

USFWS & NPS Joint Concepts for Post 2026

2024 CRWUA Conference

December 5, 2024





Compliance with Laws & Agreements



ESA Recovery **Programs NHPA Organic Act**





Endangered Fish Recovery Program



Federal Lands **Treaty Obligations**

Grand Canyon Protection Act

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



Principles & Goals

Plan for continued Aridification

- Test alternatives against natural flows as low as 10-11 maf
- Avoid dropping below critical reservoir levels through proactive building of storage



Utilize Combined Storge for Determining Releases



Principles & Goals

Healthy Riverine Processes

- Mimic natural hydrograph system wide
- Retain ability to conduct High Flow Experiments at Glen Canyon Dam
- Minimize nonnative fish entrainment and establishment



Maintain higher elevations at Lake Powell



How to Get There



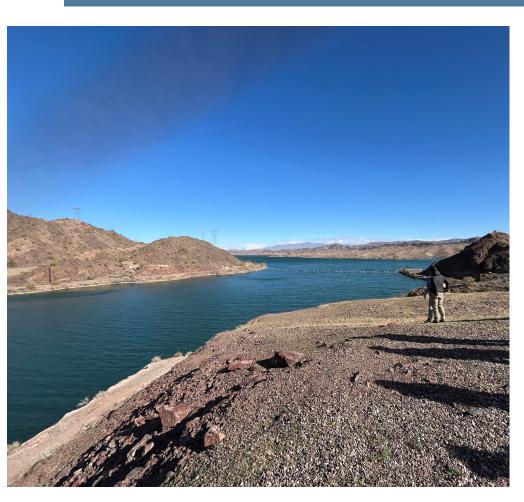
- Balance supply and demand
- Use **combined storage** to determine releases
- Shape delivery releases to maximize benefits & mimic natural hydrograph
- Maintain Upper Basin Colorado River Storage Project reservoir RODS

How to Get There

- Prioritize storage of water in Lake Powell
- Maintain Mead above 1000' and below Pearce Ferry Rapid
- Increase flexibility of water release variability from Powell



Other Benefits



- Interannual variability
- LCR MSCP & Colorado River
 Delta deliveries
- Protects minimum flows
- NPS infrastructure & river based recreation
- Rainbow trout fishery

Proof of Concept

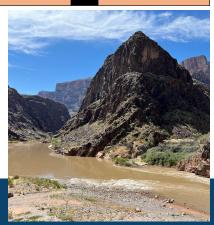


Operational strategies can generally perform well for priority resources under a wide range of hydrologic futures, especially when partnered with protecting infrastructure by not falling below Power Pool at either dam

It can be done!

								Lake Weau
					Marble			Elev
	Powell	Mead			Canyon	SMB	SMB	between
Metric	<3500	<1000	Mead < 950	HFE Prob	Sand	entrained	lambda	1000-1135
Desired				>0.5			<0.96 rate	
condition	<1%	ideally <5%	<1%	probability	>0 tons	lowest	of change	ideally >90%
NPS-USFWS								
Strgy #1	0.0	0	0	0.55	659	9	0.91	60
NPS-USFWS								
Strgy #2	0.5	2	0	0.54	658	14	0.94	90
Current Ops	51.7	57	38	0.15	393	118	1.14	44







The Ask

Request Reclamation consider these **Values and Metrics** when modeling different alternatives to understand potential impacts of alternatives on natural resources.

