

January 30, 2026

Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality  
Appropriations Subcommittee

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# Division of Water Resources

Joel Williams | Interim Director  
Division of Water Resources



Utah Division of Water Resources

[water.utah.gov](http://water.utah.gov)



# PLAN | CONSERVE | DEVELOP | PROTECT

## Utah's Water Resources



Utah Division of Water Resources

[water.utah.gov](http://water.utah.gov)







A photograph of a winter scene in a creek. The water is flowing over several large, dark, wet rocks, creating a soft, blurred effect. In the background, there are snow-covered logs and trees, suggesting a cold environment. The overall tone is muted and wintry.

# Water Supply

*City Creek Canyon, January 2025*



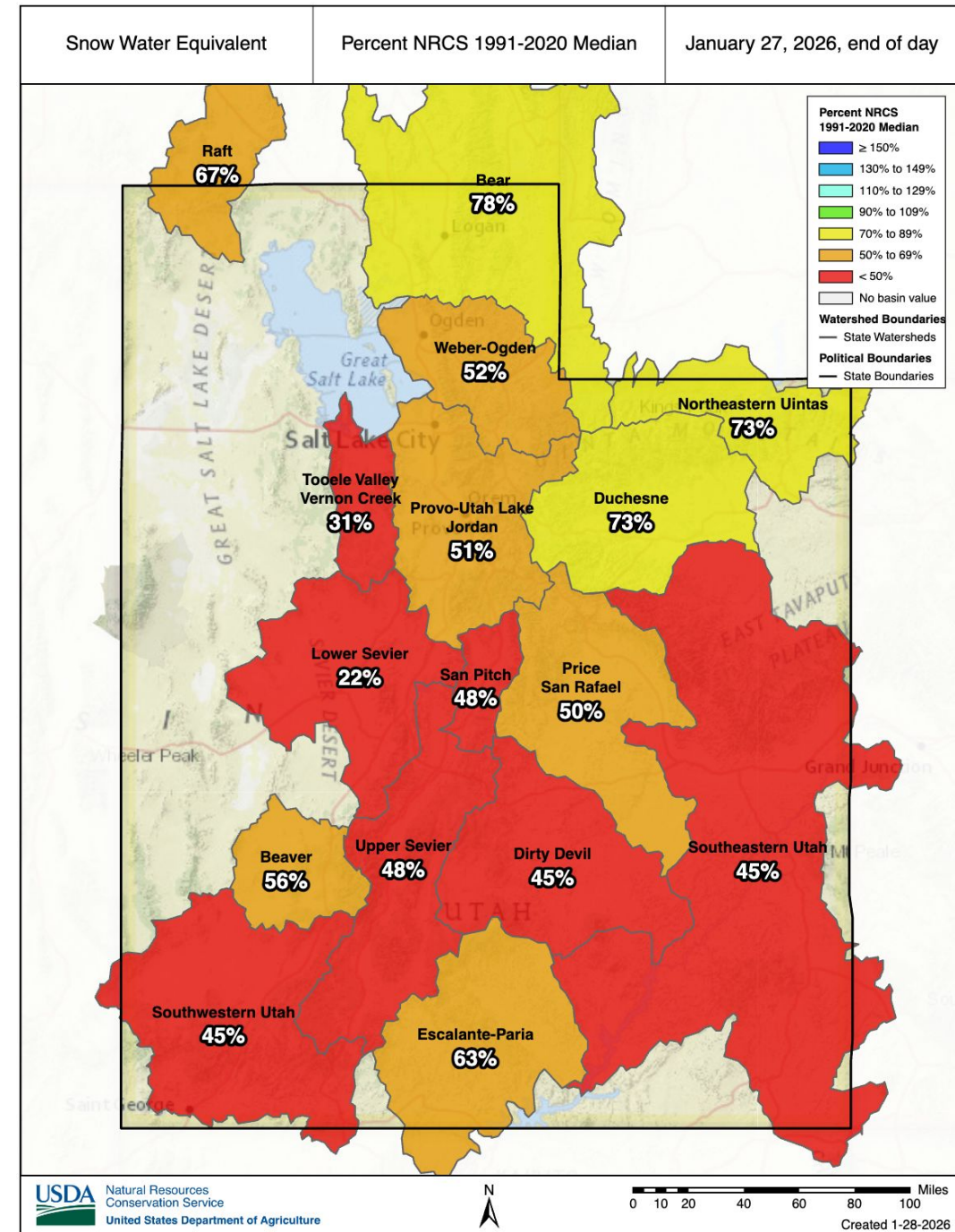
# Snow Water Equivalent

- Utah water supply relies on snowpack
- Statewide snowpack is at 59%
- 30% chance for an average snowpack by April
- Snowpack is at 31% to 78% of median

