

# Pilot flex accounting to encourage more water conservation in a combined Lake Powell-Lake Mead system



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# 1. Guiding principles

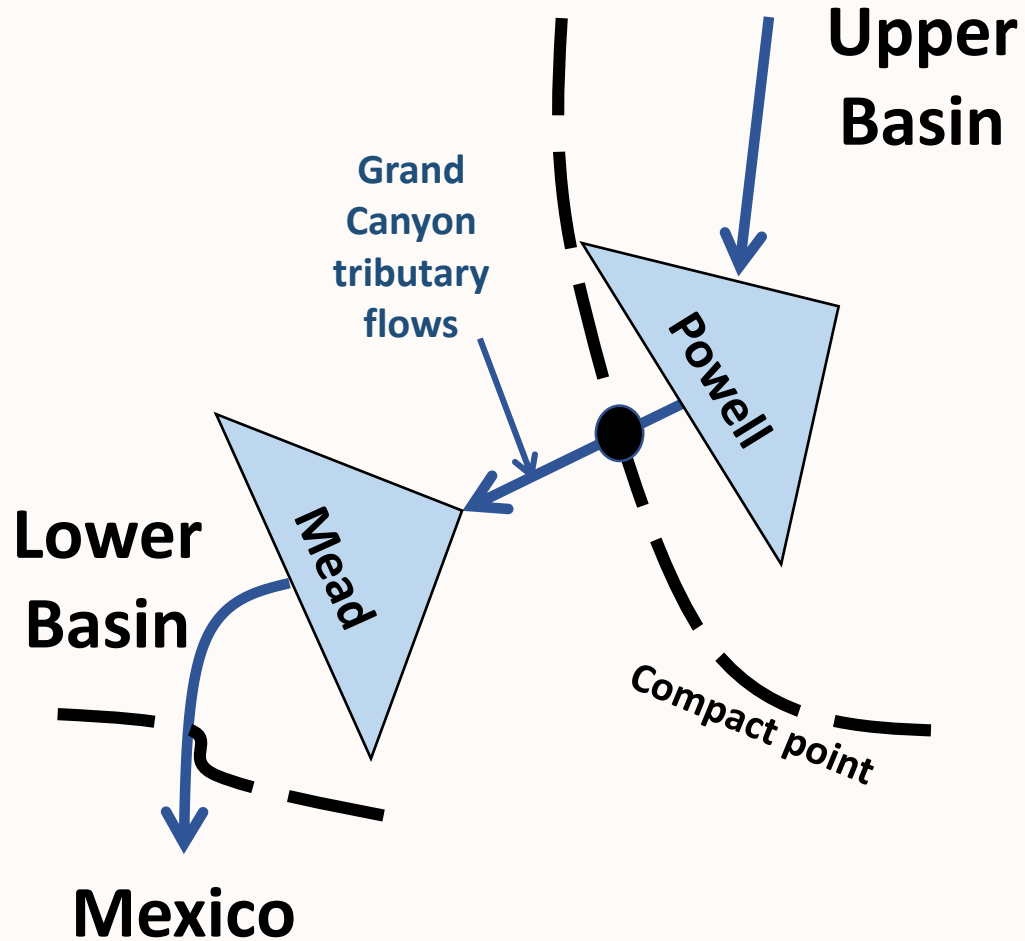
Provoke thought and discussion on renegotiations of Lake Powell-Lake Mead operations.

Current operations expire in 2026.

