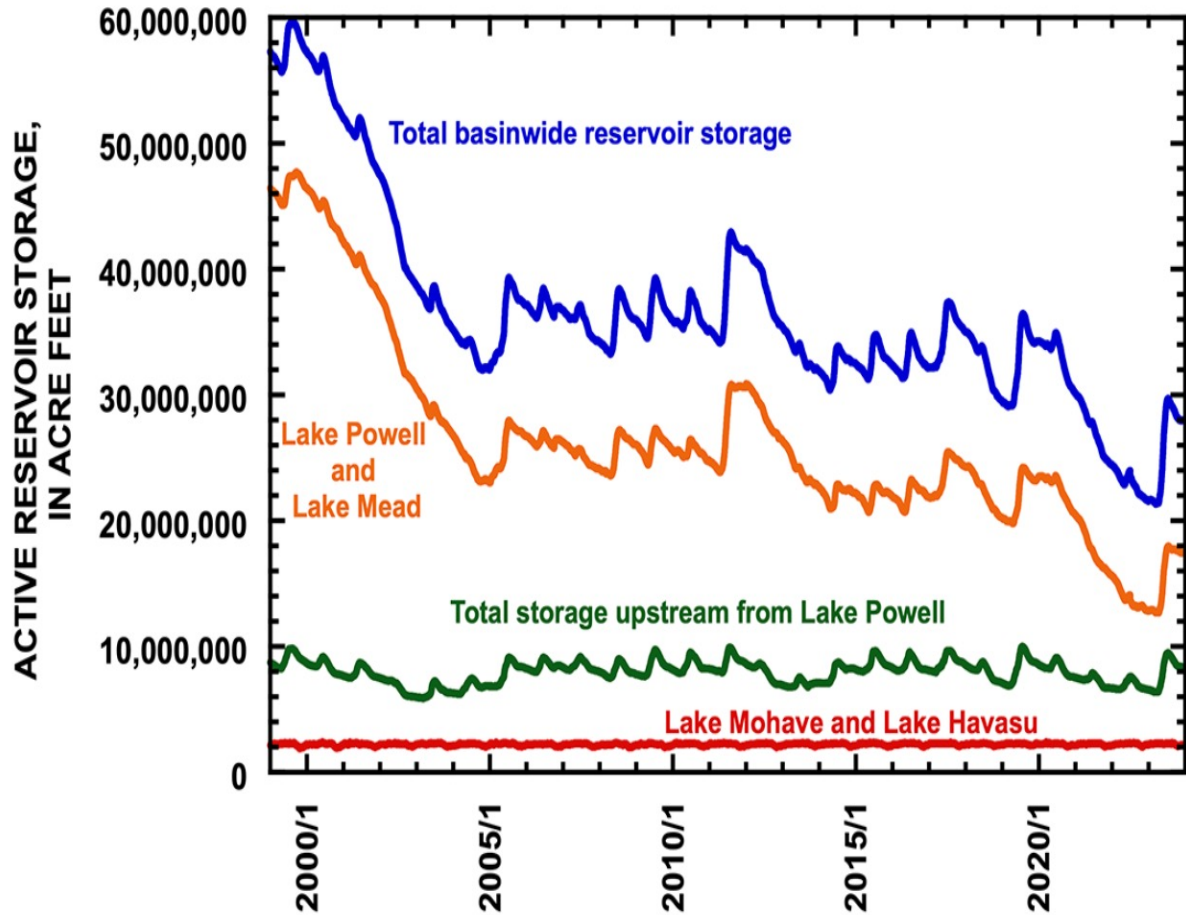


State-of-the River CRWUA 2023

2023 gave us a “breather” – but for how long?

Eric Kuhn

System Storage Recovered in 2023, but We Don't Know what 2024 Will Bring.



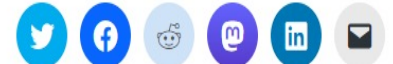
Colorado's winter is off to an uninspiring start, climate experts say

The statewide snowpack stands at just 60% of normal. Some areas of the state might have a hard time recovering from this early dry spell.



Shannon Mullane

3:22 AM MST on Nov 29, 2023



River Flows a Century Ago vs. Today

- From Delph Carpenter's Report

Flow @ Lee Ferry	17.5 maf
Below Lee Ferry	3.0 maf
TOTAL	20.5 maf
Less LB III.(a)&(b)	8.5 maf
Less UB III.(a)	<u>7.5 maf</u>
NET Surplus	4.5 maf

- 21st Century

Flow @ Lee Ferry	12.5 maf
Below Lee Ferry	1.0 maf
TOTAL	13.5 maf
Less LB III.(a)&(b)	8.5 maf
Less UB III.(a)	7.5 maf
Less Mexico	<u>1.5 maf</u>
NET Deficit	4.0 maf

The LD State's interpretation of the 1922 Compact gives the UD States a fixed numerator and a shrinking denominator (putting the burden of climate change on the UB).

