

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025

**Page 1 of 1**

**PLACE:** Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Gunnison County Courthouse  
(REMOTE OPTION BELOW)

8:30 am

- HB 1177 Roundtable Update

8:35 am

- Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Update

9:00 am

- Blue Mesa Reservoir Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) Study Research Findings

9:30 am

- Colorado River Negotiations and Potential 2026 Emergency Drought Release from Blue Mesa Status Update with Colorado River Commissioner Rebecca Mitchell and Section Chief of Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section at Colorado Water Conservation Board Amy Ostdiek
- Adjourn

Please Note: Packet materials for the above discussions will be available on the Gunnison County website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/meetings> prior to the meeting.

**ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/89798905619>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82753657556#,,,,\*471302# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82753657556#,,,,\*471302# US (Houston)

**AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM**

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**Agenda Item:** ADDED IN MTG - UGRWCD PRESENTATION

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**Action Requested:**

**Parties to the Agreement:**

**Term Begins:**

**Term Ends:**

**Grant Contract #:**

**Summary:**

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Submitted by:**

**Submitter's Email Address:**

**Finance Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

**County Attorney Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes  No

**County Manager Review:**

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted:

Agenda Date:



# *Upper Gunnison Basin Water Report*

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*Board of County Commissioners*

*August 12, 2025*

*Beverly Richards, Office Manager/Senior Program Manager*

Photo: Teresa Golden

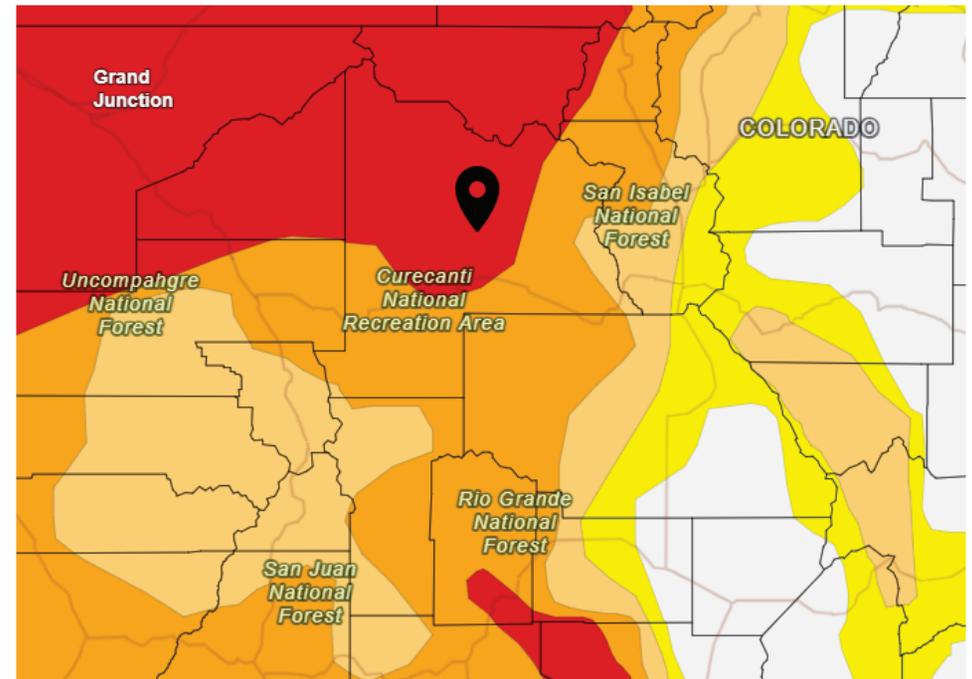


# Drought Monitor Map

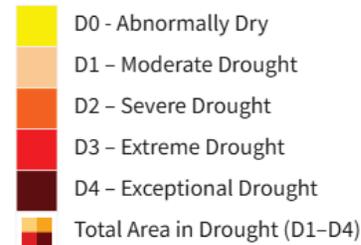
As of August 5, 2025  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

- 50% of Gunnison County is now experiencing extreme (D3) drought conditions compared to just 5% one month ago.
- Most of the western part of the state continues to experience drought condition degradation

