



# Arizona Reconsultation Committee Meeting #12

February 2, 2026



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RECONSULTATION  
COMMITTEE



# The Honorable Katie M. Hobbs



# Meeting Logistics Summary

- Roll Call
  - Members will acknowledge their attendance when their name is called.
- ARC Delegates
  - Please raise your hand to request to speak or ask questions.
  - If online, use the Teams “raise hand” feature to request to speak or ask questions.
  - Wait to be recognized before speaking to ensure clear communication.
- Livestream Attendees
  - Electronic comment forms are available at [cap-az.com/ARC](https://cap-az.com/ARC) to submit a comment or question during the meeting.
  - Public submissions will be addressed if time allows.



# ARC Meeting #12 Agenda

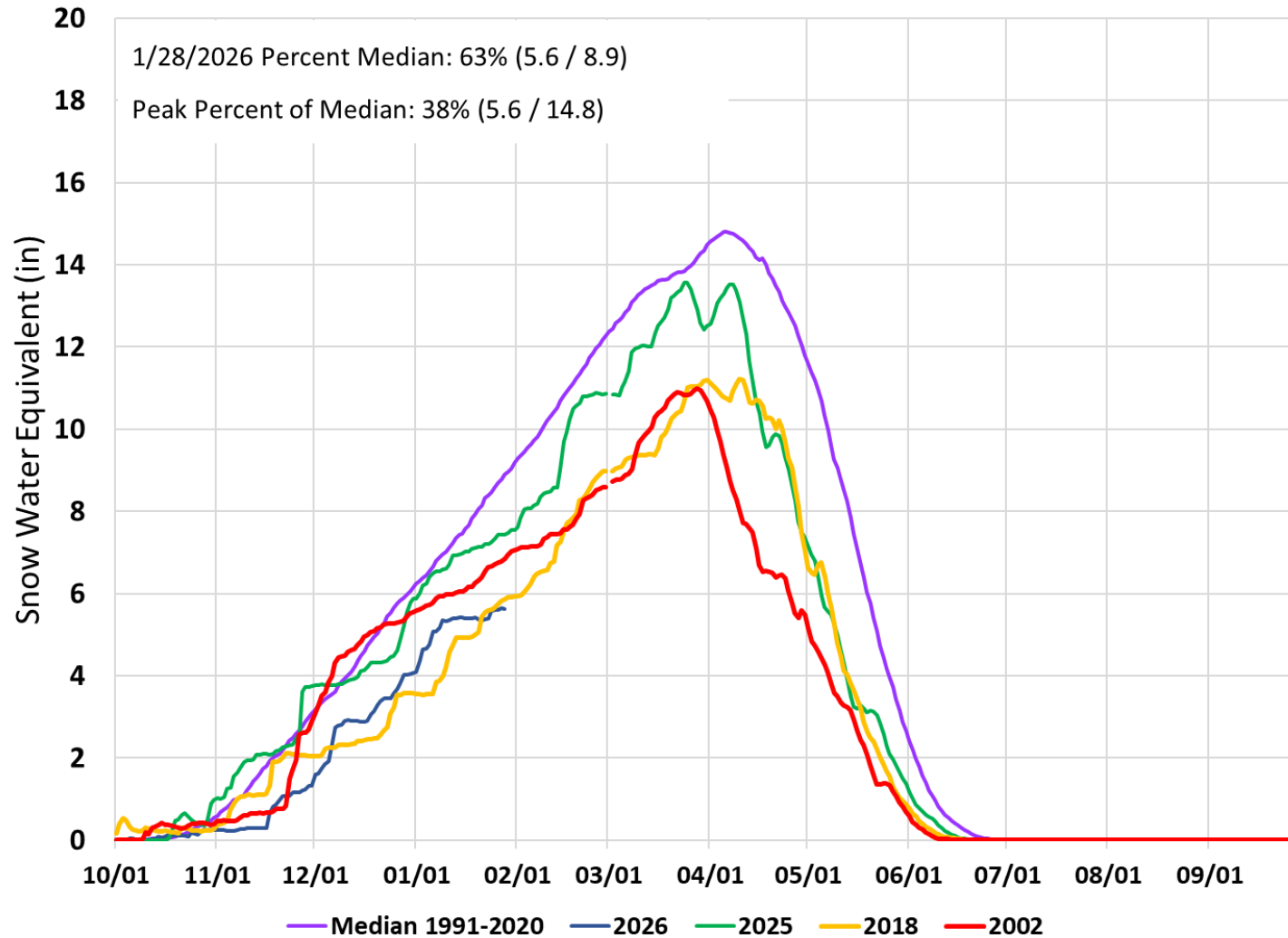
- Message from Governor Hobbs
- Welcome from ARC Co-Chairs
- Hydrology Update
- Compact Delivery Obligations
- Basin States Update
- DEIS Overview and Analysis
- Arizona Conclusions
- Comments and Questions from ARC Members



# Hydrology Update



# Snow Water Equivalent - Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell



Snowpack vs. Runoff		
	Snowpack % of median	Runoff % of average
2002	74%	28%
2018	76%	48%
2022	90%	63%
2023	161%	140%
2024	114%	83%
2025	92%	49%
2026	63%*	63%??

