



Lower Colorado Region

[Reclamation Home](#) / [Lower Colorado Region](#) / [Lower Colorado River Operations](#)

LOWER COLORADO REGION

- [LC Region Home](#)
- [Area Offices](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Programs & Activities](#)
- [Water Operations](#)
- [Facilities](#)
- [Photos & Features](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Site Index](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Colorado River System Mid- to Long-term Projections

Quick Links

Colorado River System Mid- to Long-term Projections

- [General Modeling Information](#)
- [Colorado River System 5-Year Projected Future Conditions](#)
- [Colorado River System Projected Future Conditions - Alternative Future Hydrology Scenarios](#)

Overview

Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Regions utilize a suite of reservoir operations models for short-, mid-, and long-term planning. The 24-Month Study, the Mid-Term Operations Model (MTOM), and the Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS) are comprehensive models of the Colorado River system implemented in the commercial river modeling software called RiverWare™ developed by the Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental Systems (CADSWES) at the University of Colorado. The models are updated and maintained continually by Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Regions.

The 24-Month Study is used for one-month to two-year projections. Pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the 24-Month Study is used to set the operating tier for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead for the following year. Both CRSS and MTOM are used in developing probabilistic projections of future Colorado River system conditions over the timeframe of two years to several decades. The most recent set of projections currently extend through 2026, the year in which the 2007 Interim Guidelines expire.

Projections of future system conditions are most sensitive to assumptions about future Colorado River Basin hydrology. For this reason, Reclamation generates additional projections under different future hydrology scenarios, available at [Colorado River System Projected Future Conditions - Alternative Future Hydrology Scenarios](#). Additionally, Reclamation is actively exploring new methods through its [Colorado River Basin Research-to-Operations Program](#).

Projections of longer term (through 2060) Colorado River system conditions under multiple future hydrology scenarios are available in the [Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study](#).

For additional information or questions, please contact us via email at: ColoradoRiverModeling@usbr.gov.

Last updated: 2020-09-15

