

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Management of Colorado River Reservoirs and Current State of the System

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Colorado River Shortage Preparedness Workshop

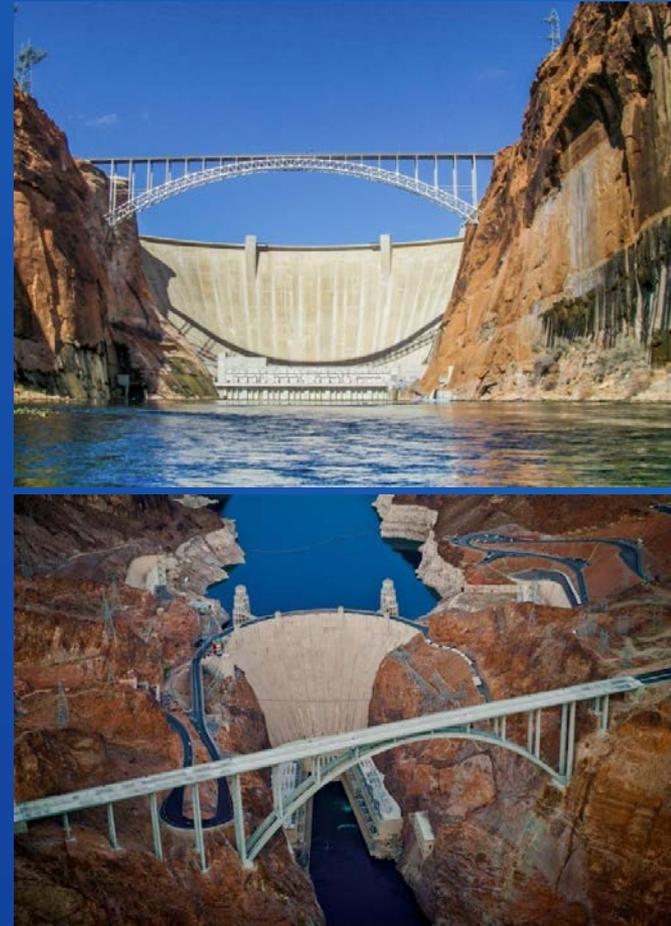
April 22, 2015



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

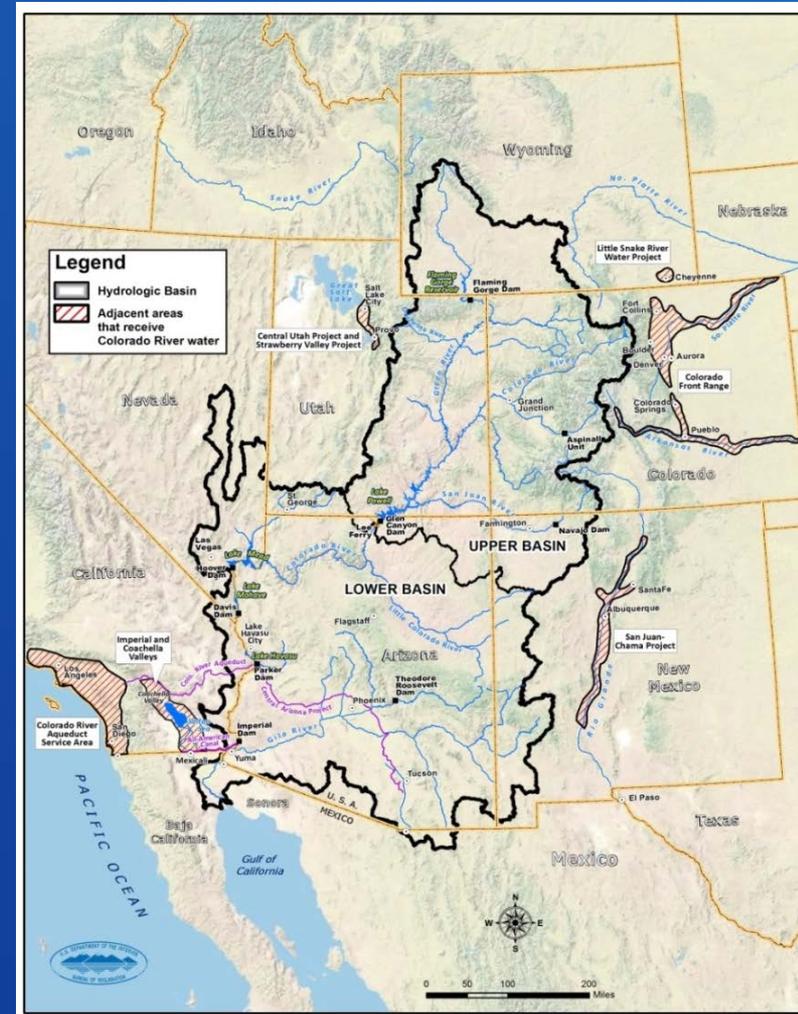
Presentation Overview

- Overview of the Colorado River Basin
- Current Drought and Reservoir Conditions
- Operational Decision-making and the 2007 Interim Guidelines
- Projected Operations in 2015 and 2016
