

Hydrology Report – September 2026

Upper Basin Hydrology

- Snowpack peaked with 60% of the seasonal median (3/9/2026).
- Temperatures in August were about 3-7 degrees above average in most of the upper basin.
- The Basin Forecast Center is estimating Lake Powell inflow for water year 2026 at 3.5 million acre-feet or 37% of average.

Current reservoir status

- As of September 13, 2026, Lake Mead is at an elevation of **1,038.8** feet and has about 6.9 million acre-feet in storage (26% capacity).
- As of September 13, 2026, Lake Powell is at an elevation of 3,516.9 feet and has about 5.1 million acre-feet in storage (22% capacity).
- Total system storage for the upper and lower basins is around 18.0 million acre-feet (31% capacity).

2026 reservoir operations

- Reclamation announced on April 17, 2026, that releases from Glen Canyon Dam will total 6 million acre-feet during water year 2026. In addition, between 660,000 acre-feet and 1 million acre-feet will be released from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to help stabilize Lake Powell elevations.
- Lake Mead will operate in a Level 1 Shortage Condition in calendar year 2026.
- Accordingly, in 2026, Nevada's consumptive use will be reduced by 13,000 acre-feet under the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Nevada will make a Drought Contingency Plan contribution of 8,000 acre-feet.
- Arizona and Mexico are also required to take shortage and make a water savings contribution in 2026. Those amounts are significantly larger than Nevada's obligations.
- The total combined volumes for Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico are 613,000 acre-feet in calendar year 2026, which will save the equivalent of about 8 feet in elevation in Lake Mead.

Water Use in Southern Nevada ¹

- Southern Nevada's consumptive use for January through July of 2026 was 119,196 acre-feet.

Reclamation's Lake Mead and Lake Powell Projections ²

- Reclamation uses computer models to forecast reservoir elevations based on planned water use and anticipated runoff. The September 24-Month Study forecasts Lake Mead to be between 1,034.2 and 1,033.6 feet in elevation by the end of 2026.
- Reclamation's September 24-Month Study forecasts Lake Powell's elevation to be between 3,513.5 and 3,511.8 feet by the end of 2026.

¹ 2026 consumptive use data is preliminary.

² Reclamation modeling assumes the current operational guidelines and planned conservation activities.

