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Drought Update

SALT LAKE CITY (August 12, 2022) – In the last month, the state has received nearly 2 inches of rain, when we typically receive 1.5 inches This helps reduce demand and keeps more water in our lakes and reservoirs. Some areas in the eastern portion of the state missed out on monsoon activity. Others like Logan and Tooele received above average rainfall.

"As a state, many areas have been fortunate to receive significant rainfall. However, we need to stay vigilant and look for ways to stretch the water supply," said Joel Ferry, acting executive director of the Department of Natural Resources. "If your area received rain, turn off your sprinklers and save that water for another day."

Soil moisture is generally high around the state. The improved soil moisture will help more water get to reservoirs during spring runoff next year. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 79.12% of the state is in extreme drought or worse, which is an improvement over last week when 82.45% was in extreme drought or worse.

At-a-glance highlights:

- Monsoonal rains will likely lead to the increase in water rights being satisfied on the Duchesne River system. 27% of the water rights on the Duchesne River system are currently being satisfied. This is an increase over two weeks ago. River Commissioners oversee these systems to ensure water is being diverted by those entitled to receive it according to their priority dates.
- High temperatures and drought conditions have caused an increase in the number of harmful algal blooms (HABs) throughout the state over the past week. Visitors are advised to check habs.utah.gov for current conditions and report suspicious algae.

- Recreators should check reservoir levels before they head out. Conditions vary, and some boat ramp closures are in place due to low water levels.
- Anglers heading to a river or stream to fish can visit the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources website for tips to decrease stress on a variety of fish species and increase their survival when releasing them during hot weather and drought conditions.
- So far this year we have seen a 20% reduction in wildfires with a total of 699 starts.
- Twenty-eight of the 47 reservoirs the division monitors are below 55%, which is better than last year, but still about 15% lower than normal for this time of year.
- 38% of streams are flowing below or much below normal.
- According to the latest information released by the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions continue to plague the state, with 79.12% of the state experiencing "Extreme" or "exceptional" drought conditions. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions are the Drought Monitor's most serious categories.
- Great Salt Lake continues to decline. Currently, the average daily surface elevation is 4,189.6. It dropped past the previous record low (4,190.2) on July 3 and will likely continue to decline until mid-October.
- Residents looking for tips on how to help reduce water consumption can be found at SlowtheFlow.Org.

