Decision Flowcharts Based on the Interim Guidelines for the Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

June 2013

Colorado River Programs

As Described in:

The Record of Decision

Colorado Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

December 2007

The following set of flow charts illustrate the decision-tree governing the water release operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead based on the projections of the 24-month study as described in the 2007 Record of Decision for the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The 24-month study is a monthly report produced by the Bureau of Reclamation that provides a 2-year future outlook from the present month for reservoir conditions in the Colorado River system. The reservoir conditions are determined on a most probable inflow, based on the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center's most probable water supply forecast.

Lake Powell

August 24-Month Study: January 1st Projections

Based on the August 24-month study projections for January 1st of the subsequent calendar year, this flowchart illustrates the possible operational tiers for Lake Powell that could be declared. The operational tiers are determined by the projected elevation of Lake Powell and its comparison to Lake Powell's equalization elevation table. Depending on the operational tier and Lake Powell's elevation with respect to Lake Mead, the volume of water releases from Lake Powell is also established. The following sections of the Interim Guidelines for the Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead are incorporated in this flowchart: 6.A.1, 6.B.1, 6.B.2, 6.C.1, and 6.D.1.

Lake Powell

April 24-Month Study: September 30th Projections

This flowchart illustrates specific conditions for Lake Powell if the Upper Elevation Balancing tier has already been implemented. Based on the September 30th projections of the April 24-month study for Lake Powell and the corresponding elevation of Lake Mead, releases for the water year are determined for the operational condition of being in an Upper Elevation Balancing Tier. The following sections of the Interim Guidelines for the Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead are incorporated in this flowchart: 6.B.3, 6.B.4, and 6.B.5.

Lake Mead

August 24-Month Study: January 1st Projections

Based on the August 24-month study projections of January 1st, this flowchart illustrates the possible operating conditions for Lake Mead. Lake Mead operation is determined by comparing several elevation tiers to the actual elevation of the lake. Depending on the operating condition of Lake Mead and its corresponding elevation tier, the volume of water to be released from Lake Mead to the Lower Basin

states is quantified. The following sections of the Interim Guidelines for the Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead are incorporated in this flowchart: 2.A.1, 2.B.2, 2.B.3, 2.B.4, 2.B.5, 2.D.1, and 2.D.2.

