Drought Legislative Update

November 17, 2021

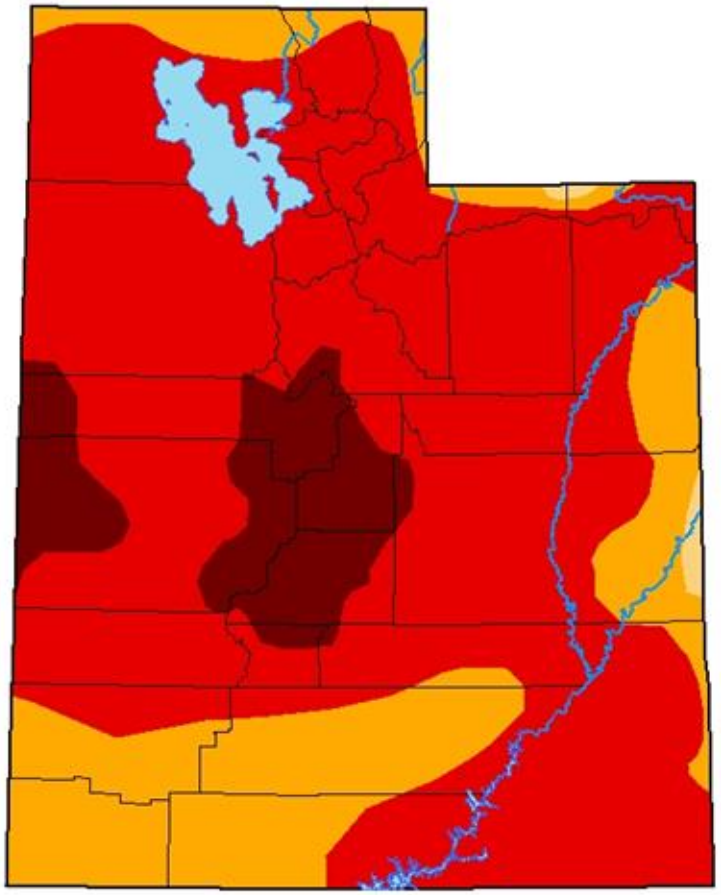
Brian Steed
Executive Director

Utah Department of Natural Resources

100% of the state is in drought
79% in "extreme" drought

U.S. Drought Monitor

Utah



November 9, 2021

(Released Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.52	78.72	9.69
Last Week 11-02-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.52	78.72	14.09
3 Months Ago 08-10-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	98.75	50.50
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	97.38	90.11	68.56
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	88.07	20.09
One Year Ago 11-10-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.20	87.26	31.77