\*1/28/2026 Forecast

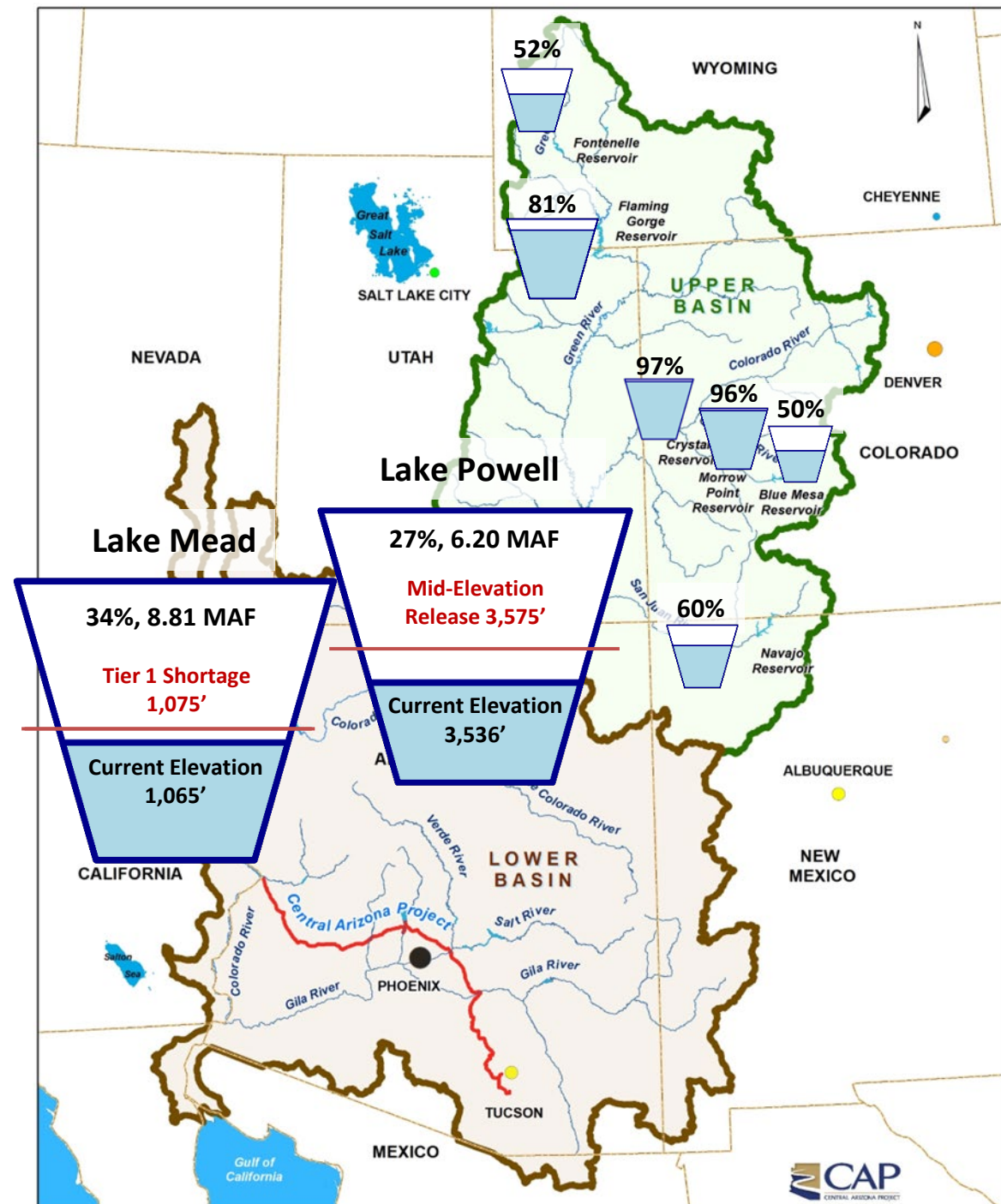


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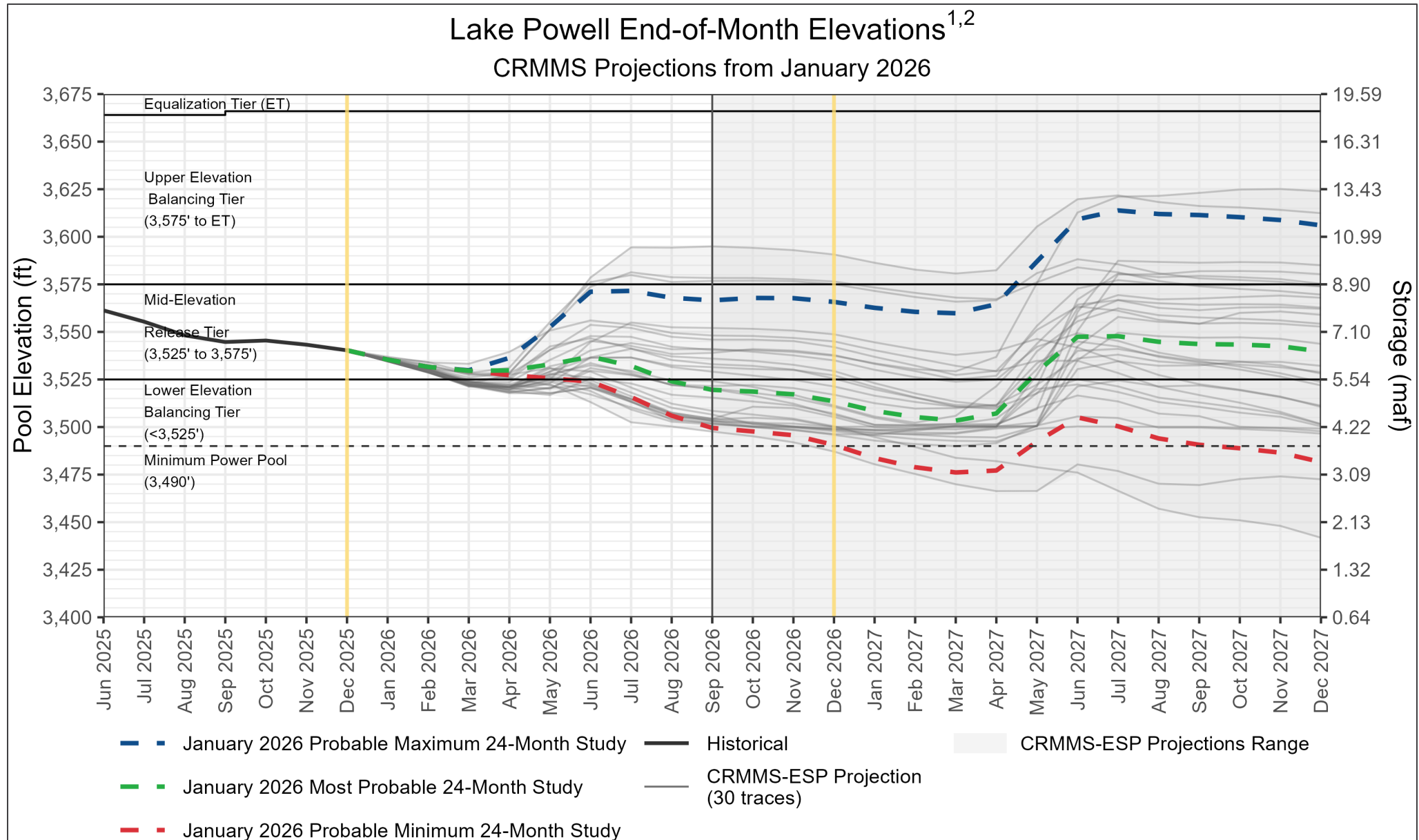
# Colorado River Basin Storage

*As of January 26, 2026*

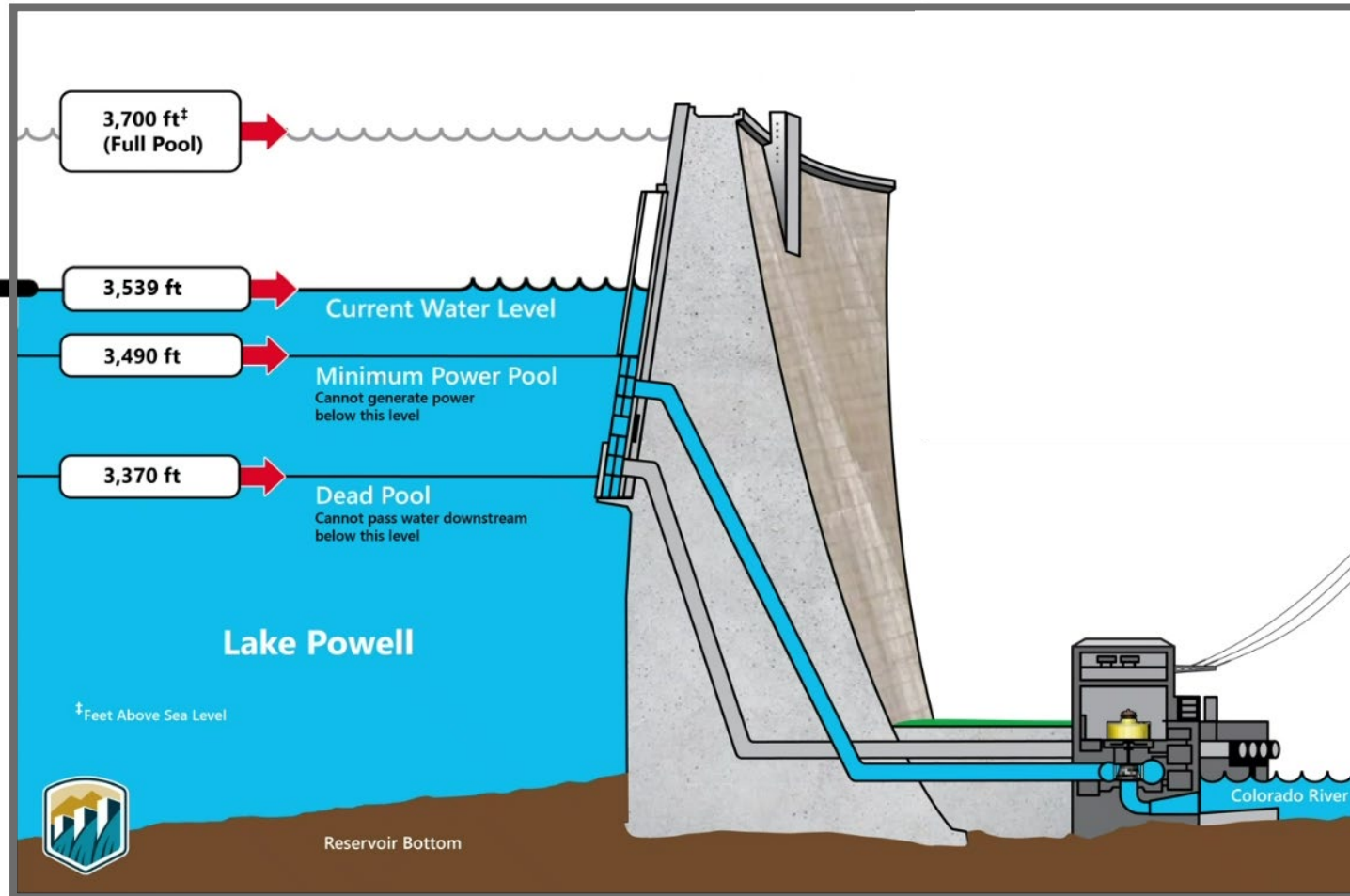
System Contents: 21.91 MAF (37%)  
Last Year System Contents: 24.33 MAF