## U.S. Drought Monitor



### Drought & Dryness Categories



### % of Gunnison County

0%
3.82%
46.85%
49.33%
0%
100.00%

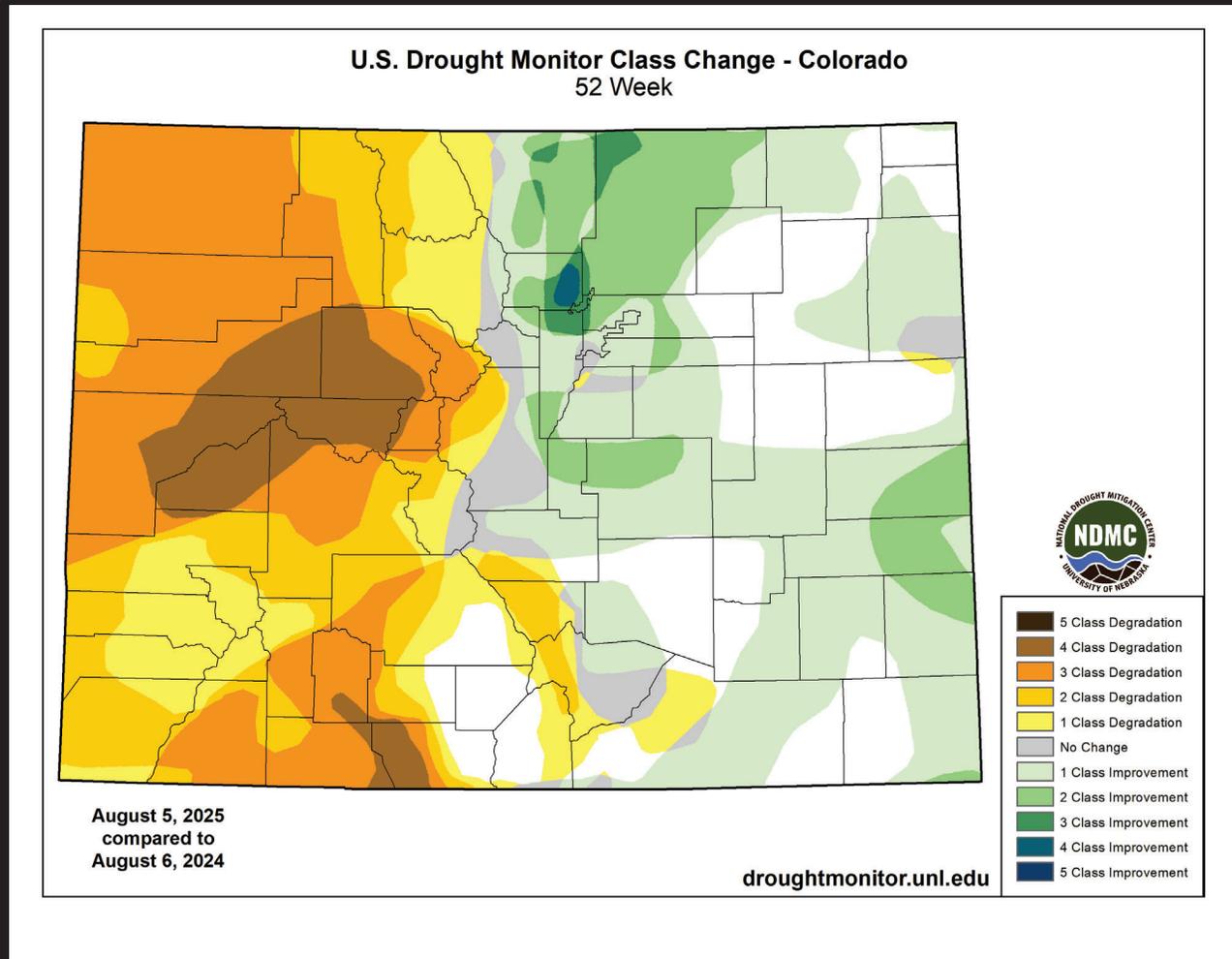
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA  
Data Valid: 08/05/25

**Drought.gov**

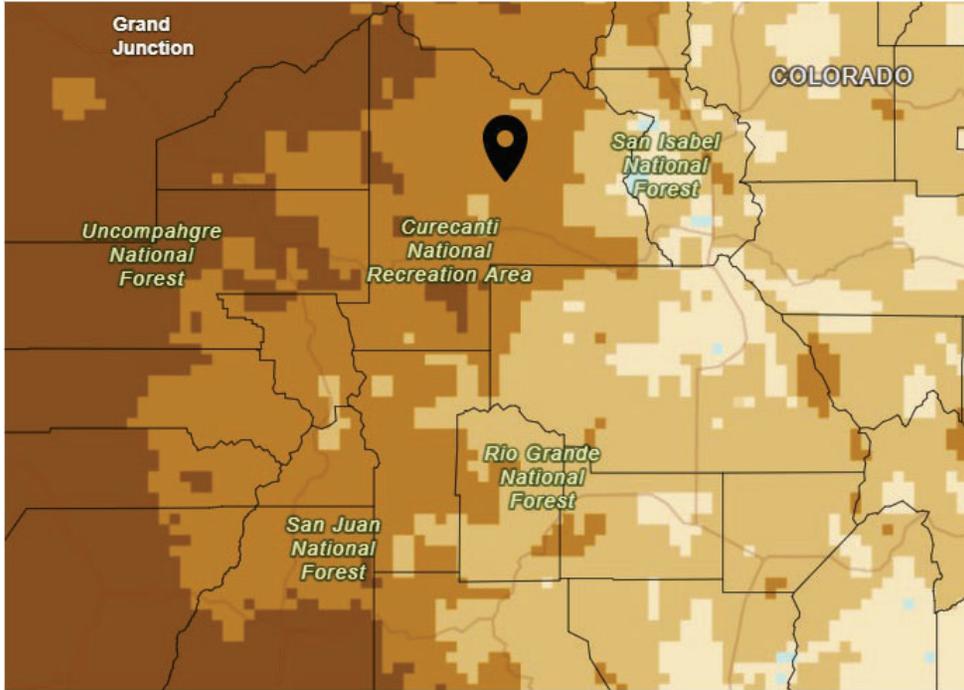
# Drought Monitor Class Change

As of August 5, 2025  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

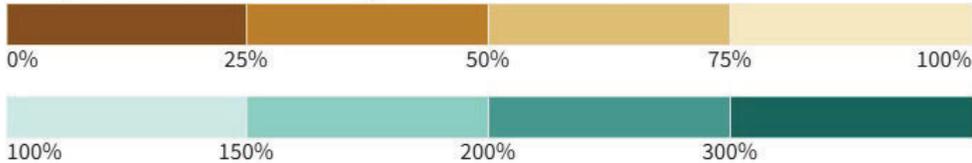
- Up to 4 class degradation has occurred in Gunnison County in the past year
- The entire western slope of Colorado has seen degradation ranging from 1 class to 4 class degradation.