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

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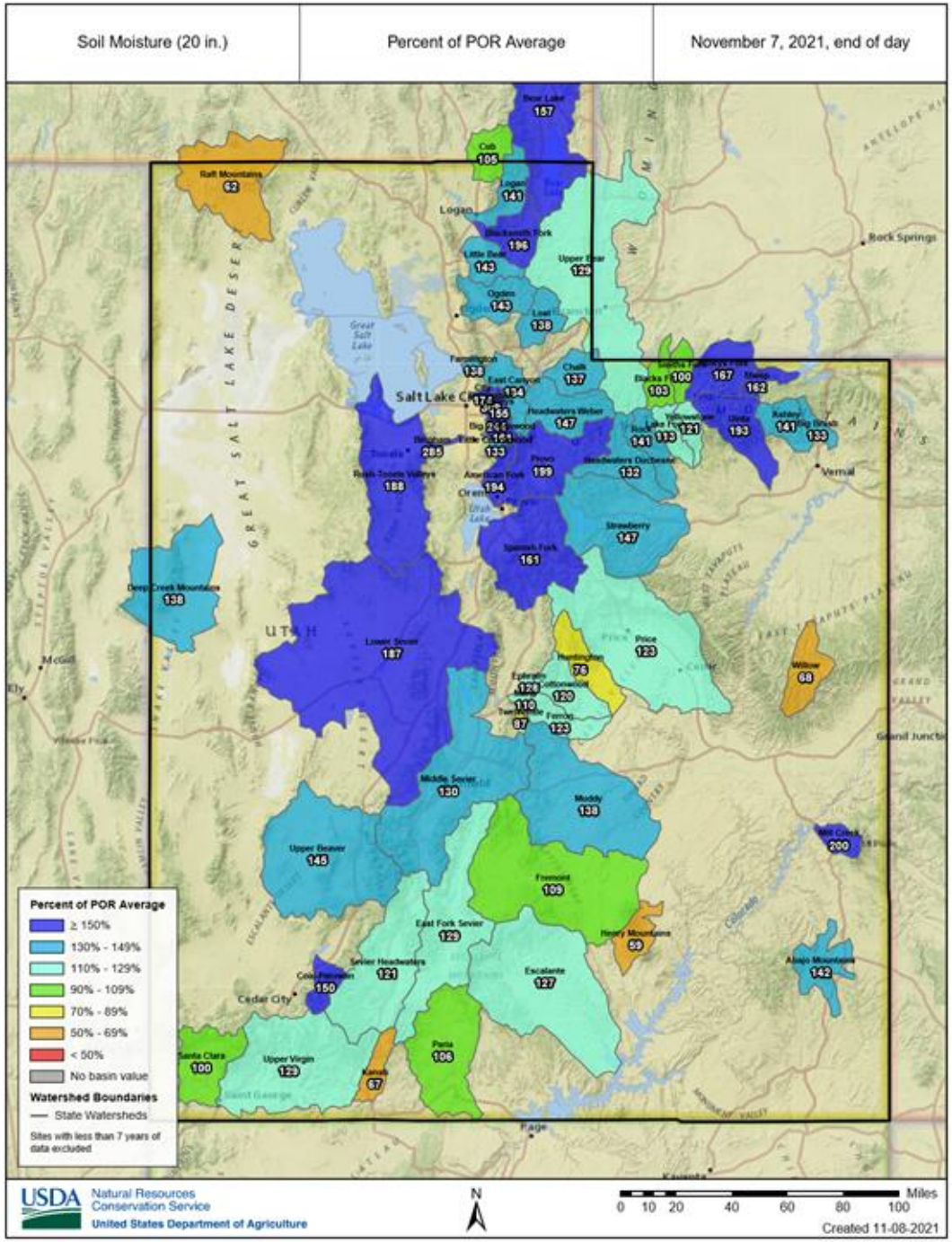