- Questions / Discussion



Overview of the Colorado River System

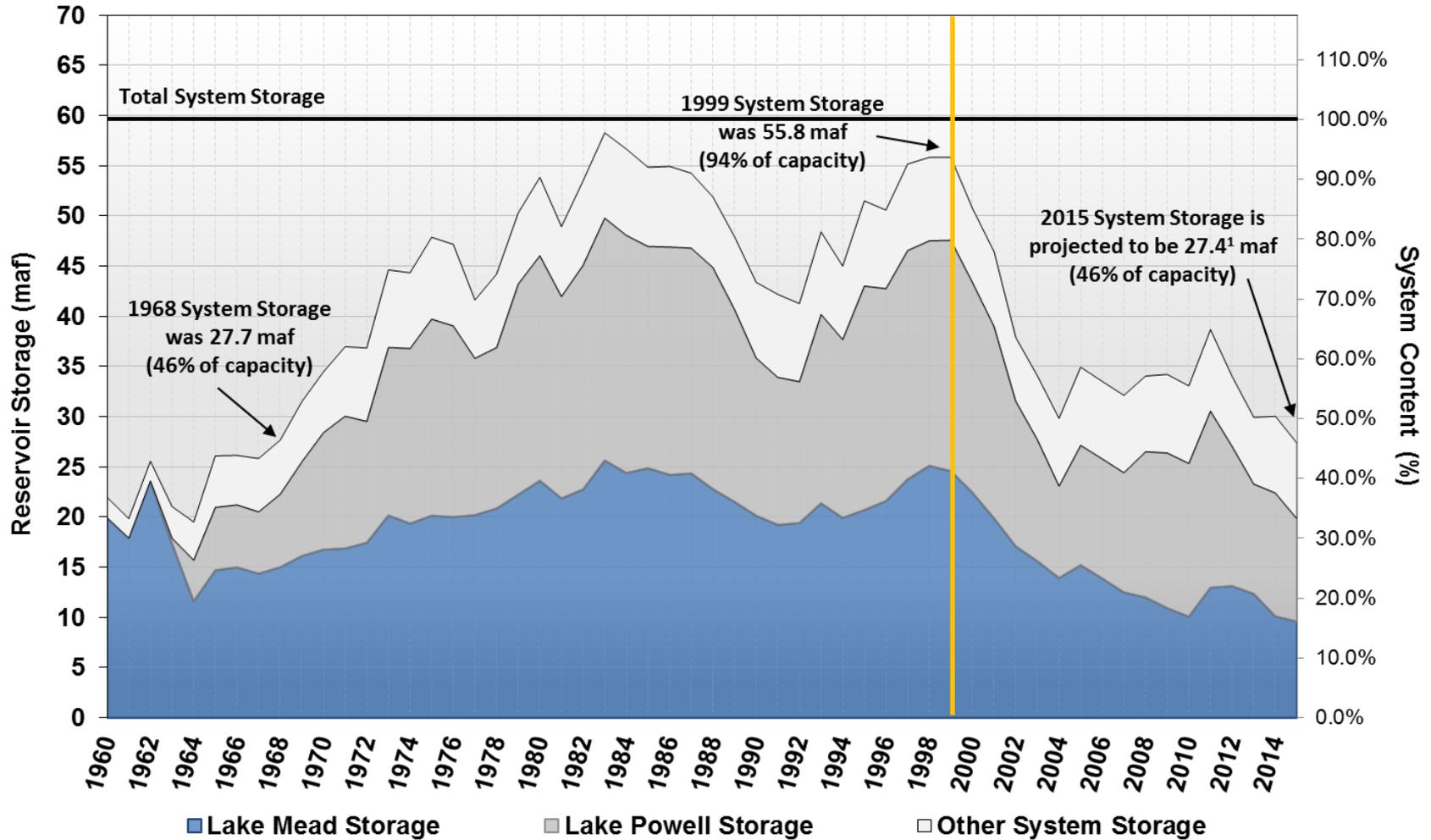
- 16.5 maf allocated annually
 - 7.5 maf each to Upper and Lower Basins
 - 1.5 maf to Mexico
- In Upper Basin, water deliveries are managed by state engineers
- In Lower Basin, the Secretary has role of Water Master
 - Water delivered to Mexico is coordinated with IBWC
- About 16 maf of average inflow annually
 - 14.8 maf in the Upper Basin and 1.3 maf in the Lower Basin
- 60 maf of storage
- Operations and water deliveries governed by the “Law of the River”