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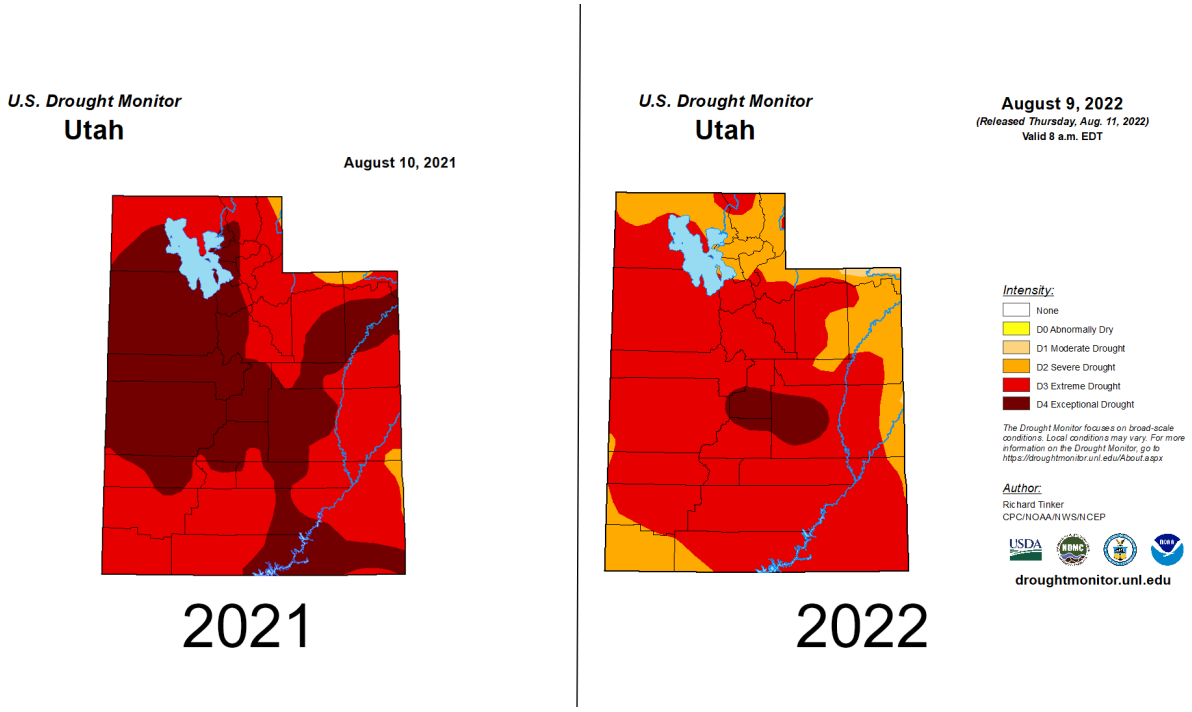
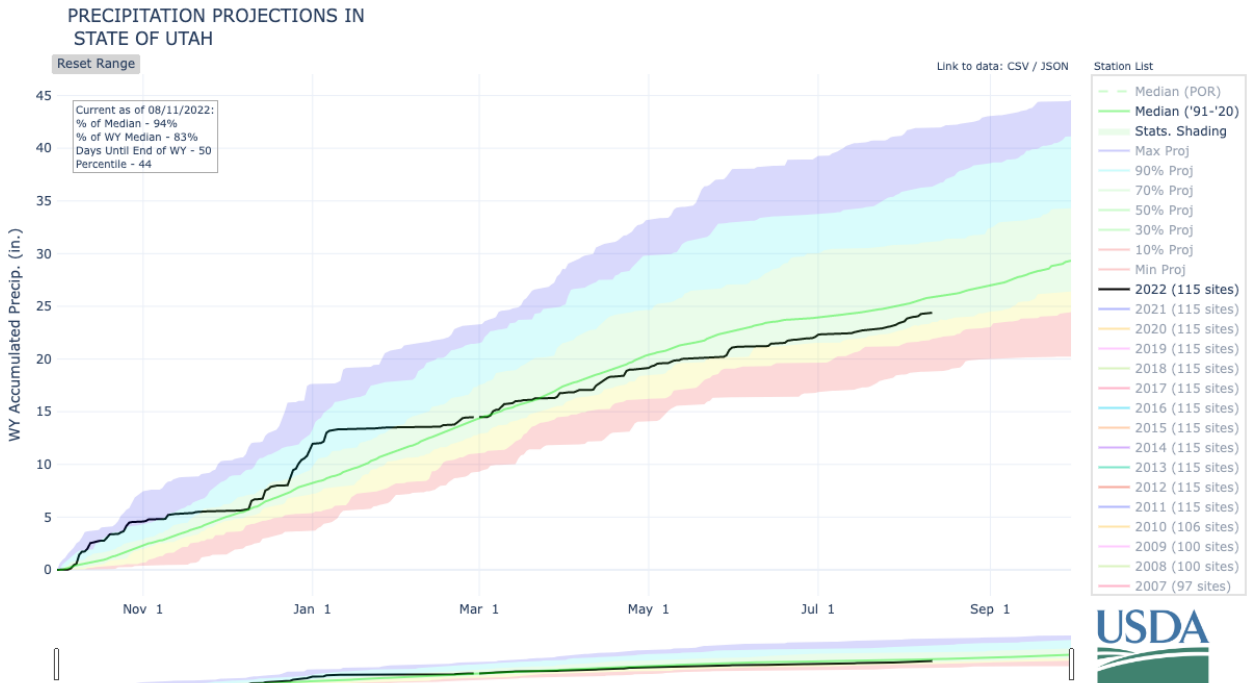
FULL REPORT



