

January 30, 2026

Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee

Division of Water Resources



Utah Division of Water Resources

Joel Williams | Interim Director
Division of Water Resources

water.utah.gov



PLAN | CONSERVE | DEVELOP | PROTECT

Utah's Water Resources



Utah Division of Water Resources

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Water Supply

City Creek Canyon, January 2025

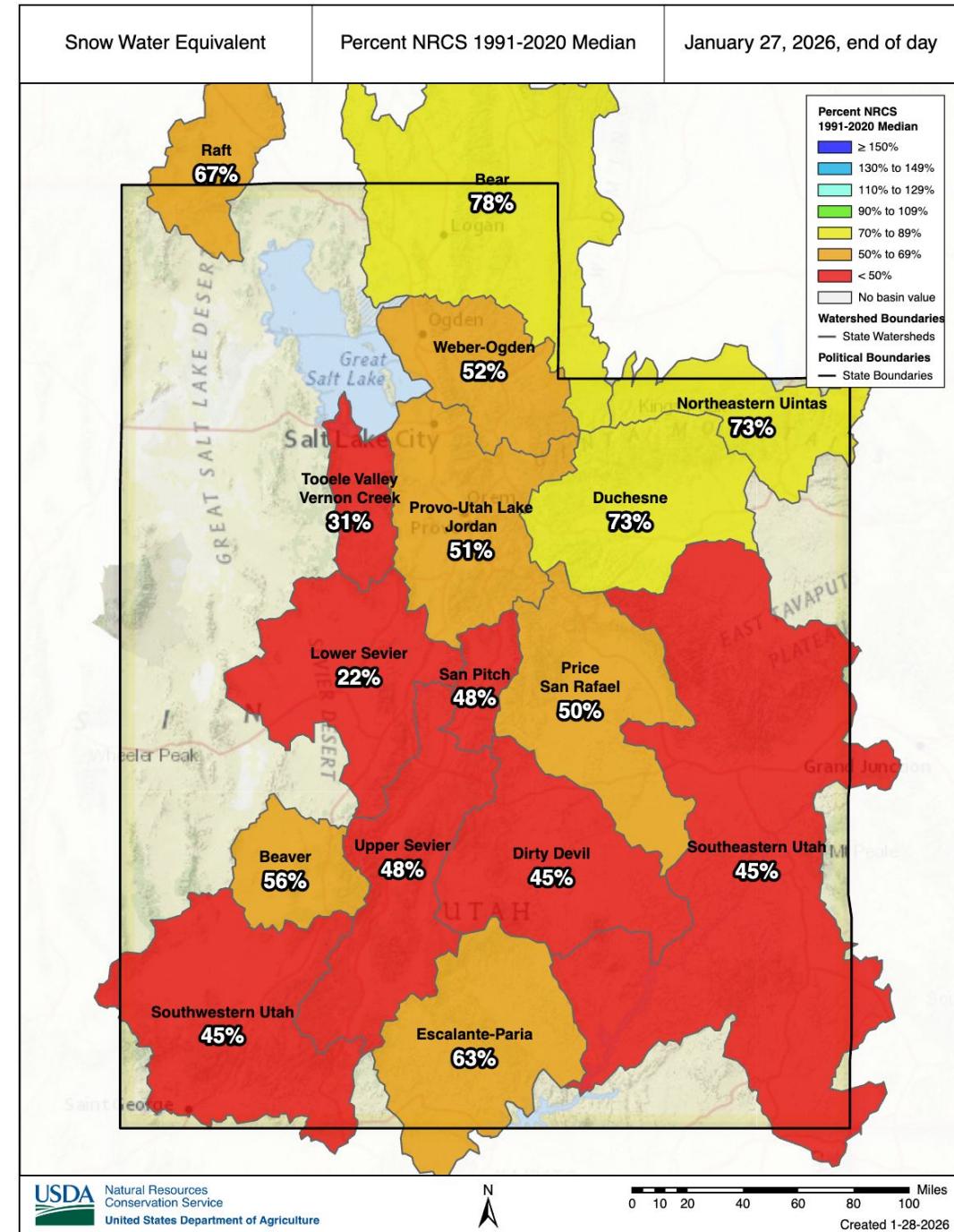