# Powell Elevations under January CRMMS



# 2024 SEIS ROD: Section 6(E)



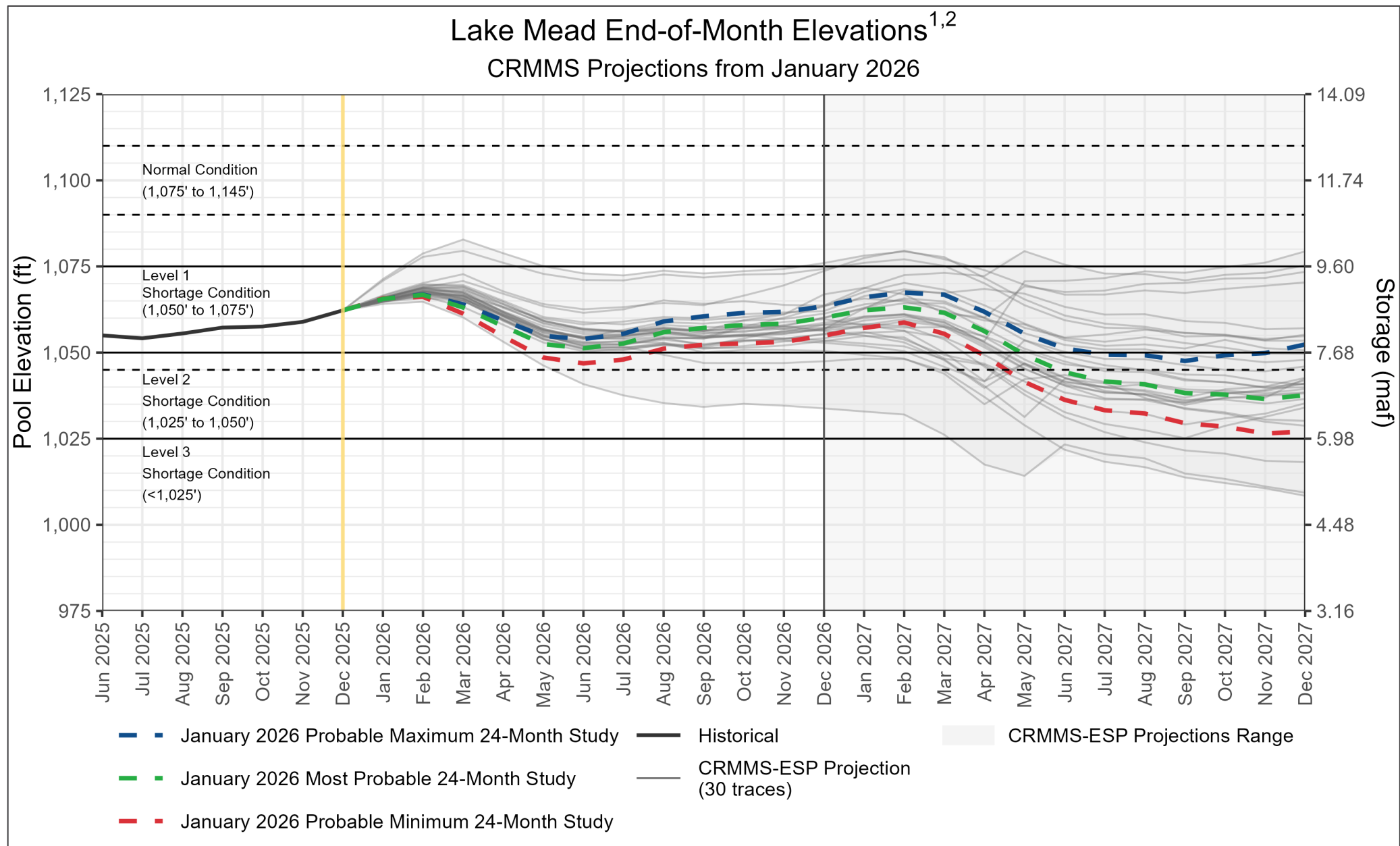
For 2026, Drought Response Operating Agreement (DROA) Activities:

- Monthly releases at Glen Canyon Dam have been adjusted as the first consideration under DROA
- Planning and coordination for DROA releases underway – no determination made yet

Given the current hydrology; even with a DROA release, it is possible there will still be a need for 6(E) Lake Powell release reductions.

Any Lake Powell release reduction would take into consideration upstream DROA releases and would be implemented only after a DROA plan is established.

# Impacts to Lake Mead from a reduced Powell Release



# Compact Compliance



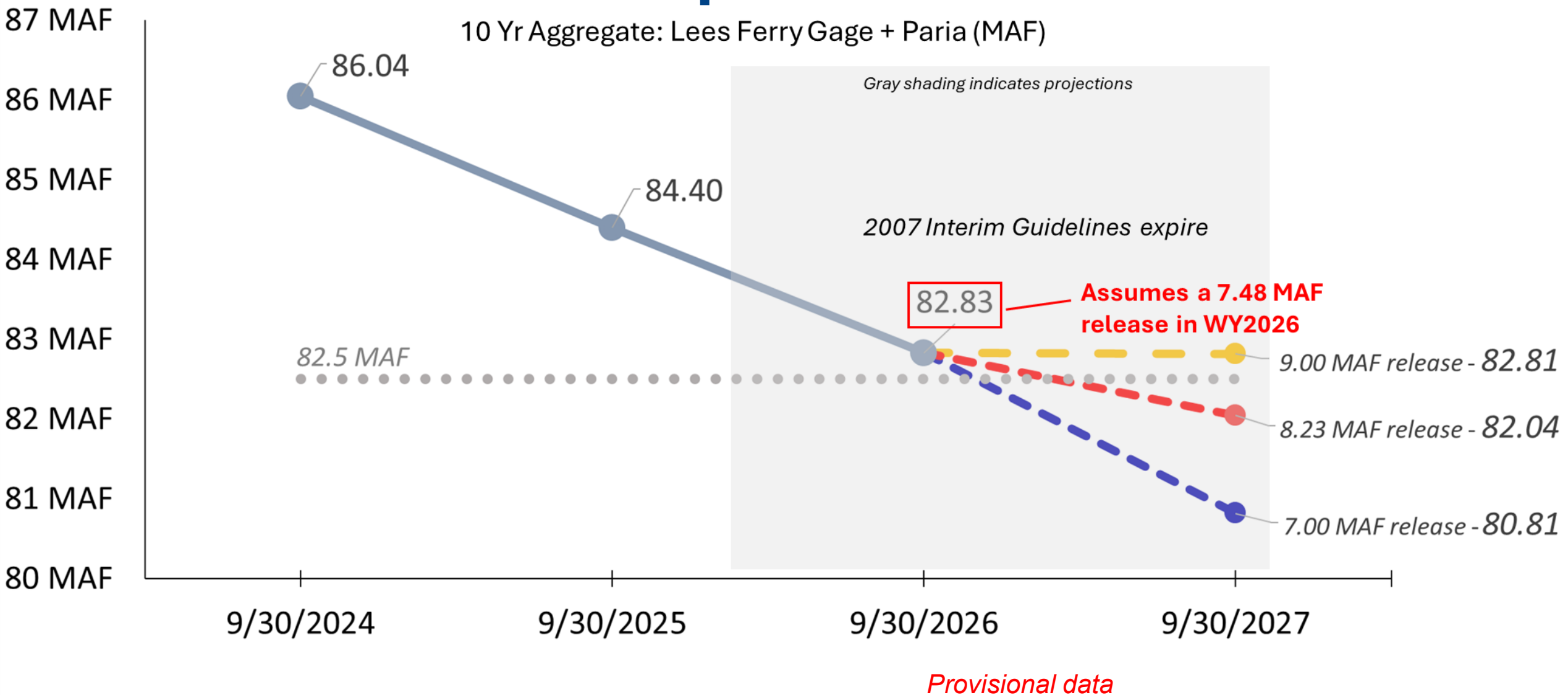
# Colorado River Compact Compliance

Compliance means flow of the Colorado River at Lee Ferry shall not be below an aggregate of 75 MAF over a rolling 10-year period, plus annual releases equal to one-half the Mexico Treaty burden.

## [Compact Explained](#)



# Projected Water Year of Flows Below Compact Requirements



# Basin States Update



# Seven State Discussions

- Seven Basin States and Reclamation have been meeting weekly for several months.
- The seven states and Reclamation have discussed a phased approach; Phase 1: 1-5 years, Phase 2: rest of the 20-year period.
- Major points of contention are:
  - Powell releases
  - Upper Initial Unit releases
  - Upper Basin reductions
  - Lower basin reductions beyond 1.5 MAF
  - Compact waiver
- Next Federal deadline is February 14, 2026.