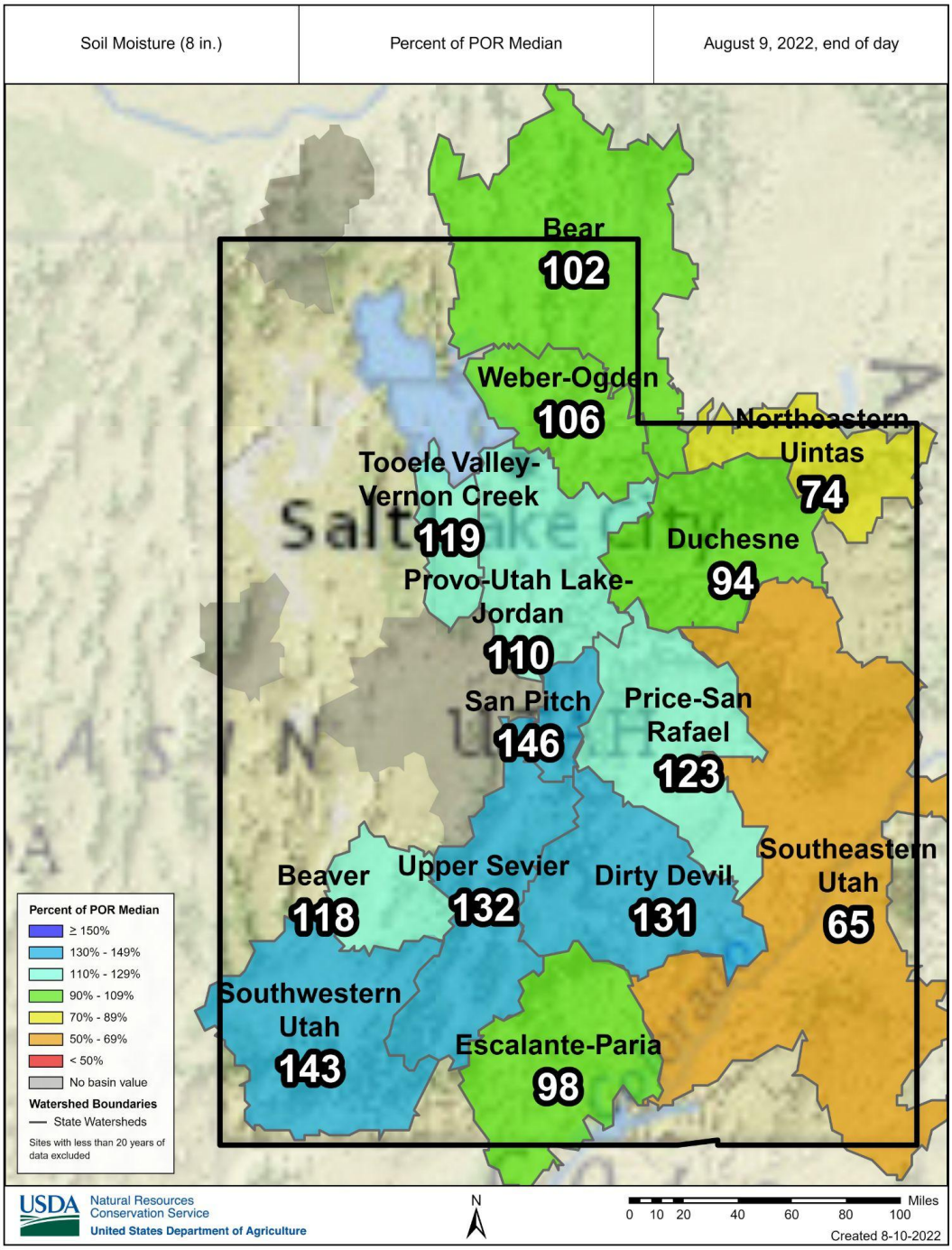
Graphic compares Utah's current drought situation to 2021. Exceptional drought (the worst category) covers 4.07% of the state. Last year at this time 50.50% of the state was in exceptional drought.

