

UPPER DIVISION STATES ALTERNATIVE FOR POST-2026 OPERATIONS OF LAKE POWELL AND LAKE MEAD

The Upper Division States (UDS) Alternative provides for **sustainable** operations that are aligned with **hydrologic conditions**, helps to **rebuild storage**, recognizes **hydrologic shortage** in the Upper Basin, and **operates within the Law of the River**.

1

POWELL OPERATIONS

Lake Powell releases are aligned with hydrologic conditions, which helps re-build storage and adapts to variability

POWELL RELEASES

> 3700'
flood control operations

3680' - 3700'
12.0 MAF static release

3650' - 3680'
9.5 - 12.0 MAF per year

3535' - 3650'
6.0 - 9.5 MAF per year

3510' - 3535'
5.0 - 6.0 MAF per year

< 3510'
5.0 MAF static release

MEAD RELEASES

Lower Basin reductions depend upon reservoir conditions

with Lower Basin adjustments of 1.5 million acre-feet under most conditions to account for evaporation and losses

2

LAKE MEAD OPERATIONS

In some cases, the Lower Basin may make additional reductions up to 2.4 million acre-feet. These reductions would be proportionate to hydrologic shortages experienced in the Upper Basin.

3

PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

The UDS Alternative provides details about Upper Basin contributions. Under agreements separate from the Post-2026 NEPA process, Upper Basin contributions could include voluntary conservation and strategic releases from CRSPA* Initial Units. The alternative also includes accounting for Upper Basin hydrologic shortage and undeveloped settled Tribal water rights.

**Colorado River Storage Project Act*

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

The Upper Division States are committed to continued collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Basin States, Tribal Nations, water users, and environmental and recreation groups.

Updated with UDS refinements, January 2025



COLORADO

Upper Colorado River
Commissioner

Department of Natural Resources