



Water Resources Research Center 2024 Conference



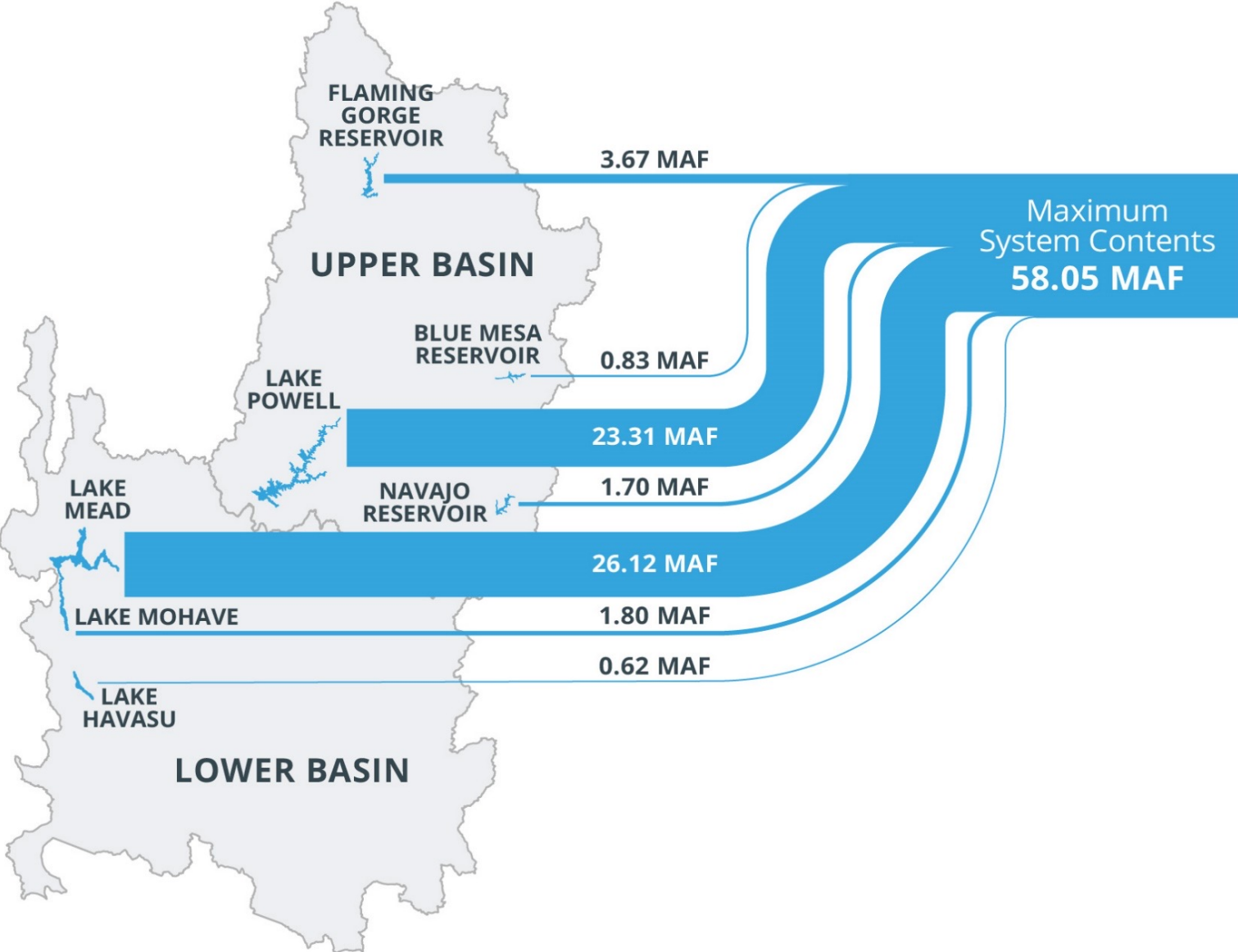
**ARIZONA
RECONSULTATION
COMMITTEE**

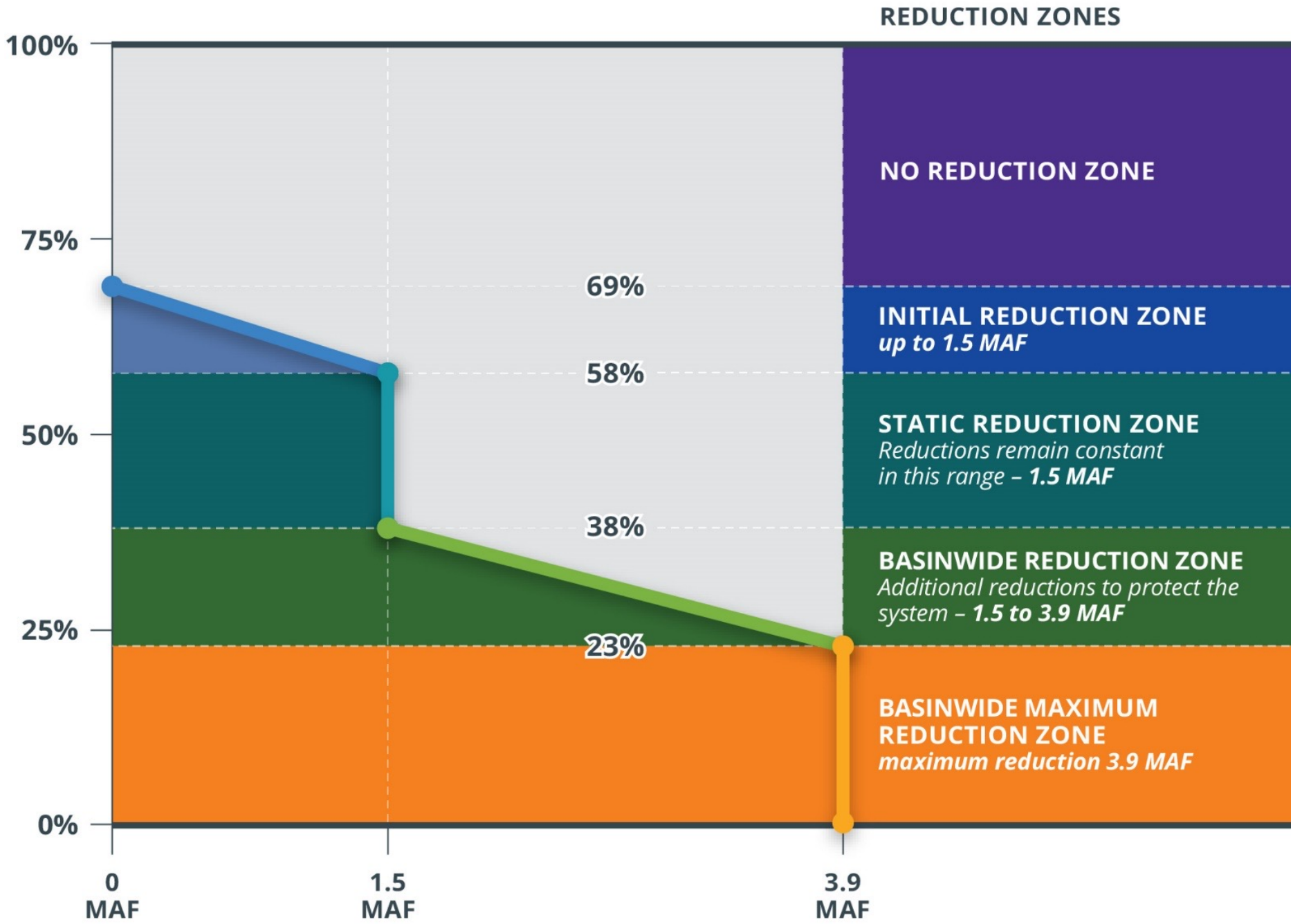
Kristen Johnson
Colorado River Programs Manager,
Arizona Dept. of Water Resources

March 13, 2024

Lower Basin Alternative: Reduction Determination

System contents are based on the volume in each reservoir that is available for release, in millions of acre-feet (MAF).





