

COLORADO RIVER FORECAST SYSTEM: SPRING 2018 MEETING

LOWER BASIN HYDROLOGY UPDATE

Current Conditions as of March 27, 2018

- Lake Mead: 1,088.13 feet, 10.70 maf (53%)
- Lake Mohave: 643.07 feet, 1.70 maf (94%)
- Lake Havasu: 447.61 feet, 0.57 maf (92%)
- Total System: 31.18 maf (52%)

Lower Basin Intervening Flows

Glen to Hoover

- 2012 – 2016 Five Year Average: 757 kaf
 - Observed WY 2017 Intervening Flow: 994 kaf (+237 kaf/131%)
 - Observed CY 2017 Intervening Flow: 903 kaf (+146 kaf/119%)
- 2013 – 2017 Five Year Average: 796 kaf
 - EOWY Projection: 710 kaf (-86 kaf/89%)
 - EOCY Projection: 763 kaf (-33 kaf/96%)

Lake Mead Projected Operations – Calendar Year 2018

- Based on the March 2018 24-Month Study, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to decrease to elevation 1,076.2 feet by July 2018 and then increase to elevation 1,077.2 feet by the end calendar year 2018.
- In calendar year 2018, Lake Mead is operating in the Normal/ICS Surplus Condition, with full water deliveries to U.S. Lower Basin water users (7.5 maf) and Mexico (1.5 maf), plus or minus any delivery or creation of U.S. ICS, water from/for Mexico's Water Reserve, or reductions in projected water deliveries resulting from system conservation agreements or other voluntary measures.
- The August 2017 24-Month Study projected Lake Mead's **January 1, 2018** elevation to be 1,083.5 feet.
 - Lake Mead's operating condition determination for calendar year 2018 is documented in the 2018 Annual Operating Plan, online at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/aop/AOP18.pdf>.

Lake Mead Projected Operations – Calendar Year 2019

- The March 2018 24-Month Study projects Lake Mead's **January 1, 2019** elevation to be 1,077.2 feet, approximately two feet above the shortage determination trigger of 1,075 feet.
 - This projection is uncertain at this point in time and will depend upon hydrology (both Upper Basin and Lower Basin inflows) in 2018, as well as any as well as any potential changes in projected water deliveries.
- Based on analysis conducted in January 2018, Reclamation's hydrologic models show a 17 percent chance of a Lower Basin Level 1 Shortage Condition in 2019.
 - The January 2018 CRSS/MTOM results are available online: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/riverops/crss-5year-projections.html>
- Lake Mead's operating condition in 2019 will be determined based on the projected elevation of Lake Mead on January 1, 2019 as reported in the August 2018 24-Month Study.

Lake Mead End of Month Elevations

Projections from January and March 2018 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