# DEIS Overview and Analysis





— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

**Draft**  
Environmental Impact  
Statement

Post-2026 Operational  
Guidelines and  
Strategies for Lake  
Powell and Lake Mead

**Volume I**

January 2026  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper and Lower Colorado Basins  
Interior Regions 7 and 8



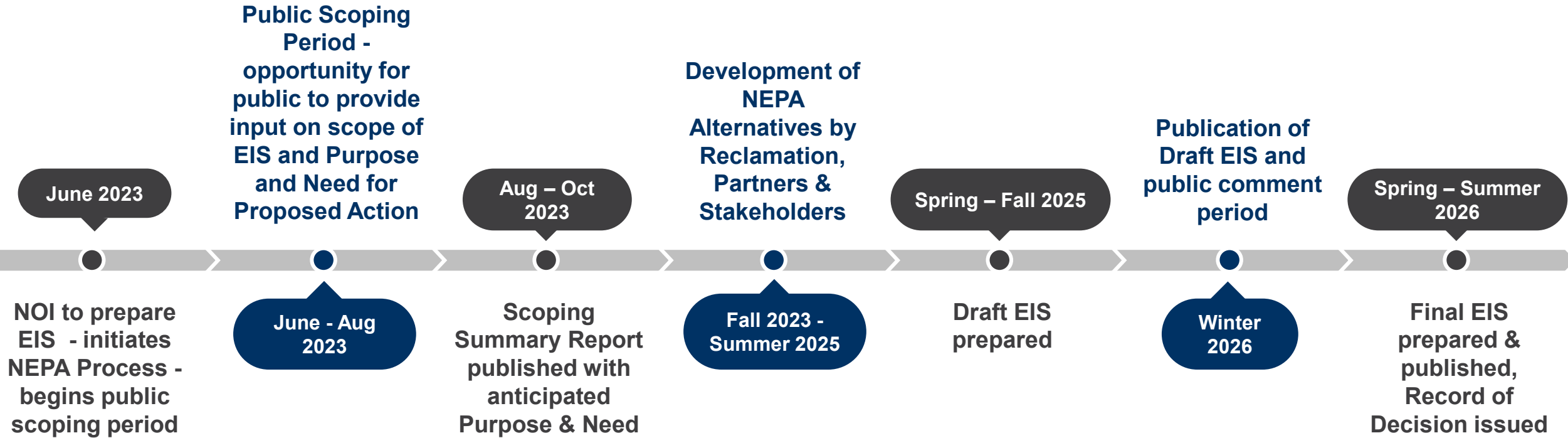
# General DEIS Information

- DEIS published on January 16, 2026
- Reclamation will hold two virtual Public Meetings to provide information
  - January 29, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00 PM MST)
  - February 10, 2026 (5:30 – 7:30 PM MST)
- Comments on the DEIS are due March 2, 2026.



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# Post-2026 EIS Timeline



# DEIS - Key Actions Evaluated

- **Shortage Conditions** – Identification of circumstances under which the Secretary would allocate the annual amount of water available for consumptive use from Lake Mead to the Lower Division states
- **Coordinated Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead** – Particularly under low reservoir conditions
- **Storage and delivery of conserved water in Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell** – To increase the flexibility to meet water use needs from both reservoirs, including storage and delivery of non-system water, exchanges; and water conserved through extraordinary measures by or for tribal, agricultural, or municipal entities.

*Contents of this presentation represents our current, best understanding of the DEIS and may change with continued review and further analysis.*



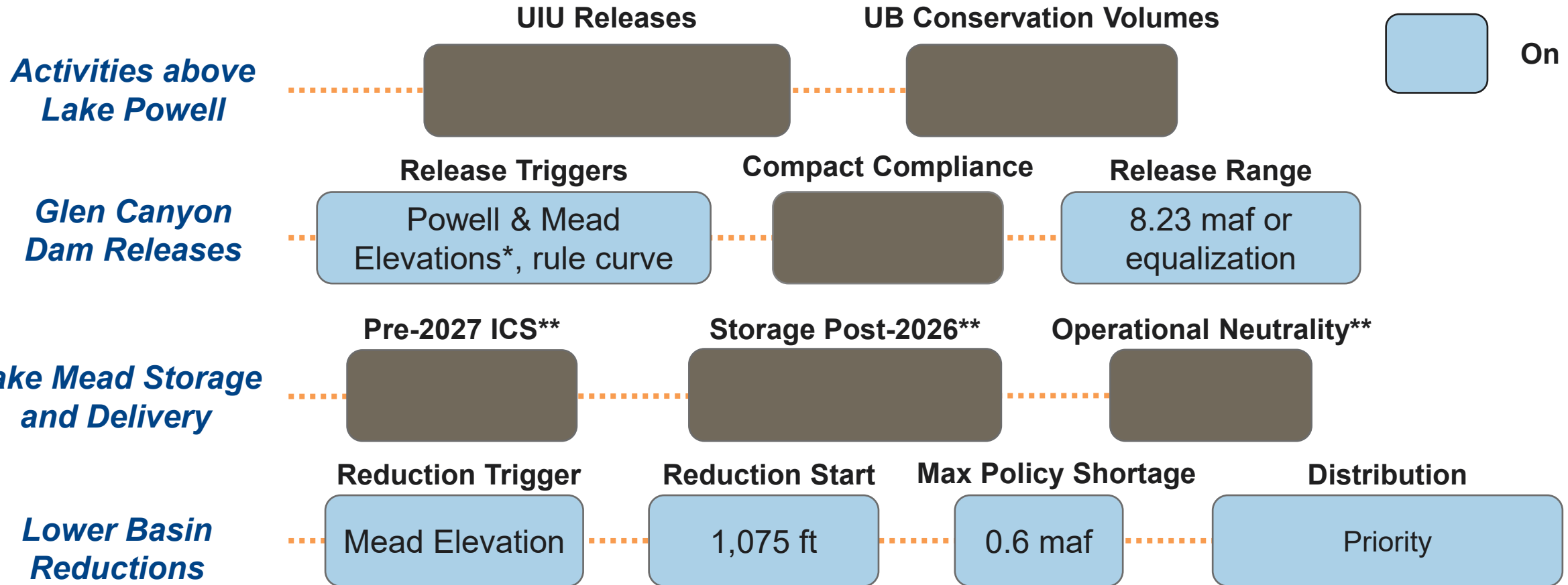
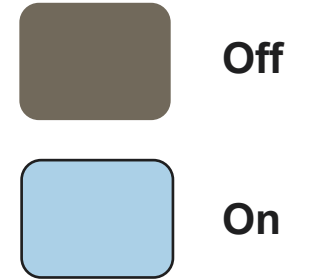
# Alternatives

- **No Action Alternative:** Required by NEPA, signifies a return to annual decision-making absent objective criteria, a mode of operation Reclamation and the Basin States have purposefully avoided since the late 1990s
- **Basic Coordination Alternative:** Designed to provide a compliance option for a set of operations that Reclamation could implement in WY 2027 if no new agreements among relevant entities in the Basin are developed
- **Enhanced Coordination Alternative:** Designed to achieve protection of critical infrastructure and benefit key resources. Developed in close coordination with the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it reflects concepts developed with Basin Tribes and principles put forth by hydropower interests
- **Maximum Operational Flexibility Alternative:** Informed by a proposal submitted by a consortium of conservation organizations, includes operational concepts that promote maximum flexibility in water use
- **Supply Driven Alternative:** Includes Lake Powell operations based solely on recent hydrologic conditions

*Current Continued Strategies Comparative Baseline: not an alternative but represents a continuation of current operations for comparative analysis*