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System Storage - End of Water Year Total Volumes

Water Years 1960 - 2015¹



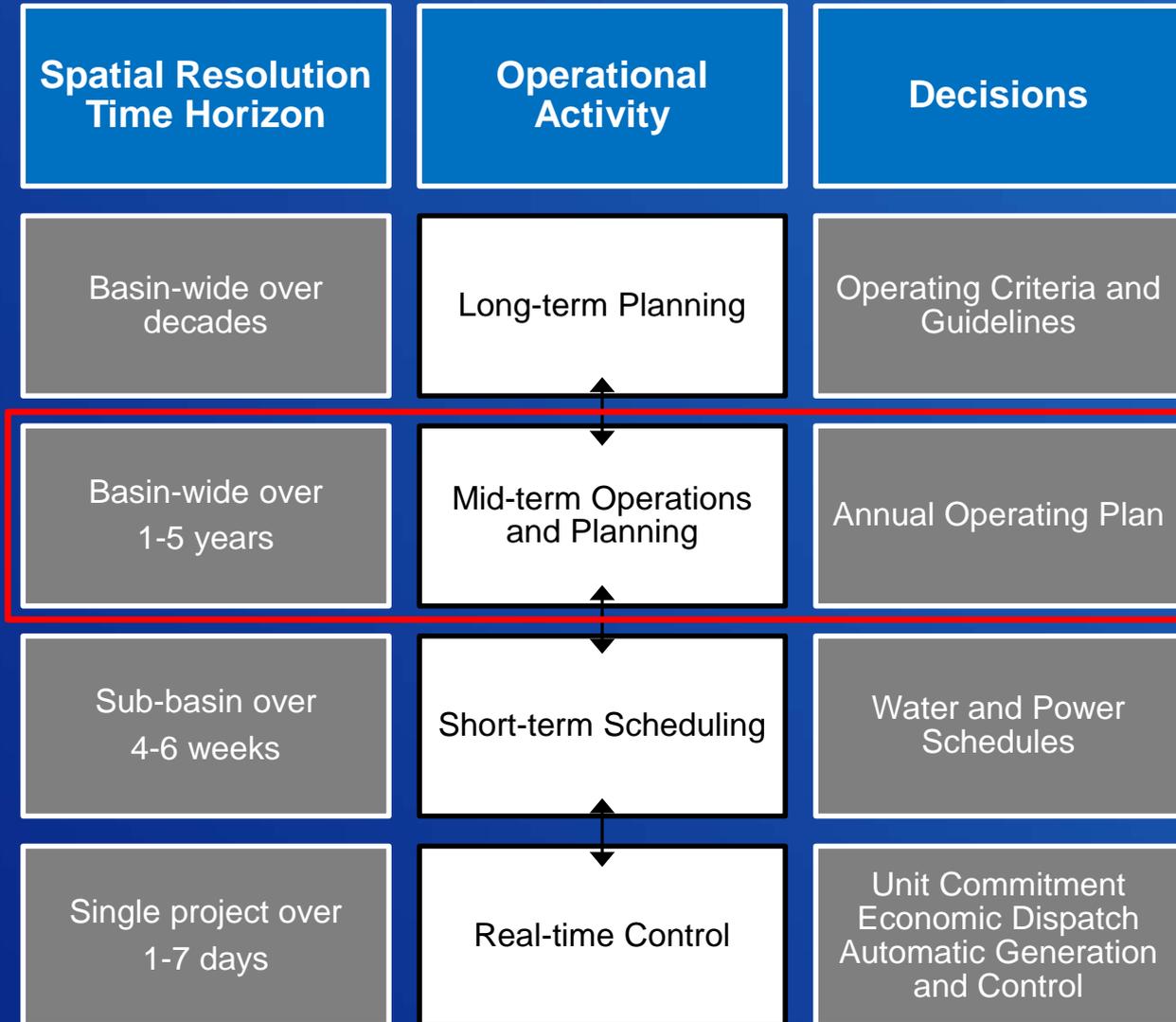
¹ End of Water Year 2015 storage is based on projections from the April 2015 Most Probable 24-Month Study.

