The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation are considering adopting an Interim Guideline for Determination of 602(a) Storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin

Federal Register Notice was issued on January 28, 2003 to Solicit Public Comments on the Adoption of an Interim 602(a) Storage Guideline and to Initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

Comment Period through 3/14/03

602(a) Storage

and the

Concept of Storage Equalization

First introduced in the 1968
Colorado River Basin Project Act
Section 602(a)

602(a) Storage

- Storage in Upper Basin necessary to assure deliveries to Lower Basin without impairment to consumptive use in the Upper Basin
- Equalization releases are not required in years when Upper Basin storage is less than 602(a) storage

Article II(1) of the Long Range Operating Criteria

- Requires annual Secretarial determination of 602(a) storage
- Relevant Factors
  - Historic Streamflows
  - Critical Period of Record
  - Probabilities of Water Supply
  - Future UB Depletions, recurrence of Critical Period
  - Report of the Committee on Probabilities and Test Studies

Basin States Agreement on Surplus and Related Issues

In the summer of 2000, during the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria, the Basin States submitted information to the Department of Interior on interim surplus criteria and a number of other related issues. This information was published in the Federal Register on August 8, 2000. See 65 Fed. Reg. 48531.

Basin States Proposed 602(a) Storage

- V. Determination of 602(a) Storage in Lake Powell during the Interim Period

- During the Interim Period, 602(a) storage requirements determined in accordance with Article II (1) of the Criteria shall utilize a value of not less than 14.85 maf (elevation 3630 feet) for Lake Powell.

Process for Implementation

- NEPA process
  - Reclamation is drafting an Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Indian trust asset consultations and cultural resource consultations are the key elements that need to be completed
- Draft EA may be released in late summer 2003
- Guideline not likely to be in place for 2004 AOP consultations

