subordinate to California's apportionment in times of shortages
- Directed the Secretary of Interior to prepare, in consultation with Colorado River Basin states, a long-range operating criterion for the Colorado River reservoir system

1.8. Interim Guidelines (2007 – 2026)

- Requires Lower Basin to take shortages
- Coordinates reservoir operation to stabilize system
- Secures Upper Basin right to release from the Lake Powell
- Avoids protracted litigation
- Will be re-negotiated by 2026

1.9. Drought Contingency Plans for the Lower and Upper Basins (2019? – 2026)

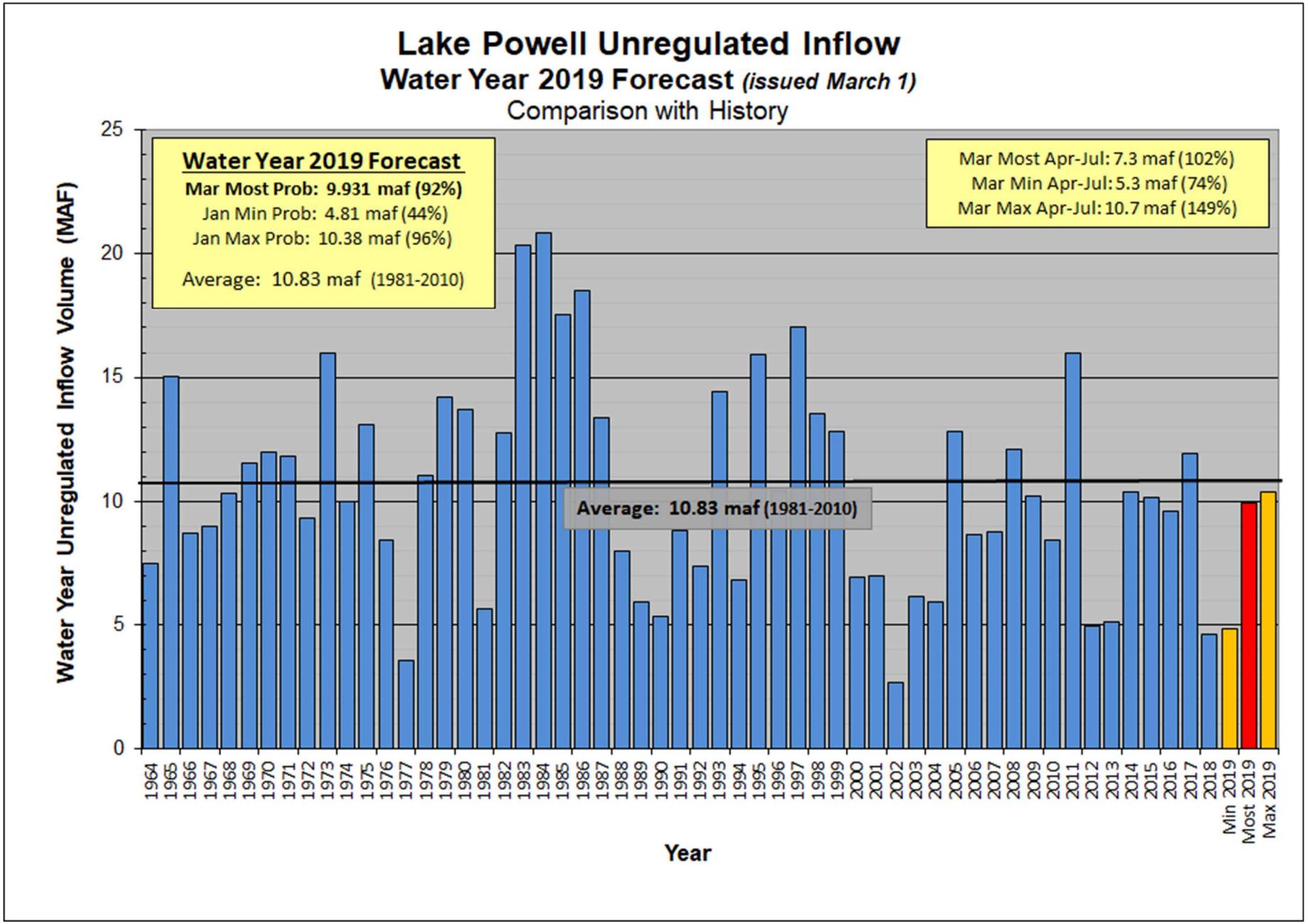
- TEMPORARY plans to help prevent system crash if drought worsens
- Allows states to control their own destiny
- Helps assure '07 Interim Guidelines can operate until 2026
- Avoids litigation
- Provides opportunity to identify best tools to continue Upper Basin compact compliance

1.10. Upper Basin Demand Management Program (TBD)

- One potential tool made possible under Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan IF DEEMED FEASIBLE
- Only advances if each Upper Basin state agrees to terms and conditions
- Colorado Water Conservation Board approved a 2019 Work Plan to investigate the myriad of aspects relating to a Demand Management program in March of 2019