### 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced  
Data Valid: 08/08/25

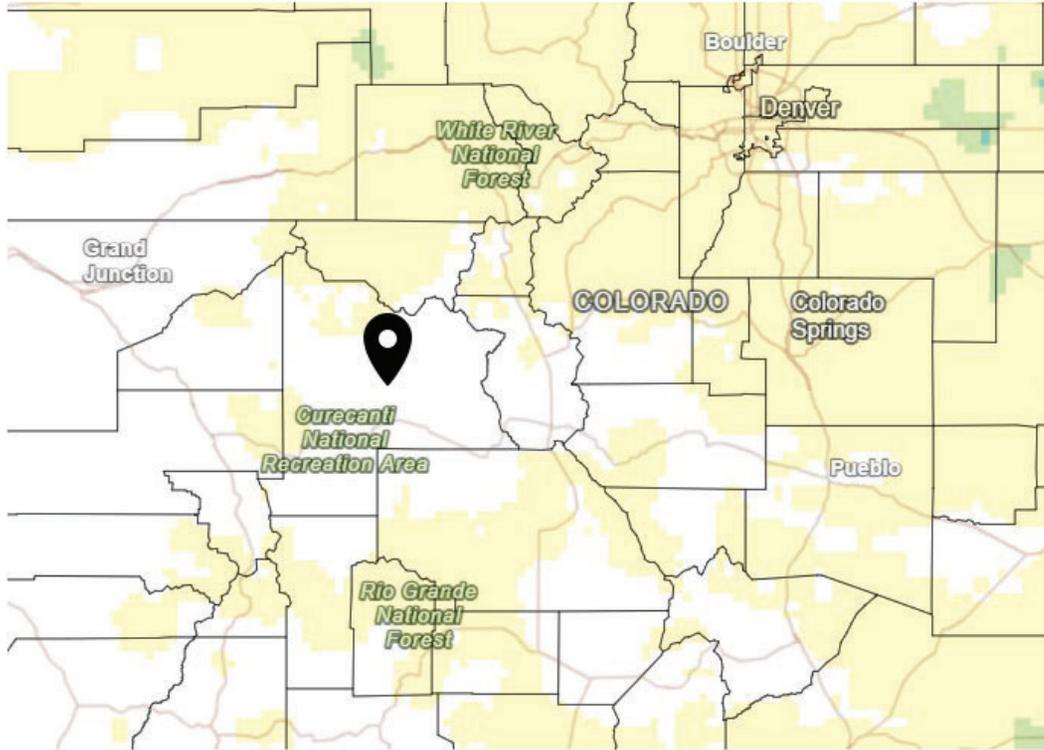
**Drought.gov**

# Gunnison County Precipitation Past 30 Days

As of August 8, 2025  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

Precipitation has ranged from 0% to 100% of normal throughout Gunnison County for the past 30 days

## 7-Day Total Precipitation (Inches)



### Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): UC Merced  
Data Valid: 08/08/25

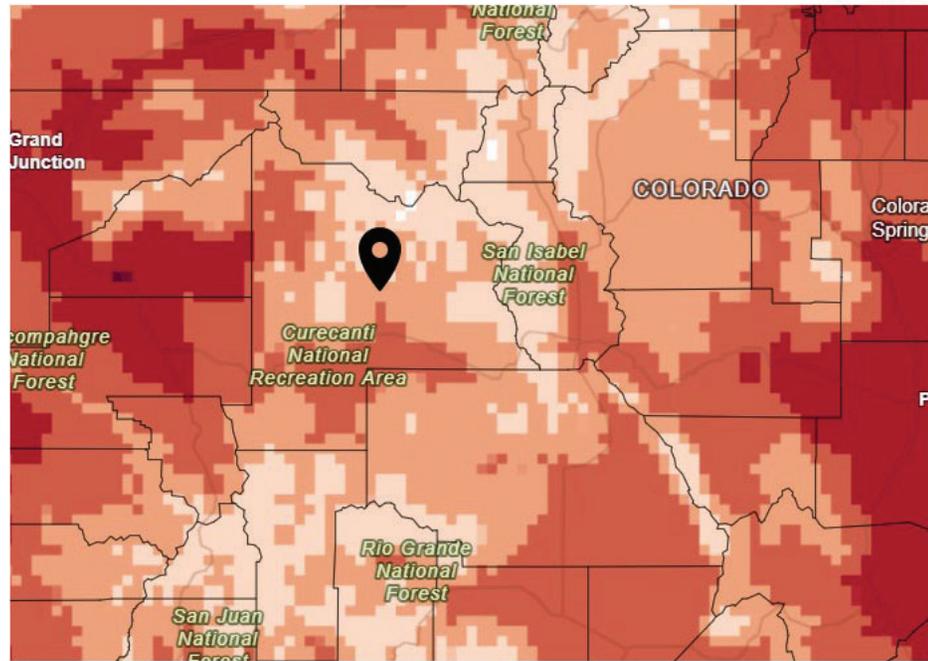
**Drought.gov**

# Gunnison County Precipitation Past 7 Days

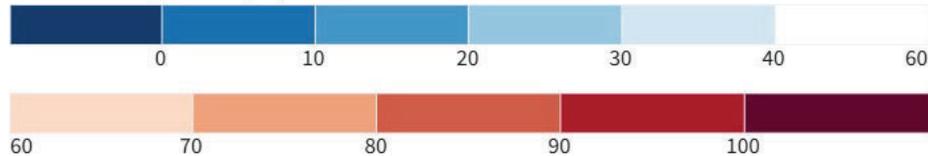
As of August 8, 2025  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

The County and much of the western part of the state has seen little to no precipitation for the first seven days of August