Precipitation and soil moisture

- Soil moisture has seen improvements and is trending slightly above normal for this time of year. The monsoon is helping many parts of the state hold off further drought degradation.
- Summer monsoons have benefited much of the state. Precipitation from summer rain adds to the soil moisture, helps vegetation, and reduces demand. Summer rains typically don't add to reservoir levels, however the decrease in demand can stop reservoirs from going down more.



Total Precipitation is below typical for this time of year. Precipitation statewide has been lower than normal since late April.



Soil moisture based on regions; some areas are in a better situation than others.

Temperature and Evaporation

- Temperatures over the last two months have been higher than normal. Hotter than normal conditions increase evaporation and the demand for water.
- Due to monsoon activity, evapotranspiration in the southern part of the state was negative. This means that more rain fell than was needed by the vegetation. In the northern half of the state, evapotranspiration was positive. This is likely due to higher

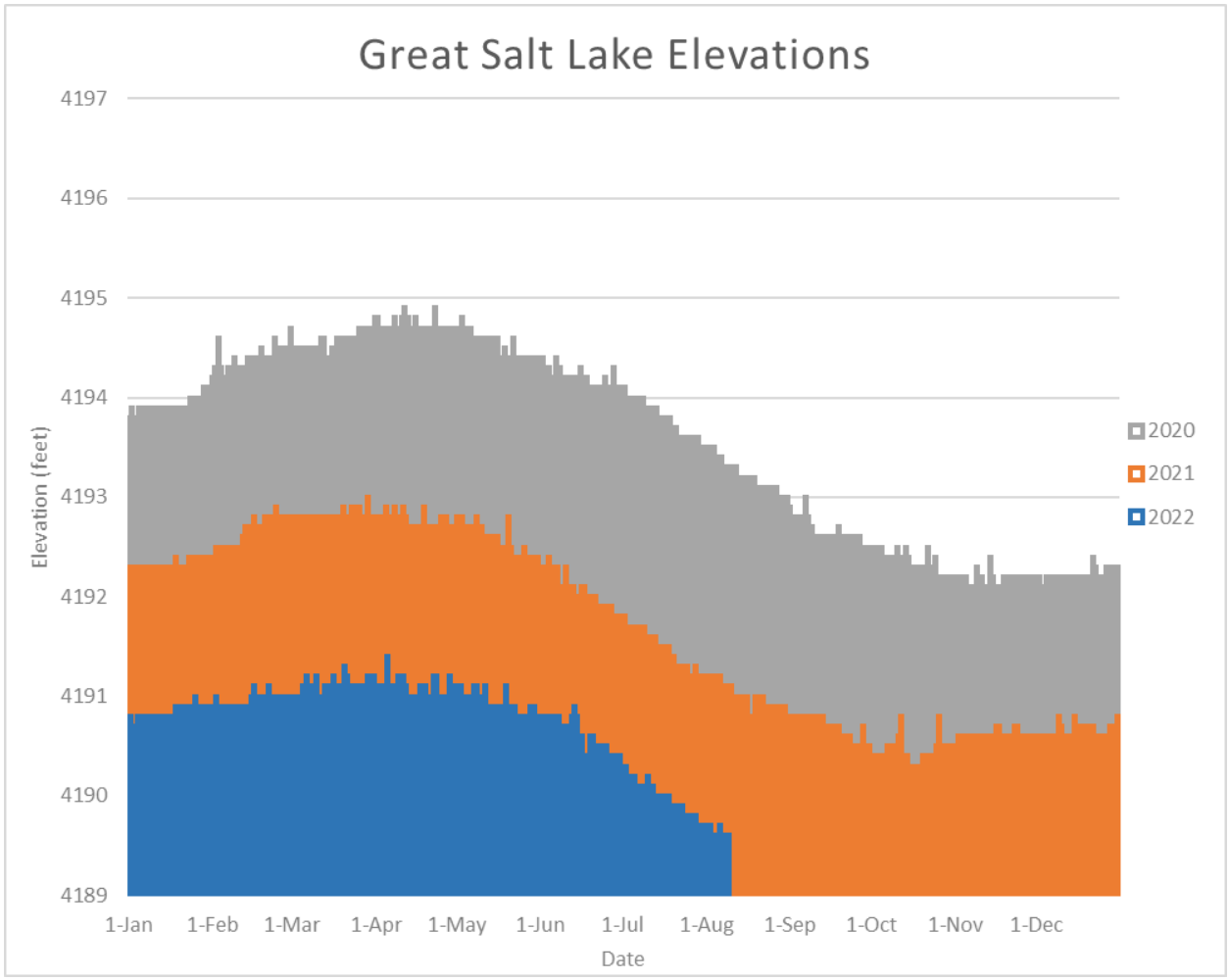
temperatures and less monsoon rain. Evapotranspiration is essentially how thirsty the air is for water.