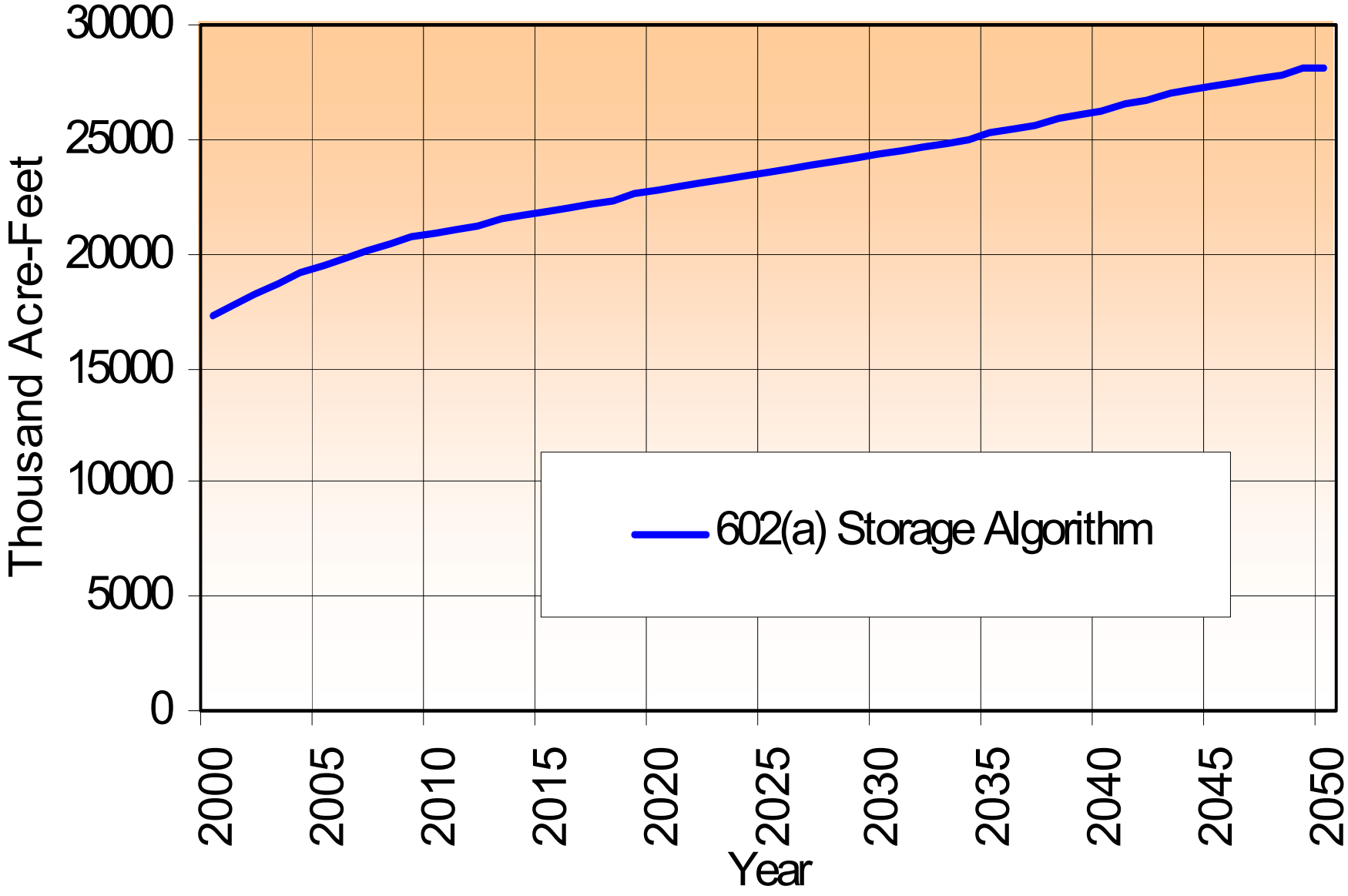
Analysis of Proposed 602(a) Storage

- CRSS/RiverWare has been used to analyze the effects of the proposed 602(a) storage on the Colorado River system
- Analysis of the proposed 602(a) storage uses the existing CRSS 602(a) Storage algorithm to model the baseline condition

Existing CRSS 602(a) Model Algorithm

- 12 year critical period (1953-1964) to represent a period of dry hydrology.
- Each year the model performs a 12 year mass balance in the Upper Basin, to determine the storage necessary in the Upper Basin to assure minimum objective release deliveries to the Lower Basin without Upper Basin consumptive use being impaired.
- All of active Storage in Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, Navajo and Blue Mesa can be used.

