

UPPER DIVISION STATES ALTERNATIVE FOR POST-2026 OPERATIONS

OF LAKE POWELL AND LAKE MEAD

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming's alternative provides for **sustainable** operations that are aligned with **hydrologic conditions**, help to **rebuild storage**, and **operate within the Law of the River**.

1 POWELL OPERATIONS

Lake Powell releases are aligned with hydrologic conditions, which helps re-build storage and adapts to variability

POWELL RELEASES

100% FULL
Releases as required for dam safety

81% - 100% FULL
8.1 - 9.0 MAF per year

20% - 81% FULL
6.0 - 8.1 MAF per year

< 20% FULL
6.0 MAF per year

MEAD RELEASES

Lake Mead operations are adapted from a concept first proposed by the Lower Division States

2 LAKE MEAD OPERATIONS

Modeled Lower Basin operations call for reductions in use depending upon reservoir conditions, with Lower Basin reductions of 1.5 million acre-feet under most conditions

3

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

Under agreements separate from the Post-2026 NEPA process, Upper Basin actions could include CRSPA* initial units and voluntary conservation, and acknowledgement of undeveloped settled Tribal water rights

*Colorado River Storage Project Act

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

The Upper Division States are committed to continued collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Basin States, Tribal Nations, water users, and environmental and recreation groups



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Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming's alternative provides for sustainable operations that are aligned with hydrologic conditions, help to rebuild storage, and operate within the Law of the River.

In the background of the infographic, the Upper Basin States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming are grouped, as are the Lower Basin States of Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Powell Operations

Lake Powell releases are aligned with hydrologic conditions, which helps re-build storage and adapts to variability.

Powell Releases

1. When the reservoir is 100% full, releases are done as required for dam safety
2. At 81%-100% Full, releases equal 8.1-9.0 Million Acre-feet (MAF) per year
3. At 20%-81% Full, releases equal 6.0-8.1 MAF per year
4. When the reservoir is less than 20% full, releases are 6.0 MAF per year

Mead Releases

Lake Mead operations are adapted from a concept first proposed by the Lower Division States.

Lake Mead Operations

Modeled Lower Basin operations call for reductions in use depending upon reservoir conditions, with Lower Basin reductions of 1.5 million acre-feet under most conditions.

Other Considerations

PARALLEL ACTIVITIES - Under agreements separate from the Post-2026 NEPA process, Upper Basin actions could include CRSPA* initial units and voluntary conservation, and acknowledgement of undeveloped settled Tribal water rights. *Colorado River Storage Project Act

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