Snow Water Equivalent

- 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

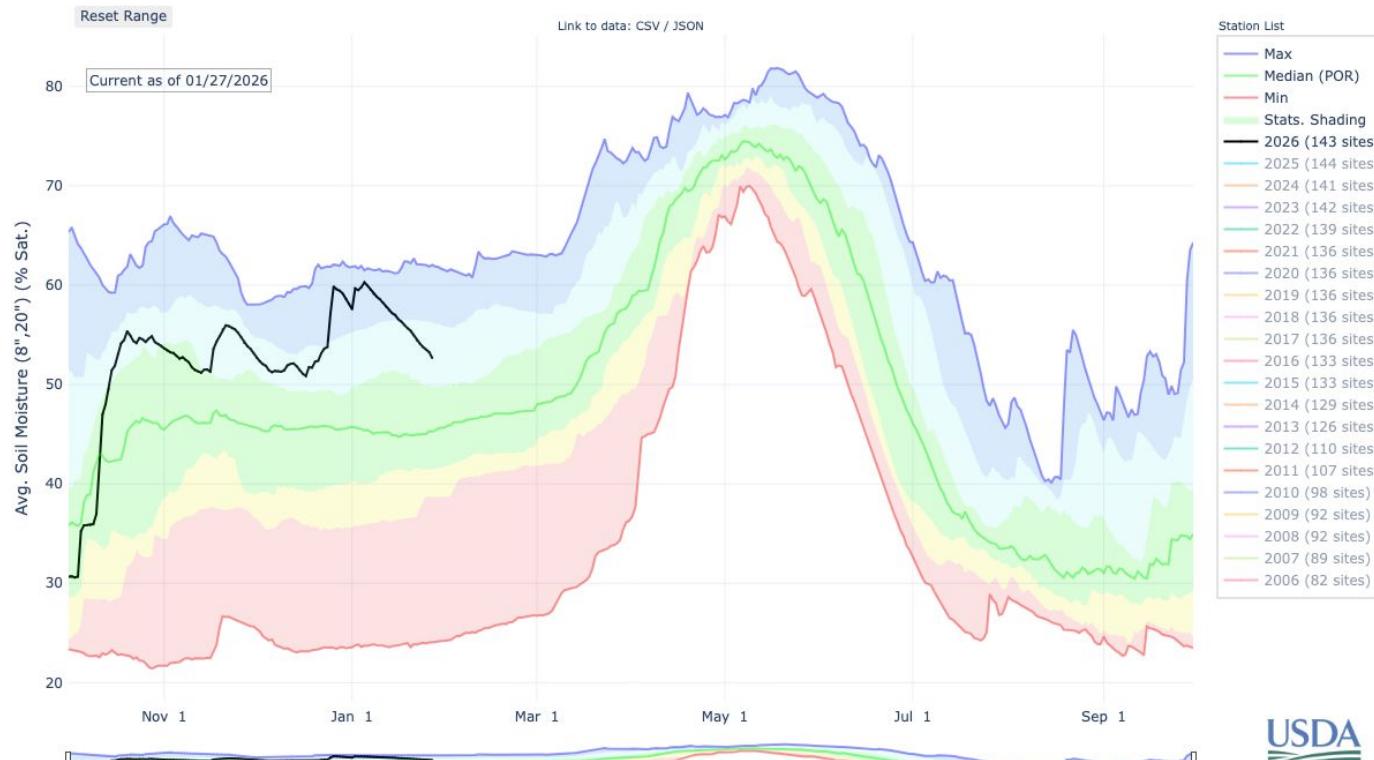
01/27/26



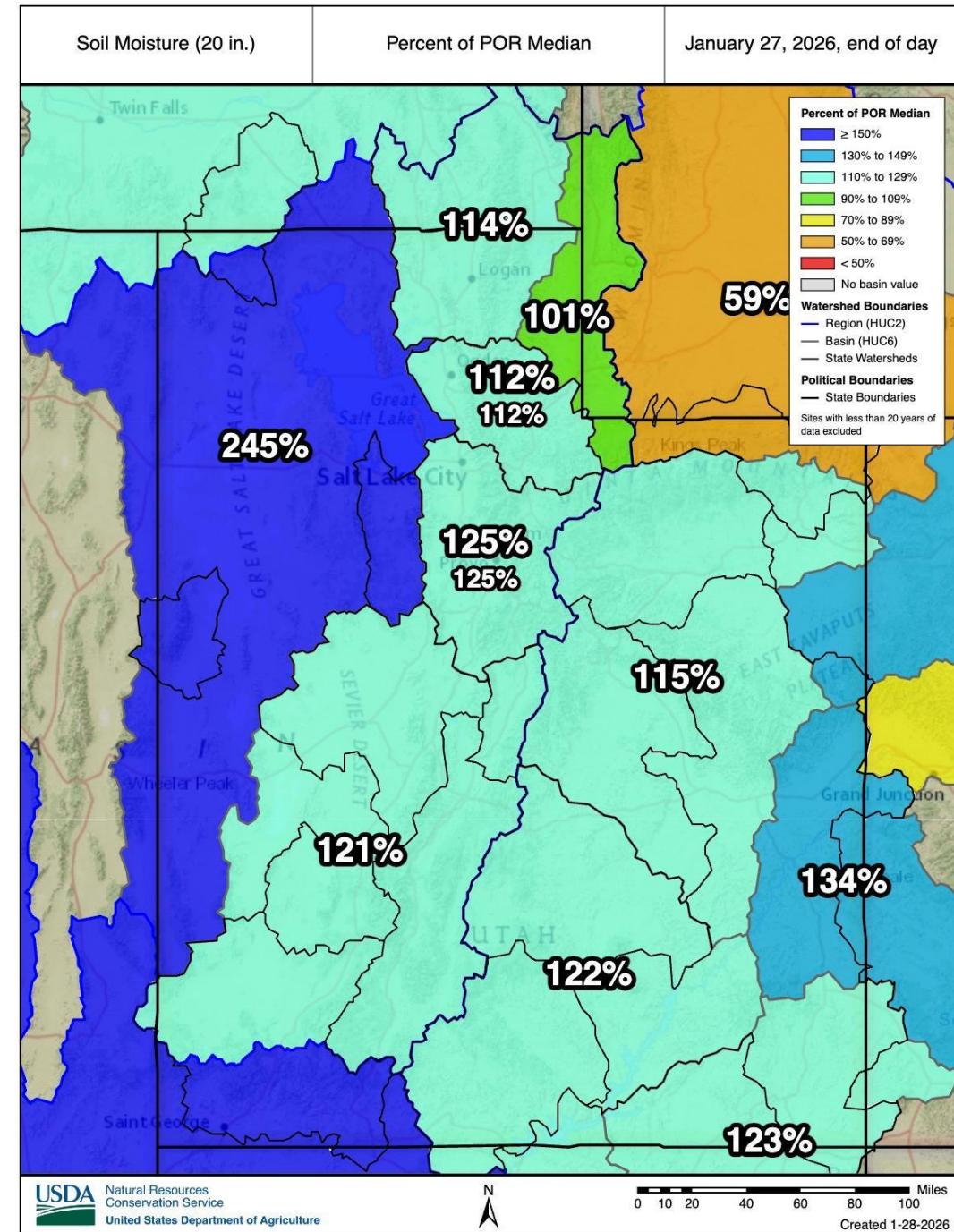
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Soil Moisture