Overview of the 2007 Interim Guidelines



- In place for an interim period through 2026
- Provide for coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under a full range of reservoir conditions
- Encourage efficient use and management of Colorado River water through the ICS mechanism
- Establish guidelines for shortage in the Lower Basin

Operational Decision Making Hierarchy



24-Month Study and the Annual Operating Plan

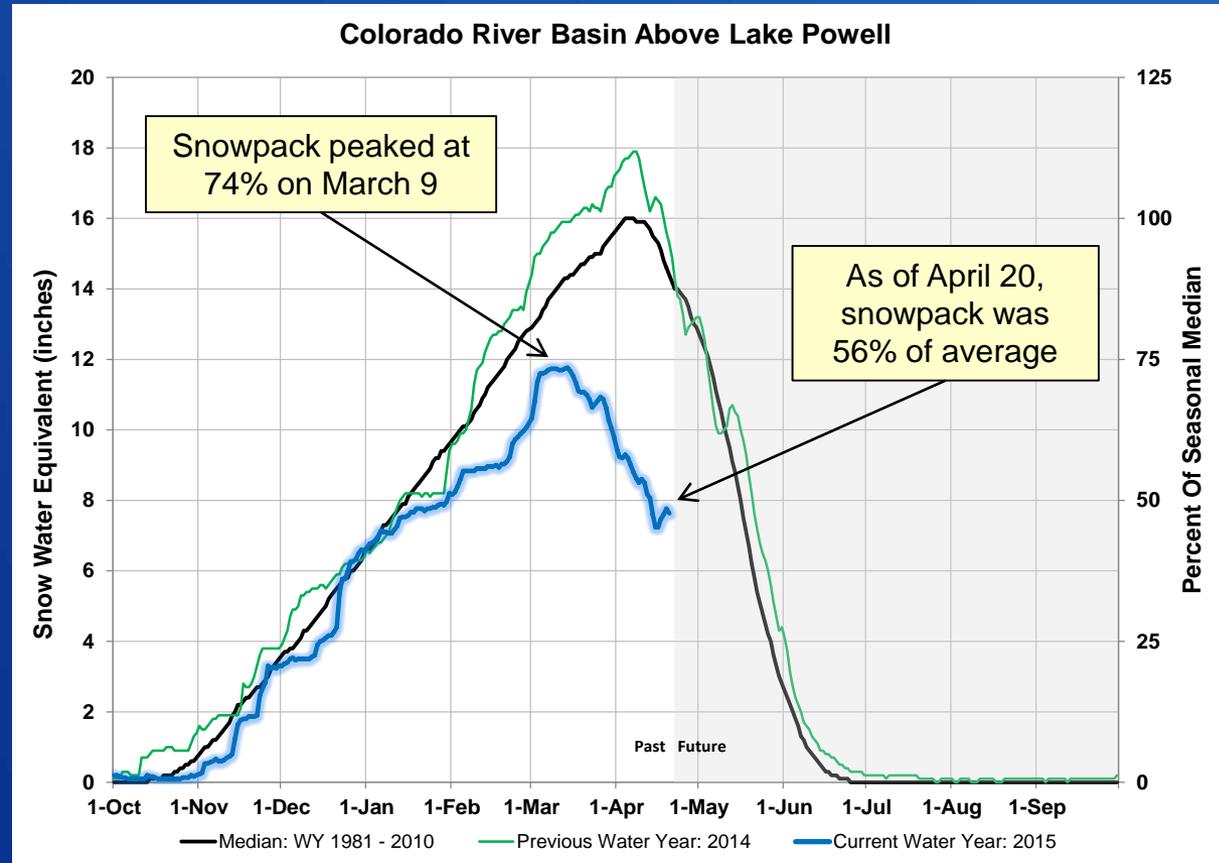
- AOP is a report on the current year's operations and the upcoming year's projected operations
 - <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/aop/AOP15.pdf>
- AOP determinations use projections from the “24-Month Study” model when setting operating tiers
- Timing of Operational Decisions
 - August 24-Month Study projections of January 1 elevations sets the operating tiers for Lake Powell and Lake Mead
 - When Lake Powell is in Upper Elevation Balancing Tier, April 24-Month Study projections of September 30 elevations may result in an adjustment to Lake Powell's operations