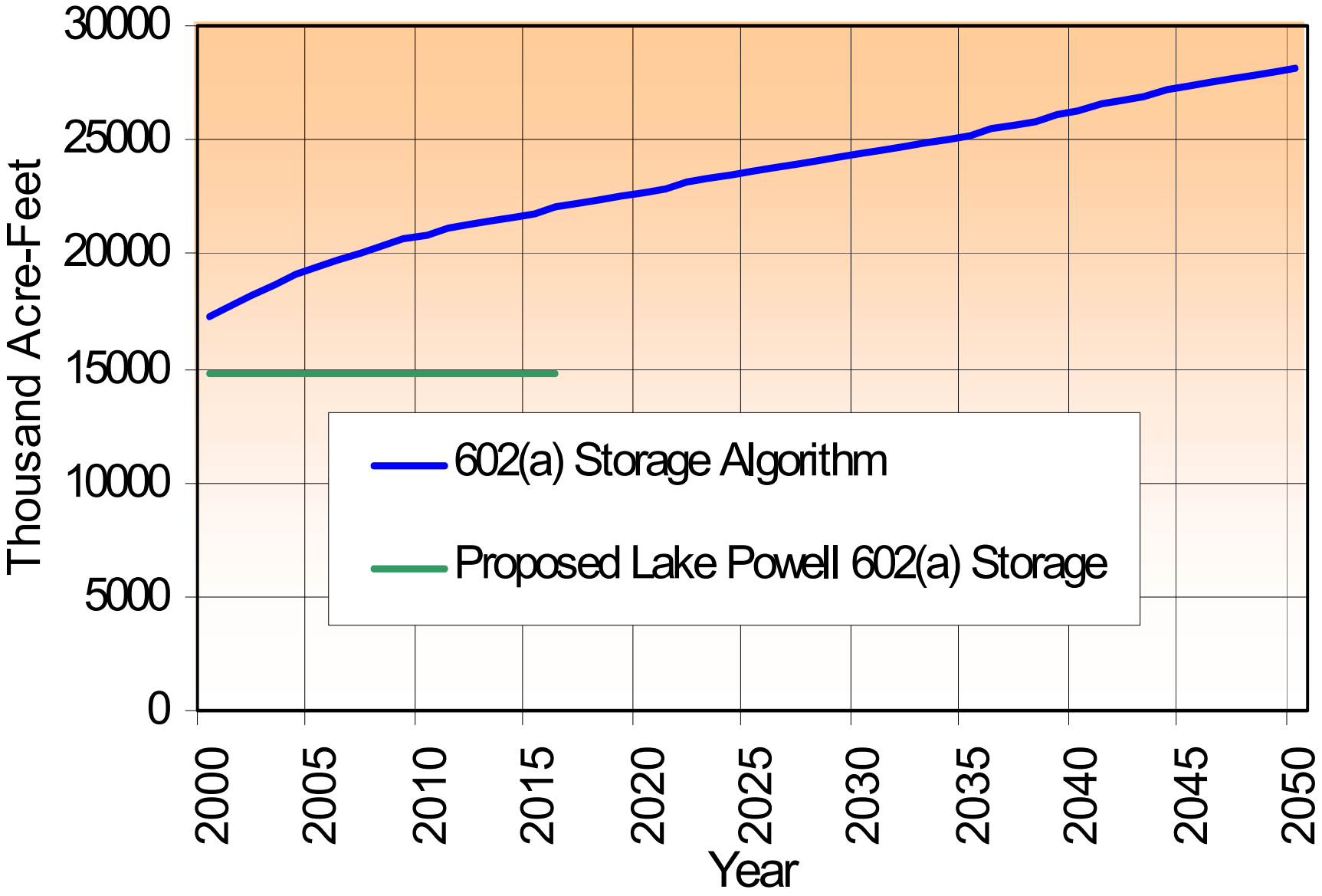
602(a) Storage



Modeling the Proposed 602(a) Storage

- Existing CRSS storage equalization "rules" are included, but a new rule has been added
- The new Rule "fires" after the existing storage equalization rules have been executed
- The new rule checks to see if Lake Powell is projected to have less than 14.85 maf of storage during the current year on September 30. If so, and if equalization releases were scheduled under the baseline storage equalization rules, such releases are not made, and the release for the year is scheduled to be 8.23 maf
- Each month the model simulates from January through September the equalization rules (new and old) are fired