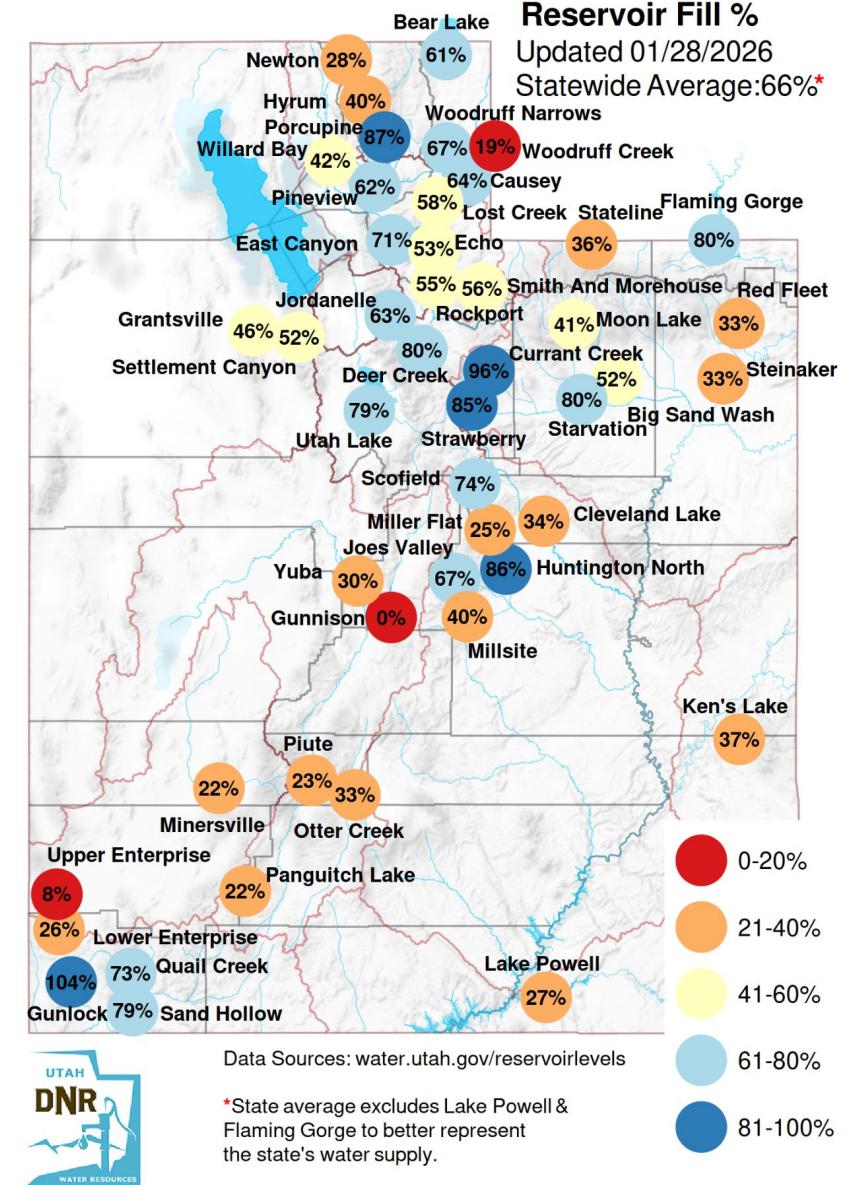


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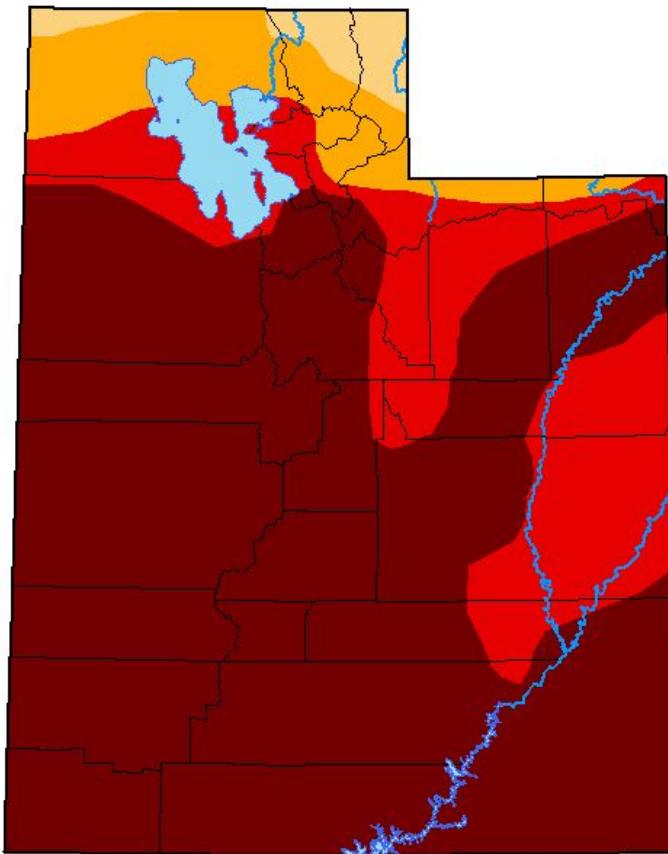
Statewide Reservoir Levels