# No Action



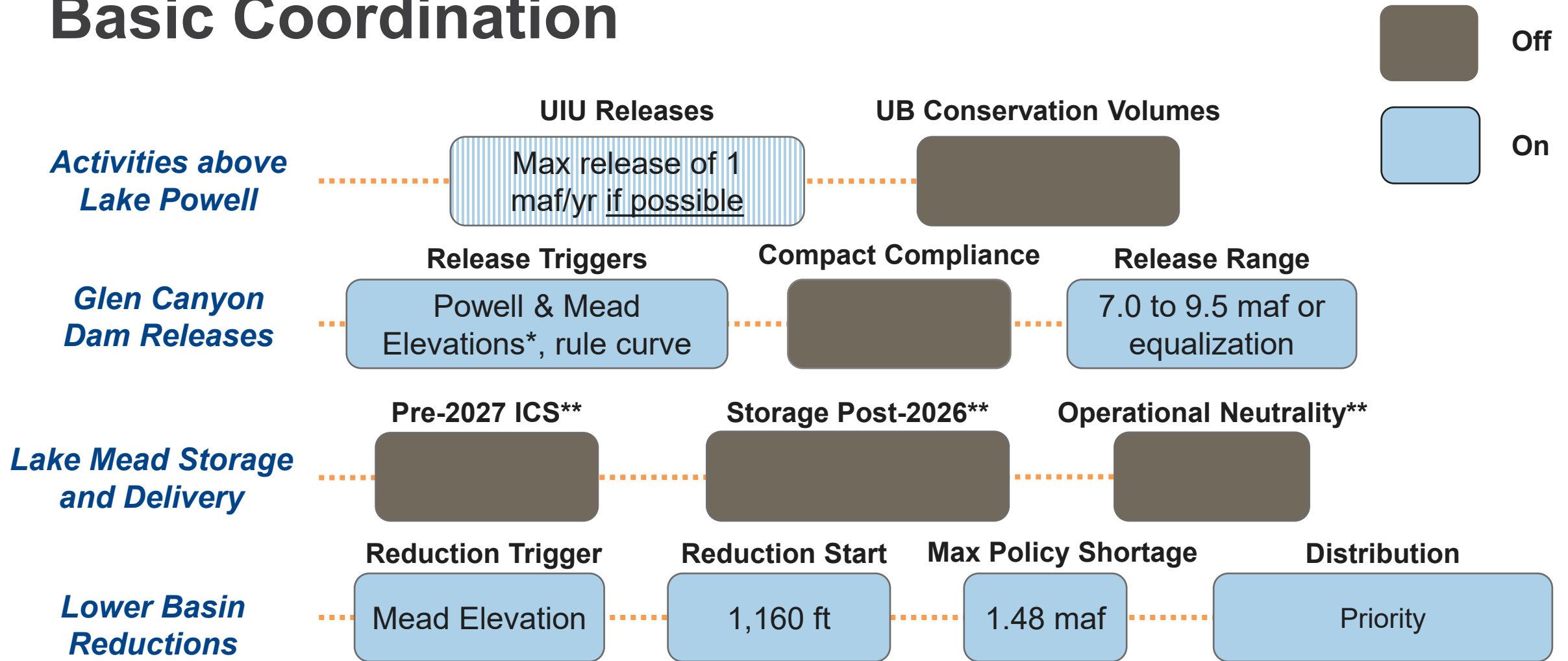
\* consideration of Mead only at high elevations

\*\* No new program; only delivery of existing ICS in accordance with existing agreements



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# Basic Coordination



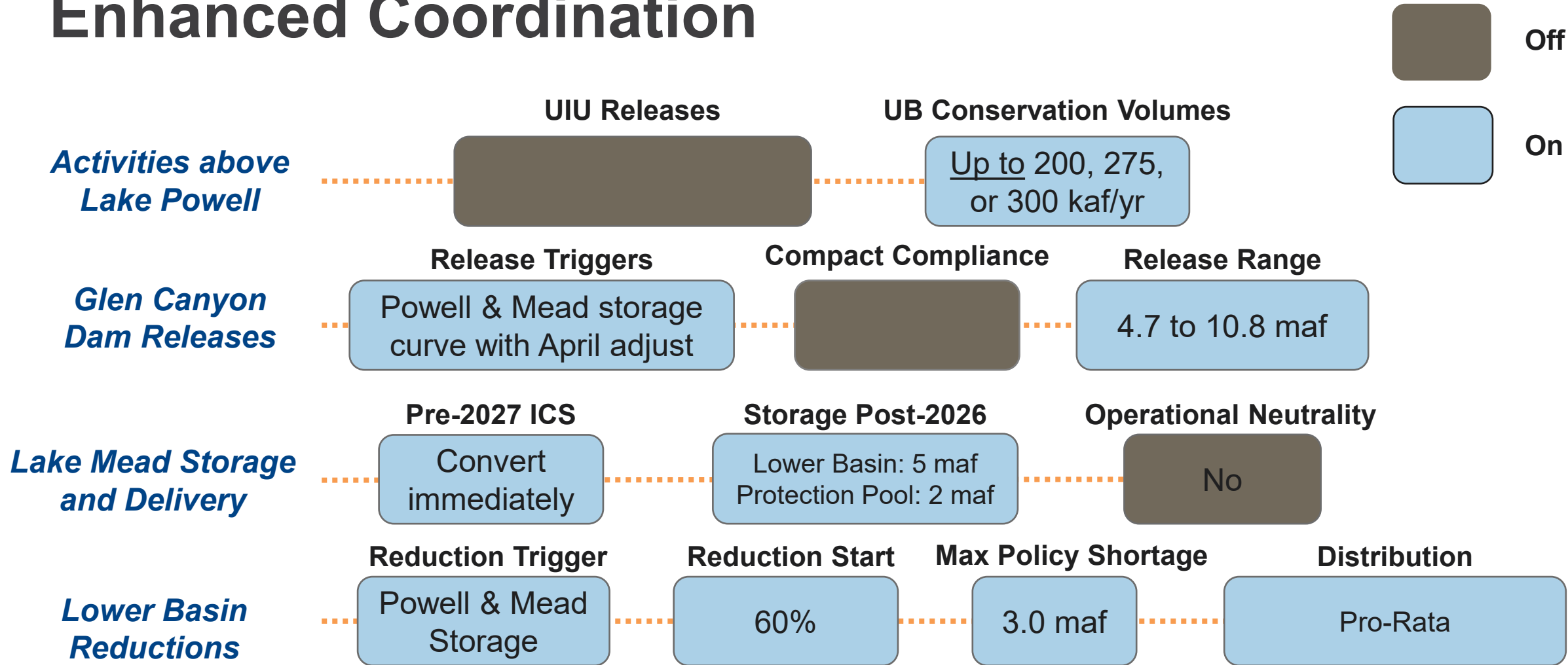
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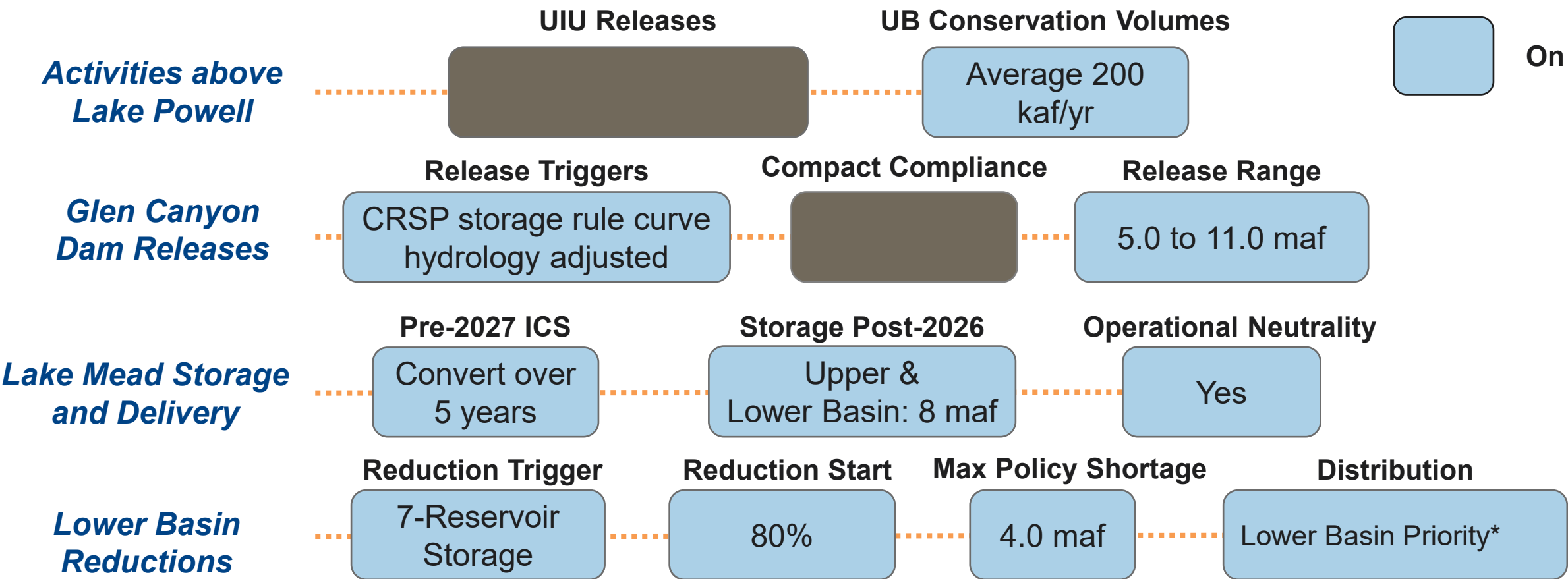
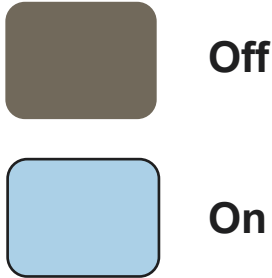