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Hydrology Update

Warren Turkett

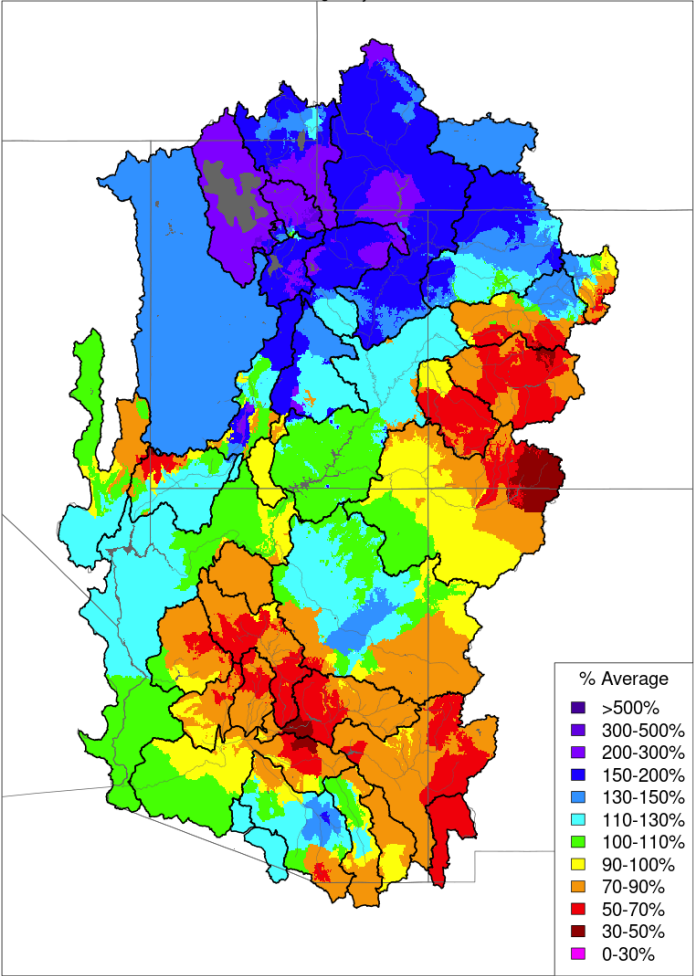
September 17, 2026





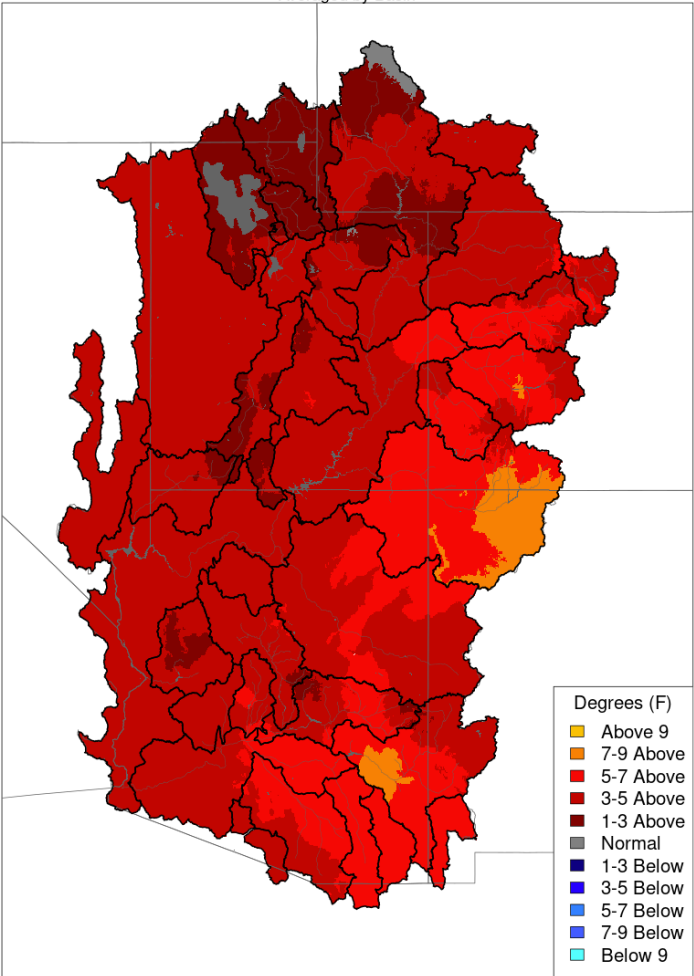
Precipitation and Temperature

Monthly Precipitation - August 2026
Averaged by Basin



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

Max Temp - Monthly Deviation - August 2026
Averaged by Basin



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

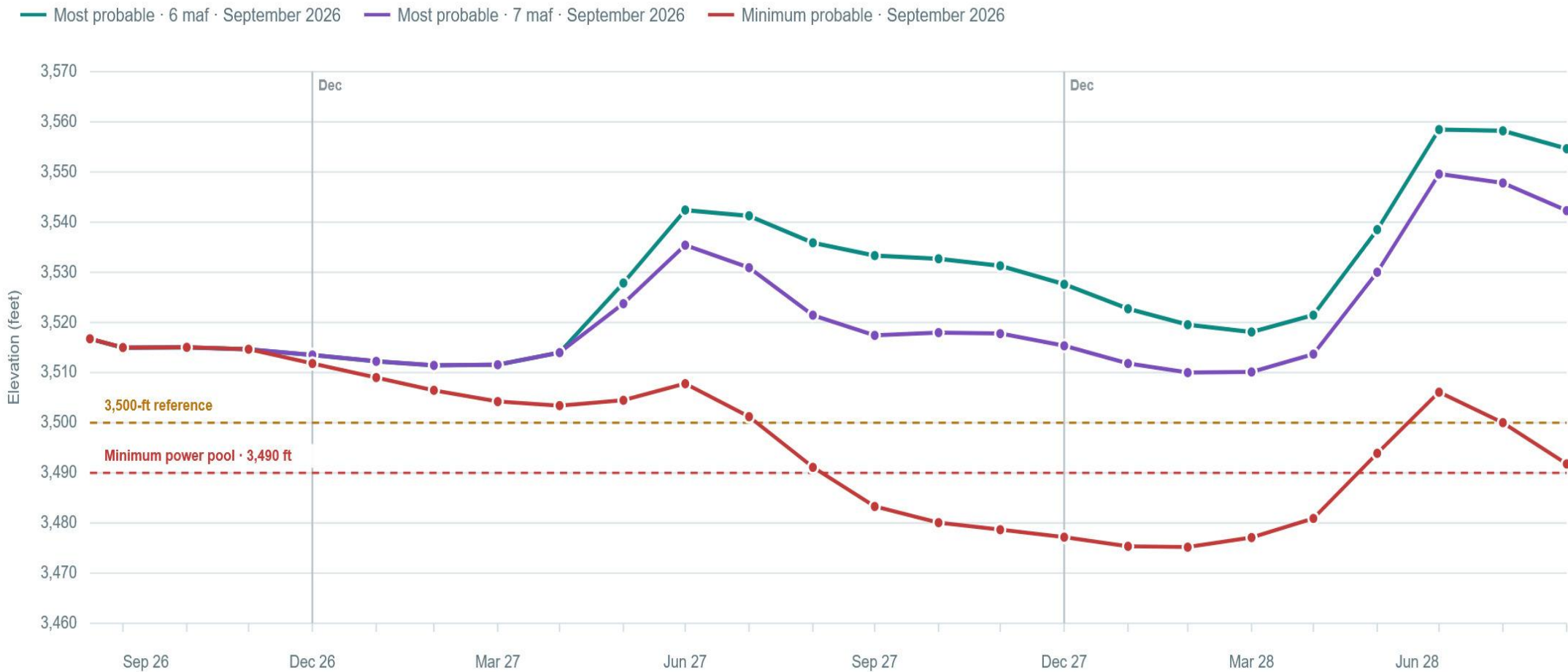
Lake Powell %Average Precipitation Water Year 2026