National Drought Mitigation Center

USDA NDMC NOAA

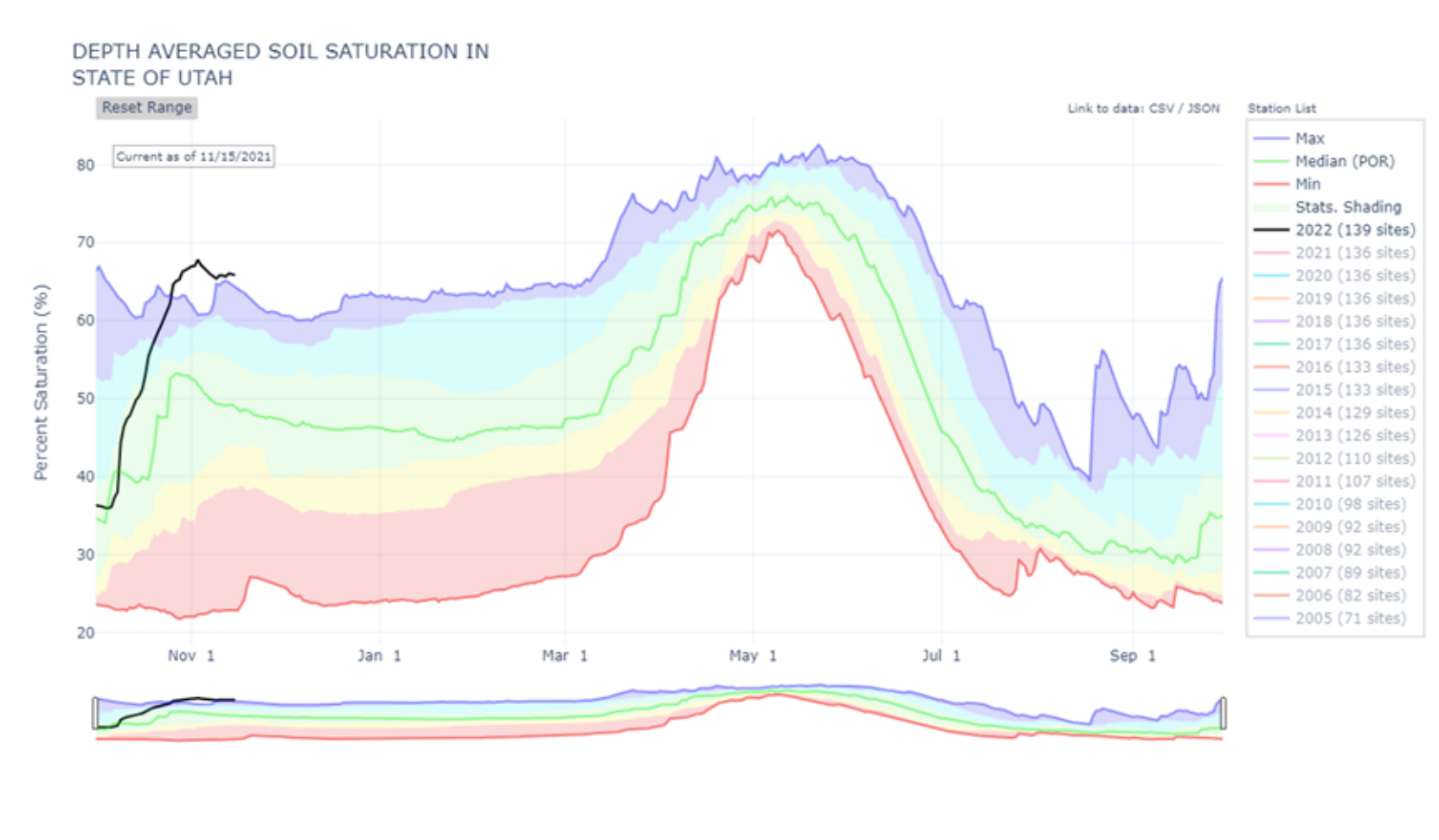
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