2. Critical Reservoirs and Trans-Mountain Diversions Information

Water Right/Reservoir	Inflow	Volume (AF)	Appr. Date	Admin Number
Jackson	Mancos	10,000	10/31/1936	31715
Lemon	Florida	40,146	6/10/1936	31572
Vallecito	Pine	125,400	11/31/1935	31362
Animas-La Plata	Animas	123,541	9/02/1938	32386
McPhee	Dolores	381,100	9/10/1940	33125
Blue Mesa	Gunnison	829,500	11/13/1957	39398
Navajo	San Juan	1,708,600		
Flaming Gorge	Green	3.788,700		
Lake Powell	Colorado & San Juan	24,322,000		
Lake Mead	Colorado	26,134,000		
Major Trans-Mountain Diversions				
Alva B Adams Tunnel*	Colorado		8/1/1935	31258
***Windy Gap (portion of tunnel)**	Colorado		6/22/1967	43621.42906
Grand River Ditch	Colorado		9/1/1890	14854
Moffat Tun	Colorado		7/9/1934	30870.26117
Hoosier Pass Tun	Colorado		5/13/1948	35927
Harold D. Roberts Tun	Colorado		6/24/1946	35238
Homestake Tun	Colorado		2/7/1956	38753.3752
Columbine Ditch	Colorado		7/8/1908	19546
Ewing Ditch	Colorado		6/5/1911	22435.20605
Wurtz Ditch	Colorado		2/7/1956	38753.37478
Charles H. Bousted Tun	Colorado		7/29/1957	39291
Busk-Ivanhoe Tun	Colorado		6/27/1921	28394.2611
Twin Lakes Tun	Colorado		9/18/1934	30941.29454



For the most recent forecast, please visit: https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/images/PowellForecast.png

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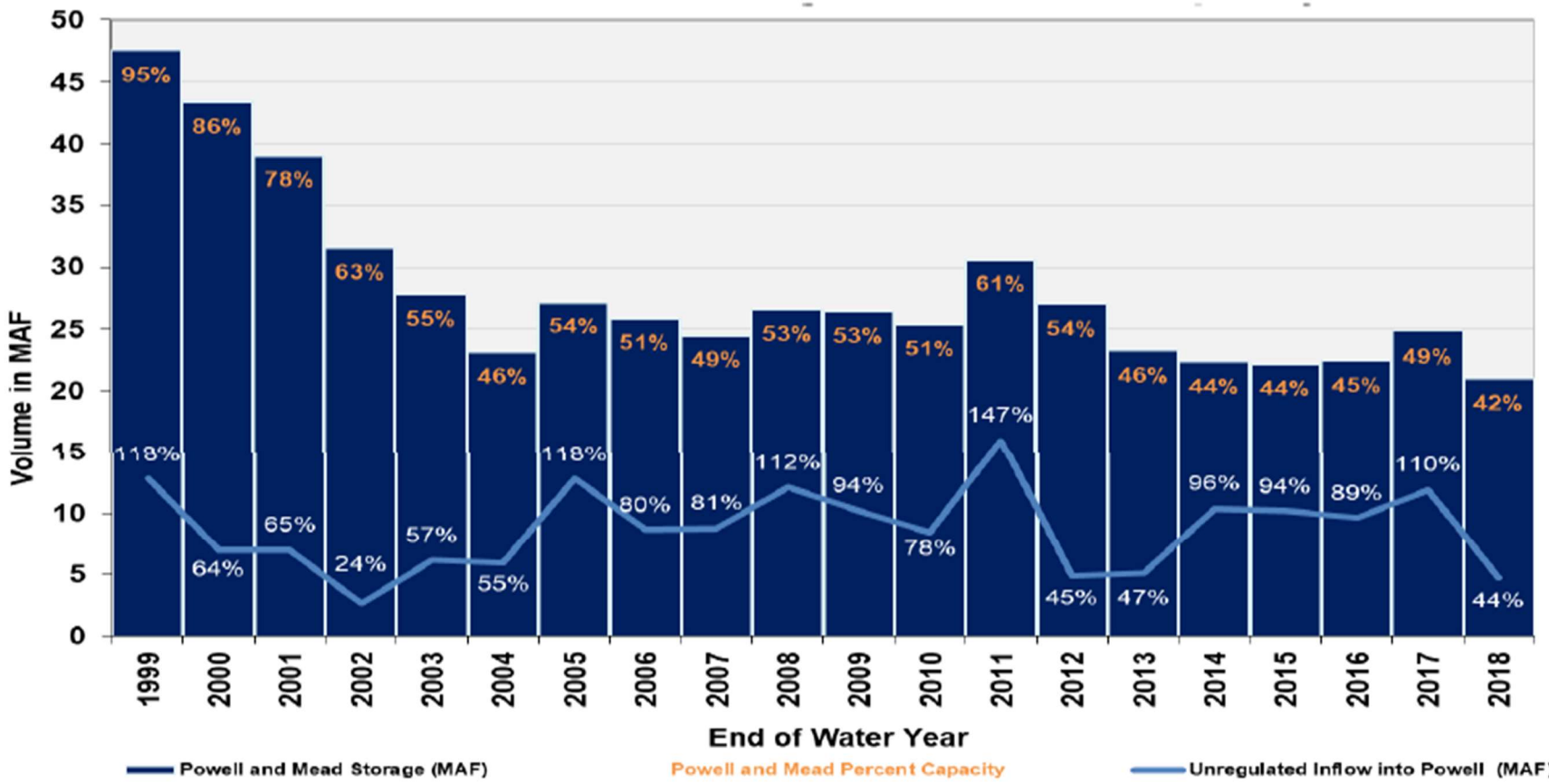
Lake Powell & Mead Storage and Percent Capacity & Unregulated Inflow into Lake Powell



[1]Values for Water Year 2018 are projected. Unregulated inflow is based on the latest CBRFC forecast dated September 17, 2018. Storage and percent capacity are based on the September 2018 24-Month Study.

[2]Percentages on the light blue line represent percent of average unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for a given water year. The percent of average is based on the period of record from 1981-2010.