### 7-Day Average Maximum Temperature (°F)



#### Maximum Temperature (°F)



Source(s): UC Merced  
Data Valid: 08/08/25

**Drought.gov**

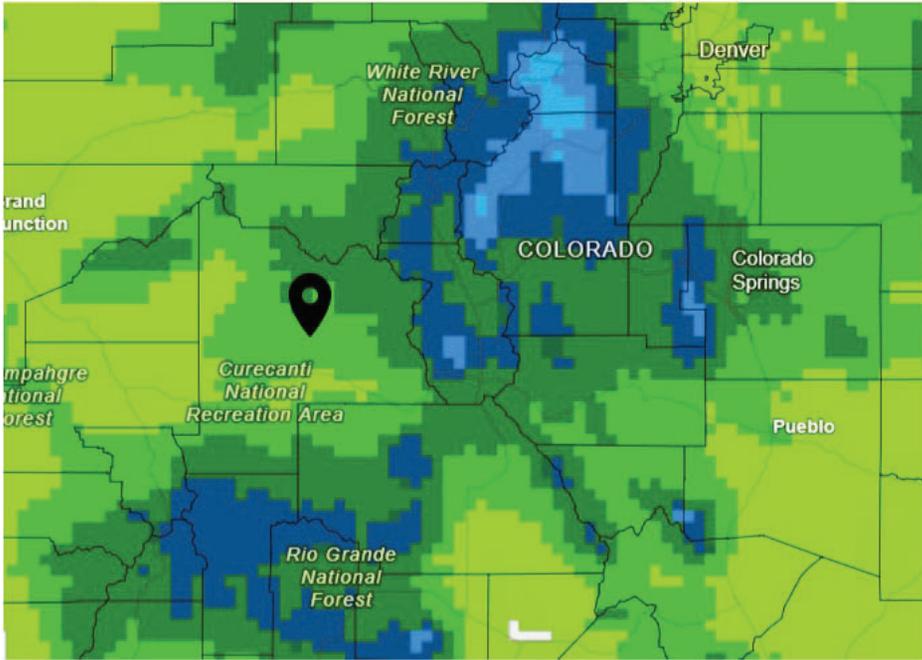
## *Gunnison County Average Maximum Temperature*

*August 1-8*

*August 8, 2025  
drought.gov*

Temperatures for the first seven days of August has ranged from 60 to 90 degrees in the County

**7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for August  
11-18, 2025**



**Predicted Inches of Precipitation**



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 08/11/25

**Drought.gov**

*Gunnison County  
Precipitation  
7-day Quantitative  
August 11-18*

*As of August 11, 2025  
drought.gov*

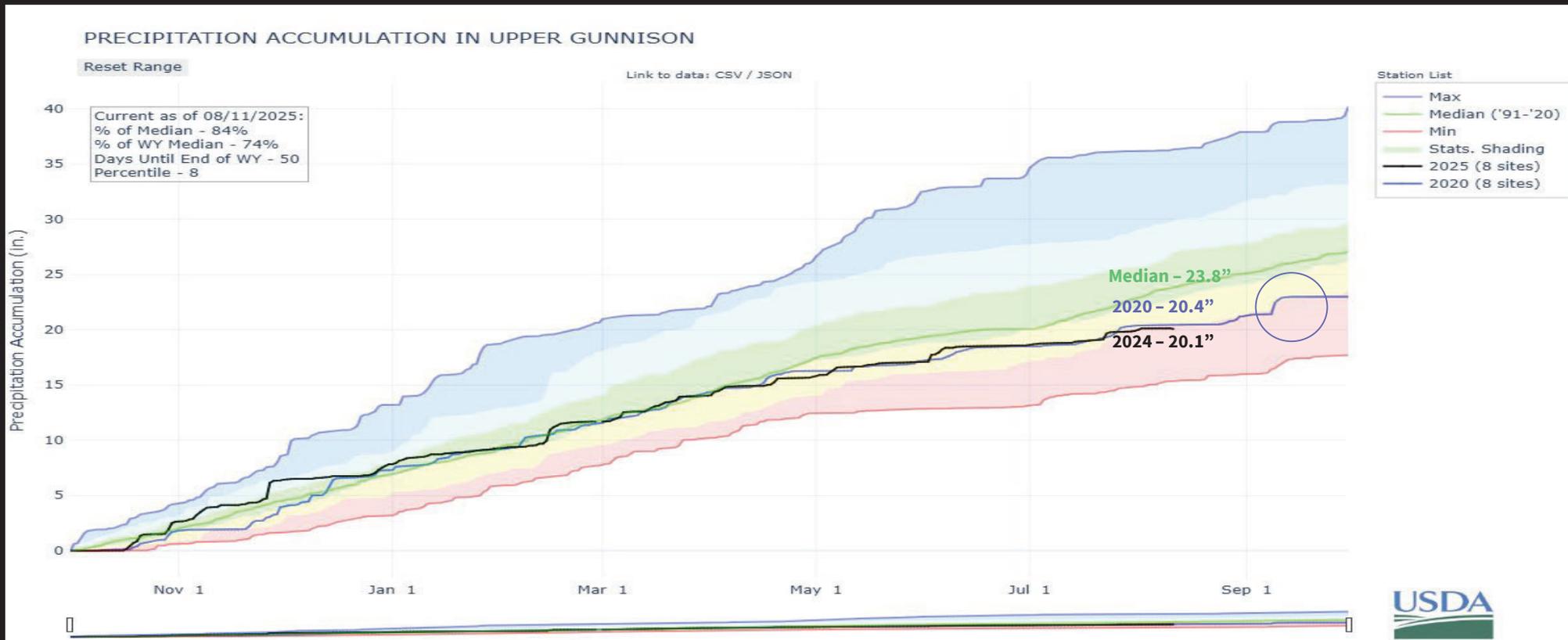
The next 7 days shows that precipitation is forecasted to range from one hundredth” to 1/2” in some areas of the County

