Hydrology Report – August 2026

Upper Basin Hydrology

- Snowpack peaked with 60% of the seasonal median (3/9/2026).
- Temperatures in July 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 3.6 million acre-feet or 37% of average.

Current reservoir status

- As of August 10, 2026, Lake Mead is at an elevation of **1,040.1** feet and has about 7.0 million acre-feet in storage (27% capacity).
- As of August 10, 2026, Lake Powell is at an elevation of 3,522.0 feet and has about 5.4 million acre-feet in storage (23% capacity).
- Total system storage for the upper and lower basins is around 18.9 million acre-feet (32% 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 June of 2026 was 91,136 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 July 24-Month Study forecasts Lake Mead to be between 1,037.3 and 1,037.1 feet in elevation by the end of 2026.
- Reclamation's July 24-Month Study forecasts Lake Powell's elevation to be between 3,507.7 and 3,503.7 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.

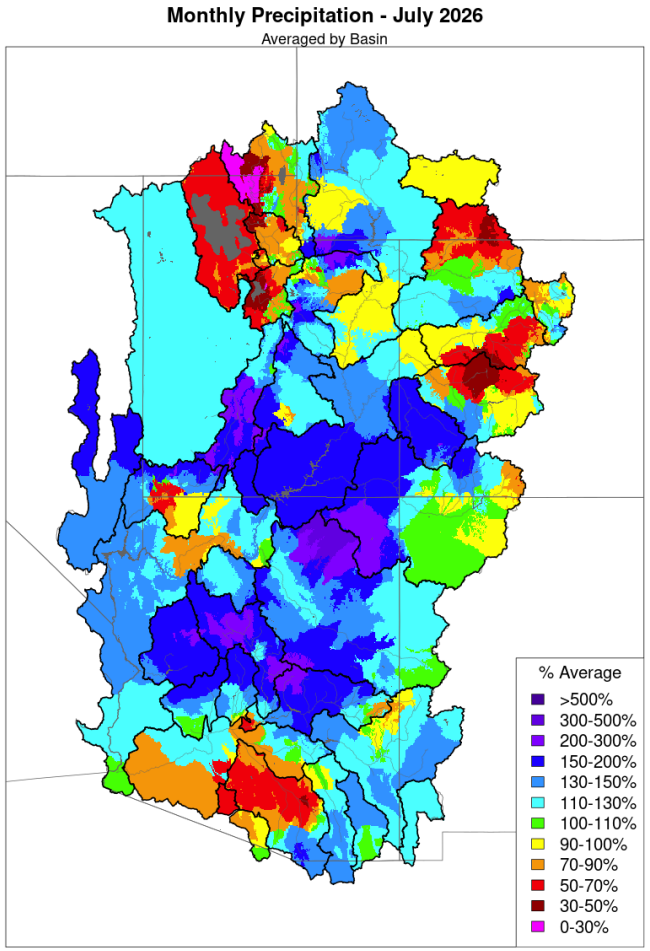
Colorado River Commission of Nevada

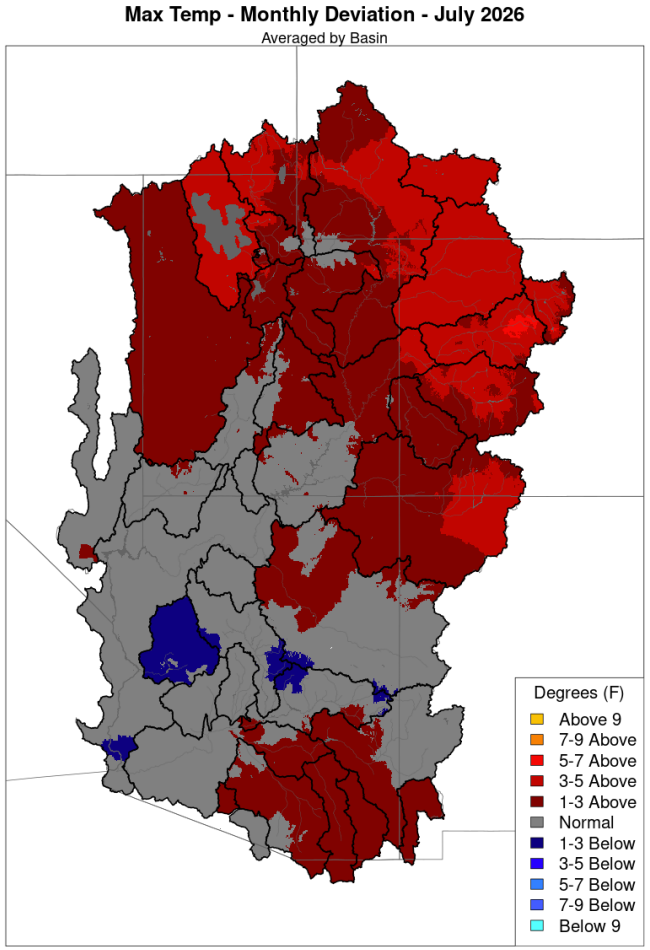
Hydrology Update

Warren Turkett

August 11, 2026

Precipitation and Temperature

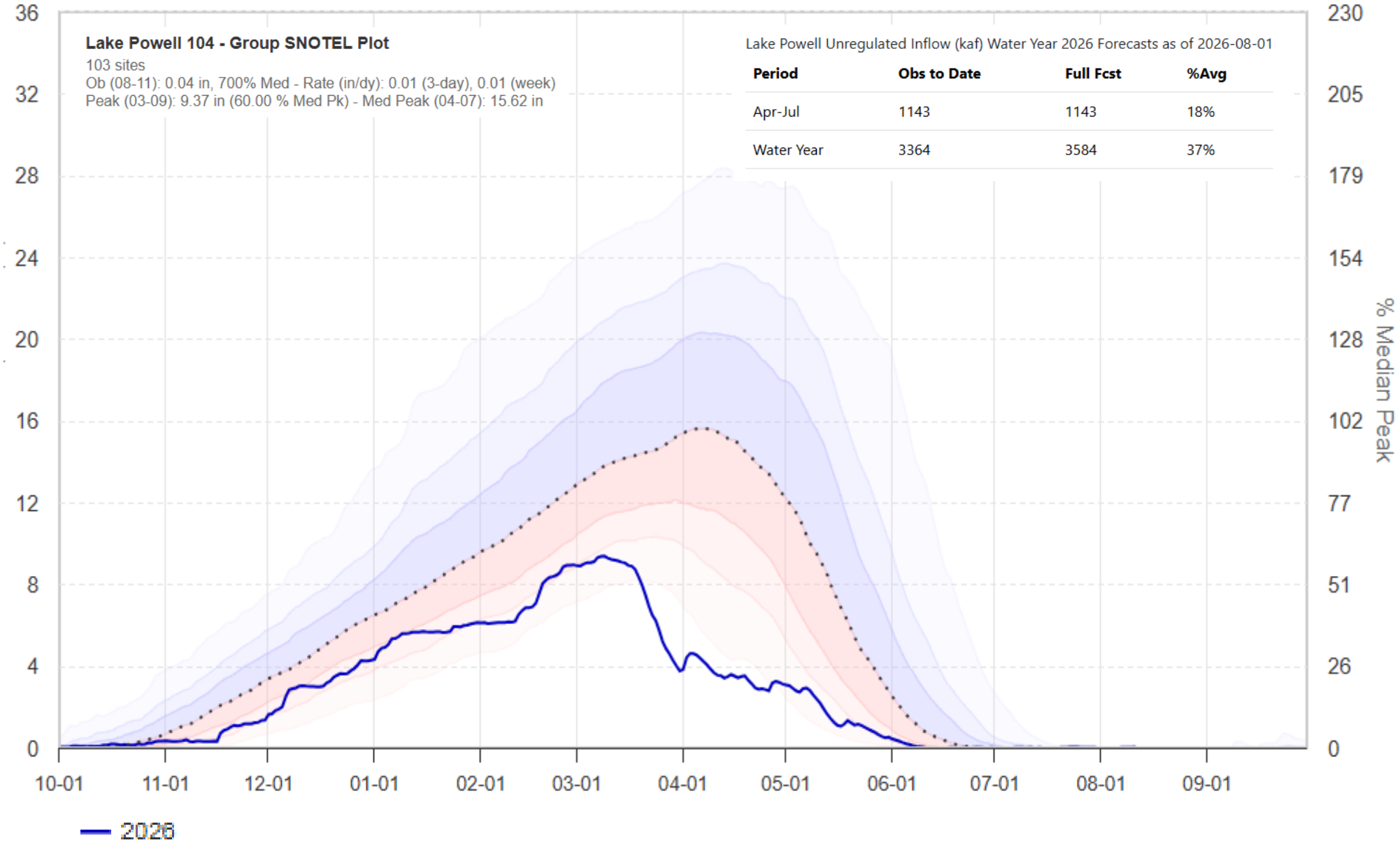




Lake Powell %Average Precipitation Water Year 2026

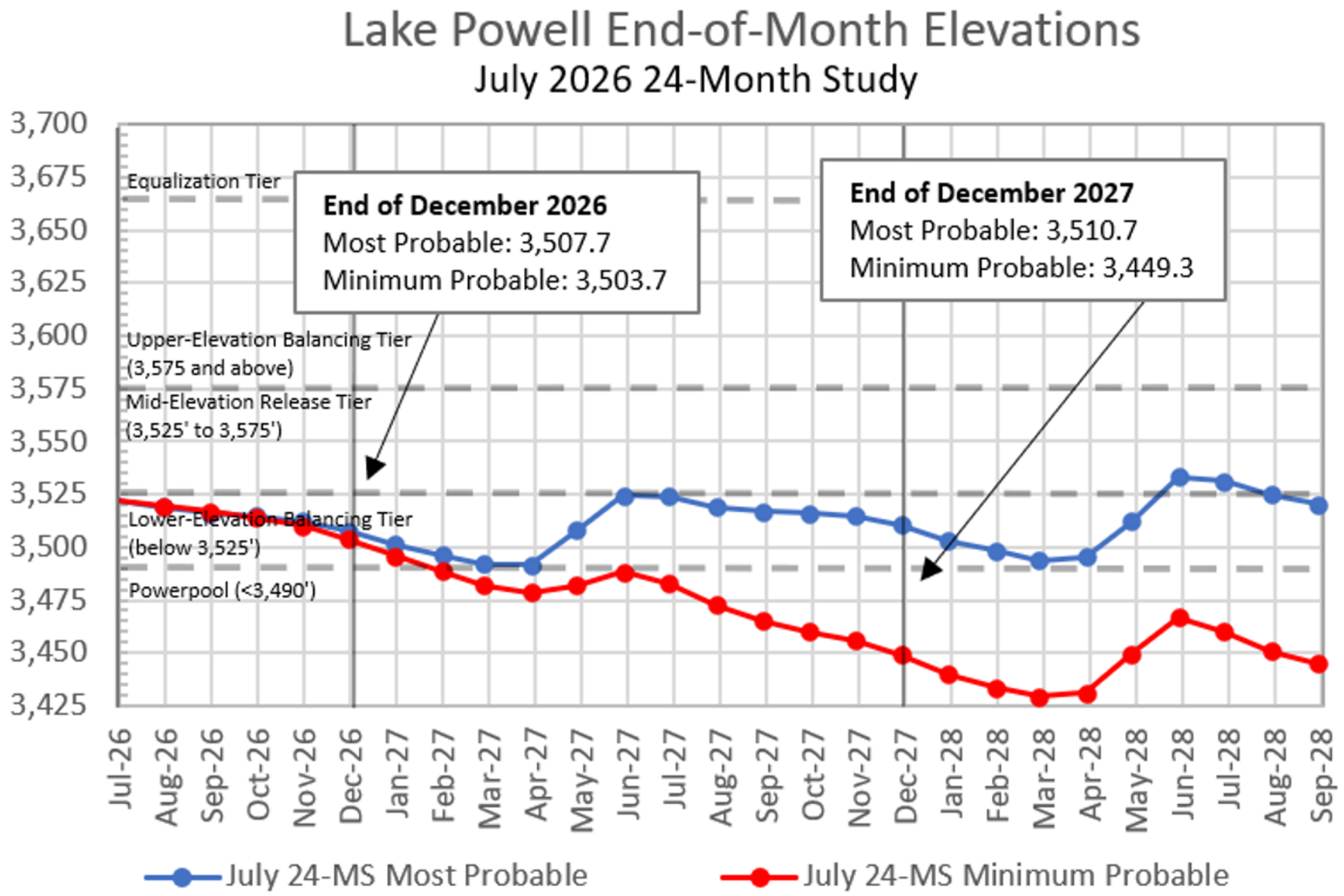
Area	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Water Year
UC-Powell	150	53	82	63	94	28	97	72	31	114	79

