

CANYON LAKE ARIZONA DRAWDOWN PROJECT



The water level of Canyon Lake Arizona will be lowered for approximately 16 weeks starting Sept. 16, 2026, for critical dam safety inspections and maintenance. Tonto National Forest will close the lake, including all boat ramps and access points, during this time. Here's everything you need to know:

PROJECT DETAILS

- SRP and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lower Canyon Lake for critical dam safety inspections and maintenance once every 20 years.
- While inspections and maintenance are regularly performed on the dams, some critical equipment is located underwater, which makes it inaccessible without lowering the lake level.
- SRP will be lowering the water level of Canyon Lake by approximately 54 feet through a drawdown process.
- The work will focus on the normally submerged portions of Mormon Flat and Horse Mesa dams, as well as the river channel downstream of Horse Mesa Dam.
- **No water will be wasted**, just stored in other reservoirs while the work is performed.
- The lake drawdown will not interfere with water delivery from the Salt and Verde river reservoirs to SRP's water customers.

BENEFITS

- The project supports the operational safety of the dams for water storage and flood control.
- The project helps ensure water reliability for more than 2.5 million Valley residents who receive water from SRP reservoirs.
- The drawdown will provide an opportunity for other agencies and businesses to perform any necessary maintenance work and repairs to their Canyon Lake facilities.

IMPACTS

- Canyon Lake, including all boat ramps and access points, will be closed to the public during the drawdown.
- Canyon Lake Marina will relocate slips and boats.
- There will be river channel clearing in areas where water flow is slowed or blocked due to rockslides and other debris.

- For information on Forest Service closures, please visit the Tonto National Forest closure webpage at fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notice.

TIMELINE

- The project will last for approximately 16 weeks beginning Sept. 16, 2026.
 - Approximately four weeks to lower the water level by 54 feet.
 - Approximately eight weeks to complete the inspection and maintenance work.
 - Approximately four weeks to fill the lake back to the normal level using water from upstream reservoirs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I explore areas of the dry lakebed during the drawdown?

A: Access will be prohibited by boat, motorized vehicles or hiking due to hazards exposed by lowering the elevation of the lake.

Q: Will the Canyon Lake Marina remain open during the drawdown?

A: The Canyon Lake Marina is independently operated under permit from the U.S. Forest Service. For inquiries about their drawdown plans, please contact the marina operators directly.

To learn more about the project, call **(602) 236-2872** or scan the QR code.

