# WHAT ARE THE TAKE-HOME MESSAGES FROM THE BASIN STUDY?

Don Ostler
Upper Colorado River Commission







#### **General Comments**

- This study was badly needed and will serve the entire Basin well
- This study is only the beginning
- Actions must follow quickly
- Reclamation staff have been outstanding in working with the states to complete the project.

#### DEMAND SCENARIOS

- 6 new demand scenarios over 50 years
- Future varies from 18.1 maf to 20.4 maf
- M&I biggest component of growth
- 40 million people now to 49.3 million or 76.5 million people
- What estimates of demand do we use for future planning?????? 602a storage etc.

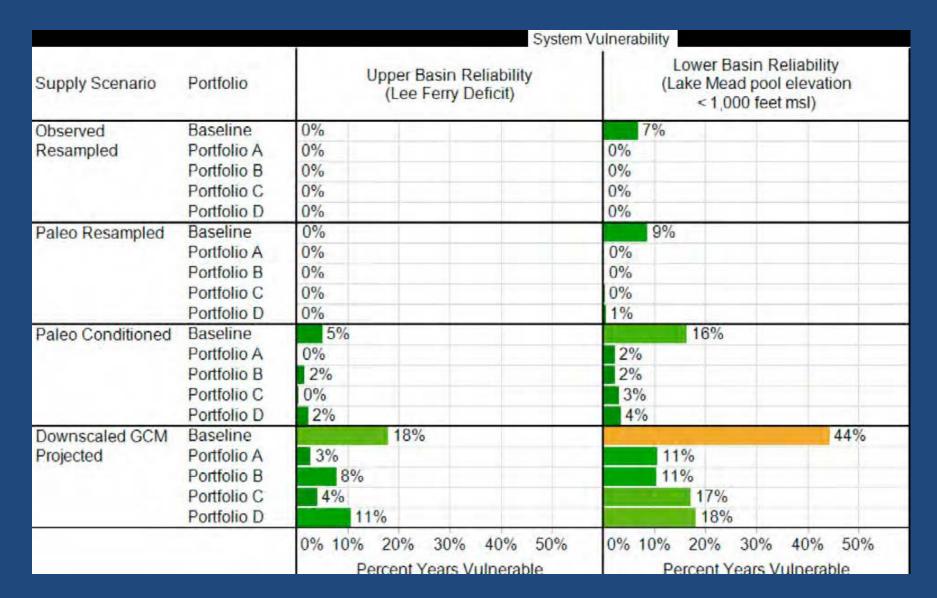
## **Future Supply**

- More complicated future 4 scenarios
  - Historic 15.0 maf average annual flow
  - Paleo Resampled 14.7 maf avg annual flow
  - Paleo Conditioned 14.9 maf avg annual flow
  - Climate Models 13. 7 maf avg annual flow
  - UCRC Average natural flow = 14.8 maf
  - Average natural flow for the past 12 years has been about 12.4maf

#### Lee Ferry Average Annual Virgin Flow For Selected Periods



## System Vulnerability to Supply



|  | Time Period | Baseline                    |         | Portfolio A                 |          | Portfolio B                 |          | Portfolio C                 |          | Portfolio D                 |          |  |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| Upper Basin Shortage<br>(exceeds 25% of requested<br>depletion in any one year)  | 2012-2026   | 4%                          |         | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          | 3%                          | 3%       |  |
|  | 2027-2040   | 5%                          |         | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          |  |
|  | 2041-2060   | 7%                          |         | 2%                          |          | 2%                          |          | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          |  |
| Lee Ferry Deficit<br>(exceeds zero in any one year)  | 2012-2026   | 0%                          |         | 0%                          |          | 0%                          |          | 0%                          |          | 0%                          |          |  |
|  | 2027-2040   | 3%                          |         | 1%                          |          | 2%                          |          | 1%                          |          | 2%                          |          |  |
|  | 2041-2060   | 6%                          |         | 1%                          |          | 2%                          |          | 1%                          |          | 3%                          |          |  |
| Lake Mead Pool Elevation<br>< 1000 feet<br>(below 1000 feet in any one<br>month)   | 2012-2026   | 4%                          |         | 4%                          |          | 4%                          |          | 4%                          |          | 4%                          |          |  |
|  | 2027-2040   | 13%                         |         | 7%                          |          | 7%                          |          | 8%                          |          | 8%                          |          |  |
|  | 2041-2060   | 19%                         | 6       | 3%                          |          | 3%                          |          | 5%                          |          | 6%                          |          |  |
| Lower Basin Shortage<br>(exceeds 1 maf over any two<br>year window)  | 2012-2026   | 7%                          |         | 5%                          |          | 5%                          | ,        | 5%                          |          | 5%                          |          |  |
|  | 2027-2040   | 37%                         |         | 22%                         |          | 19%                         |          | 23%                         |          | 23%                         |          |  |
|  | 2041-2060   |                             | 51%     | 109                         | %        | 10                          | )%       | 13                          | %        | 14                          | 1%       |  |
| Lower Basin Shortage<br>(exceeds 1.5 maf over any five<br>year window)   | 2012-2026   | 10%                         |         | 9%                          |          | 99                          | 6        | 9%                          |          | 9%                          | , i      |  |
|  | 2027-2040   |                             | 43%     |                             | 35%      |                             | 30%      |                             | 36%      |                             | 36%      |  |
|  | 2041-2060   |                             | 59%     | 2                           | 23%      |                             | 23%      | :                           | 26%      |                             | 28%      |  |
| Remaining Demand Above<br>Lower Division States' Basic<br>Apportionment<br>(exceeds moving threshold in<br>any one year) | 2012-2026   | 0%                          |         | 0%                          |          | 0%                          |          | 0%                          |          | 0%                          |          |  |
|  | 2027-2040   |                             | 40%     | 2%                          |          | 1%                          |          | 1%                          |          | 2%                          |          |  |
|  | 2041-2060   |                             | 93%     | 5%                          |          | 5%                          |          | 7%                          |          | 5%                          |          |  |
|  |             | 0% 5                        | 0% 100% | 0%                          | 50% 100% | 0%                          | 50% 100% | 0%                          | 50% 100% | 0%                          | 50% 100% |  |
|  |             | Percent Years<br>Vulnerable |         | Percent Years<br>Vulnerable |          | Percent Years<br>Vulnerable |          | Percent Years<br>Vulnerable |          | Percent Years<br>Vulnerable |          |  |

