

Colorado River Basin Water Accounts: 1-page summary

Why Care

- 26 Colorado River managers and experts **constructively improved basin water accounts as a framework to transition emergency reservoir operations into more sustainable, equitable, and adaptive water uses.**
- Each participant engaged for 1 to 3 hours during Summer and Fall 2021.
- In an online session, up to 6 people consumed, saved, and traded water in six accounts in a Lake Powell-Lake Mead water bank (Figure 1).
- At each session end, participants shared what they liked and what to improve (Figure 2).

How can Contribute to Basin Management

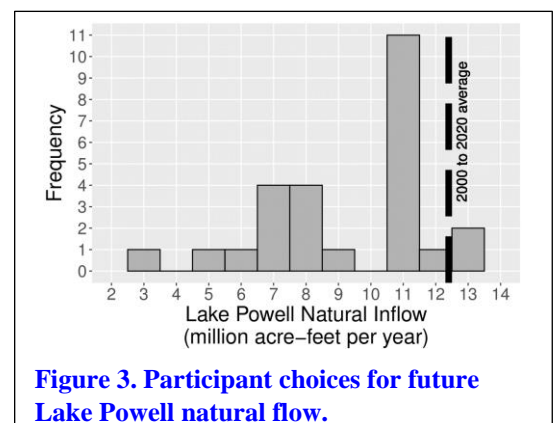
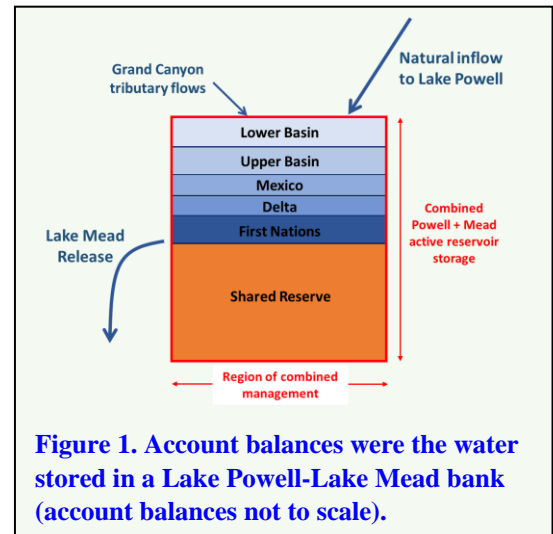
1. Counted all evaporation and evapotranspiration from Lake Powell down to U.S.-Mexico border.
2. First Nations and Colorado River Delta accounts.
3. A jointly managed *Shared Reserve* controlled reservoir drawdown below critical levels.
4. Participants choose each year's Lake Powell natural flow (Figure 3).
5. Further decisions to implement framework:
 - a. Decide number and extent of accounts.
 - b. Divide current reservoir storage above critical levels among accounts.
 - c. Divide each year's basin natural flow.
 - d. Divide end-of-year combined storage between Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Manage Accounts with Friends and Colleagues

- [Model repository, Let's Start Guide, and Linked Online Help](#) (Hydroshare.org).
- [10 Lessons Learned](#) (Digital Commons).

Next Steps

1. **Downscale to a monthly timestep** annual reservoir operations that adapt to basin flows.
2. **Collaborate and Modeling.** Preparing proposal to National Science Foundation with 5 basin collaborators.
3. **View [Jamboard](#)** for descriptions of *collaborate*, add a sticky note to further define, and/or +1 an existing sticky note. Again Jamboard [here](#).



Dr. David E. Rosenberg
Utah State University
<http://rosenberg.usu.edu>
david.rosenberg@usu.edu | @WaterModeler