UTAH DNR

Soil Moisture Conditions

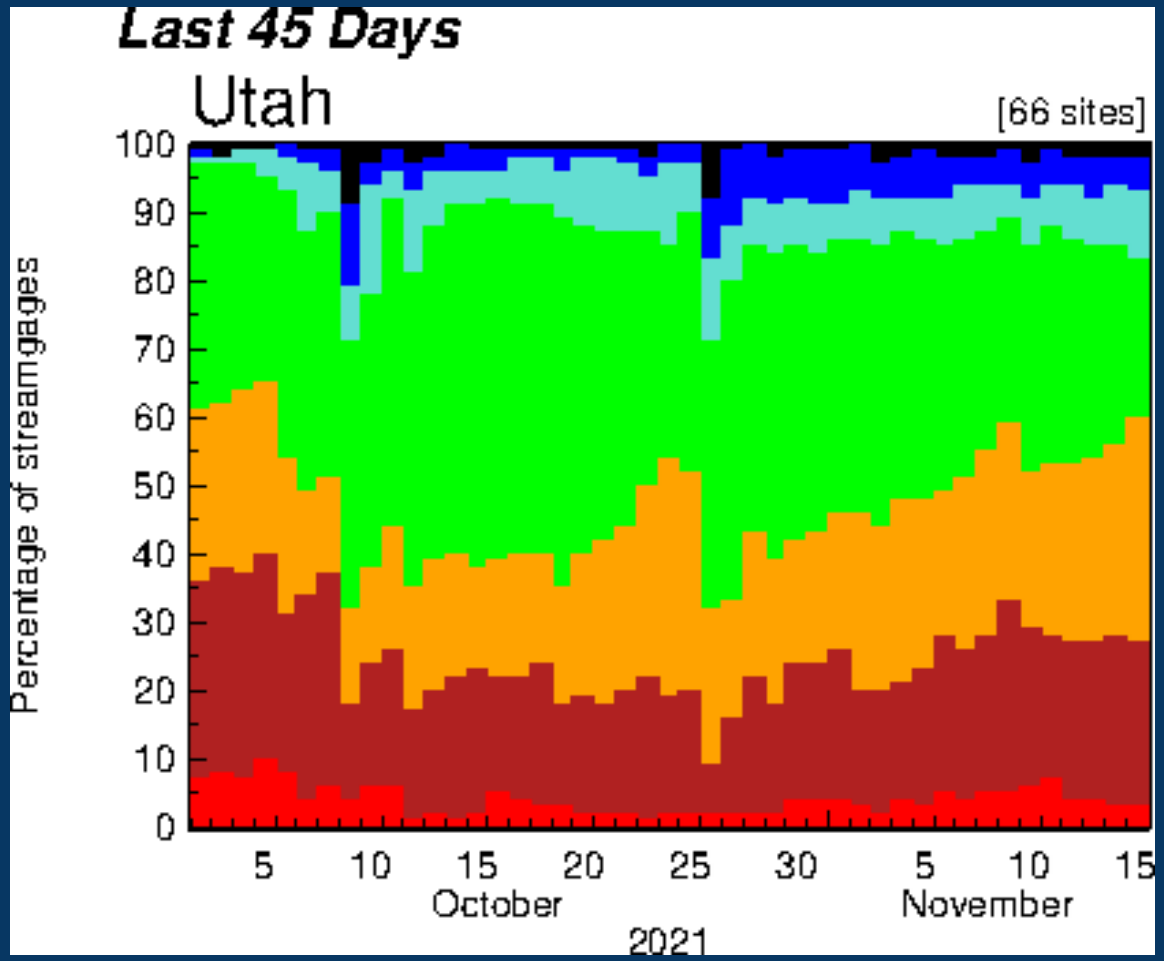


Soil Moisture Conditions



Timeline of soil moisture for the 2021 water year. It is currently record wet for this time of year.

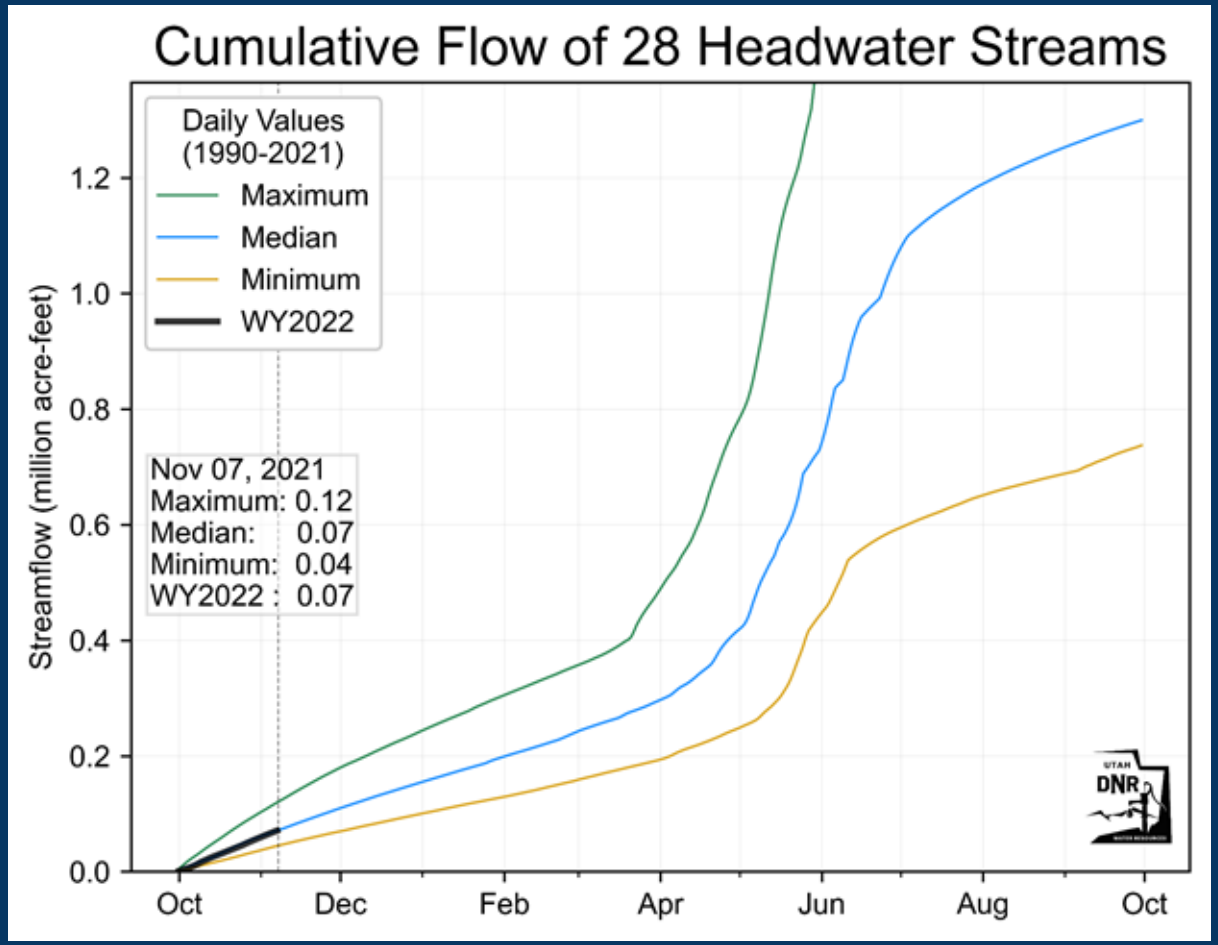
Current Streamflow Conditions



Mean daily streamflow compared to historical streamflow. Includes only sites with 30 years of data or more.