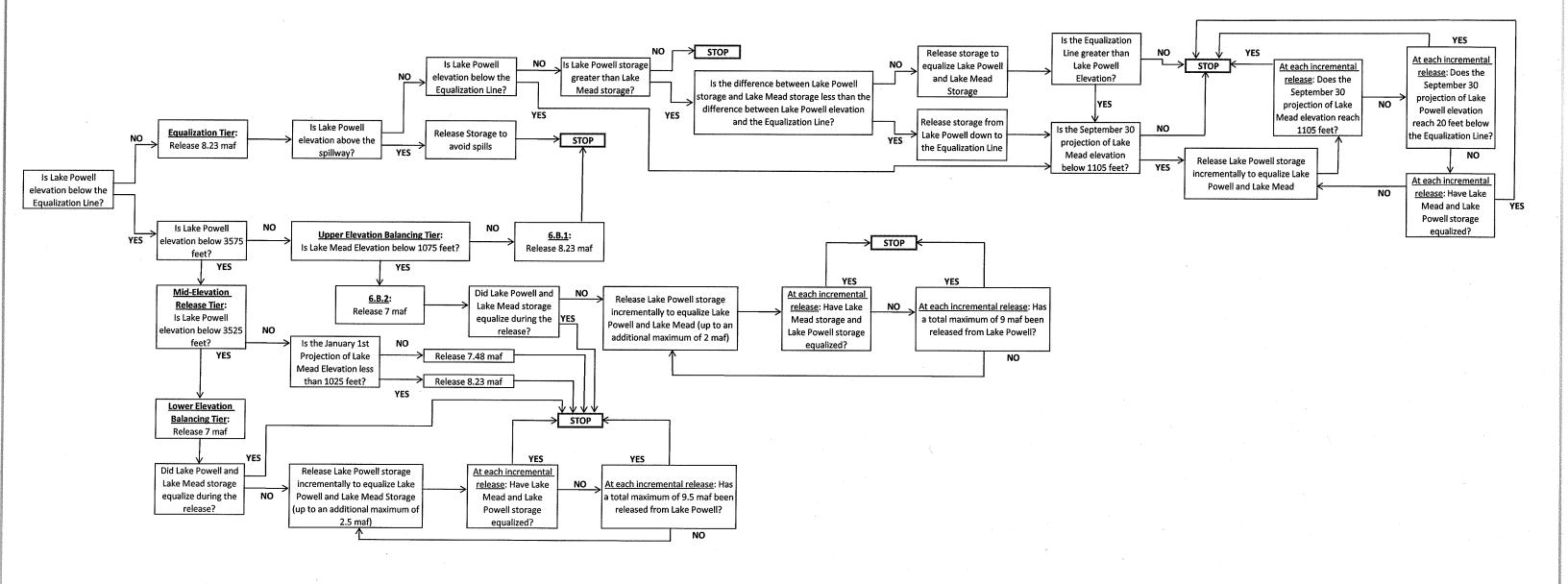
Lake Mead

May 24-Month Study: Following Water Year

This flowchart illustrates a special condition with respect to the delivery of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS). Based on the May 24-month study's projection of the following water year, the amount of ICS to be delivered may be less than requested if such a delivery contributes towards a shortage condition in Lake Mead. The following section of the Interim Guidelines for the Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead is incorporated in this flowchart: 3.C.5.