|   |             | Portfolio                              |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|-------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
|   | Time Period | Baseline                               | Portfolio A                                | Portfolio B                                | Portfolio C                                | Portfolio D                               |  |  |  |  |
| Lake Powell Pool Elevation<br>< 3,490 feet<br>(below power pool of 3,490<br>feet in any one month)      | 2012-2026   | 4%                                     | 3%   | 3%   | 3%   | 3%  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 2027-2040   | 11%                                    | 9%   | 8%   | 9%   | 9%  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 2041-2060   | 17%                                    | 7%   | 7%   | 9%   | 9%  |  |  |  |  |
| Upper Basin Electrical Power Generated (below 4,450 GWh per year for more than three consecutive years) | 2012-2026   | 6%                                     | 6%   | 5%   | 6%   | 6%  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 2027-2040   | 13%                                    | 11%  | 10%  | 11%  | 11%                                       |  |  |  |  |
|   | 2041-2060   | 18%                                    | 9%   | 10%  | 10%  | 11%                                       |  |  |  |  |
| < 1,050 feet<br>(below 1,050 feet in any<br>one month of any year)                                      | 2012-2026   | 12%                                    | 12%  | 11%  | 12%  | 12%                                       |  |  |  |  |
|   | 2027-2040   | 33%                                    | 26%  | 21%  | 27%  | 27%                                       |  |  |  |  |
|   | 2041-2060   | 42%                                    | 14%  | 14%  | 19%  | 20%                                       |  |  |  |  |
|   |             | 0% 50% 100%  Percent Years  Vulnerable | 0% 50% 100%<br>Percent Years<br>Vulnerable | 0% 50% 100%<br>Percent Years<br>Vulnerable | 0% 50% 100%<br>Percent Years<br>Vulnerable | 0% 50% 100<br>Percent Years<br>Vulnerable |  |  |  |  |

#### AN UB VIEW OF THE STUDY

- The UB does not presently use their full entitlement of Colorado River Water
- Even with increased UB use the risk of curtailment is low and manageable with action
- The UB needs to agree on, and plan for a safe amount of additional development
- A shortage management plan is needed

#### Don't Panic Over Curtailment Risk But Plan

- Develop a clear policy for implementation
- Provide for lengthy advance notifications
- Agreement among states on criteria
- Sound process to defend against LB or others
- Provide a management plan to mitigate impacts of temporary shortage
  - Water banks
  - Temporary exchanges

#### Need To Address Climate Risks

- Much more uncertainty associated with climate based supply predictions
- Increased water use in the UB is not the main driver of risk – a warmer climate is!
- Even climate driven risk can be managed and mitigated
- Zero percent risk should not be our goal

#### UB VIEWS CONTINUED

- The supply and demand imbalance in the lower basin is the most pressing problem
- Shortages in the LB will become more frequent and larger as UB develops
- Shortages in the LB can harm the UB due to coordinated reservoir operations
- The LB ignoring of evap. losses is a problem

#### Conclusions

- We must be proactive and begin planning and take actions now
- The UB needs to pay attention to and push for resolution of imbalances in the LB
- The UB should not be frozen by revelations of curtailment risk but should smartly plan, manage and mitigate the risk

### THANK YOU