

Intentionally Created Surplus for Lake Mead: Current Accounts and Next Steps

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Description

This is an R Markdown document. The first stacked bar chart compares account balances by state and year for the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) program for Lake Mead to the max balance allowed by the 2007 Interim Guidelines and 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

The second stacked bar chart compares annual deposits to and withdraws from ICS accounts by state and year to the maximum allowed amounts.

The third plot shows the ratio of ICS account balance to the DCP obligation at two different Lake Mead water levels. DCP obligations increase as the Lake Mead level falls. This ratio is the number of years water in the ICS account could cover the DCP obligation.

The fourth plot shows the ratio of the ICS withdrawal limit to the DCP obligation at two different Lake Mead water levels. If ICS withdrawal limits are enforced, this ratio represents the fraction of the DCP obligation the state could pay from previously conserved water (in the ICS account)

The fifth plot shows the ratio of the ICS deposit limit to the DCP obligation at two different Lake Mead water levels. If deposit limits are enforced, this ratio shows how well a state can keep up year-to-year with its DCP obligations by conserving and adding water to it's ICS account.

Data from USBR annual accounting reports: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtracct.html>. Note most recent data is for 2019.

Major Findings

Requested Citation

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Figure 1. Account balances

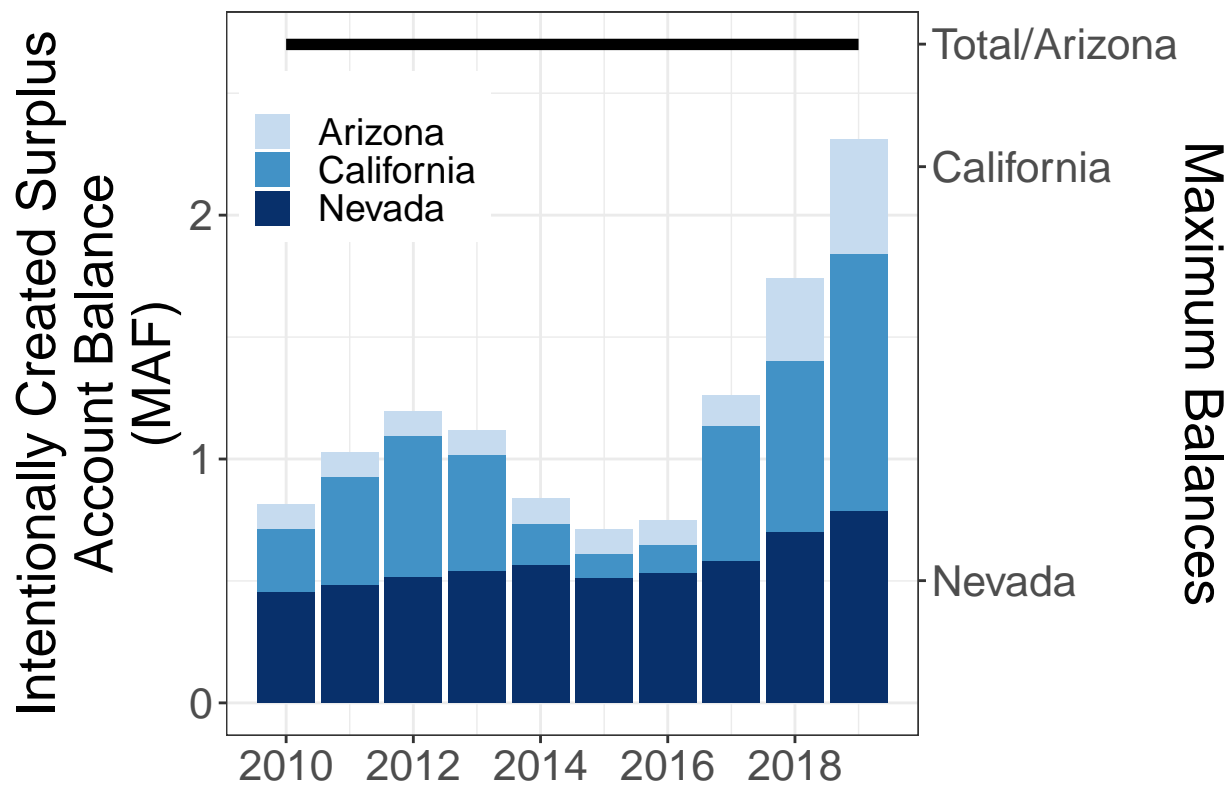


Figure 2. Deposits and Withdrawals

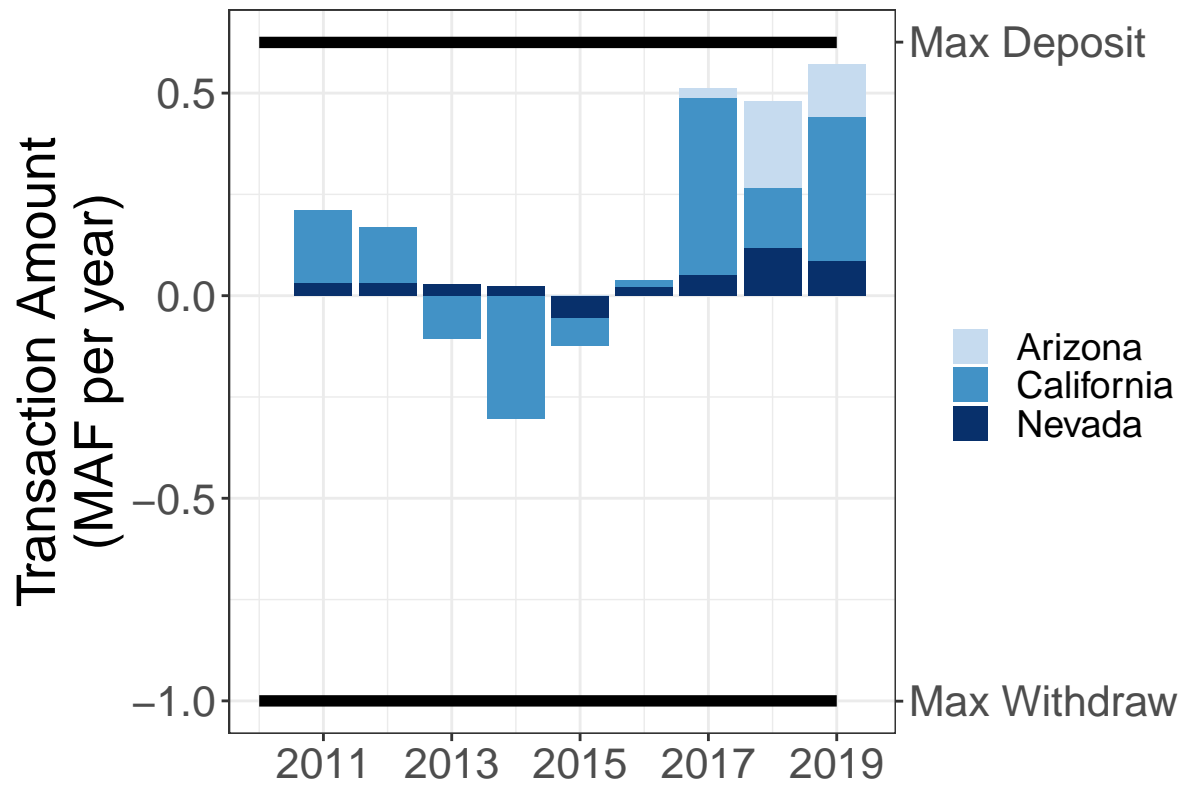


Figure 3. Years 2019 ICS balance can fund an ongoing DCP obligation

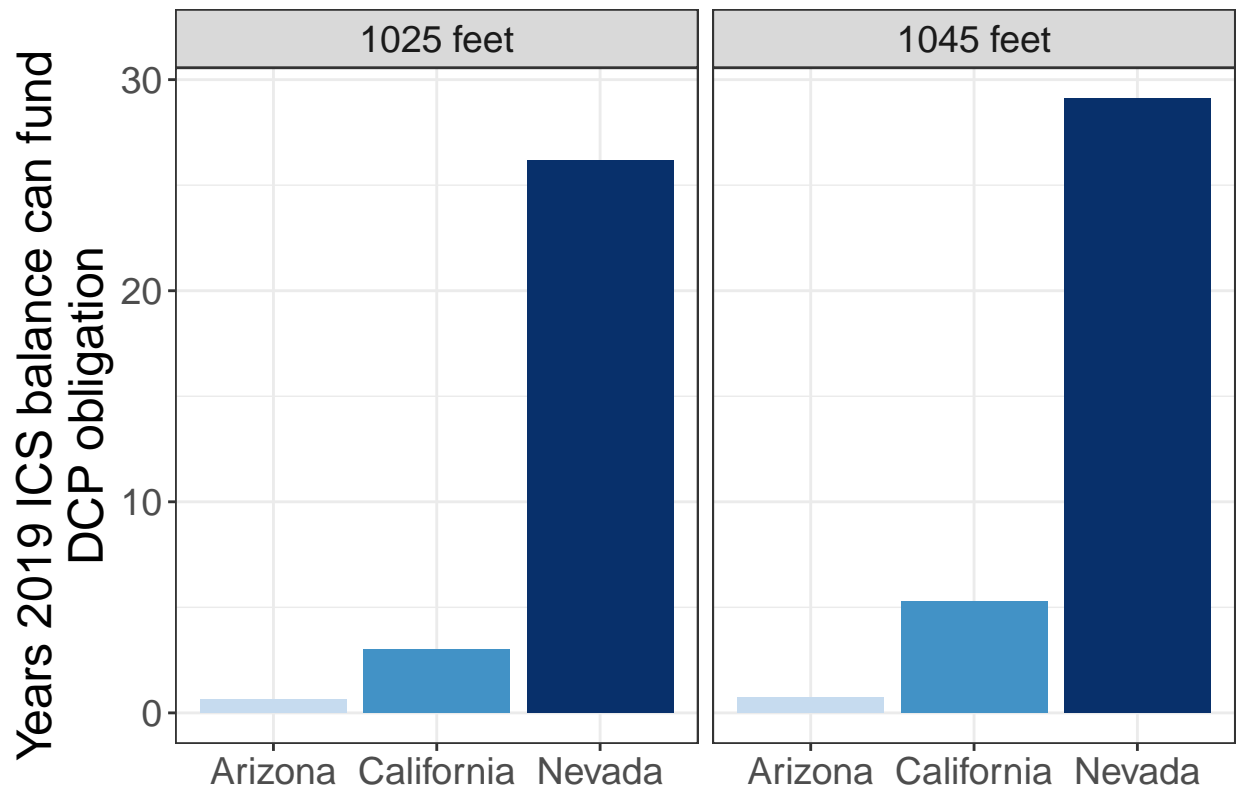


Figure 4. Ratio of ICS max withdrawal limit to DCP obligation.

States less than 100% (red dashed) will need to implement conservation immediately

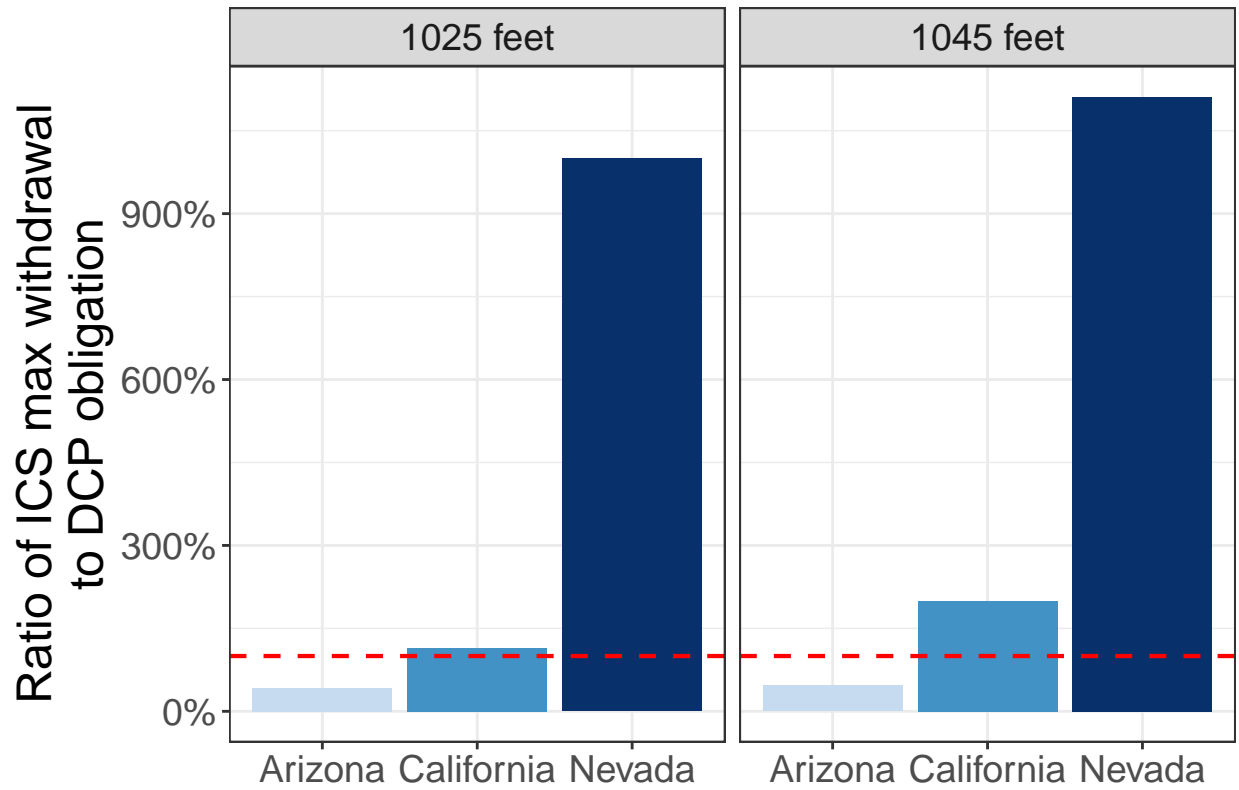


Figure 5. Ratio of ICS max deposit to DCP obligation

States less than 100% will have difficulty keeping pace with ongoing DCP cut-backs