Streamflows

- Despite monsoon rains, cumulative streamflows are lower than typical for the year. This is due to the below average snowpack and spring runoff.
- 38% of streams are flowing below or much below normal.

Reservoir and Lake Levels

- Reservoir storage statewide continues to drop and now averages 50%. Twenty-eight of Utah's 47 reservoirs are below 55% of available capacity.
- Current statewide reservoir levels are 2% higher than where they were last year at this time.
- The median (normal) percentage for this time of year is 66%. There are about two months remaining in the irrigation season when water use is traditionally at its peak.
- This year, reservoir storage started quite a bit lower than last year. With current reservoir storage higher than last year's percentage, this means much more water made it to our streams and reservoirs.
- The level of Great Salt Lake continues to decline. Currently, the average daily surface elevation is 4,189.6. It surpassed the previous record low (4,190.2) on July 3 and will likely continue to decline until mid-October.



Department of Environmental Quality

- High temperatures and drought conditions have caused an increase in the number of harmful algal blooms (HABs) throughout the state over the past week. Visitors are advised to check habs.utah.gov for current conditions and report suspicious algae.
- Do not swim, water ski, or drink the water, clean fish well and discard guts, and keep animals away from the following water bodies:
    - Warning Advisories
        - Mantua Reservoir, Willard Pond, Clinton Pond, Bountiful Pond, East Canyon Reservoir, Payson Lakes, Scofield Reservoir, Otter Creek Reservoir, Calf Creek, Willis Creek, Panguitch Lake, Baker Reservoir, the North Fork of the Virgin River (including the Narrows), Right and Left Fork of North Creek at Zion NP. Saratoga Springs Marina, Lincoln Marina, Utah Lake State Park, Sandy Beach, and Provo Bay at Utah Lake.
    - Health Watch
        - Willard Bay, Green River (Split Mountain Campground in Dinosaur National Monument), Matt Warner Reservoir, La Verkin Creek (Zion National Park)

Wildlife Impacts

Earlier this summer, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources fisheries biologists offered some tips to help minimize impacts to fish while fishing at lakes and reservoirs during a drought. If you are heading to a river or stream instead, here are some tips to decrease stress on a variety of fish species and increase their survival when releasing them:

- Use single hooks on lures and bend down the barbs for easy release.
- Minimize the time you spend "fighting" the fish while reeling it in. Tired and stressed fish have higher death rates.
- Try to minimize handling of the fish — it can cause the loss of scales, which can result in infection to the fish. And always wet your hands before touching the fish.
- Minimize the amount of time the fish is exposed to the air, especially when the weather is hot. If you are using a net, you can often keep the fish in the water while removing the hook.
- Use rubber or coated nylon nets to protect a fish's slime layer and fins.
- Quickly remove the hook with forceps or needle-nosed pliers.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, don't pull on the line. Instead, cut the line as close as possible to where it is hooked and leave the hook.
- Allow the fish to recover in the net before you release it.

Visit the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources website for more information on drought impacts on fish.