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# Enhanced Coordination



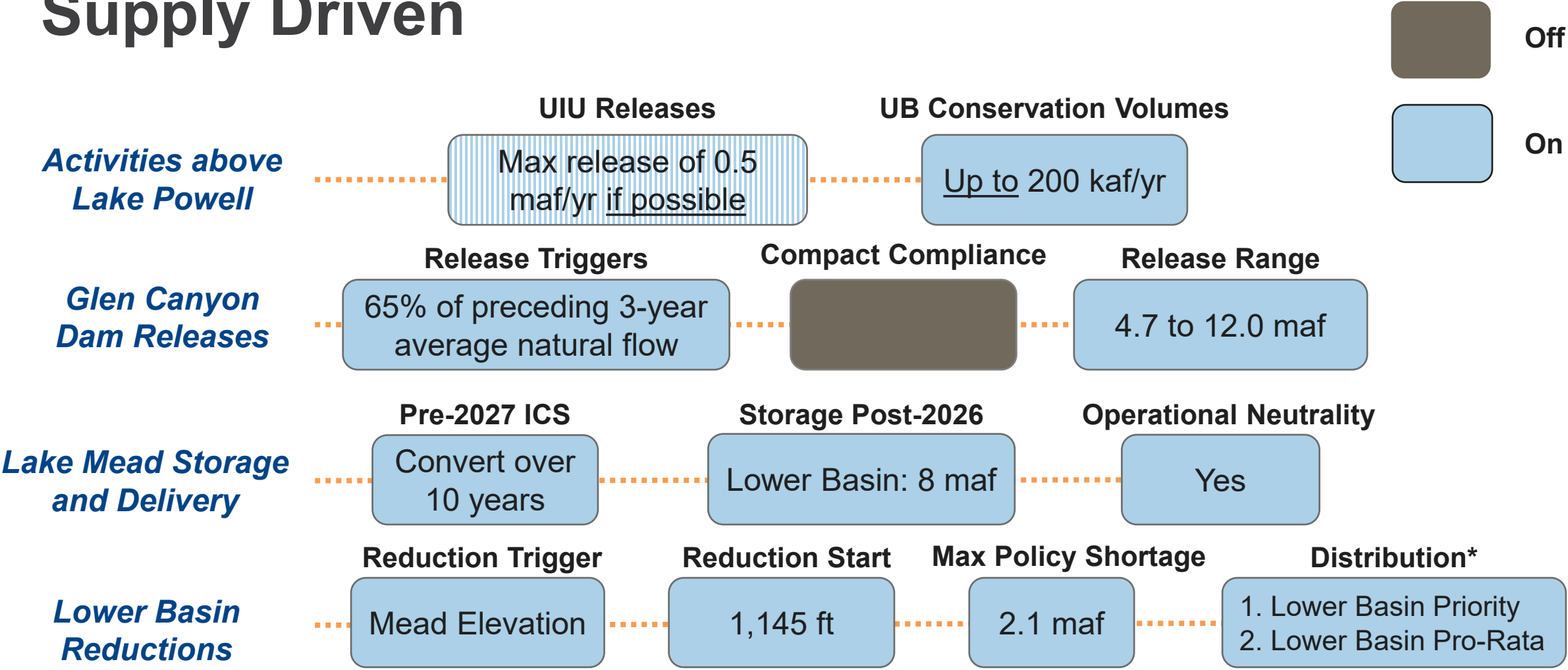
# Maximum Operational Flexibility



\*1.5 MAF of reductions are distributed using state distributions submitted by Lower Division states (760, 440 and 50 KAF to AZ, CA and NV respectively.) Reductions below 1.5 MAF are distributed based on the inter-state distribution submitted by Lower Division states. Reductions above 1.5 MAF are distributed in priority based on United States' interpretation