01/27/26

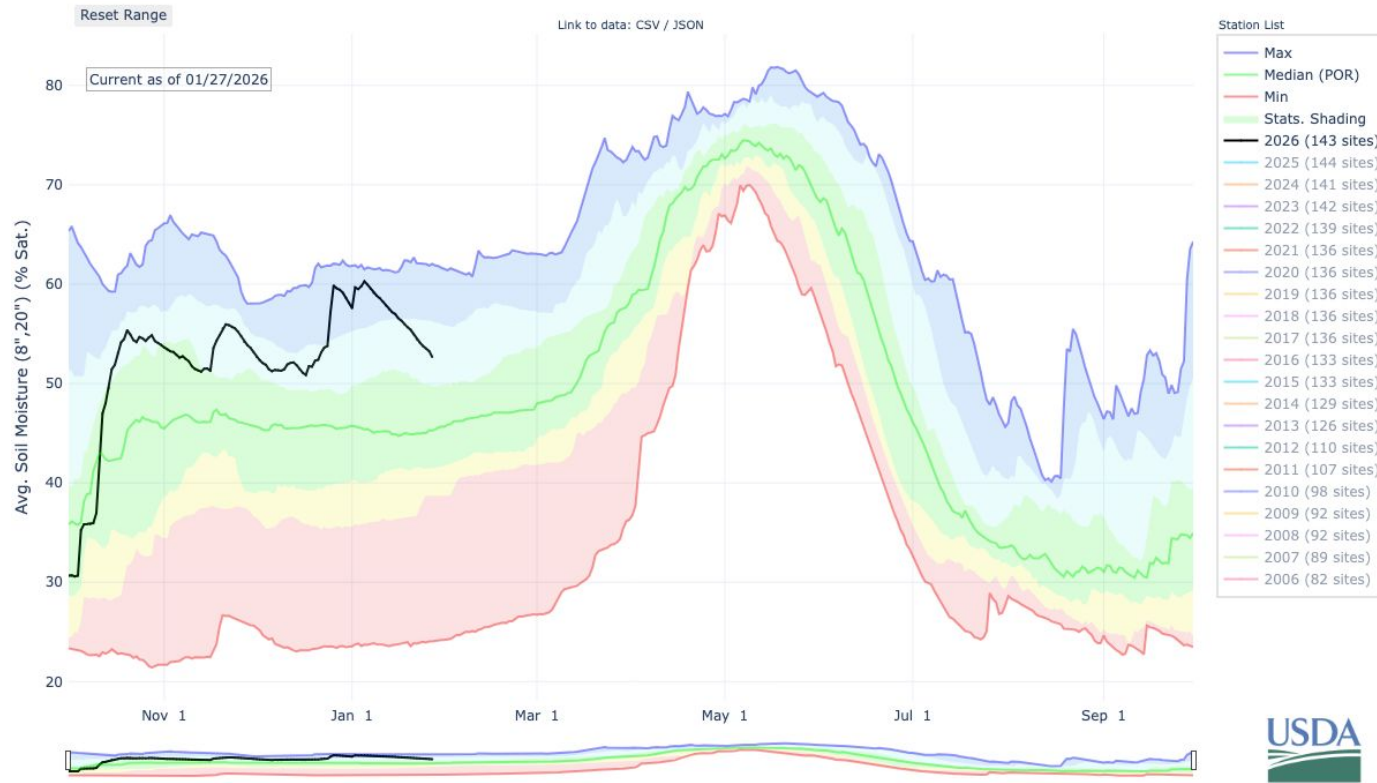


