

UPPER BASIN APPROVES DROUGHT RESPONSE OPERATIONS PLAN THROUGH SPRING OF 2023

AS PART OF THE 2019 UPPER BASIN DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN, THE UPPER BASIN STATES AND UCRC HAVE APPROVED A DROUGHT RESPONSE OPERATIONS PLAN EFFECTIVE THROUGH THE SPRING OF 2023*

The Colorado River Basin is experiencing the unprecedented conditions of combined prolonged drought, low runoff conditions, and depleted storage in the Basin's largest reservoirs – Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Best available science indicates that these conditions will continue to adversely impact the Basin.

The Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Reclamation, the Upper Division States, and the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) have consulted with the Lower Division States, Tribes, other federal and state agencies, and NGOs to prepare and complete the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan (2022 Plan).

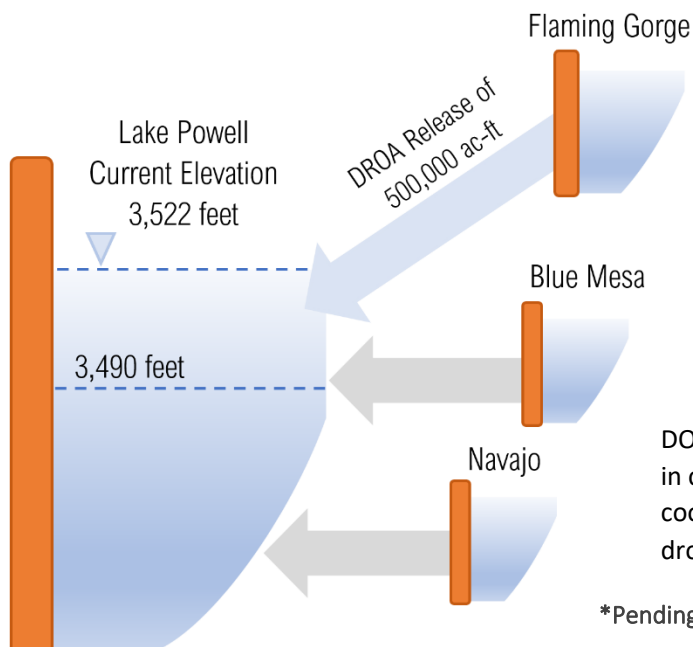
In addition to the 161,000 acre-feet provided from Upper Basin reservoirs in 2021, **the 2022 Plan authorizes an additional release of 500,000 acre-feet of water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir, beginning in May 2022 and ending in April 2023.** The release is intended to address and protect critical infrastructure, dam operations, hydropower, and public health and safety concerns.

Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Units and Participating Projects



Key elements of the 2022 Plan

- Total release of 500,000 acre-feet from Flaming Gorge (May 2022 through April 2023)
- Possible releases from Blue Mesa and Navajo Reservoir in fall of 2022 and winter of 2023 if conditions warrant.
- Possible operational adjustments at Lake Powell in winter of 2023.



DOI has proposed additional measures at Lake Powell that operate in conjunction with the 2022 Plan releases. Combined, these cooperative actions will delay or prevent Lake Powell from dropping below key elevations, including 3,490 feet.

*Pending approval by the Secretary of the Interior

To learn more, please see the DOI website: <https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/droa.html>