602(a) Storage

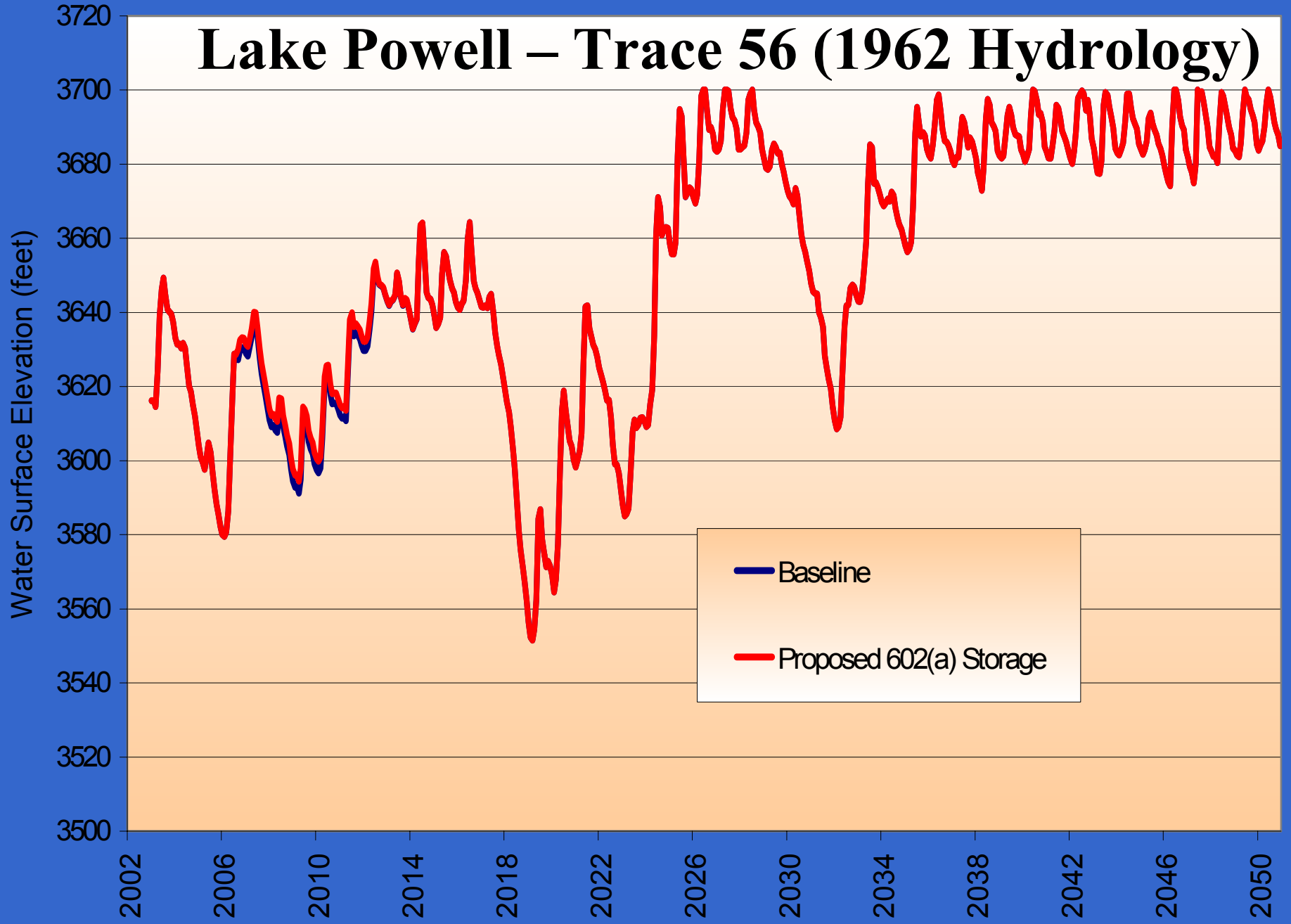


Key Elements of the Proposed 602(a) Storage

- Does not alter the minimum objective release of 8.23 maf
- Only affects equalization releases
- In effect through water year 2016

Draft Modeling of Proposed 602(a) Storage

- Highly unlikely to impact to LB water supply
- No impact to deliveries to Mexico
- No change to GC BHBF frequency
- No changes in 10, 50 and 90 percentiles for Lake Powell and Lake Mead water surface
- 10 of the 85 model traces show minor changes to Powell and Mead Storage.
- These same traces show minor changes in monthly release volumes from Glen Canyon


Lake Powell – Trace 56 (1962 Hydrology)
Water Surface Elevation (feet)
3720
3700
3680
3660
3640
3620
3600
3580
3560
3540
3520
3500
2002
2006
2010
2014
2018
2022
2026
2030
2034
2038
2042
2046
2050
Baseline
Proposed 602(a) Storage

If implemented, how would the 602(a) Storage Guideline be applied?

- Each year through AOP Process
- Storage equalization releases would not occur in years when Lake Powell storage is projected to be below 14.85 maf for the water year ending on September 30.