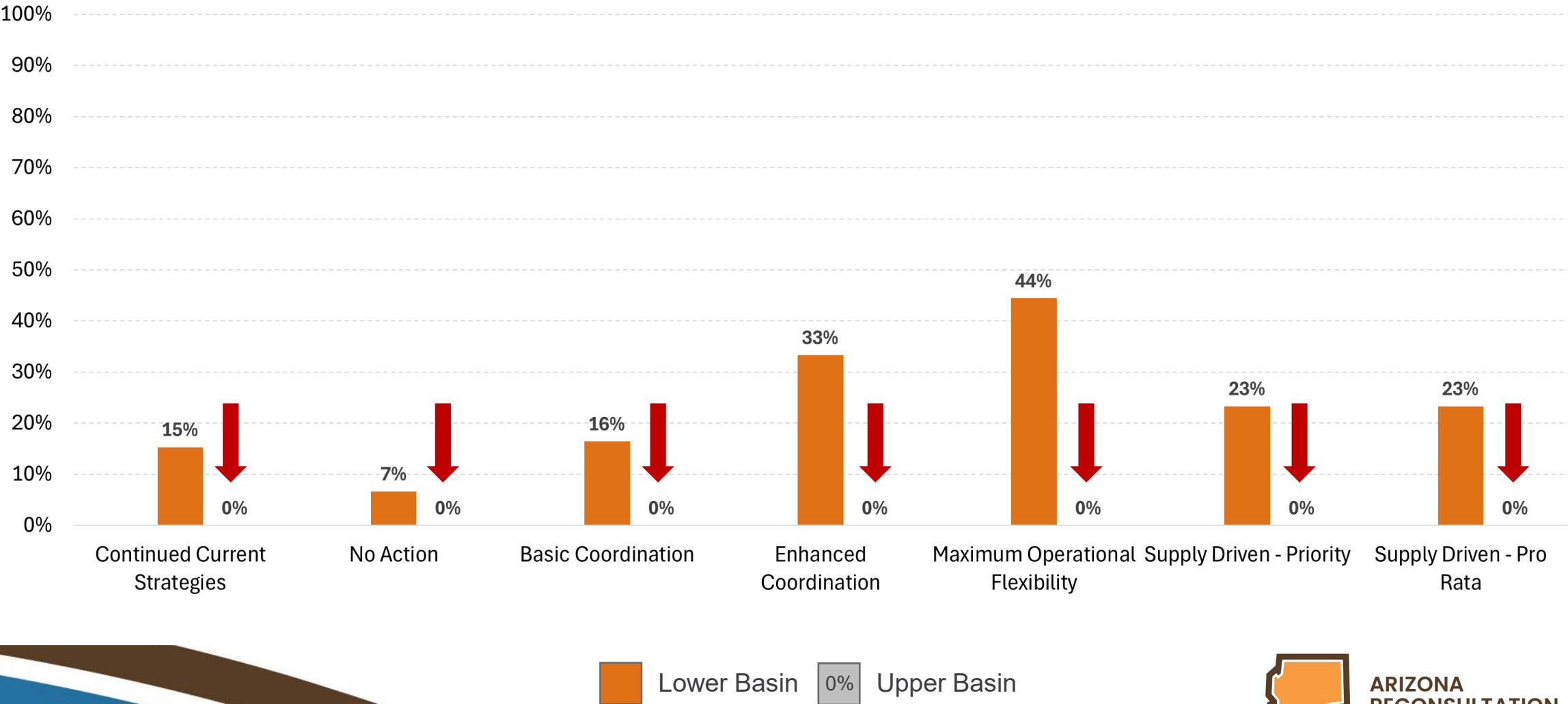
# Supply Driven



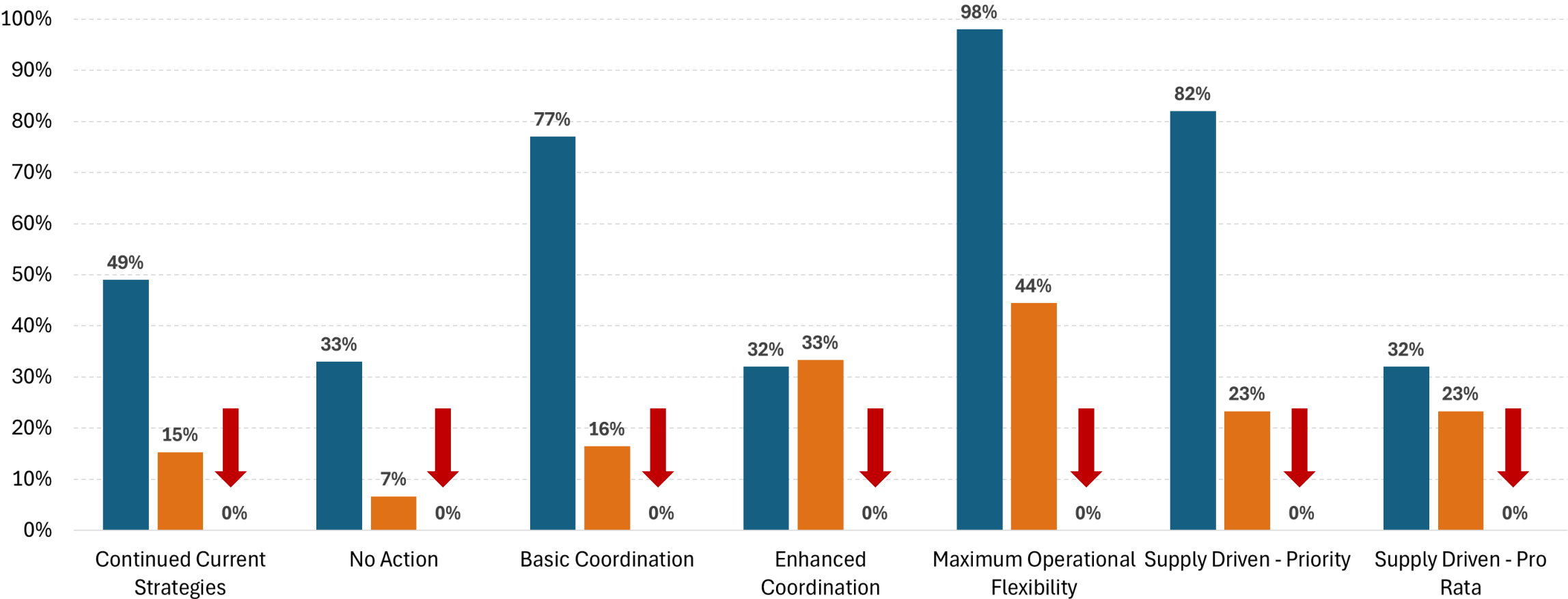
\*1.5 MAF of reductions are distributed pro-rata using state distributions submitted by Lower Division states (760, 440 and 50 KAF to AZ, CA and NV respectively). Reductions below 1.5 MAF are distributed based on the inter-state distribution submitted by Lower Division states. Reductions above 1.5 MAF are distributed pro-rata and priority based on United States' interpretation




# Maximum Policy Shortage in Each Basin for each Alternative



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 CAP  Lower Basin  0% Upper Basin

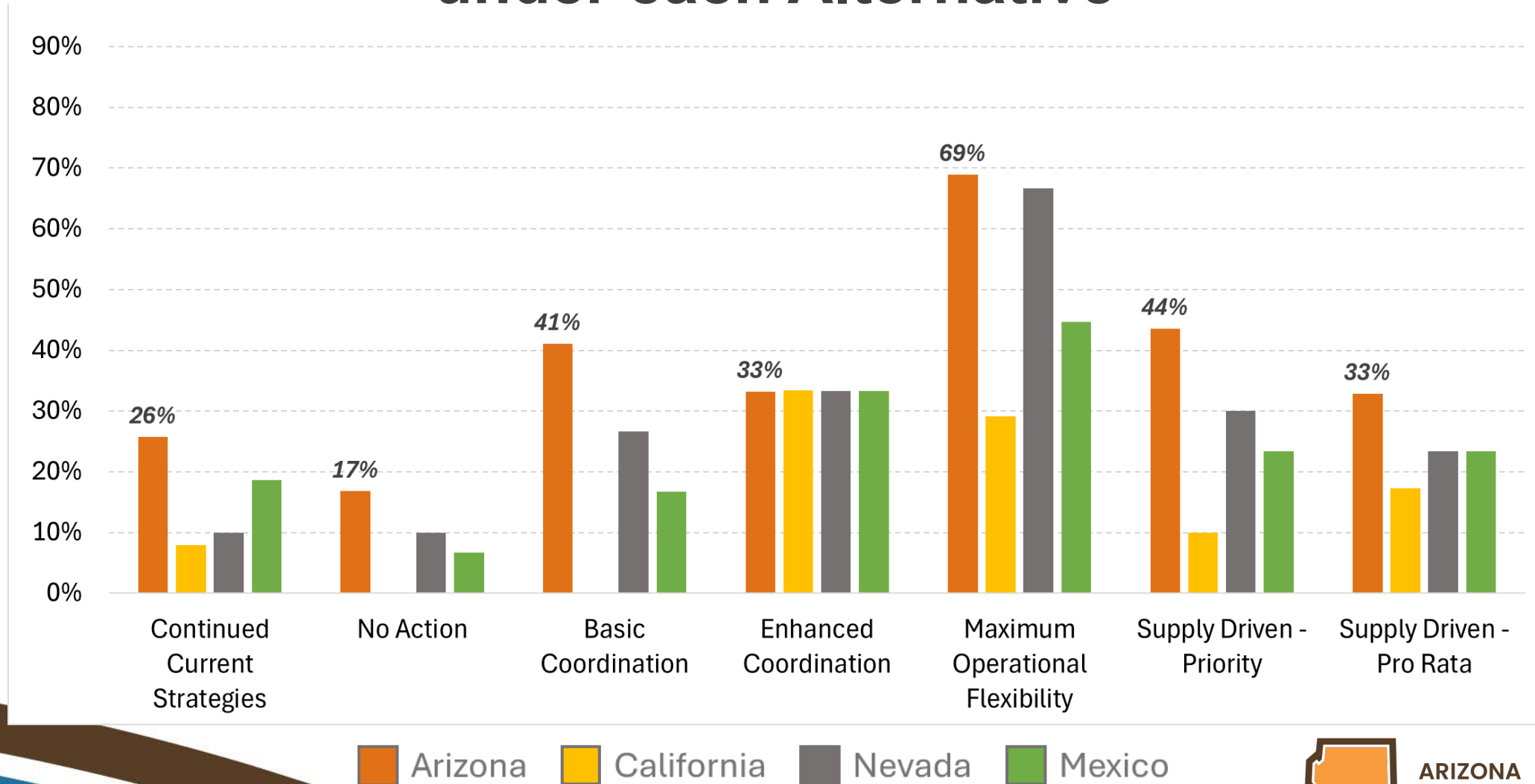
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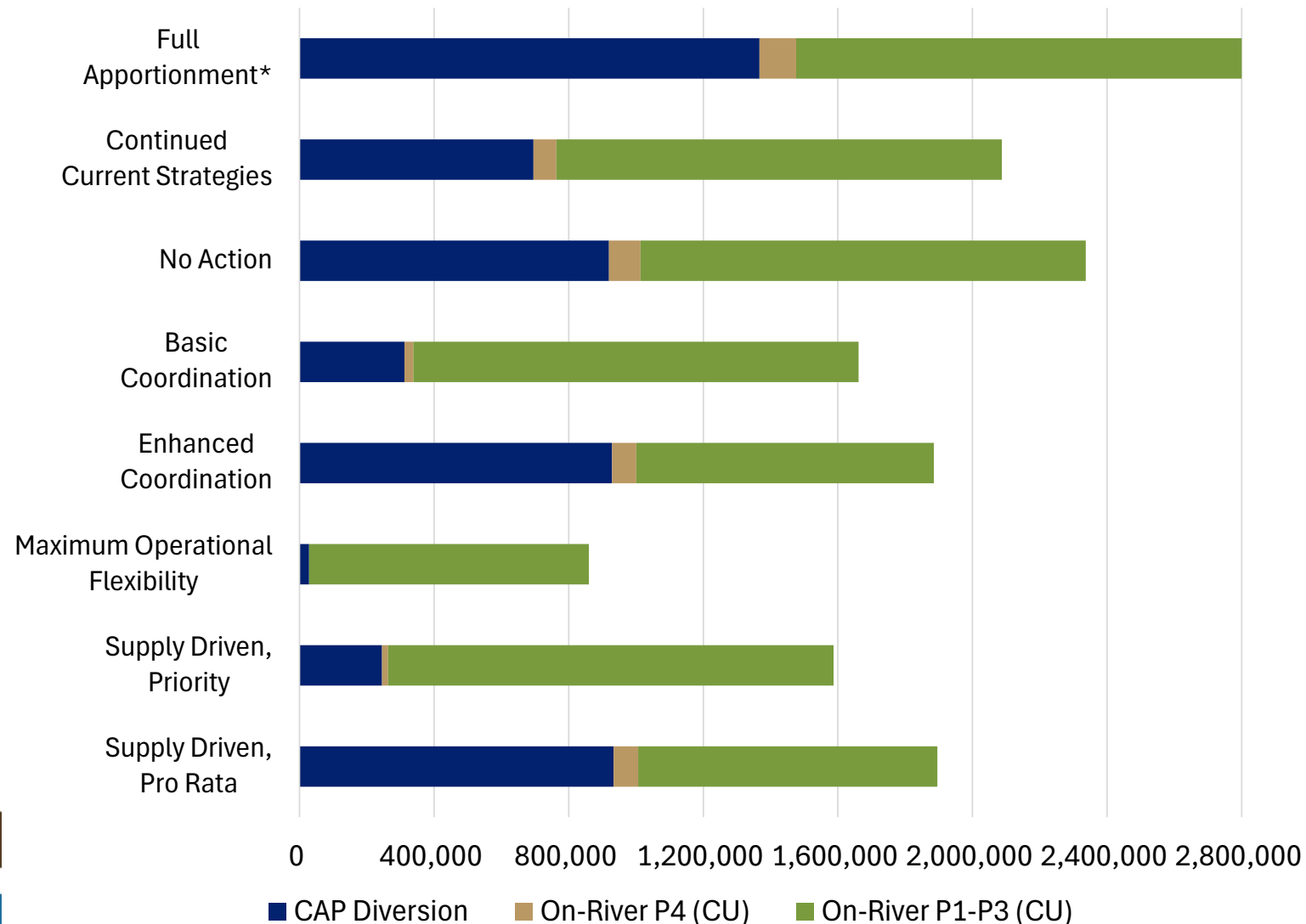
*Preliminary analysis; subject to change*