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



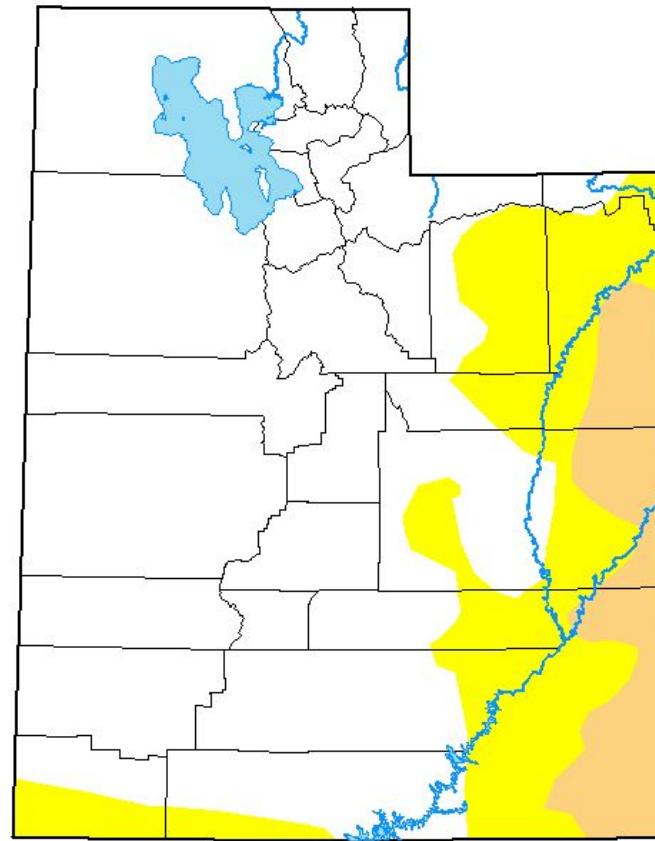
U.S. Drought Monitor

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:

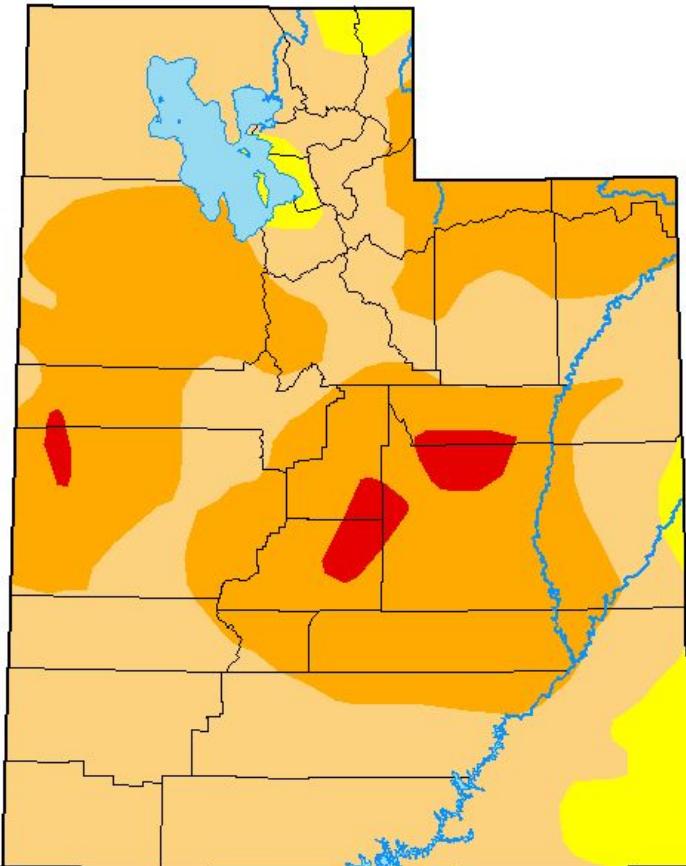
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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 <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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Plan

Great Salt Lake, April 2023

Water Infrastructure Need in Utah by 2060

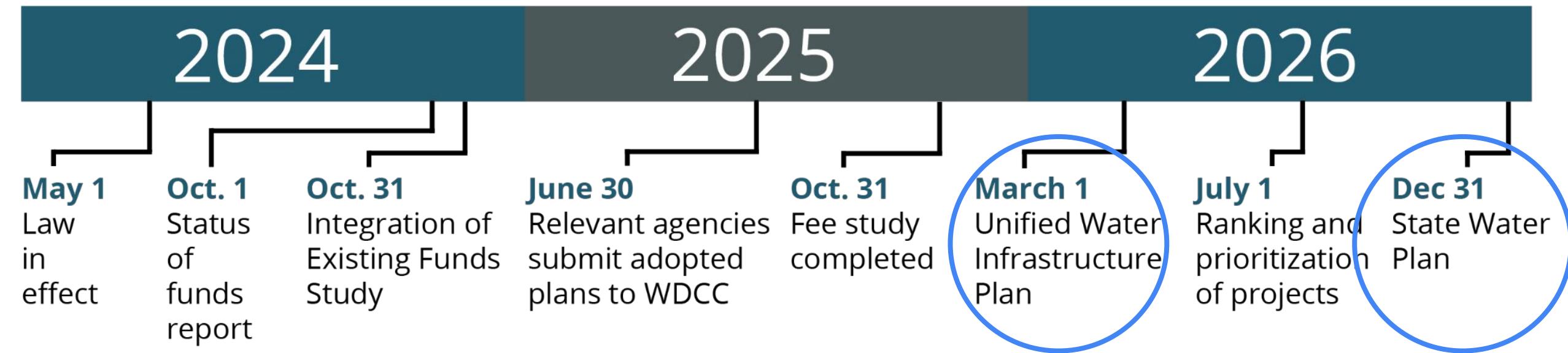
- \$38.2 billion in drinking water projects
- \$15 billion in water quality projects
- \$6 billion for irrigation and canal projects