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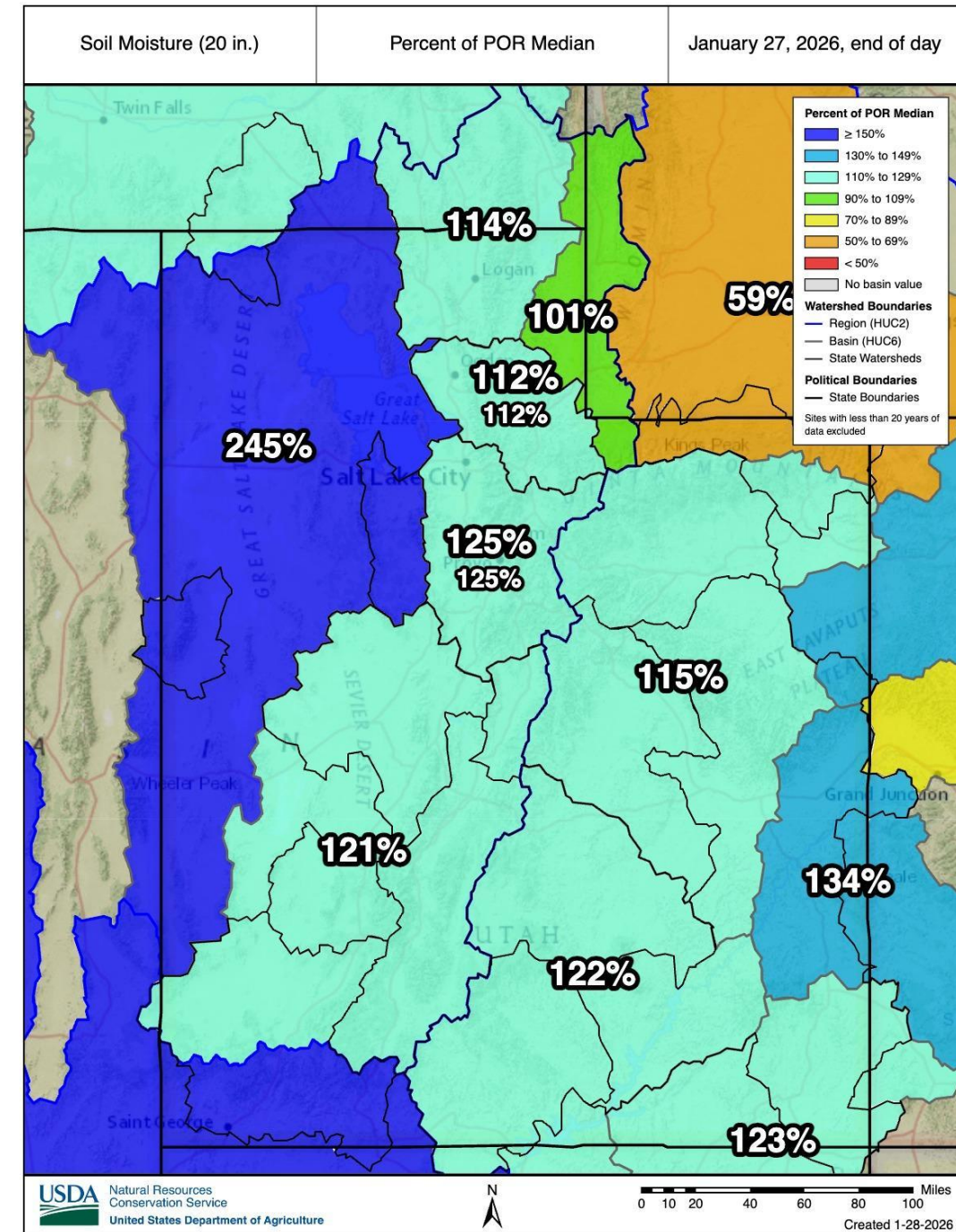