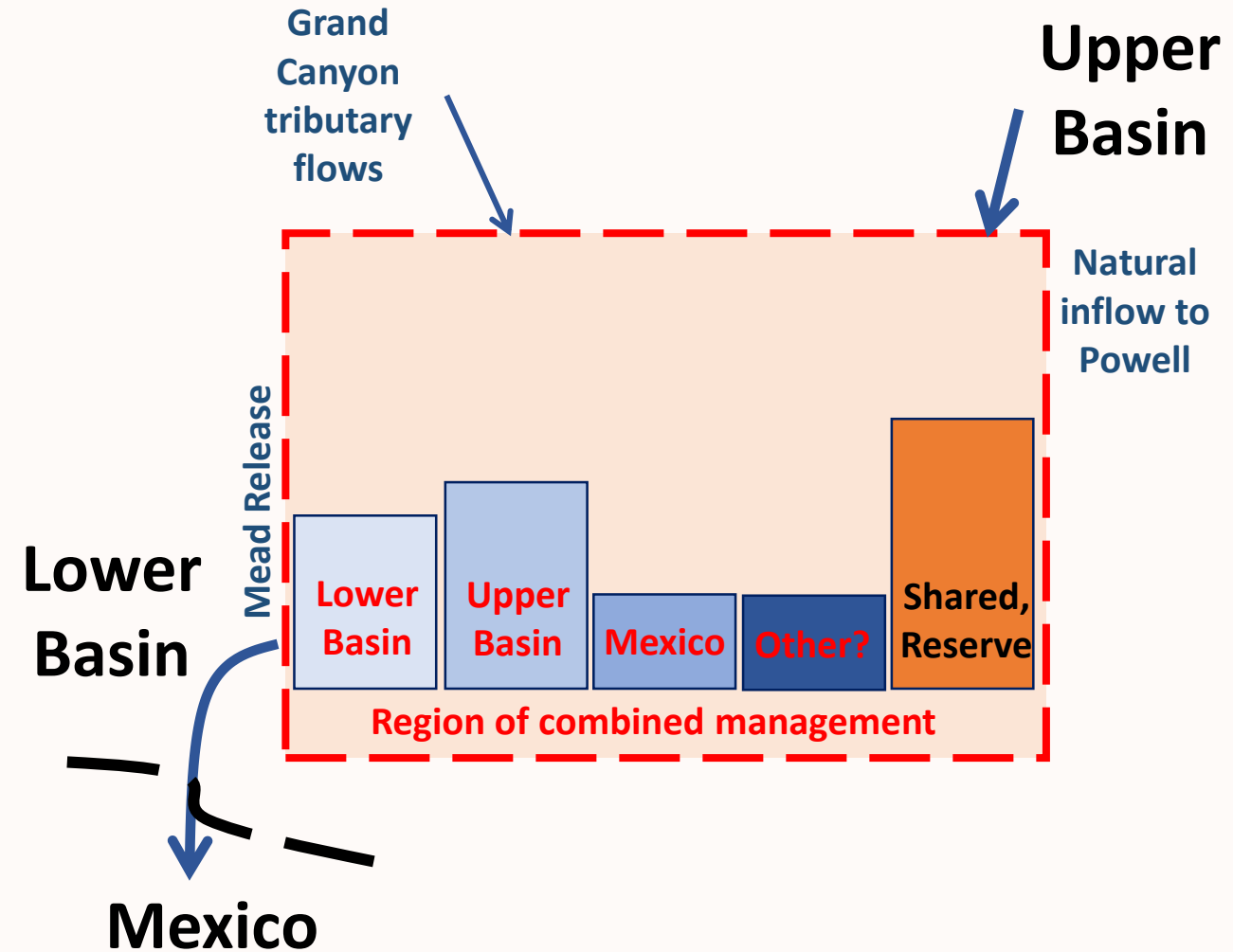
Give managers more flexibility to consume and conserve water independent of other parties.

Convert a shrinking pie (lose-lose) environmental conflict — Colorado River with drought — into expanding pie (win-win) arrangements.

