

Colorado River Compact Compliance Facts

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Objective

The objective of these slides is only to provide factual information to the SB-295 Colorado River Drought Task Force. These slides contain information found in the compacts as well as published data of flows on the Colorado River and, where noted, conservative projections of flows.

Important Facts for State Engineer

What does the Colorado River Compact say (Article III(d))?

- “The states of the Upper Division will not cause the flow of the river at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of ten consecutive years...”
- That is the recognized (Upper Basin States’) standard for maintaining compact compliance,



Important Facts for State Engineer

What does the
Upper Colorado River Compact say (Article IV)?

- a) “Curtailment” may be necessary, if the flow at Lee Ferry is depleted below Article III
- b) UCRC sets “quantity” and “time” of curtailment for each state
- c) The state (Colorado) determines how to meet compact compliance obligations

All premised on the outcome of an “inquiry” by the UCRC



Actual Flows That Have Occurred

Year	Annual Lee Ferry Flow (ac-ft)	Ten-Year Total (ac-ft)
2004	8,348,000	102,475,000
2005	8,395,000	101,628,000
2006	8,507,000	98,603,000
2007	8,421,000	93,150,000
2008	9,180,000	88,890,000
2009	8,406,000	85,866,000
2010	8,437,000	84,774,000
2011	12,753,000	89,166,000
2012	9,542,000	90,361,000
2013	8,289,000	90,277,000
2014	7,590,000	89,519,000
2015	9,157,000	90,282,000
2016	9,138,000	90,913,000
2017	9,170,000	91,661,000
2018	9,171,000	91,653,000
2019	9,264,000	92,511,000
2020	8,436,000	92,509,000
2021	8,293,000	88,049,000
2022	7,083,000	85,591,000

Source: Page 45, UCRC 74th Annual Report for WY 20221

Outlook of Certain Flows Occurring

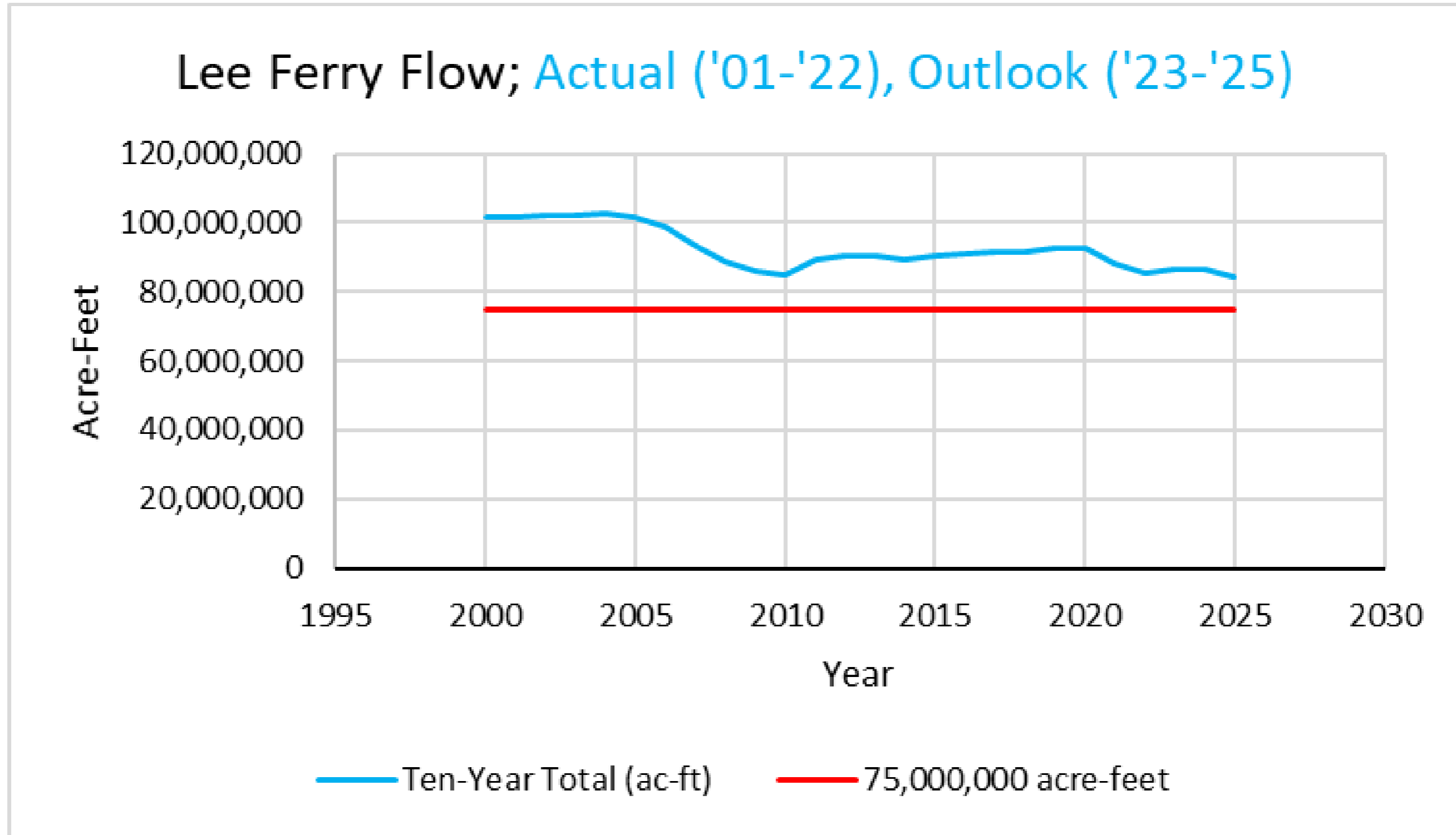
- 2017-2022 Actual Totals¹
- 2023-2024; Current projection²
- 2025; Conservative SEO assumption, for planning only = 7,000,000 acre-feet³

- For 2025, added 150,000 ac-ft for inflows from the Paria River

- Sources:
 1. 74th Annual Report of the UCRC, June 2023
 2. USBR 24-Month Study (July 2023)
 3. Conservative assumption

Year	Annual Lee Ferry Flow (ac-ft)	Ten-Year Total (ac-ft)
2017	9,170,000	91,661,000
2018	9,171,000	91,653,000
2019	9,264,000	92,511,000
2020	8,436,000	92,509,000
2021	8,293,000	88,049,000
2022	7,083,000	85,591,000
2023	9,215,000	86,517,000
2024	7,633,000	86,560,000
2025	7,150,000	84,553,000

25 Years of Flows at Lee Ferry



Additional Information

- In compliance now, near term (75 M af)
- Under allocation (7.5 M af)
 - Upper Basin use; 4.5 M af, 3.5 M af last year
- Current curtailment
 - Intrastate administration, based on limited water supply, prior appropriation;
 - No basis to curtail for compact purposes;
 - No basis to compel federal project release, no authority to shepherd water past other water rights.



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