# Soil Moisture



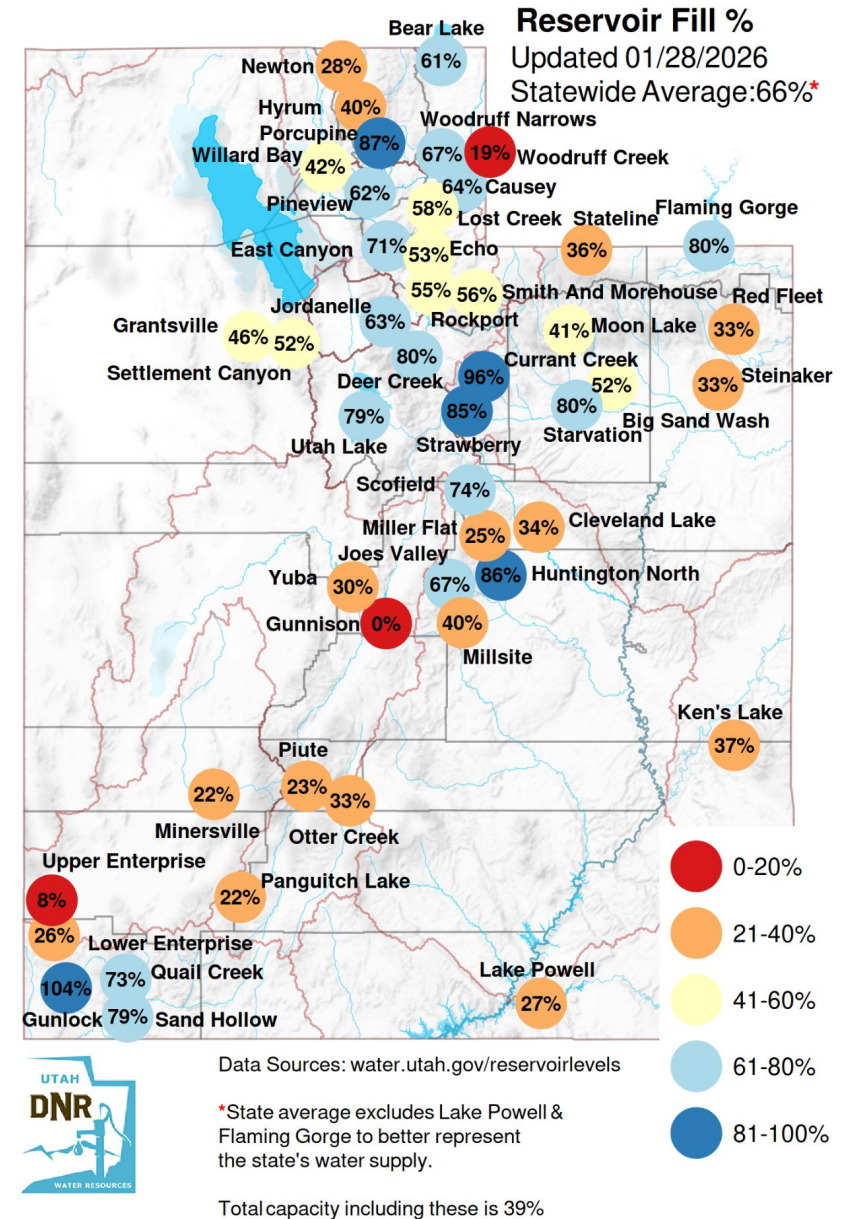
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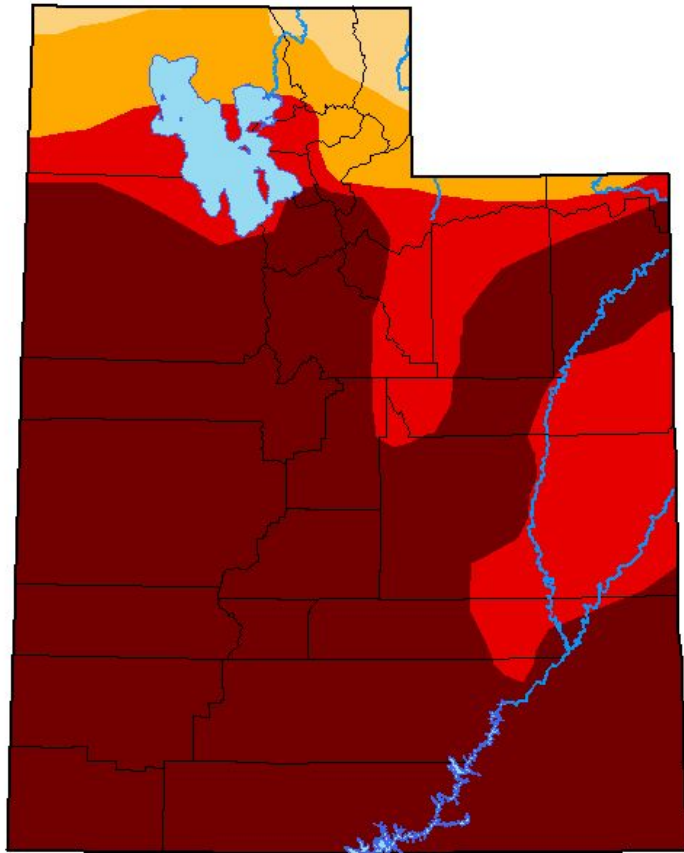
# Statewide Reservoir Levels

- Average is 66% full
- Reservoir levels are 7% above average for this time of year
- Reservoirs prevent shortages