# Upper Gunnison Basin Precipitation

As of August 11, 2025  
NRCS

Precipitation accumulation for WY25 is currently at 84% of the median

Median amount is 23.8" of precipitation and WY25 to date is currently 20.1"



# Late Season Streamflow Amounts

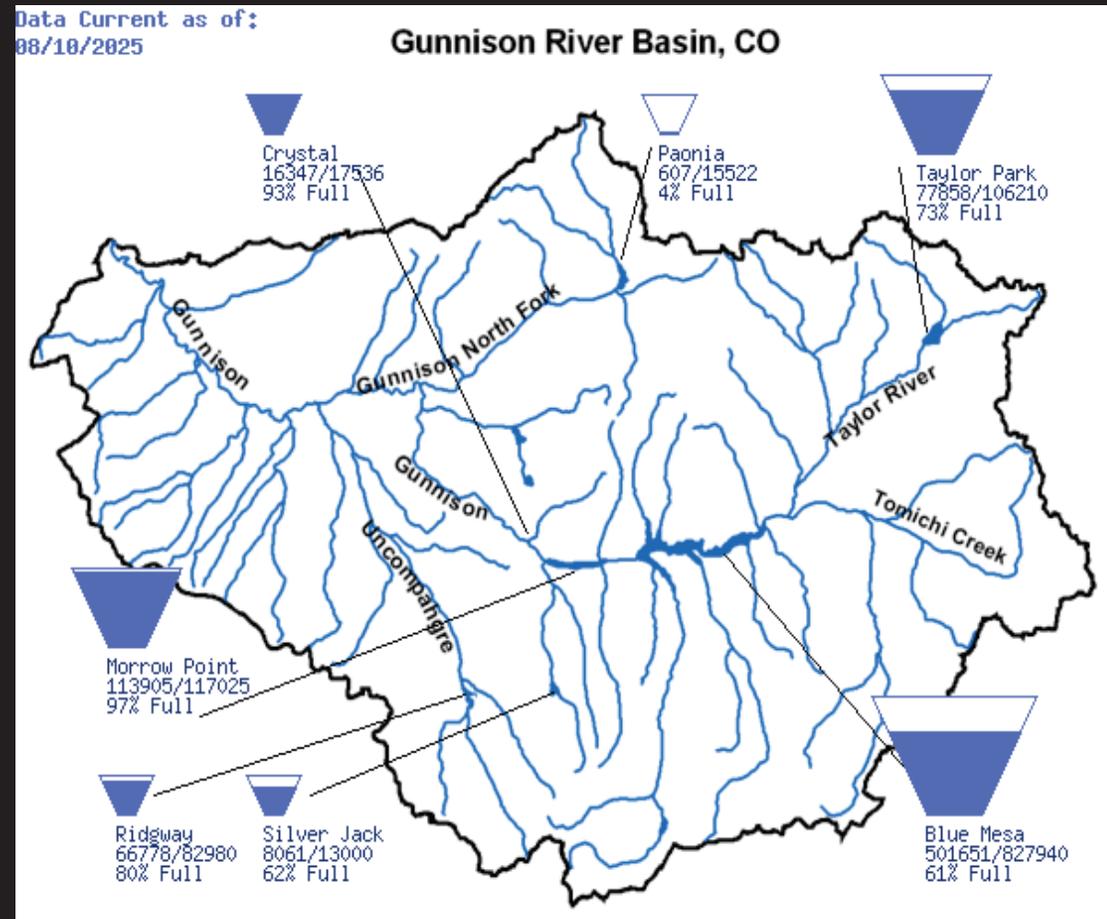
CDSS  
August 11, 2025

Station Name	August 11 (cfs)	Historical Average August 11 (cfs)	Percent of Historical Average August 11 (%)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	472	741	63
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	28	41	68
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	61	169	36
Taylor River at Taylor Park	38	87	44
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Reservoir	299	329	91
Taylor River at Almont	353	402	88
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	9	41	22
East River blw Cement Creek	66	188	35
East River at Almont	97	245	39
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal	33	95	34
Henson Creek at Lake City	38	89	42
Lake Fork at Gateview	92	216	42

