



2021 CRWUA Annual Conference
Change of Plans: Addressing New Challenges
Wednesday, December 15th

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Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Planning

Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA)

- Part of the 2019 Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan
- Goals are to minimize the risk of Lake Powell falling below the target elevation of 3,525' and thereby:
 - Help ensure Compact compliance and continued Upper Basin water use and development
 - Maintain ability to generate hydropower at Glen Canyon Dam
 - Minimize adverse effects to resources and infrastructure in the Upper Basin
- Provides a process to develop Drought Response Operations Plans to make operational adjustments at Lake Powell or releases from upstream CRSP Initial Unit reservoirs to protect the target elevation

CRSP Initial Units

Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Flaming Gorge	77	2.91	3.75	6,018
Blue Mesa	27	.22	.83	7,433
Navajo	52	.88	1.70	6,021
Lake Powell	28	6.93	24.32	3,540

As of 12/9/21



2021 DROA Timeline of Events

- January 2021: Minimum Probable 24 Month Study run projected Powell below 3,525’
 - Formal notification to parties; Enhanced monitoring and coordination; Monthly analysis of min/most/max
- May 2021: Most Probable 24 Month Study run projected Powell within inches of 3,525’
 - DROA planning formally initiated
- July 2021: Continued declining hydrology and declining Powell
 - Initiation of DROA releases under emergency provision of agreement
 - Total releases of 161 kaf from July-Dec. 2021
- August-December 2021: Development of 2022 Draft Drought Response Operations Plan
 - Established 8 separate workgroups. Each workgroup assigned specific issues. Products from workgroups then incorporated into the larger draft Plan
 - Held meetings with Tribes and affected federal agencies

2022 Drought Response Operations Draft Plan

- Draft Plan has two components: Framework and Attachments
 - **Framework** is a static portion of the plan to be used from year-to-year to develop yearly plans. The Framework is an application of principles identified in DROA:
 - General release and recovery principles; Operational adjustments at Lake Powell; Summary description of each Initial Unit operations; Effectiveness/futility of Drought Response Operations; Natural resource considerations; Impacts to hydropower generation; Water release distribution and transit losses; Accounting; Consultation, coordination, and outreach
 - **Attachments** are an application of the Framework to the specific plan year.
 - Will describe actual drought response operations for the year (operational adjustments/releases/recovery), if any
 - Cannot be developed until spring when knowledge about hydrology for the year is more certain

2022 Drought Response Operations Draft Plan

- Next Steps:
 - Final Draft of the **Framework** should be completed by the end of 2021. Current goal is to make Framework available for review and comment in January 2022, including at least one public webinar
 - DROA Parties will begin developing **Attachments** during winter and early spring of 2022. There will be a separate opportunity for review and comment on Plan Attachments as they are developed
 - If a Plan is necessary due to hydrology and Lake Powell elevation projections, anticipate Plan finalization in April, 2022
- Lake Powell is projected to fall below the target elevation during the March-April timeframe. Accordingly, BOR is currently considering making operational adjustments at Lake Powell prior to April to protect the target elevation
 - Operational adjustments will not alter the total yearly release volume from Lake Powell