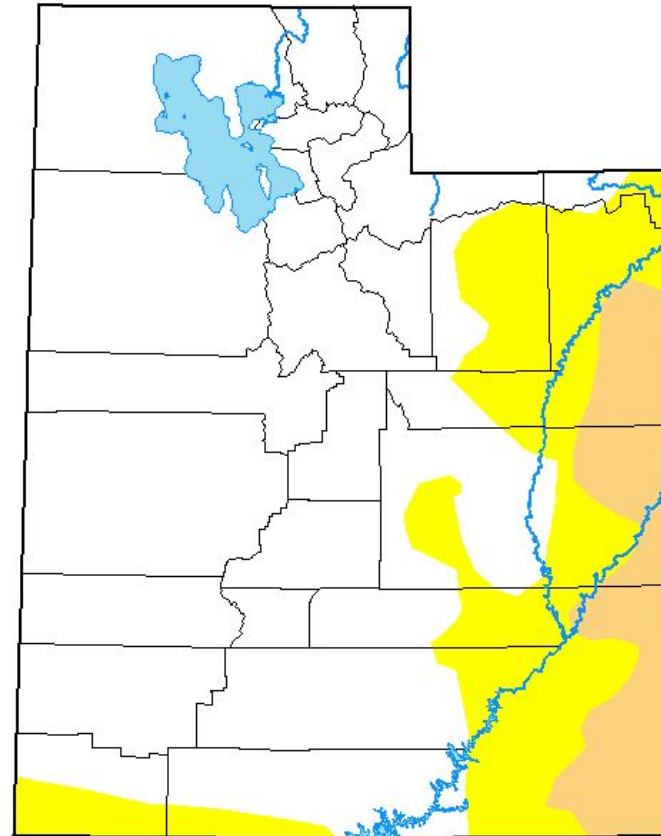










# U.S. Drought Monitor January 19, 2021



# U.S. Drought Monitor January 23, 2023



## 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:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

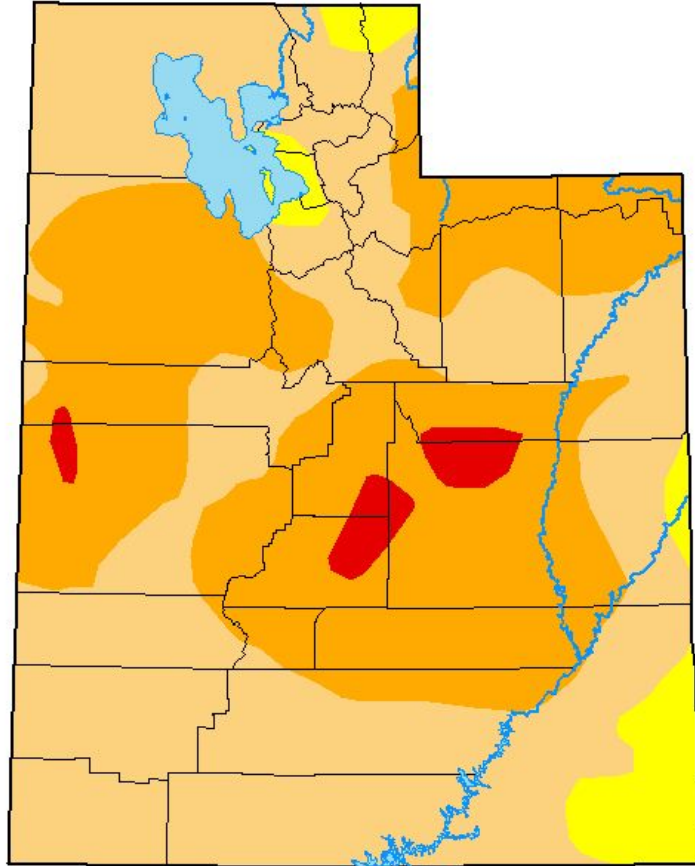


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# U.S. Drought Monitor January 20, 2026



## What's next?



### 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 <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

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# Plan

*Great Salt Lake, April 2023*



# Water Infrastructure Need in Utah by 2060

- \$38.2 billion in drinking water projects
- \$15 billion in water quality projects
- \$6 billion for irrigation and canal projects

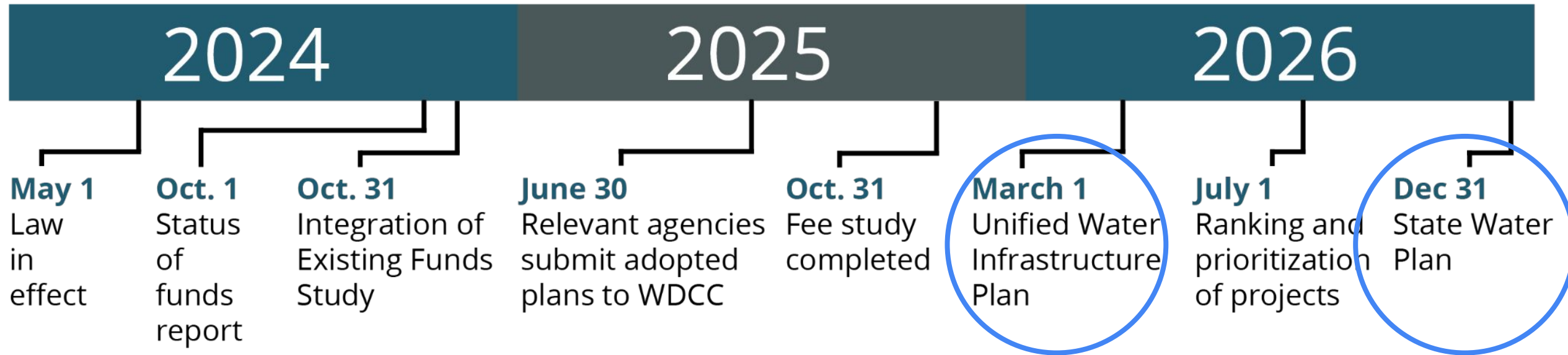


*Frog Hollow Detention Basin*





# 2024 HB 280 Timeline





# 2025 Planning Accomplishments

- Collaboration with partners
- Gaining perspectives
- Fee Study
- Agricultural Water Optimization Annual Report