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Cumulative Flow of Headwater Streams Conditions

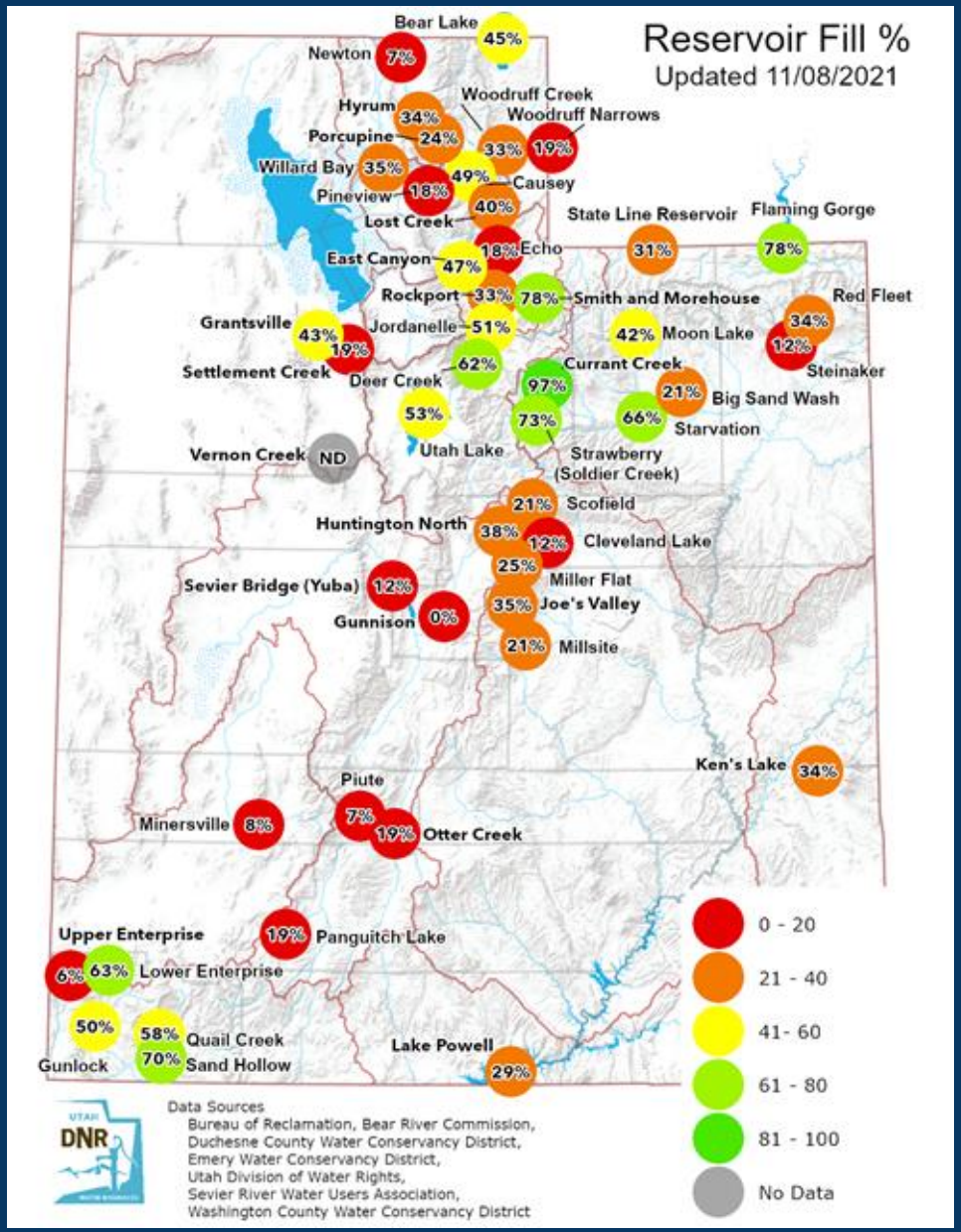


Graphic comparing 2022 water year Headwater Streamflow to median or typical

Streamflow

- 48 of 97 reporting streams are below normal
- Low streamflows around the state are an indicator of the long-term nature of drought
- It typically takes as long to get out of drought as it took to get into drought