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

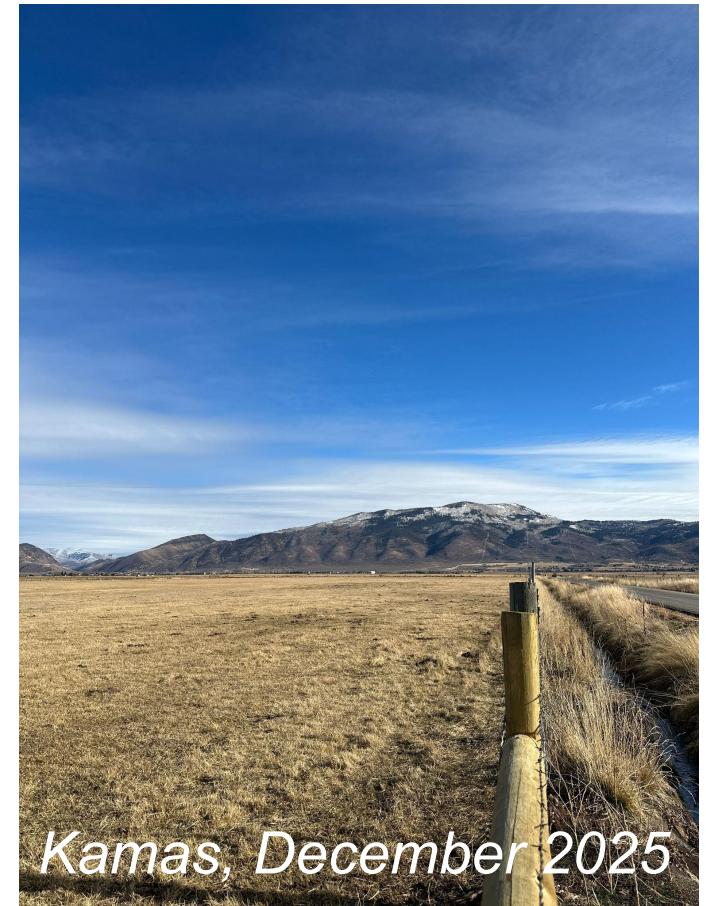


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Looking Ahead - 2026

- **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



Kamas, December 2025



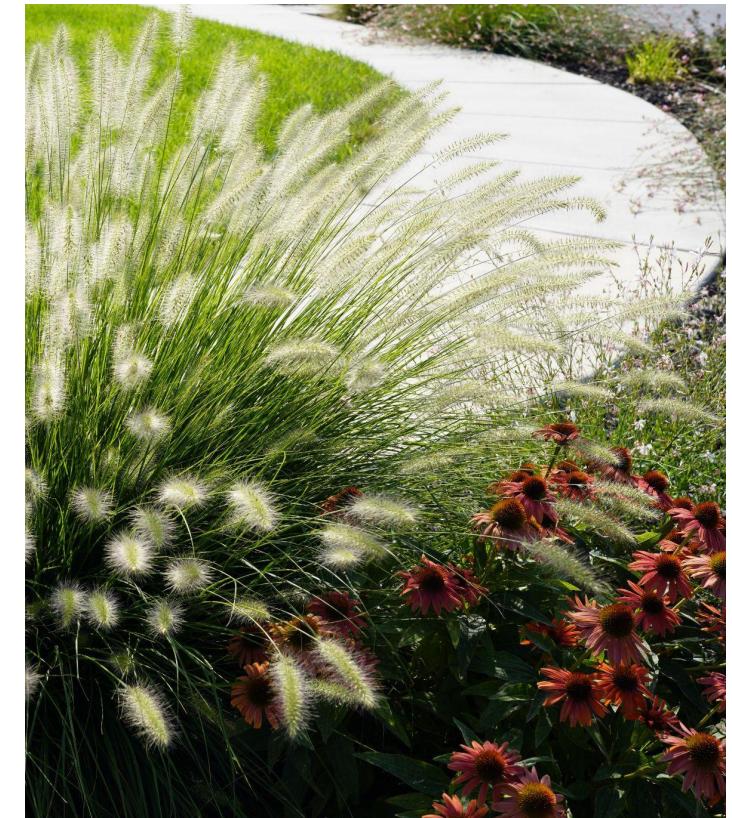
Conserve



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



Courtesy: JVWCD



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utahwatersavers.com

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



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- Approximately 40,000 rebates for toilet replacements and smart controllers have been awarded since 2018
- Rebates and incentives can be found at SlowTheFlow.org



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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 Millsite Dam in winter. The dam is a large, light-colored structure with a concrete溢流段 (spillway) and a smaller concrete structure on top. A dirt road leads up to the dam. To the left is a frozen reservoir with ice floes. In the background is a large, rugged mountain with distinct horizontal sedimentary rock layers. The foreground shows some dry, brown grass and a few small buildings on the right side.