Upper Basin Snowpack and Forecasted Inflow Water Year 2015

Current Snowpack
56% of median

Forecasted
2015 April-July
Inflow
47% of average

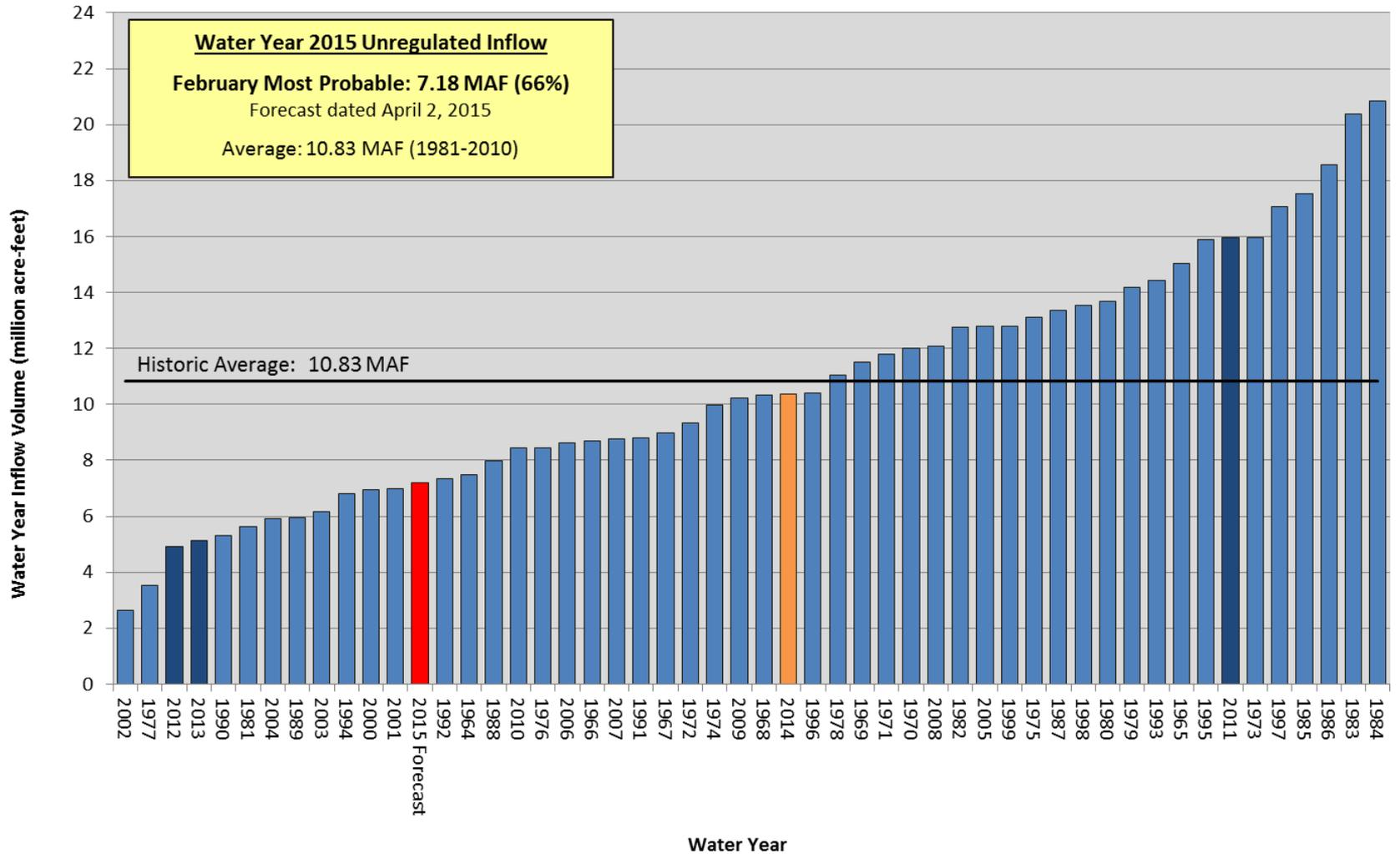
Forecasted
Water Year 2015
Inflow
63% of average