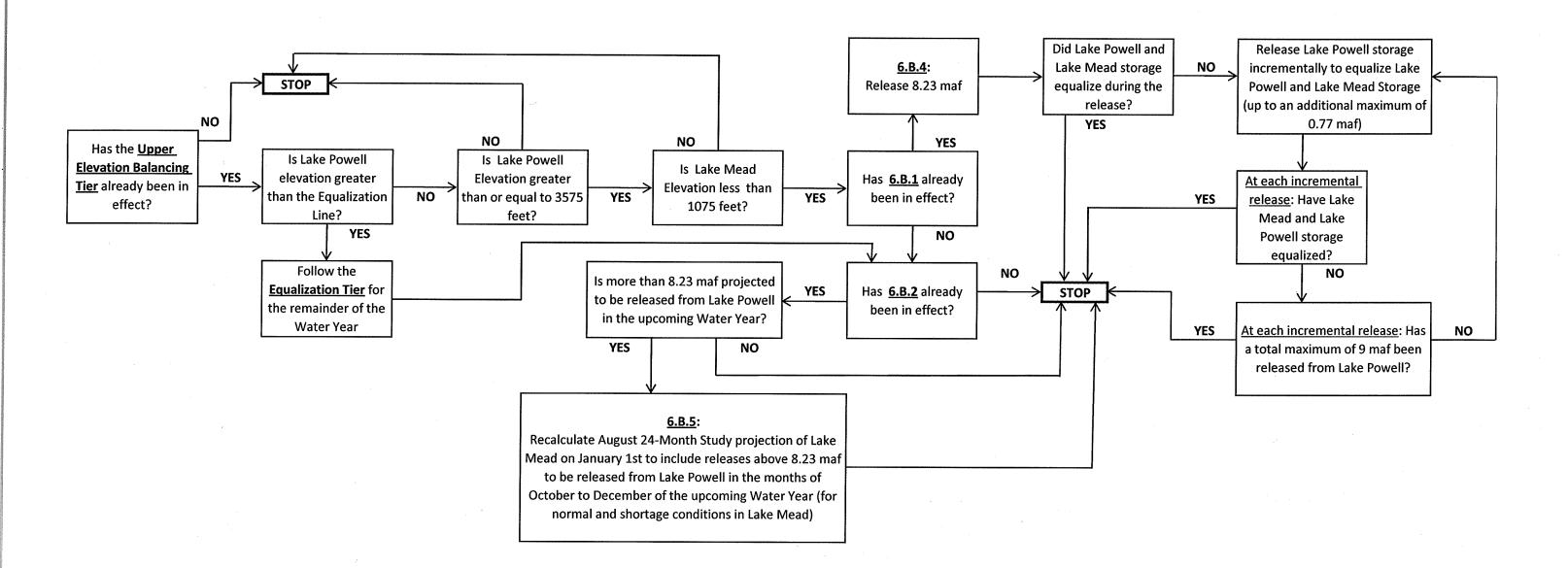
LAKE POWELL

AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY: JANUARY 1ST PROJECTIONS

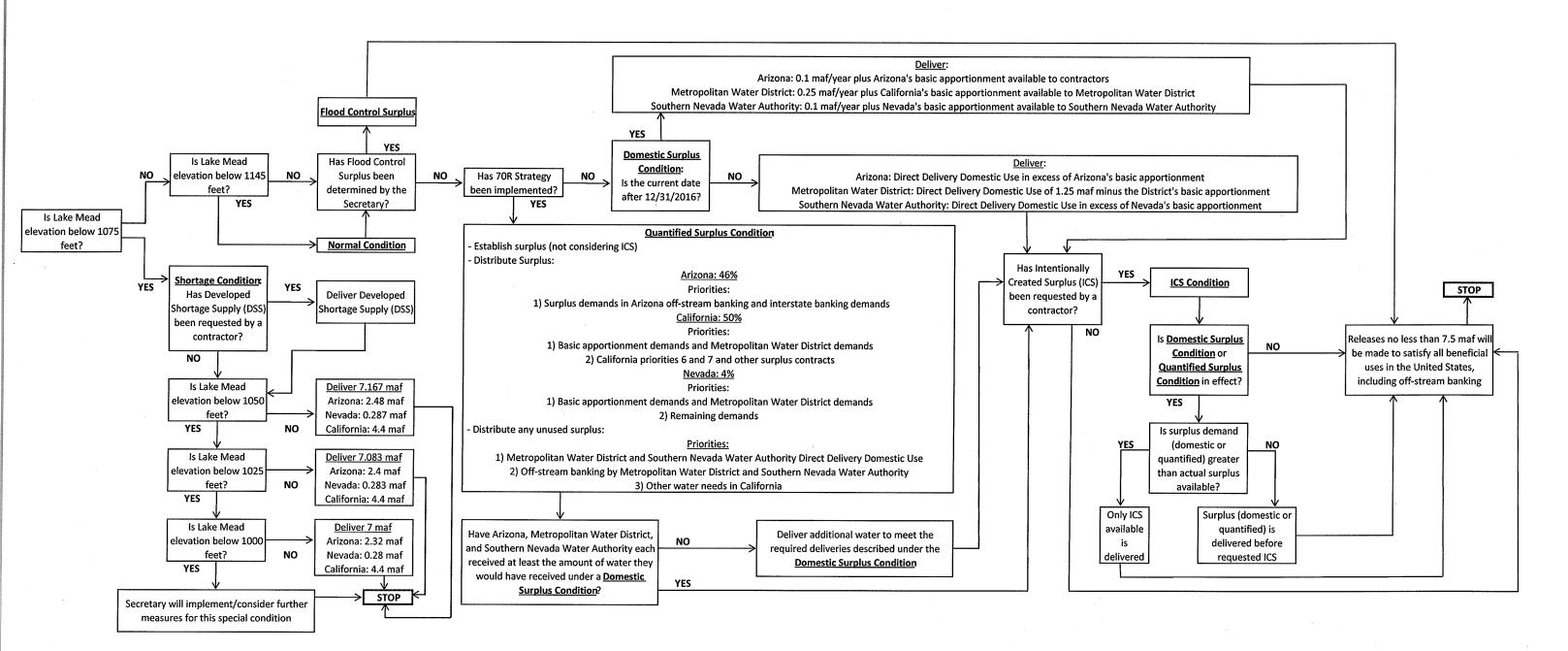


LAKE POWELL

APRIL 24-MONTH STUDY: SEPTEMBER 30TH PROJECTIONS



LAKE MEAD AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY: JANUARY 1ST PROJECTIONS



<u>LAKE MEAD</u> MAY 24-MONTH STUDY: FOLLOWING WATER YEAR