## 2. Stretch the Lee Ferry Compact Point



A. 1922 to present

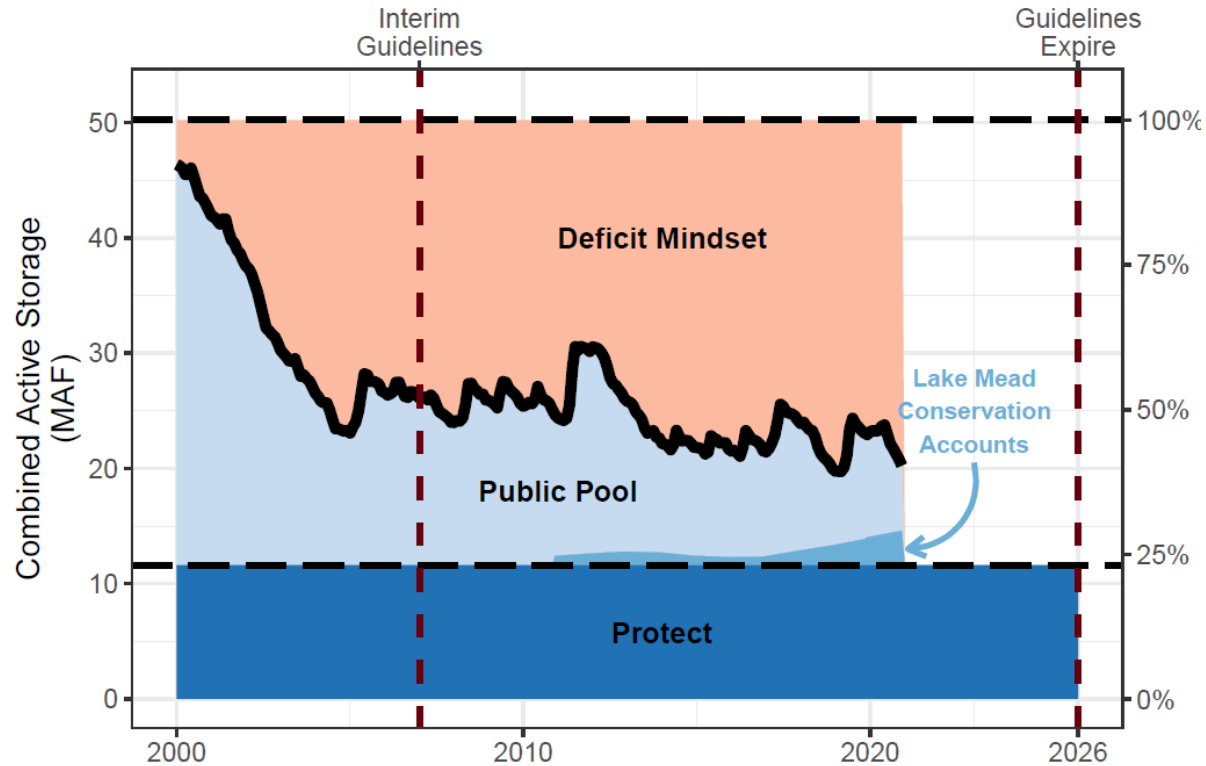


B. Combined system

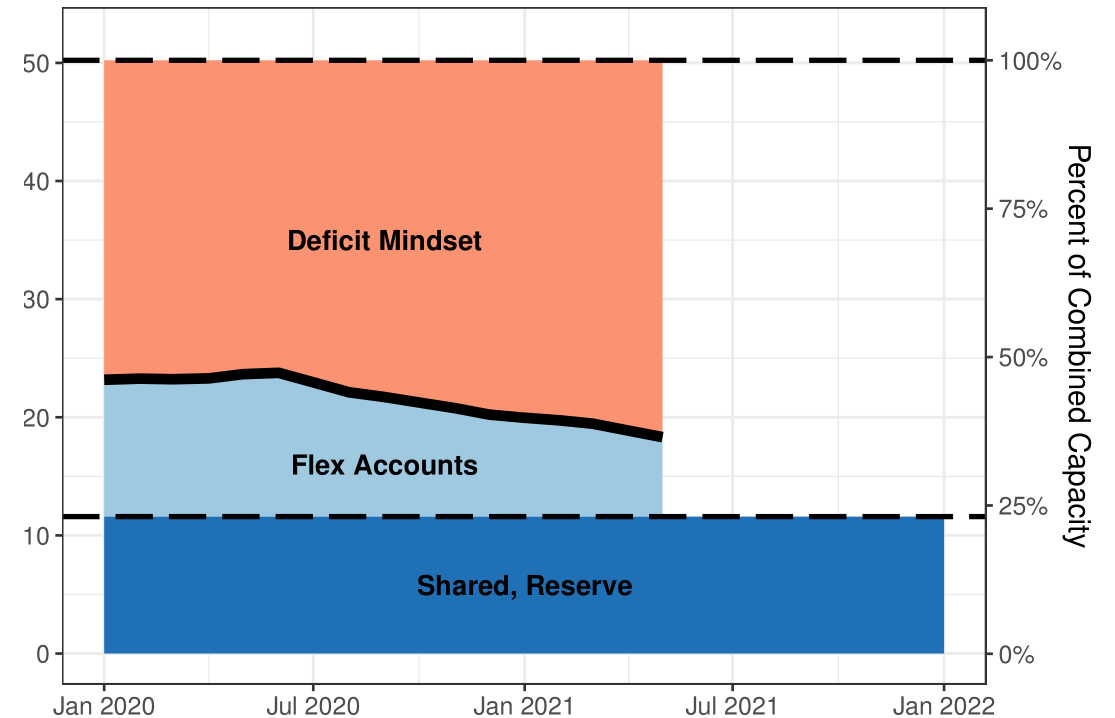
### 3. Manage all available water not just prior conserved water

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Available} & & \text{Flex} & & \text{Share of} & & \text{Share of} \\ \text{Water} & = & \text{Account} & + & \text{Inflow} & - & \text{Evaporation} \\ & & \text{Balance} & & & & \\ & & & & & + & \text{Purchases} - \text{Sales} \\ & & & & & & \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} \\ & & & & & & \text{Optional} \end{array}$$

## 4. Convert Lake Mead Conservation accounts and Public Pool to Flex account balances



A. 2000 to present



B. Combined system

## 5. Try to manage a flex account?



[Download link](#)

### Model structure

Physical watershed data - Given
Individual political (player) decision - Flex account
Joint political decision
Calculated cell