Area	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Water Year
UC-Powell	150	53	82	63	94	28	97	72	31	115	97	80



Lake Powell Projections

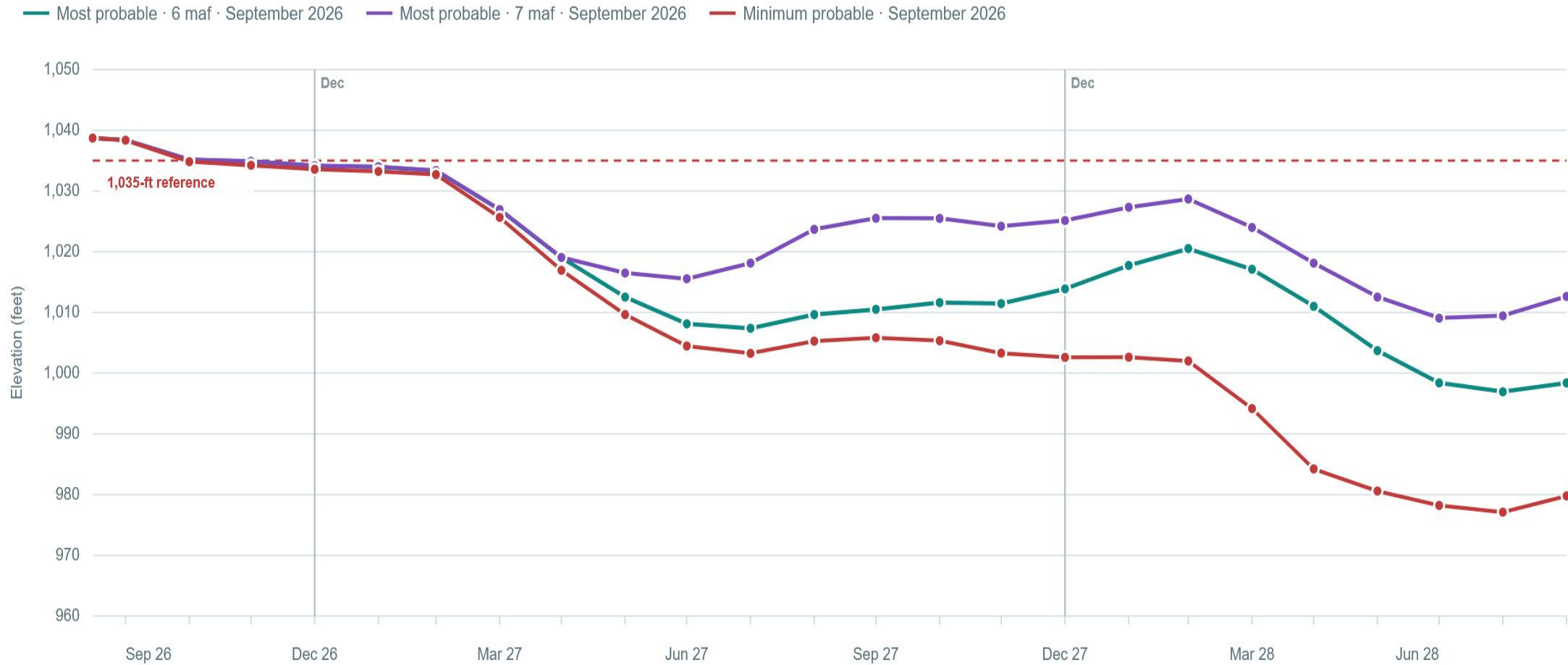
Lake Powell — September 24-Month Forecast



September 13, 2026, elevation: 3,516.9 feet

Lake Mead Projections

Lake Mead — September 24-Month Forecast



September 13, 2026, elevation: 1,038.8 feet

Water Use In Southern Nevada

2026 January - July Southern Nevada Water Use¹

Acre-Feet

Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Drought Contingency Plan contribution	-8,000
Interim Guidelines Shortages	-13,000
Diversions	261,836
Return Flow Credits	142,640
Consumptive Use	119,196

¹ 2026 Consumptive use data is preliminary.