Develop

Millsite Dam, December 2023

Board of Water Resources

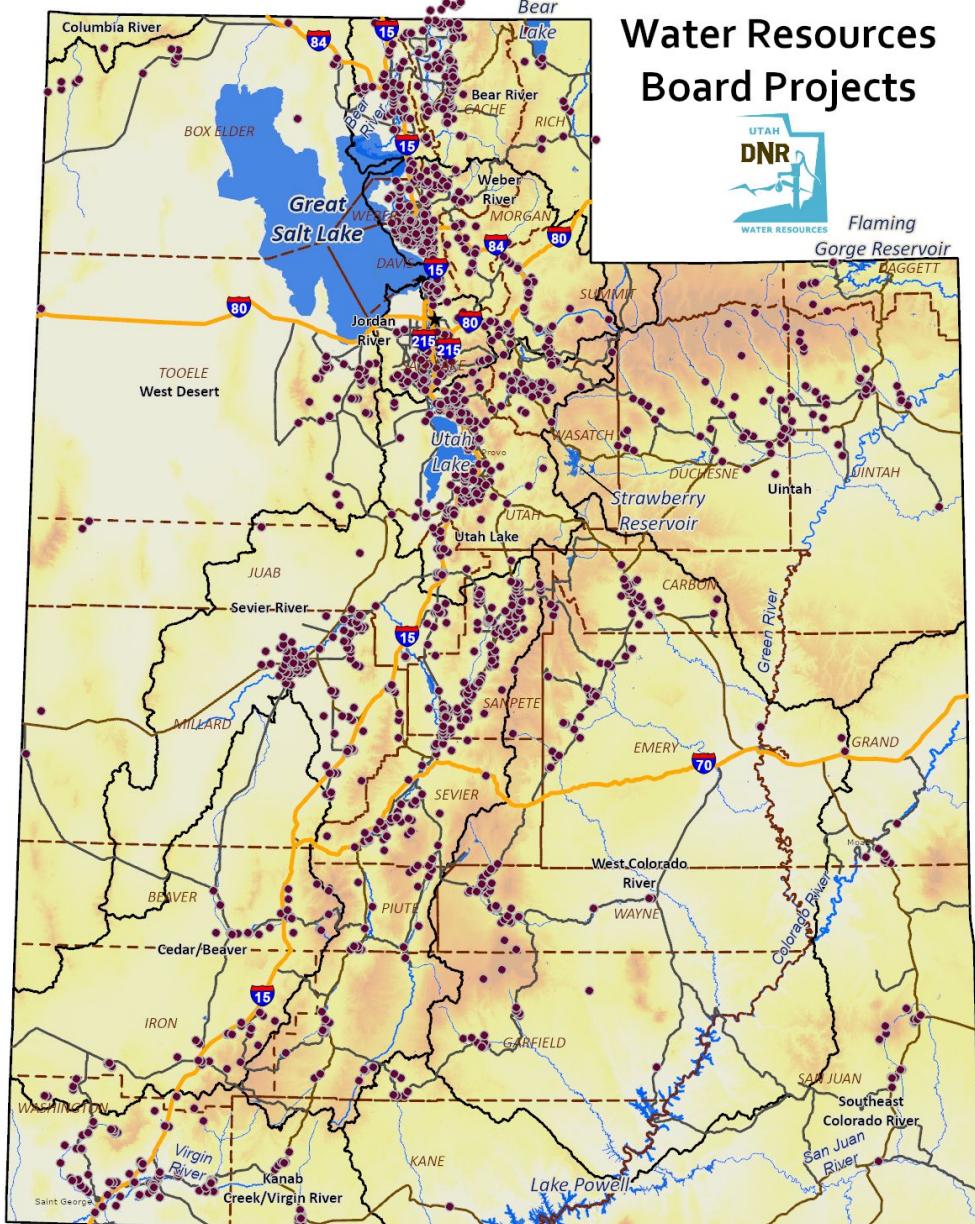


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Board Funding

- 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



A wide-angle aerial photograph of a desert landscape. A winding river, likely the Colorado, cuts through the center of the image, its dark water contrasting with the surrounding light-colored, layered rock formations. The terrain is rugged, with numerous mesas, buttes, and deep gorges. In the background, a large, flat-topped mesa rises above the horizon. 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