# Maximum Policy Shortage to Lower Basin under each Alternative



# Available Arizona Supply after Max. Policy Shortage

using Reclamation's SAM/ADM



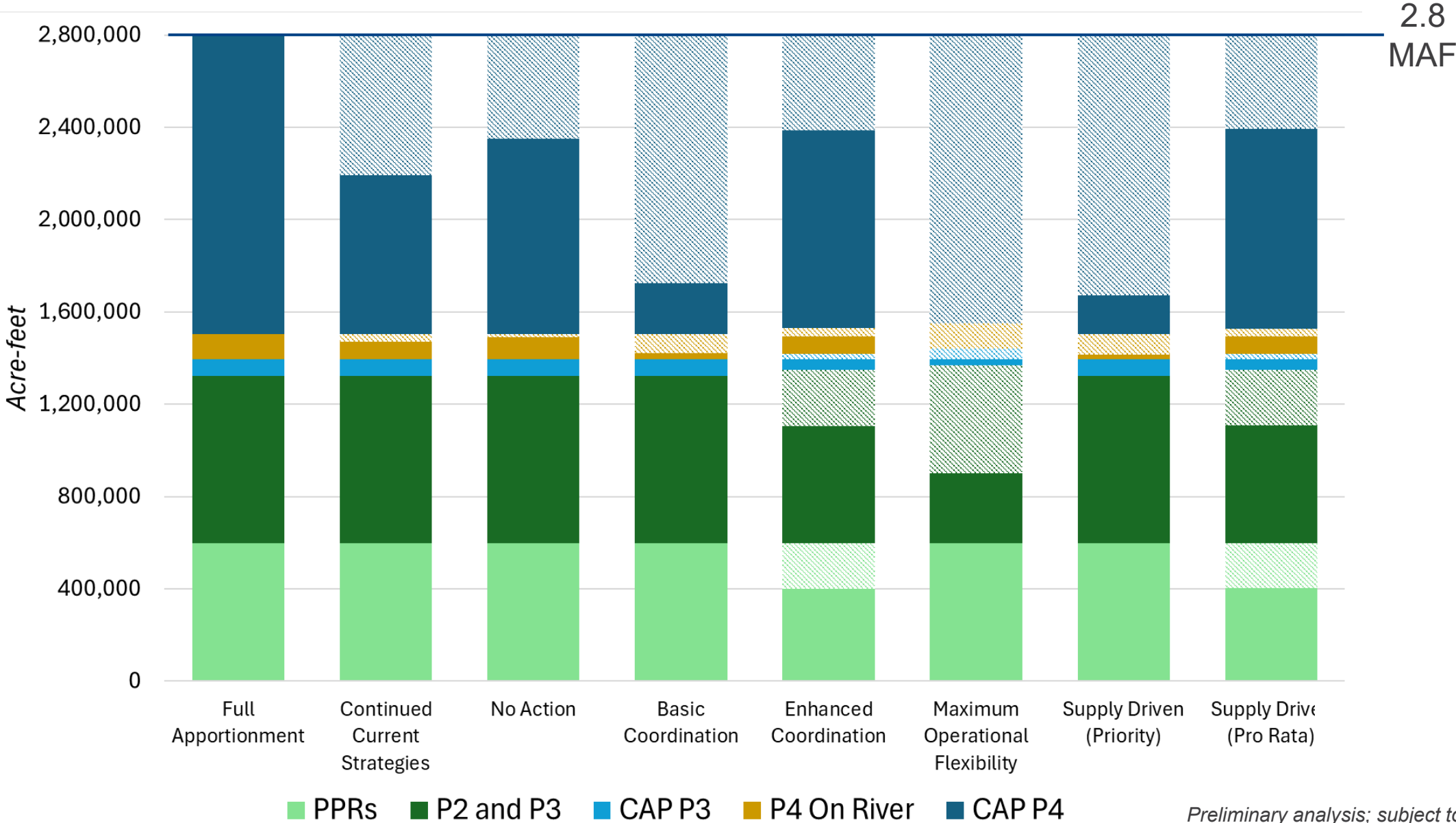
**The Arizona supply could be significantly less than illustrated here when considering Deadpool Shortages.**

\*Full Apportionment according to Reclamation's SAM build out



# Impact to Arizona Supplies

## At Maximum Policy Reductions



# Arizona Conclusions



# Arizona Conclusions

**DEIS focus is to protect Glen Canyon Dam by severely reducing Colorado River supply available to the Lower Basin and Mexico.**

- Ignores Compact compliance thereby relieving the Upper Basin of its curtailment obligation, placing the Lower Basin at greater risk. In fact, the analysis assumes continued increase in Upper Basin water use.
- Releases from Upper Initial Units (UIUs) are solely made for protecting Powell infrastructure, ignoring the Congressionally mandated UIUs purpose to comply with the Compact.
- Does not contemplate pursuing engineering or other fixes to Glen Canyon Dam to allow for more reliable deliveries from Lake Powell.
- Ignores socioeconomic impacts to metropolitan areas.
- Insufficient analysis of impacts to agriculture.
- Significantly impacts Tribal water supplies in Arizona.



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# Unacceptable Upper Basin Positions

- Any Upper Basin conservation actions remain voluntary, may not be timely, and not significant enough to support the system.
- The Upper Basin proposals, to date, result in lower Lake Powell releases to the detriment of Lake Mead.
- Lower Basin reductions would be maintained in all but flood control scenarios at Lake Mead.
- Upper Initial CRSP Unit releases would be minimal.
- UDS seeks a broad waiver of Lower Basin claims under the Compact.



# Post-2026 Outlook

- Arizona continues to support a collaborative outcome that is equitable, and results in significant actions by both the Upper and Lower Basin. Two tools at our disposal are water in the CRSP reservoirs and reductions in both Basins.
- The Upper Basin continues to assert that CRSP water is for its benefit and under their control. Arizona continues to push for greater use of CRSP water to benefit Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
- Reductions/conservation in Upper Basin use must occur.



# Post-2026 Outlook

- Unless there are significant actions taken in the Upper Basin Arizona is unlikely to waive its Colorado River Compact right.
- Absent a consensus agreement, Reclamation appears ready to significantly cut Arizona as early as 2027 as laid out in the DEIS Basic Coordination Alternative.
- Absent a consensus agreement, Compact Compliance action is likely



# Next Steps

- There is an aggressive schedule for continued seven state discussion(s) to continue work on a consensus solution prior to the February 14, 2026 deadline.
- Post 2026 DEIS comments are due on **March 2, 2026.**
  - Anticipate next ARC meeting will be scheduled for mid-March 2026.
- Final EIS is expected to be published Summer 2026.
- A Record of Decision is anticipated this summer to implement operations starting October 1, 2026.
- Reclamation intends to engage with Mexico along with the Basin States (timing TBD).



# Discussion/Questions





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For continued information  
and updates, visit  
[azwater.gov/ARC](http://azwater.gov/ARC) or  
[cap-az.com/ARC](http://cap-az.com/ARC)