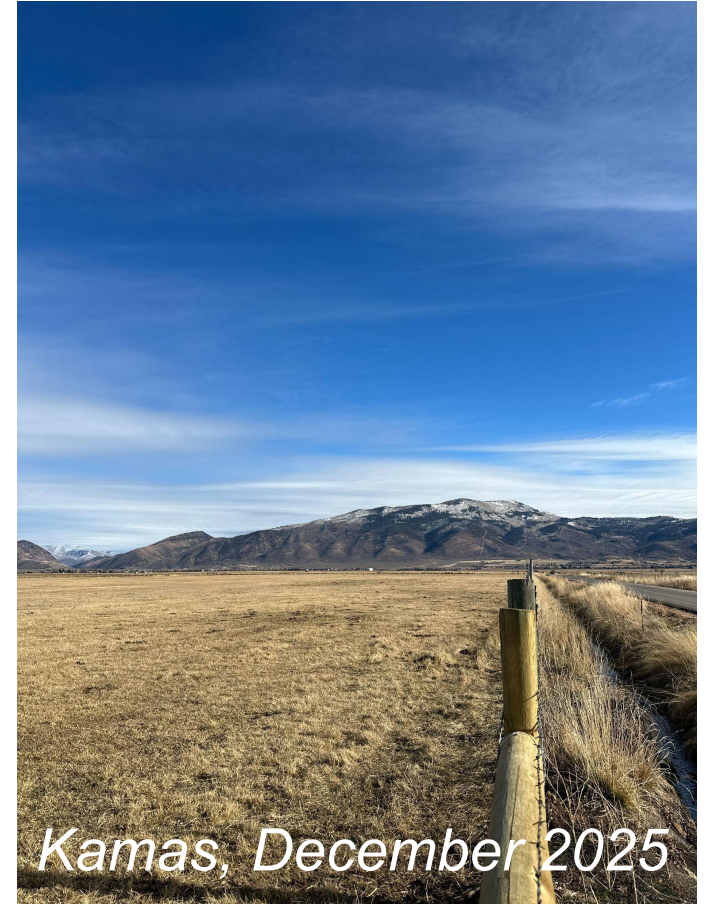
*Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan workshop*





# Looking Ahead - 2026

- **2026 State Water Plan** - complete this plan by the end of 2026
- **Unified Water Infrastructure Plan** - assist the Water Development Coordinating Council to complete by March
- **Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan** - draft due by the end of 2026





# Conserve

*Utah home with waterwise landscaping*





# Landscape Incentive Program

- Over 2.7 million square feet of grass replaced in 2025 using division and water district funds
- A waterwise landscape uses about two-thirds less water than a traditional landscape
- Partnerships with water conservancy districts
- Information & application: [SlowTheFlow.org](https://SlowTheFlow.org)



*Courtesy: JVVCD*





# Water Efficiency Standards

- 76 eligible locations (this includes counties and unincorporated areas that have adopted standards)
- 65% of Utahns live in an area with water-efficiency standards



*Courtesy: JVWCD*







- Approximately 40,000 rebates for toilet replacements and smart controllers have been awarded since 2018
- Rebates and incentives can be found at [SlowTheFlow.org](http://SlowTheFlow.org)



# Technical Support and Grants for Communities

- Transparent water billing
- Growing Water Smart program
- Water use preservation element





# Secondary Meters

- Board of Water Resources has contracted the full \$265 million in ARPA funds for secondary meters
- Water providers have reported almost 127,000 secondary meters have been installed since 2022
- The division anticipates an additional 35,000 meters will be installed by the end of 2026



*Secondary meter installation - Heber City*





An aerial photograph of the Millsite Dam and its reservoir. The dam is a large, light-colored concrete structure with a spillway on the left. The reservoir is filled with water, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape. In the foreground, there is a concrete structure with three large, triangular openings. The background features a massive, rugged mountain range with distinct geological layers. The word "Develop" is overlaid in large white text across the center of the image.