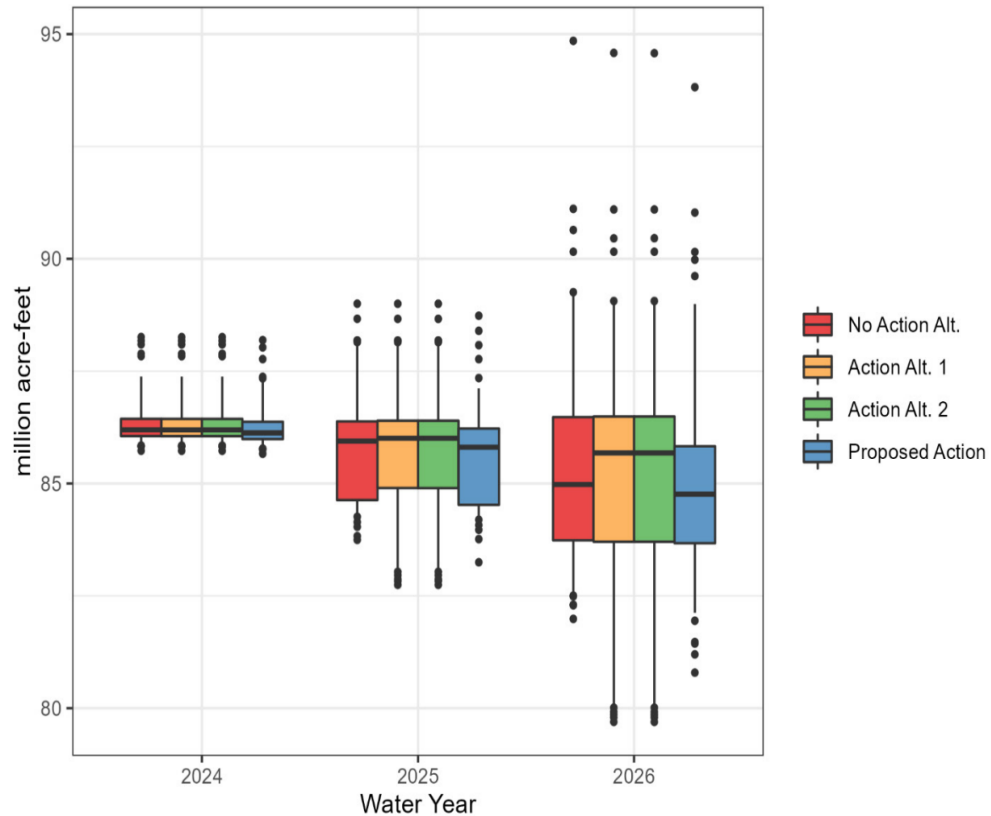
- **1922 Compact Negotiations** **$7.5/17.5 = 42.86\%$ ($8.25/17.5 = 47.14\%$)**
- **1944 Treaty with Mexico** **$8.25/16.3 = 50.61\%$**
- **1948 Upper Basin Compact** **$8.25/15.6 = 52.88\%$**
- **1968 CRBPA** **$8.25/15.0 = 55.00\%$**
- **1988-2021 Stress Test** **$8.25/13.0 = 63.46\%$**
- **2000-2023 Drought** **$8.25/12.4 = 66.53\%$ (2012-2022 – 71.7%)**

Post -2026 “Tripwires”

- 10-year deliveries at Lee Ferry could drop below 82.5 maf by 2027 or 2028 – a clear possibility by 2030 (remember the 5 straight 9.0 maf releases from 2015-2019).
- No 1922 Compact definition of “Beneficial Consumptive Use.” We currently use three different definitions – LB mainstem (1928 BCPA), UB (Article VI of the 48 Compact), LB tributaries ????
- No state allocation of the LB’s 8.5 maf of compact apportionment.
- No assessment of mainstem reservoir evaporation to individual LD States.

Q – If the 10-year Lee Ferry flows continue a downward trend – when is it a crisis?

Figure B-7
Lees Ferry Gage 10-Year Running Total



Lee Ferry 10-Year Compact Volumes