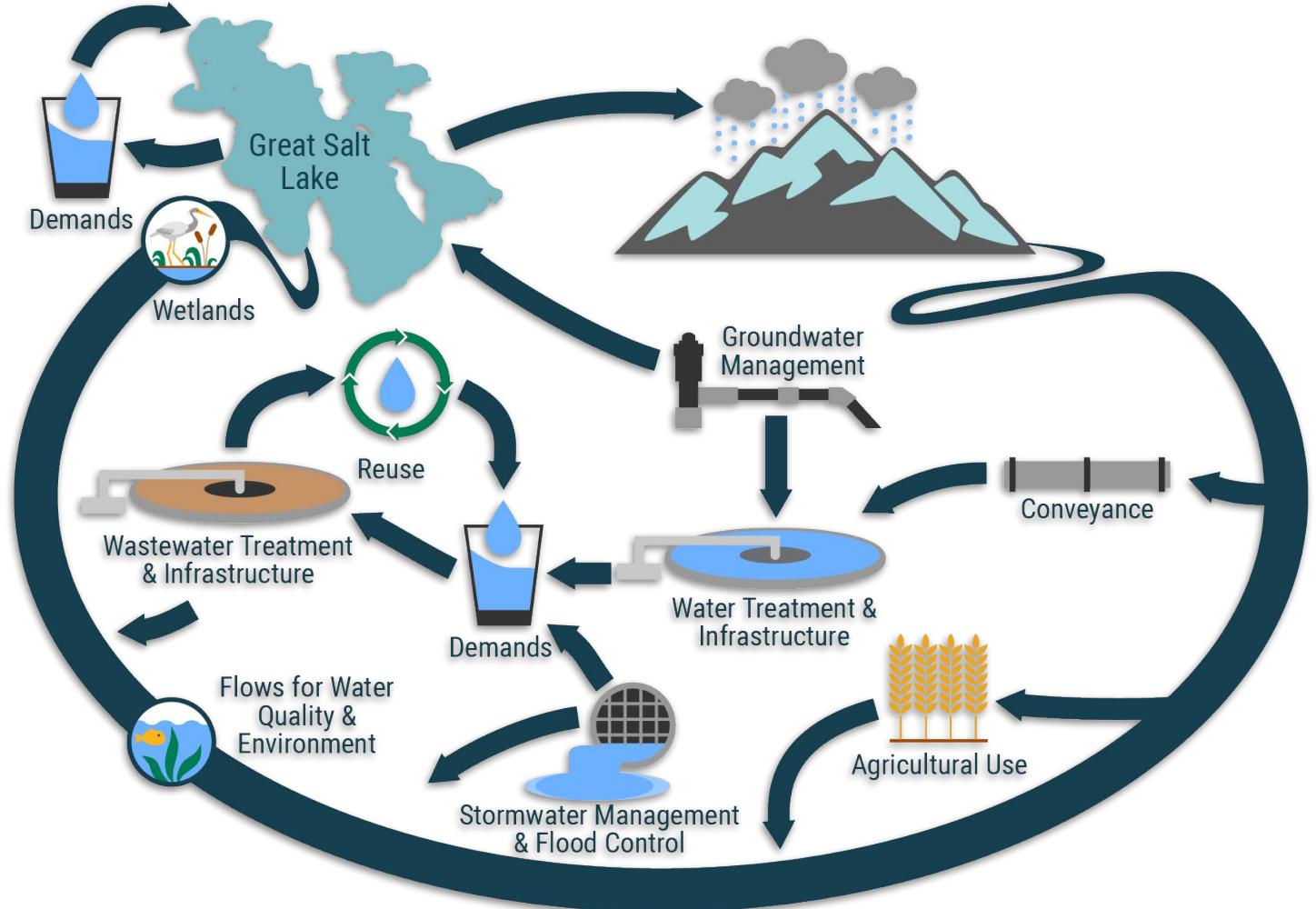
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Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan



Great Salt Lake Basin
Integrated Plan



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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



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The Division of Water Resources

Planning Utah's water future

Conserving water for tomorrow

Developing critical water infrastructure

Protecting a life-sustaining resource



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Thank you.

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