# Develop

*Millsite Dam, December 2023*



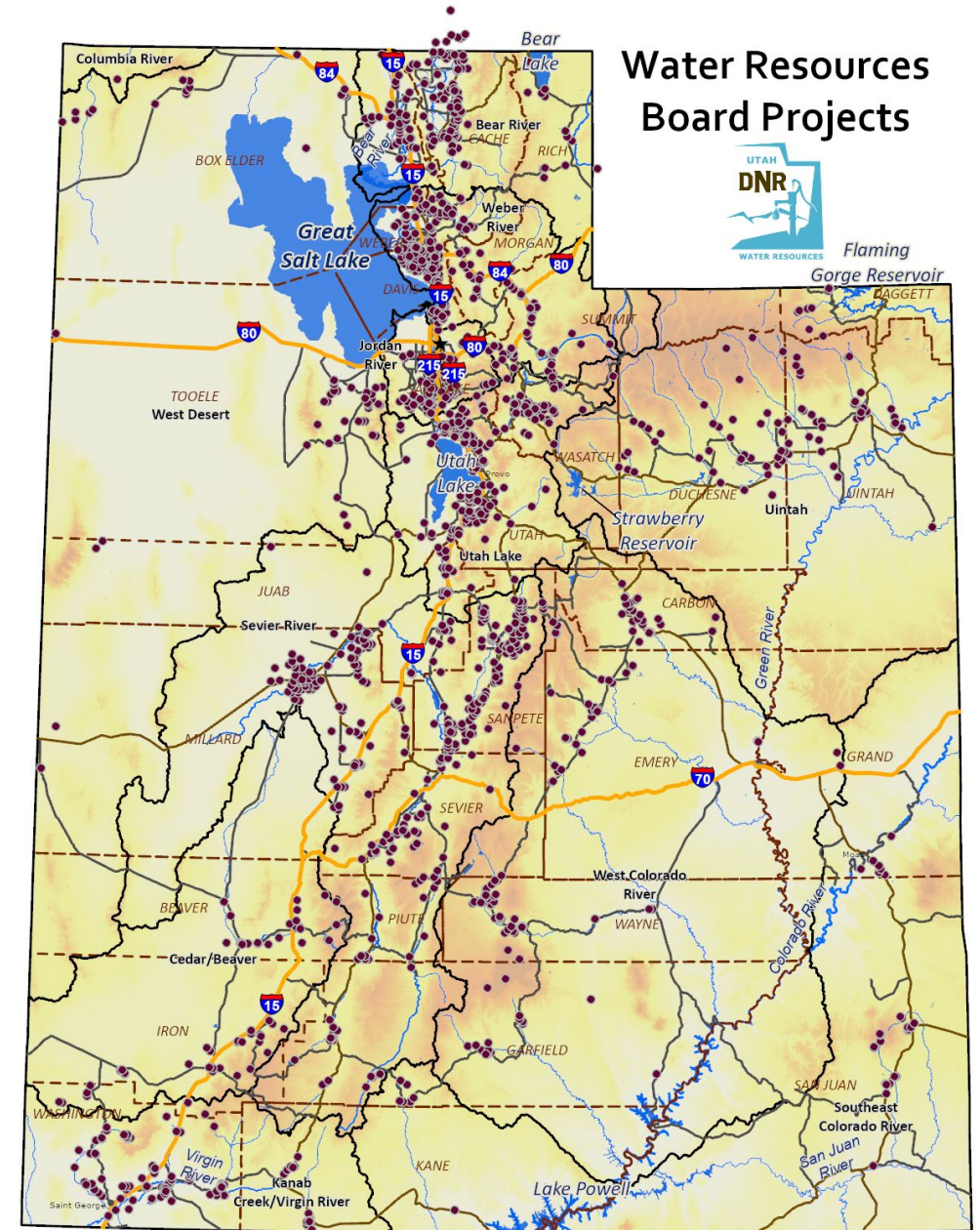
# Board of Water Resources





# Board Funding

- 2 revolving funds
- Around 1,700 projects funded since 1947
- Total value of over \$3.4 billion
- FY 2025 - funded projects totaling \$134 million
- Projects include dams, irrigation, drinking water and secondary water projects





# Dam Safety

- Around 100 high hazard dams still need upgrades
- At current funding (\$3.8 million annually), the division estimates 110 years to improve all dams to standard
- The additional \$6.2 million per year will cut that time in half
- 2015, 2019, 2022, 2024 Legislatures provided a total \$62.4M in one-time funds for large dam projects





An aerial photograph of a vast, deep canyon with a winding river at the bottom. The canyon walls are composed of layered red and brown rock formations. The river is a dark, winding line through the center of the canyon. The sky is clear and blue.