# Reservoir Storage Gunnison River Basin

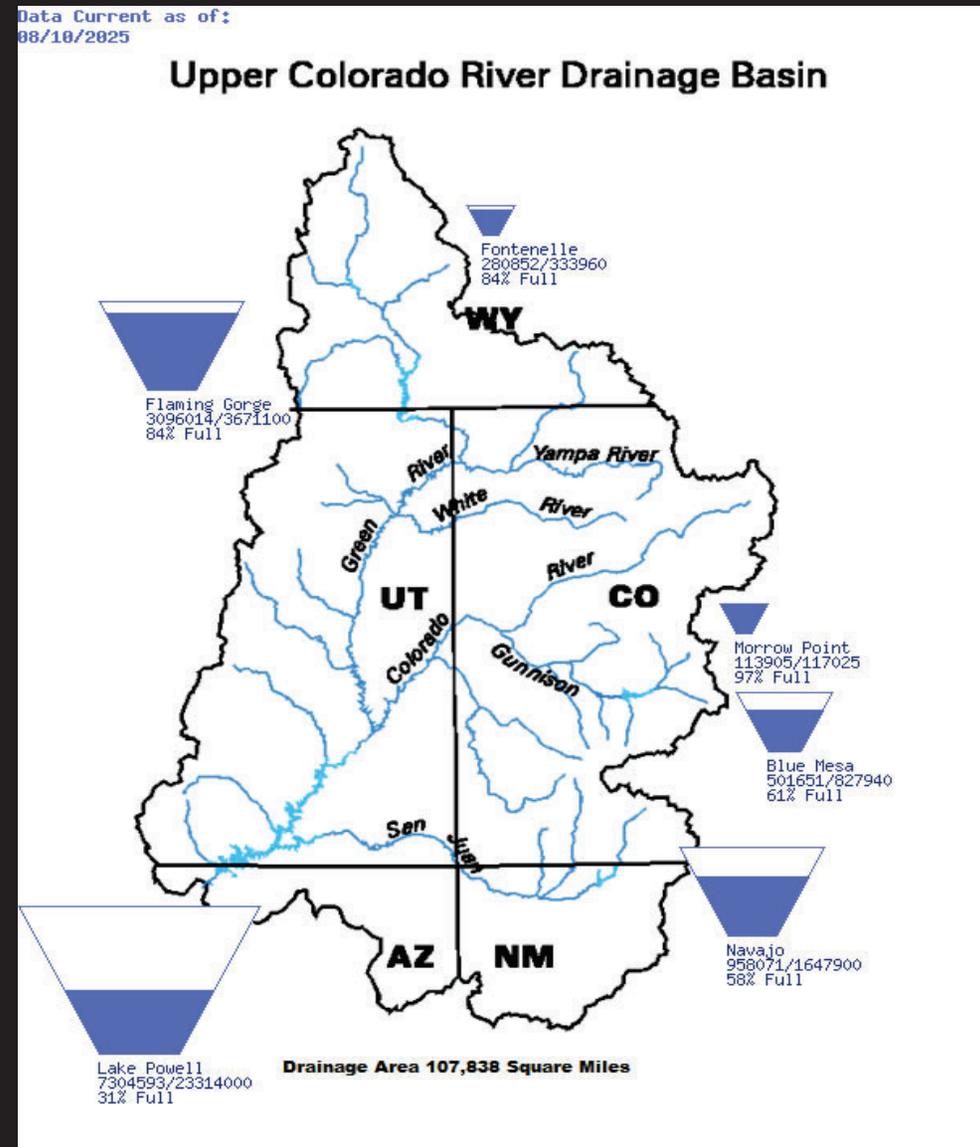
as of August 10, 2025  
(Bureau of Reclamation)

- Reservoir storage for the entire Gunnison Basin is currently at 67% of average.
- Reservoir storage for the Upper Gunnison Basin (Taylor and Blue Mesa) is also at 67% of average.
- In 2025, Taylor Reservoir is currently forecasted to end the water year at 61,481 acre-feet content which is 65% of average.
- In 2025, at the end of the water year, Blue Mesa is projected to be 420,658 acre-feet which is 51% of capacity.



*Reservoir Storage  
Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin  
as of August 10, 2025 (Bureau of Reclamation)*

- Flaming Gorge – 84% full
- Fontenelle – 84% Full
- Morrow Point – 97% full
- Blue Mesa – 61% full
- Navajo – 58% full
- Lake Powell – 31% full
- Total Upper Colorado Storage - 69%





# Questions?

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[beverly@ugrwcd.org](mailto:beverly@ugrwcd.org)

07/22/2015

**AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM**

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**Agenda Item:** ADDED IN MTG - COLORADO RIVER NEGOTIATIONS

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**Action Requested:**

**Parties to the Agreement:**

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**Grant Contract #:**

**Summary:**

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Submitted by:**

**Submitter's Email Address:**

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**Finance Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

---

**County Attorney Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes  No

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**County Manager Review:**

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted:

Agenda Date:

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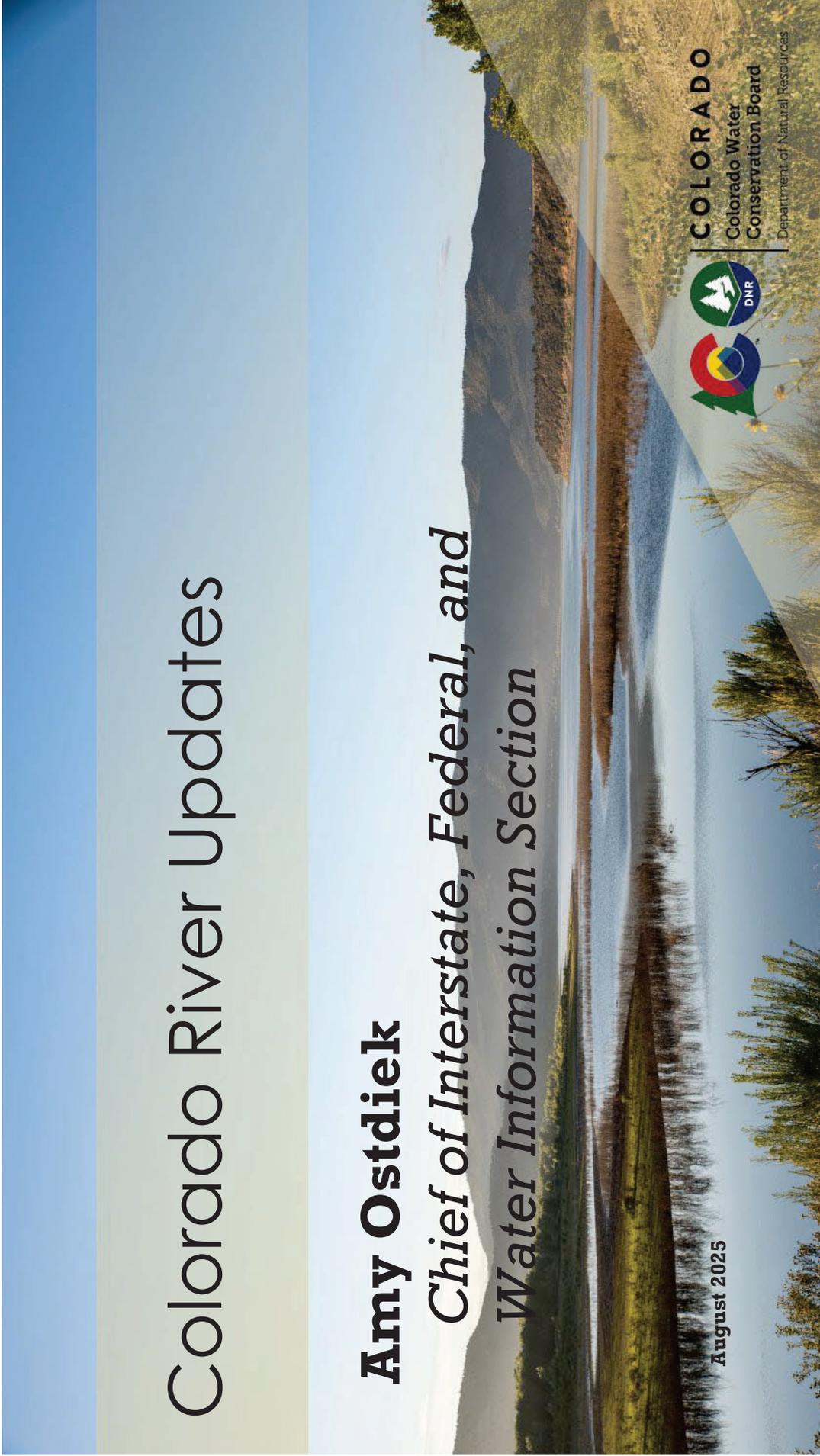
# Colorado River Updates

**Amy Ostdiek**  
*Chief of Interstate, Federal, and  
Water Information Section*

August 2025



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources



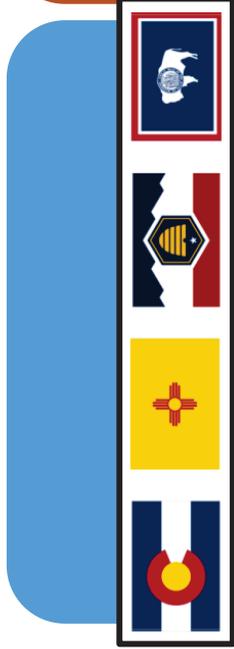
# Drought Response Operations Plan

- Recent 24-Month Studies show Powell potentially dropping below 3525 in Spring 2026
- This initiated DROA planning
- First line of defense is to reduce releases from Glen Canyon Dam and retime, to keep Powell above 3525
- Will continue to monitor and work closely with BOR



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources

# Post-2026 Operations of Lakes Powell and Mead



**2024**

December: Upper Division States submit refinements to Alternative (originally submitted March 2024) for Reclamation to model



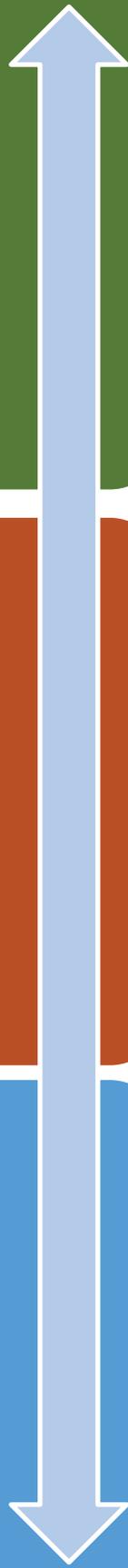
**2025**

January: Reclamation releases alternatives report  
Currently: Basin State discussions continue  
November: DOI needs to know whether 7-state consensus by November 11

