

The Drought Of Lake Mead

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Lake Mead is the single largest reservoir in the United States. It is known to serve water to at about forty-million people at minimum across a total of seven US states in addition to the Northern side of Mexico.

However, in recent times, the reservoir has experienced severe drought and has shrunk to a measly thirty-five per-cent of its natural capacity. This is very worrying as this means that most of the land across nine different states has been affected by drought overtime.

To put this into perspective where exactly the water that fills Lake Mead's capacity comes from, much of it is taken from melted snow from the Rocky Mountains. This is then combined with a small amount of water to create a form of snowmelt, which flows through both Lake Powell and the Grand Canyon.

The Bureau of Reclamation stated that: **"The Upper Basin experienced an exceptionally dry Spring in 2021, with April to July run-off into Lake Powell totalling just twenty-six per-cent of average despite near-average snowfall last Winter"**. This means that water allocations are set to be cut next year. Because of these unfortunate deadlines of reservoir levels, both Mexico and Nevada will see fewer acre-feet.

Even more tragically, Arizona may see five-hundred and twelve thousand acre-feet gone by this time, especially when you put into perspective that a single acre foot is enough to supply at least two households a year.

This is all a truly severe fall from grace for what is America's biggest source of water. It is painful to see just how drastic this significant decline has affected not only the reservoir itself, but the continent's other sources of water as well. For now, we can only hope that water levels do somehow increase and perhaps, put an end to these severe droughts once and for all.