Upper Basin Snowpack

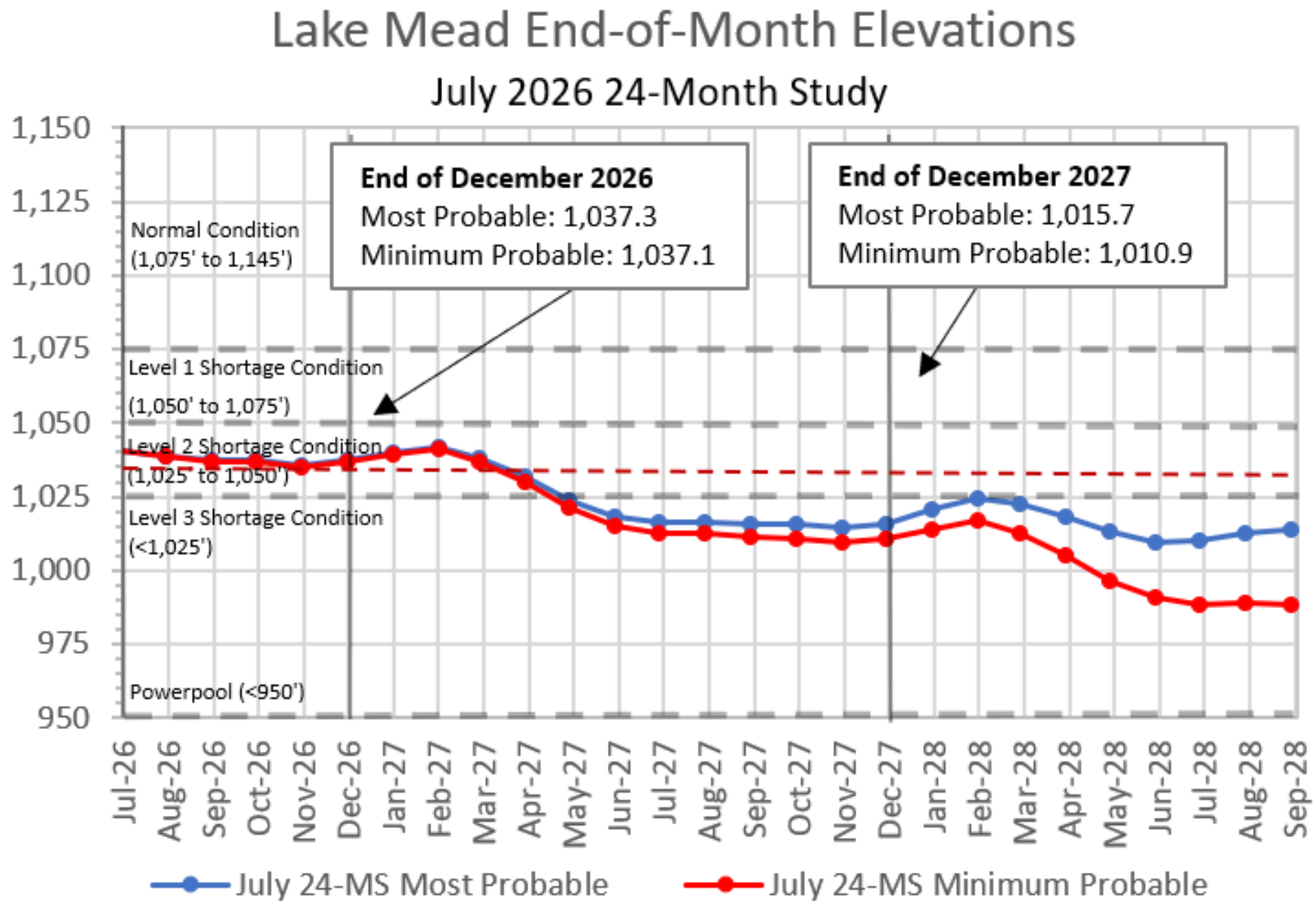


Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow (kaf) Water Year 2026 Forecasts as of 2026-08-01

Period	Obs to Date	Full Fcst	%Avg
Apr-Jul	1143	1143	18%
Water Year	3364	3584	37%



August 10, 2026, elevation: 3,520.7 feet



August 10, 2026, elevation: 1,040.1 feet

Water Use In Southern Nevada

2026 January - June Southern Nevada Water Use[1]	Acre-Feet
Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Drought Contingency Plan contribution	-8,000
Interim Guidelines Shortages	-13,000
Diversions	214,883
Return Flow Credits	123,747
Consumptive Use	91,136

[1] 2026 Consumptive use data is preliminary.