

Schmidt – Fleck – Kuhn Proposal*

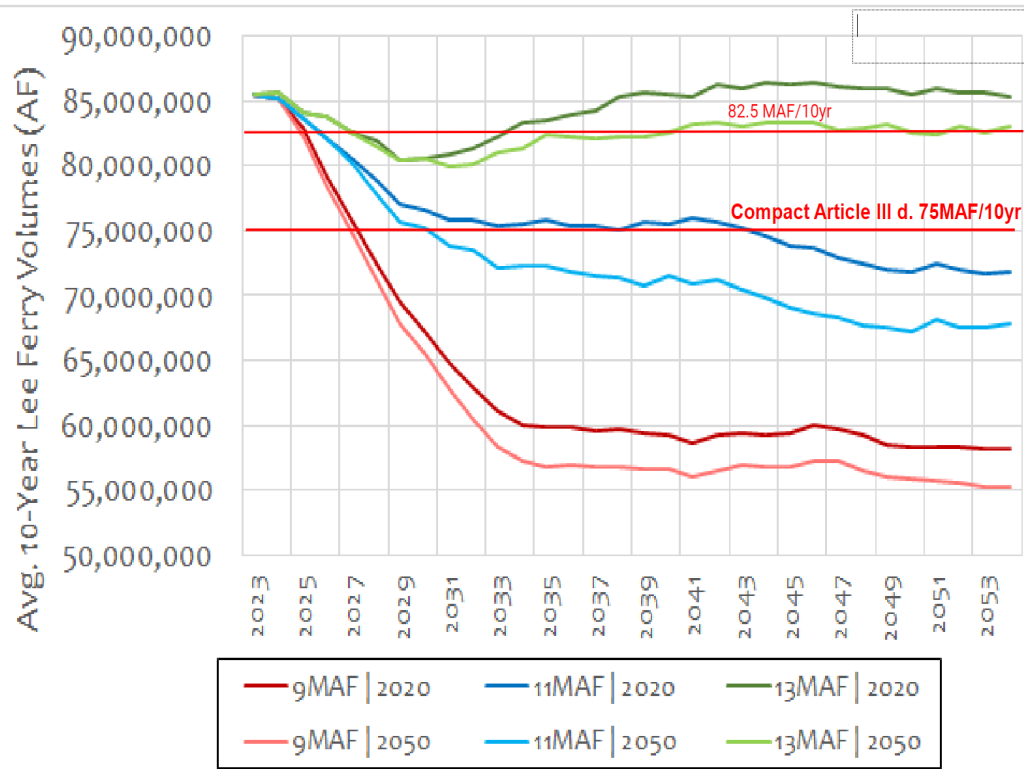
* It's not really a proposal in the classic sense (AKA the UD or LD State proposals). It's an approach that recognizes that as we're about to negotiate a multi-decadal operating scheme, there is far more about future conditions – hydrology, climate, the GC ecosystem, societal values, infrastructure – that we don't know than we know.

Our Proposal Assumptions

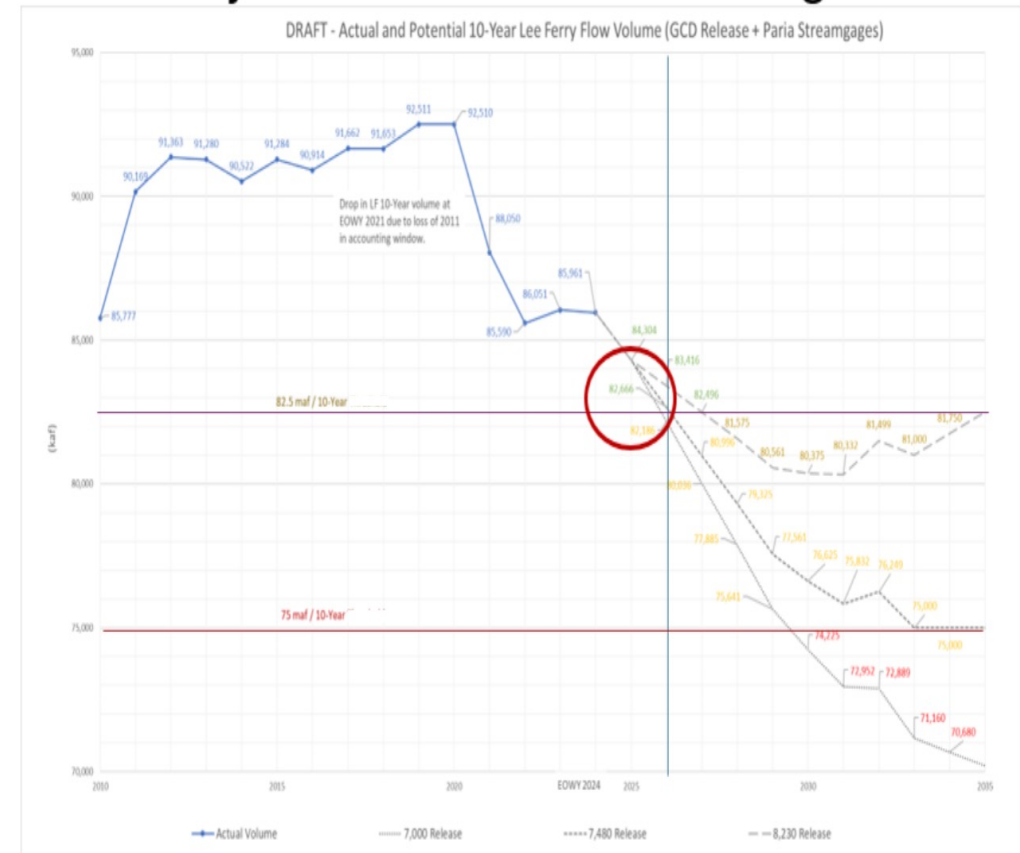
- There will be many surprises in the future – known unknowns and unknown unknowns. The Lake Powell -Grand Canyon- Lake Mead ecosystem is an integrated novel ecosystem, our concerns five or ten years from now will be different than today's concerns.
- Uncertainty and variability will rule the climate and system runoff.
- Originally, we assumed that the states would reach a compromise set of operating rules. That may not be the case, but the four Reclamation alternatives all suggest that releases from Lake Powell would be set annually based on various metrics (primarily storage).
- The “selected” approach will have a “fixed” annual GCD release for water supply purposes, a Y desired for water supply.
- Ten-years flows at Lee Ferry will continue to be a metric that the seven states will be focused on as long as the compact is in place.

