



Colorado River Shortage

ARIZONA – STRONGER TOGETHER

In August 2021, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior declared the first-ever Tier 1 shortage for Colorado River operations. Lake Mead began shortage operations on Jan. 1, 2022, resulting in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of the Colorado River. These mandatory Arizona reductions are borne by Central Arizona Project (CAP) water users. The result is reduced availability of Colorado River water for central Arizona agricultural users.

Given the recent intensification of the drought, it is likely there will be deeper levels of shortage in the next few years.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Mandatory reductions are determined and implemented based on CAP's priority system. The Tier 1 shortage reductions fall largely on central Arizona agricultural users.
- As impacts of the drought persist, additional reductions to CAP water users are likely to occur pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). These reductions, referred to as Tier 2 and Tier 3, would include impacts to CAP water currently available to some central Arizona municipalities and tribes.
- The near record low runoff in the Colorado River in 2021 significantly reduced storage in Lake Powell. The impacts of the reduced storage cascaded to Lake Mead. Projections of future conditions triggered provisions of the 2019 DCP designed to protect critical elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead (aka 1030' Consultation). The result is the 500+ Plan, which includes additional voluntary collective actions shared by Arizona, California and Nevada.
- If conditions worsen, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and CAP will work collaboratively with Arizona stakeholders, the Basin States and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to develop and implement additional near-term actions and longer-term solutions.

WHAT IS A COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE?

A shortage means a reduction in the supply available to Lower Colorado River Basin water users.

In 2020 and 2021, the river operated in a "Tier Zero" status, requiring the State to forego 192,000 acre-feet of Arizona's 2.8-million acre-foot annual entitlement to Lake Mead. This reduction came entirely from the CAP system.

Reclamation declared a Tier 1 shortage for 2022. This required Arizona to further reduce use to a total of 512,000 acre-feet, again borne almost entirely by the CAP system.

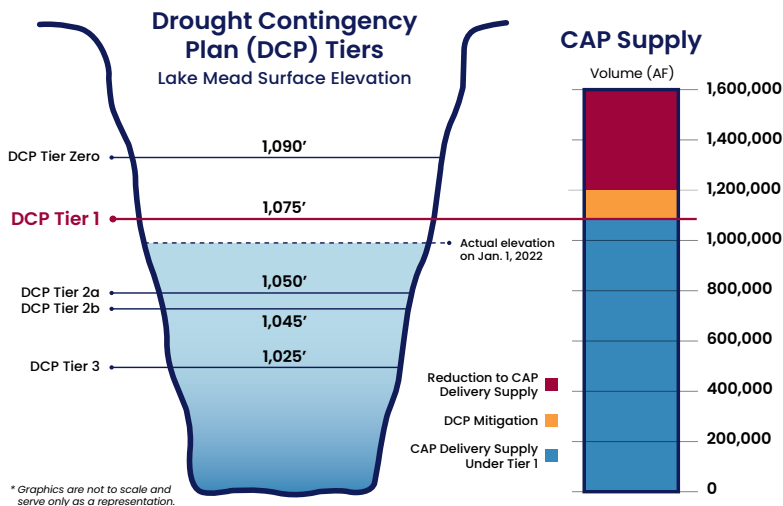
The Tier 1 reductions constitute about 30% of CAP's normal supply; about 18% of Arizona's Colorado River supply; and less than 8% of Arizona's total water use.

WHO IS IMPACTED BY ARIZONA'S TIER 1 SHORTAGE IN 2022?

The Tier 1 shortage has resulted in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of the Colorado River, with reductions falling largely to central Arizona agricultural users. Water supplies for cities, tribes and industrial users have not been affected in 2022.

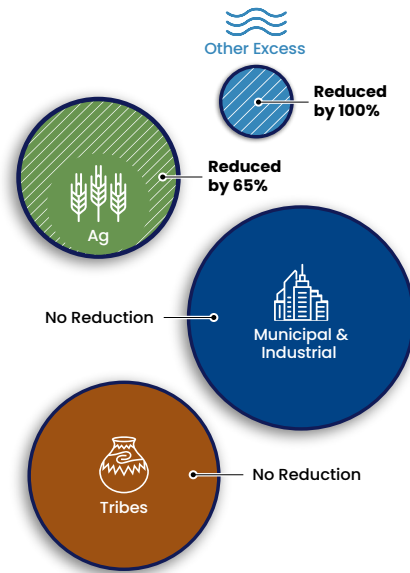
The following infographic shows CAP mandatory reductions for 2022 in a Tier 1 Shortage:

TIER 1 SHORTAGE: CAP Reductions



To learn more, please visit: www.cap-az.com/colorado-river-shortage

2022 Reduction to CAP Users After DCP Mitigation



HOW HAS THE DCP PREPARED ARIZONA FOR SHORTAGE?

Arizona's DCP Implementation Plan represents the best of Arizona water management: collaboration, cooperation and innovation.

Arizona's DCP Steering Committee included about 40 representatives of tribes, cities, agriculture, developers, environmental organizations and elected officials. This Committee worked collectively to share the risks and benefits of the DCP.

The 2019 Drought Contingency Plan put agreements in place that resulted in collective action by Arizona's water users to share resources and mitigate the impacts of shortage. Some committed to leave extra water in Lake Mead to reduce future risks, while others shared water with those most severely impacted by shortage. As the impact of poor hydrology continues, the DCP has been adaptive to respond to worsening conditions. The result has been the voluntary contributions as part of the 500+ Plan.

LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN DCP CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAKE MEAD

IN ACRE-FEET PER ELEVATION PER YEAR

- Tier Zero:** Less than 1,090'
- Tier 1:** Less than 1,075'
- Tier 2:** Less than 1,050'
- Tier 2b:** Less than 1,045'
- Tier 3:** Less than 1,025'