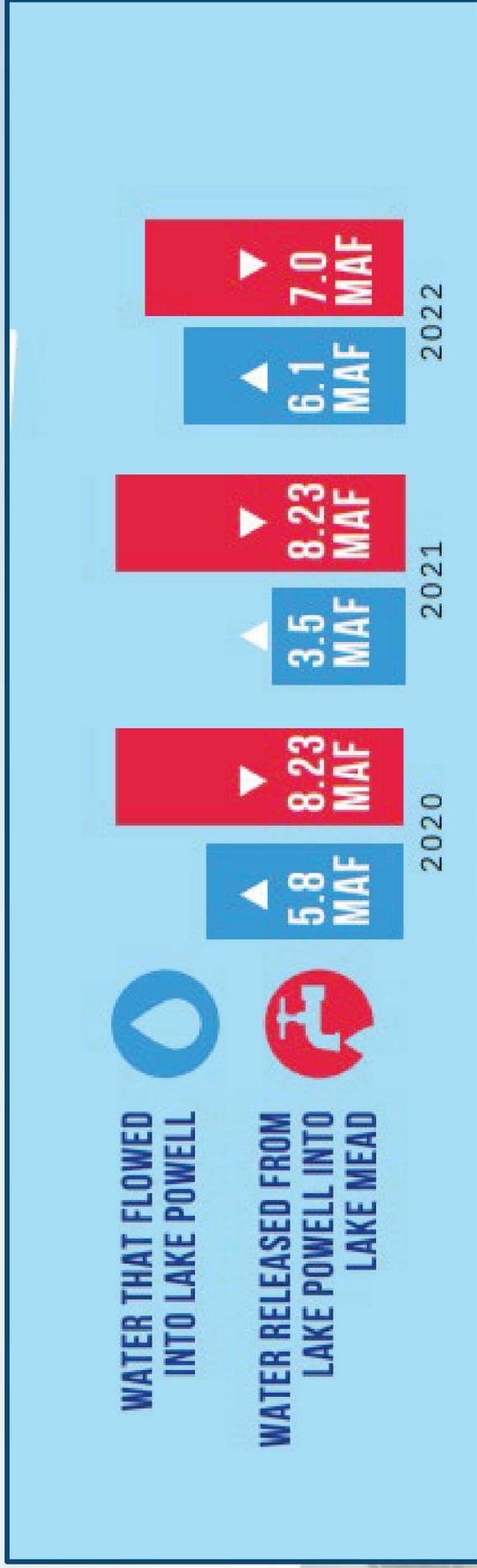


**2026**

2007 Interim Guidelines expire  
February: DOI needs details of deal by February 14

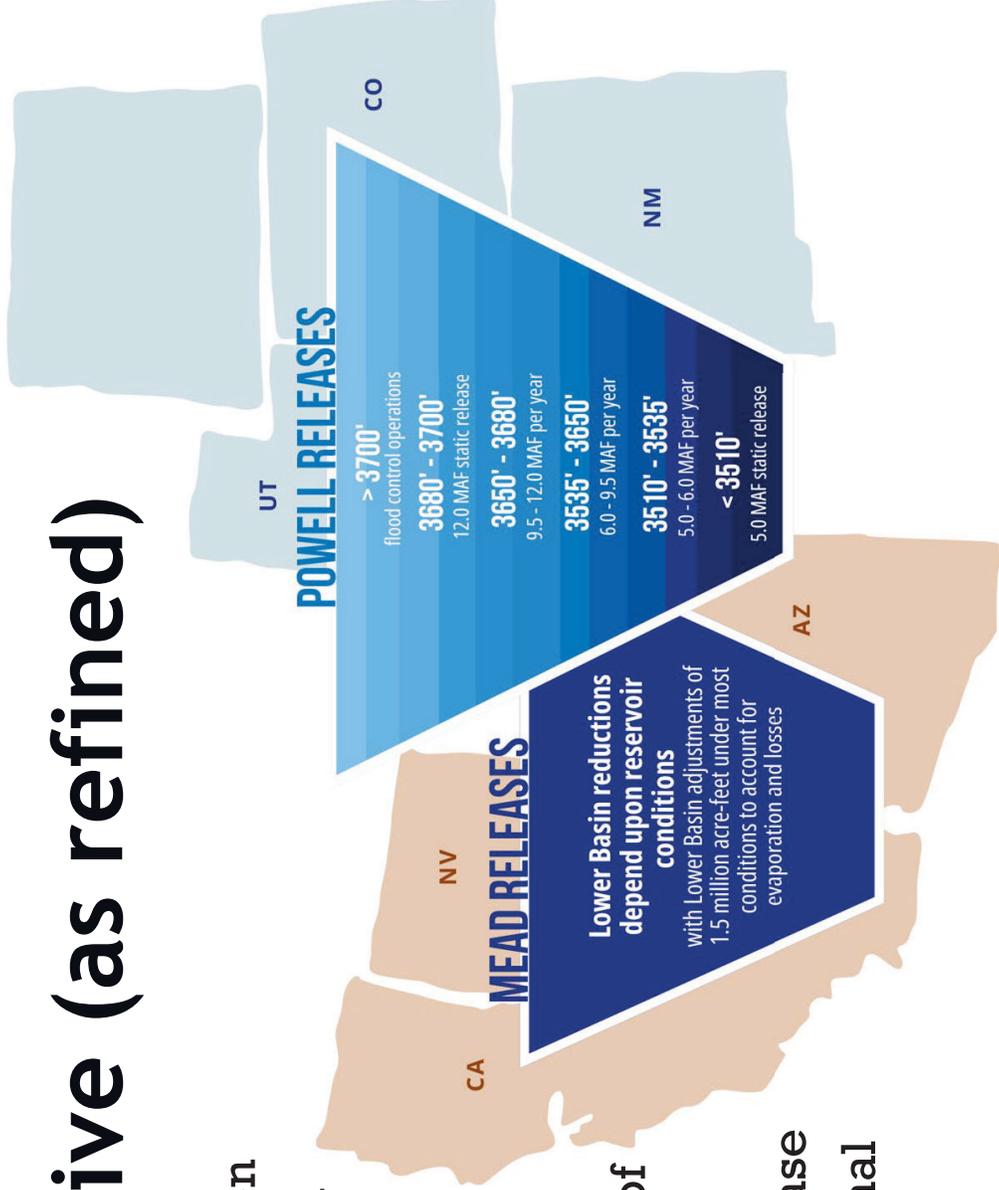


# Operations Under the 2007 Guidelines



# UDS Alternative (as refined)

- Sustainable, supply-driven operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- Designed to help rebuild storage
- Operates within the Law of the River
- Refinements: Powell release curve expanded; additional details about parallel activities



# Basin State Discussions: Current Status

- Focus on moving forward with supply-driven operations framework
- One option is an operational framework in which Powell release is based on natural flow
- Goal to allow each basin to manage within available supplies
- Discussions continue, with a focus on reaching consensus within acceptable parameters



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources

Questions?

**Amy Ostdiek**

Chief of Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section  
Colorado Water Conservation Board

[amy.ostdiek@state.co.us](mailto:amy.ostdiek@state.co.us)



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