# Protect

*Dead Horse State Park*



# Cloud Seeding

- Appropriations to expand cloud seeding
  - \$12 million one-time
  - \$5 million ongoing
- 187 remotely operated ground-based generators have replaced all manually operated ones
- Studying new areas to cloud seed
- Full-time meteorologist oversees the program



*Remote cloud seeding generator*



# Watershed Councils

- 13 councils discuss local water issues throughout the state
- Councils play an important role in developing the 2026 State Water Plan

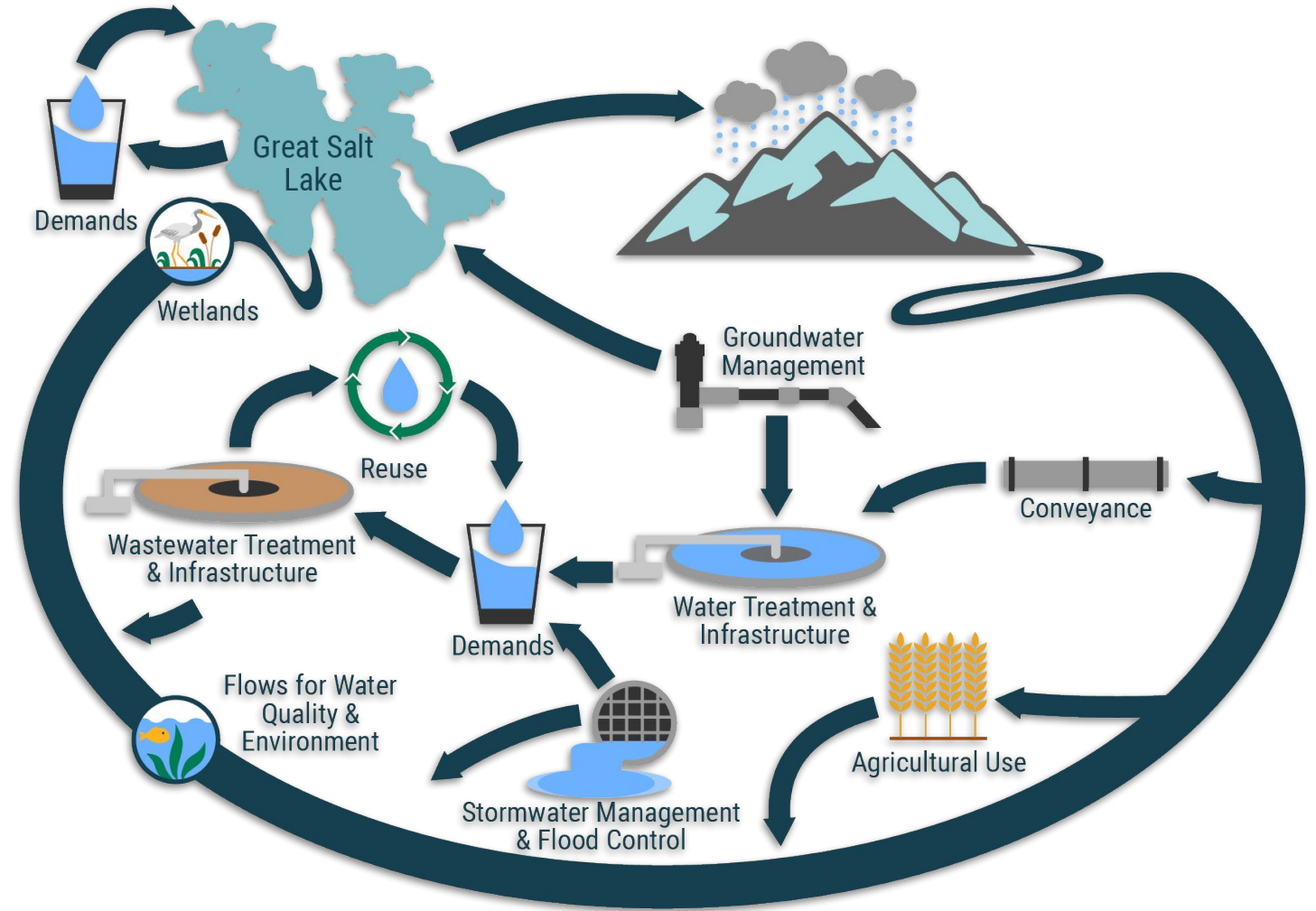




# Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan



Great Salt Lake Basin  
**Integrated Plan**



# 2026 State Water Plan

- 11 “Water Talks” held around the state helped the division gain public perspectives and insights
- 2026 Water Plan will be published by the end of the year





# **The Division of Water Resources**

**Planning** Utah's water future

**Conserving** water for tomorrow

**Developing** critical water infrastructure

**Protecting** a life-sustaining resource







# Thank you.

**Utah Division of Water Resources**  
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