Reservoir Levels

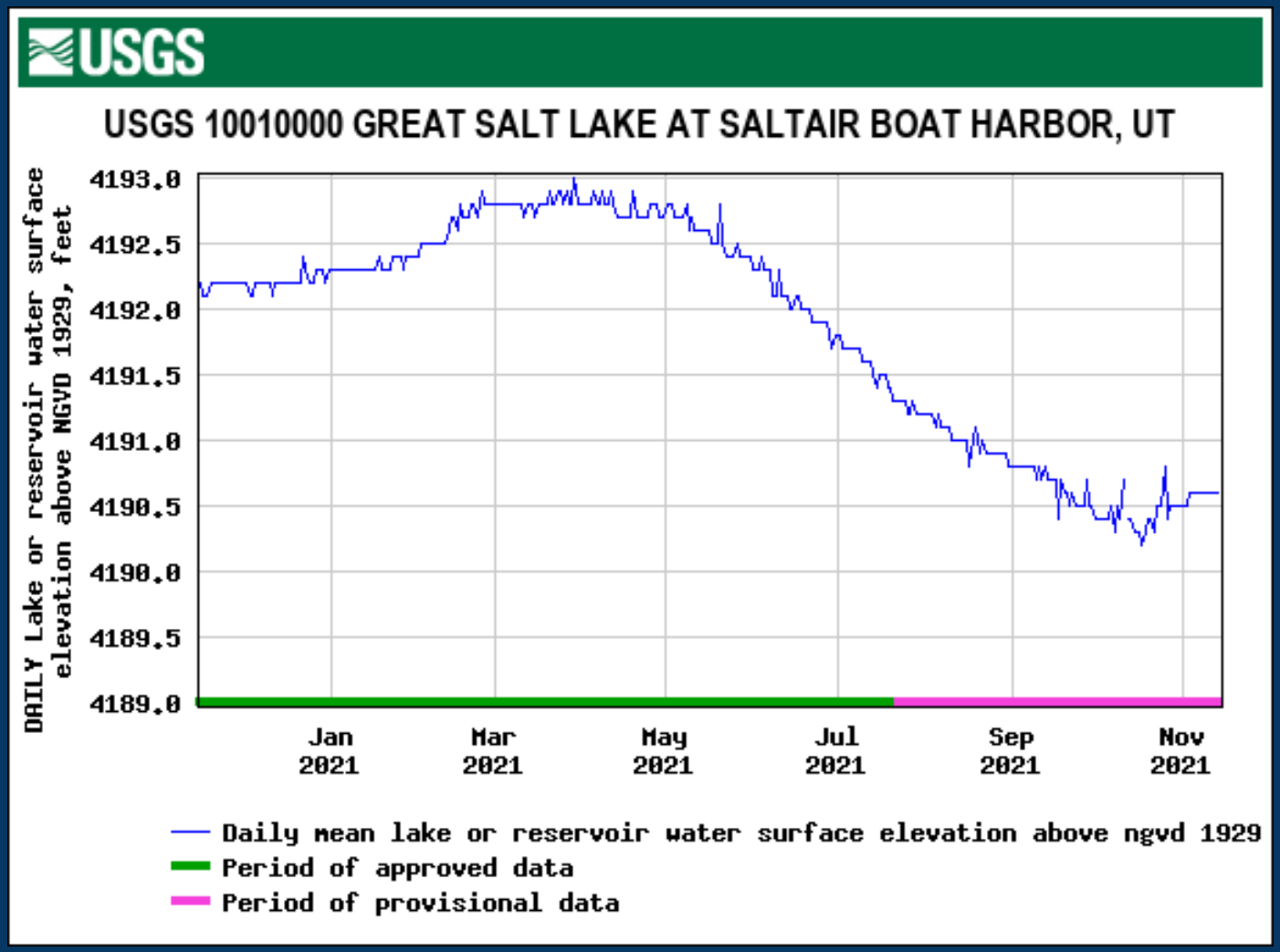


The statewide average is at 49% compared to about 62% this time last year

37 of Utah's 45 larger reservoirs are below 55% of capacity

Snowpack is needed to fill the reservoirs in the spring

Great Salt Lake Elevation



Graphic showing Great Salt Lake elevations over the past year. Elevations from August forward are provisional.

Great Salt Lake

- Provisional lake elevation was 4190.3 in mid-October
- Lake level is rising with irrigation season ending and fall storms beginning
- Lake elevation is currently 4190.6, about 9.6 inches below the historic low

Questions?

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