Unregulated Inflow into Lake Powell

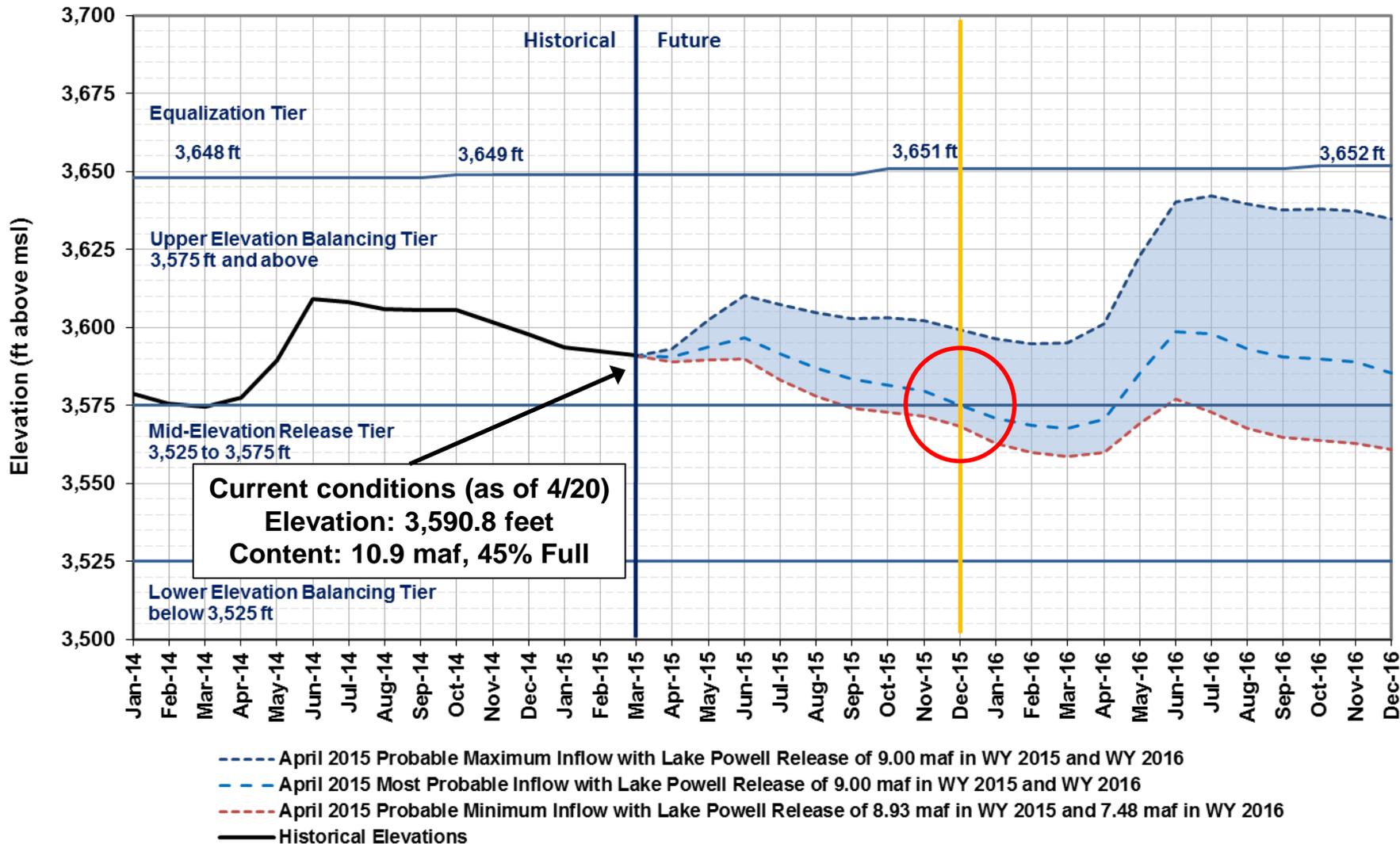
Forecasted Water Year 2015 Inflow

Comparison with History



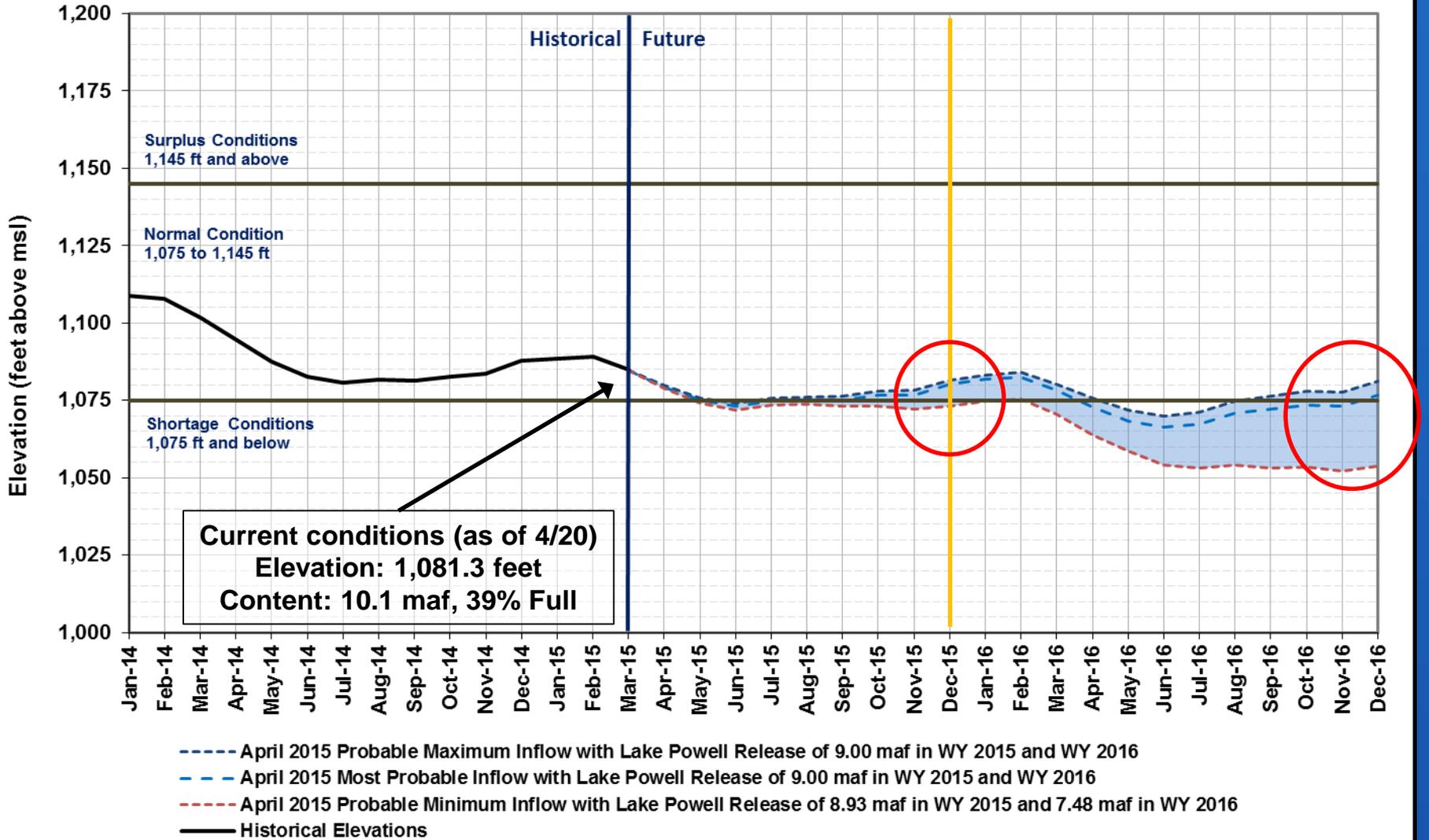
Lake Powell End of Month Elevations

Projections from April 2015 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



Lake Mead End of Month Elevations

Projections from April 2015 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



Summary

- We are currently experiencing an unprecedented drought on the Basin
- The hydrologic uncertainty that still remains this year may impact operations in 2015 and 2016, including the chance of Lower Basin shortage in 2016
- Key parameters impacting shortage will be monitored as actual conditions unfold through the remainder of the year
- Cooperation and collaboration will be the key to finding sustainable solutions and addressing current and future challenges





Thank You

**For further information,
please visit our websites:**

**www.usbr.gov/uc/
www.usbr.gov/lc/**

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