Ten-Year Flows at Lee Ferry (Two outlooks)

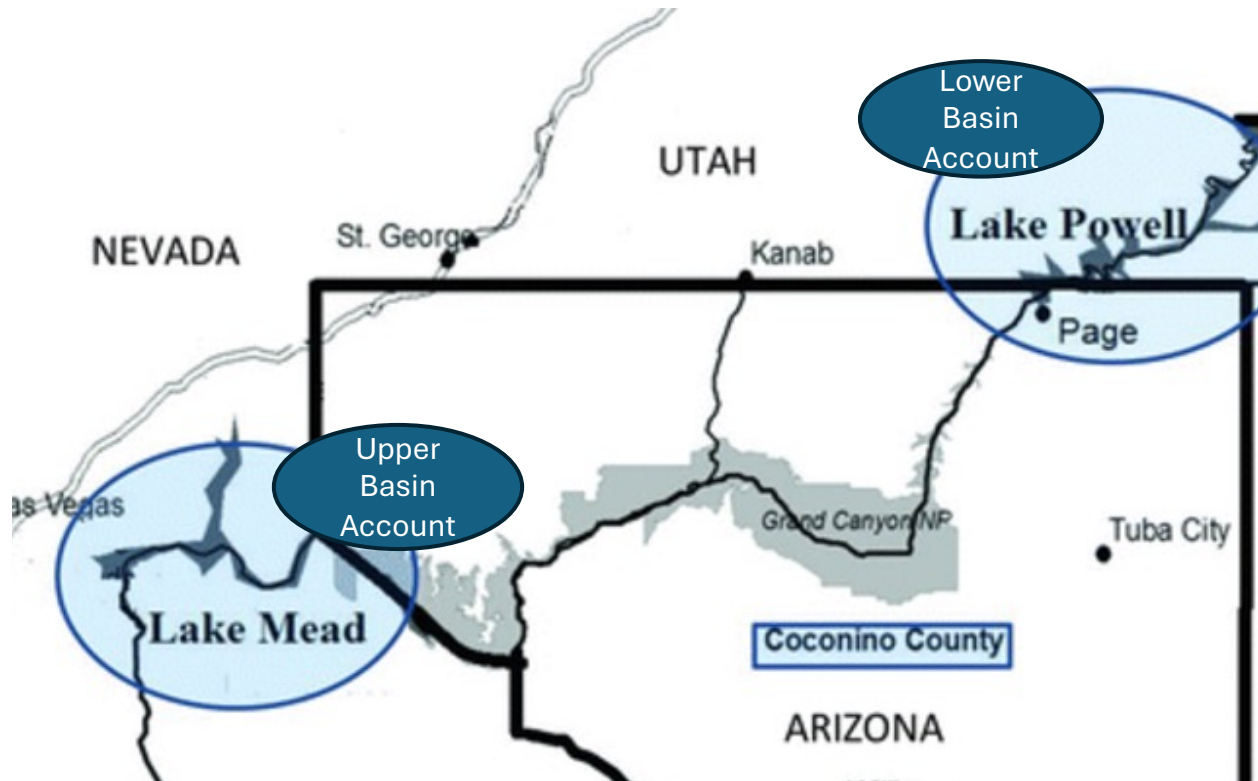
Lee Ferry 10-Year Compact Volumes



Lee Ferry Flow – Estimated 10 Yr Avg



For Flexibility Create Two New Accounts – A Lower Basin Pool in Powell and an Upper Basin Pool in Mead



- If the desired annual release from GCD is less than prescribed release, credit the difference (under-delivery) to the LB pool in Powell.
- If the desired annual release from GCD is more than the prescribed release, credit the difference (over-delivery) to the UB pool in Mead.
- The proposal includes establishing accounting guidelines and a process for how the Secretary would decide if the desired release would be different than the prescribed release.

Basics of the Proposal

- IF, Y prescribed (GCD annual release for water supply) will create problems for non-water supply issues – Grand Canyon ecosystem, dam safety, recreation, power generation...
- THEN, the Secretary can adjust the annual release (Y desired).
- BUT if Y desired is less than Y prescribed then the difference is credited to a Lower Basin account in Lake Powell (above Lee Ferry) and it counts as a delivery.
- OR, if Y desired is greater than Y prescribed then the difference is credited to an Upper Basin account in Lake Mead, and it does not count as a delivery.
- I've left out lots of details, but the concept is Y desired creates no harm to the water supply for either basin.

I'll leave with a graph generated by the USGS.

Q & A