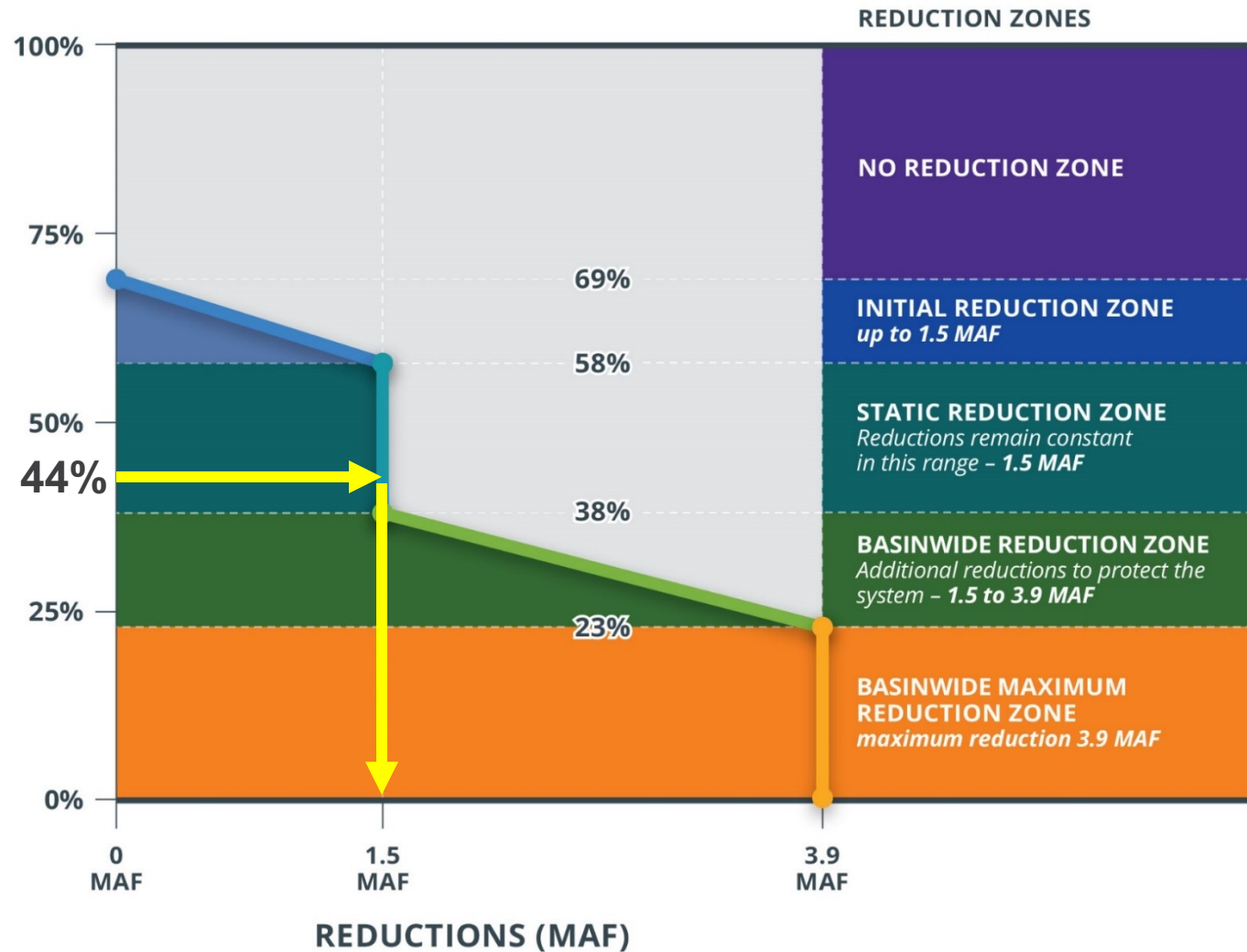
Lower Basin Alternative: Reduction Determination

Reduction Determination

As of August 1, 2023

Lake Powell	9.31 MAF
Lake Mead	8.50 MAF
Flaming Gorge Reservoir	3.32 MAF
Blue Mesa Reservoir	0.74 MAF
Navajo Reservoir	1.26 MAF
Lake Mohave	1.71 MAF
Lake Havasu	0.59 MAF
	25.42 MAF

$$\frac{25.42 \text{ MAF}}{58.05 \text{ MAF}} \times 100\% = 44\%$$



ARIZONA
RECONSULTATION
COMMITTEE

Reduction Sharing among Basin States and Mexico

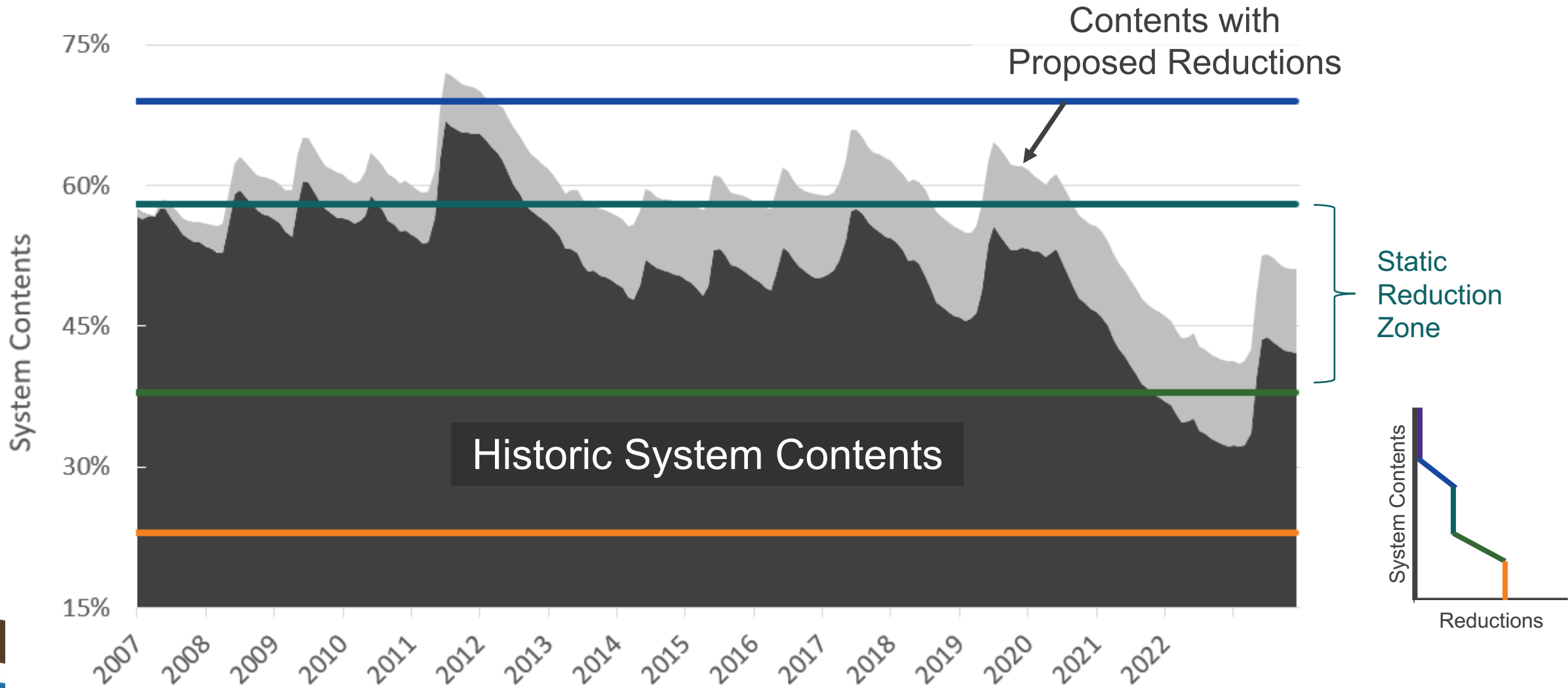
	Total Reduction Volumes	Upper Basin	Arizona	California	Nevada	Mexico*
Initial Reduction Zone	Up to 300 KAF	0	80%	0	3.33%	16.67%
	300 KAF-1.5 MAF	0	43.33%	36.67%	3.33%	16.67%
Static Reduction Zone	1.5 MAF	0	760,000	440,000	50,000	250,000
Basin-wide Reduction Zone	1.5 – 3.9 MAF	Shared among Upper Division states, Lower Division States and Mexico				
Basin-wide Maximum Reduction Zone	3.9 MAF					

* Reductions to Mexico will be determined in a separate binational process



ARIZONA
RECONSULTATION
COMMITTEE

Proposed Alternative Implemented in 2007



UB vs LB Proposals - Reductions

Lower Basin

- Based on 7 system reservoirs
- Total system “Live Storage”, no exclusion of Emergency or Threshold Volume
- August 1 Determination
- >69% No Reductions
- 69% - 58% 0 to 1.5 MAF
- <58% - 38% 1.5 MAF
- <38% - 23% 1.5 to 3.9 MAF
- <23% 3.9 MAF
- 1.5 MAF or Less → LB/MX Basin Only
- >1.5 MAF → Additional 2.4 MAF shared by UB/LB/MX

Upper Basin

- Based on Powell and Mead Storage
- Excludes 8.7 MAF of Threshold Volume from calculation of “Live Storage”
- October 1 Determination
- >90% No Reductions
- 90% - 70% 0 to 1.5 MAF
- 70% - 20% 1.5 MAF
- 20% - 0% 1.5 to 3.9 MAF
- All reductions to LB



Lower Basin Alternative

- Innovative, system wide approach
- Considerate of Compact and Law of the River requirements
- Addresses the structural deficit
- Creates a framework where Lower Basin reductions are determined by the health of the system as a whole and not just one reservoir
- Preliminary analyses using Reclamation provided hydrologies show the Alternative avoids deadpool at Powell and Mead and provides robust protection of elevations at Powell and Mead



Lower Basin Alternative Outstanding Issues

- Sharing Initial and Static Reductions among Arizona water users
- How to share Basin-wide Reduction Zones
- Further Tribal discussions and negotiations
- Conservation, augmentation and storage programs
- Discussions with Mexico as part of a binational process
- Continued negotiations with the Upper Basin



Arizona Next Steps

- Lower Basin States are requesting Reclamation to analyze the Lower Basin Alternative as part of the EIS operational alternatives development process
- MAWG Meeting on March 11th
- Convene an internal Arizona stakeholder process
- Seek consensus across the basin, including Tribes, NGOs and water users





Questions?

www.azwater.gov

kjohnson@azwater.gov

702.771.8552



**ARIZONA
RECONSULTATION
COMMITTEE**