State Parks

- 10 Utah State Parks boat ramps that are closed. Two are under advisory.
- With water levels continuing to drop, we encourage the public to continue checking water and launch ramp conditions BEFORE heading out to a park.
- Low water levels may also expose additional navigation hazards and decrease the overall amount of boatable water. As such, it is essential that boaters remain vigilant and follow Utah's boating laws, rules, and safety practices.

Wildfire Risks

- So far this year we have seen a 20% reduction in wildfires with a total of 699 starts.
- Monsoonal rains continue to keep fuel moisture at a higher level than we have seen in recent months.
- Utah is currently considered little to no risk for fire danger according to the Great Basin Coordination Center's 7-day outlook.
- The GBCC has downgraded to preparedness level 2 due to the current inactivity in the region.

Water Rights

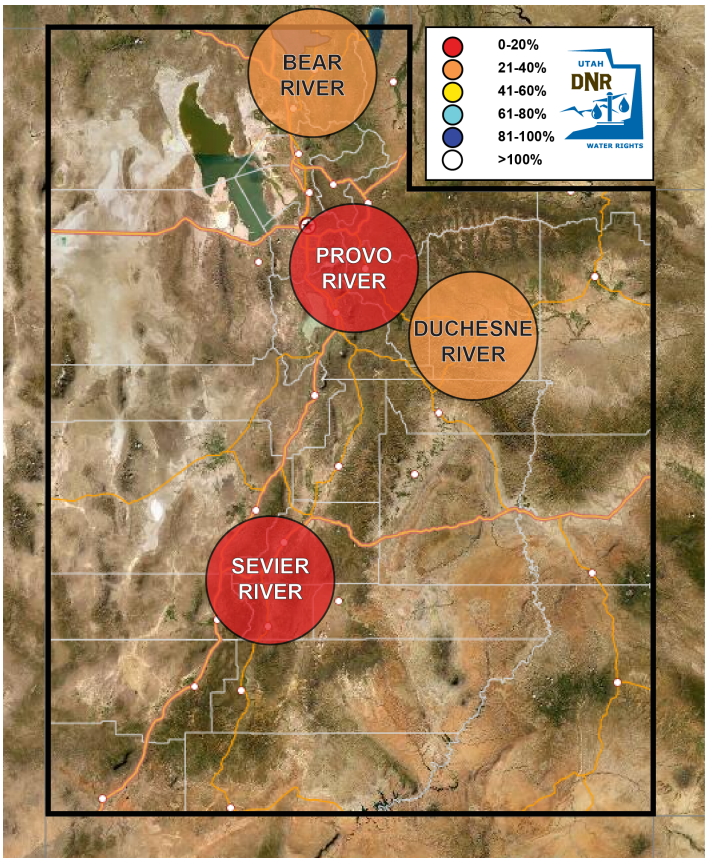
Overview of the State of Surface Water Rights

Surface water rights in Utah are limited by the available natural flow in the river system. As conditions get drier, the flow diminishes and fewer water rights can be satisfied. However, if conditions such as monsoonal rains increase river flow, it may preserve the number of rights that can be satisfied for longer or even lead to an increase in the number of rights being satisfied. Because Utah water law follows the

prior appropriation doctrine, older (senior) water rights have preference—or "priority"— over younger (junior) water rights.

The four systems identified below (i.e., Bear River, Duchesne River, Provo River, and Sevier River) are a good representation of the various river systems throughout the state. The percentages shown in the table are based on the total amount of water rights. For example, 27% of the water rights on the Duchesne River system are currently being satisfied. This is an increase over 2 weeks ago. River Commissioners oversee these systems to ensure water is being diverted by those entitled to receive it according to their priority dates.

Since the water supply varies each year, we have provided data for the current year with data from the same day for the previous three. For example, last year at this time, only 23% of the water rights on the Duchesne River system were being satisfied. In 2019, however, 52% of rights were being satisfied. Please note, when a system shows a number greater than 100%, it means that all water rights on the system are being satisfied and additional water is being stored in reservoirs.

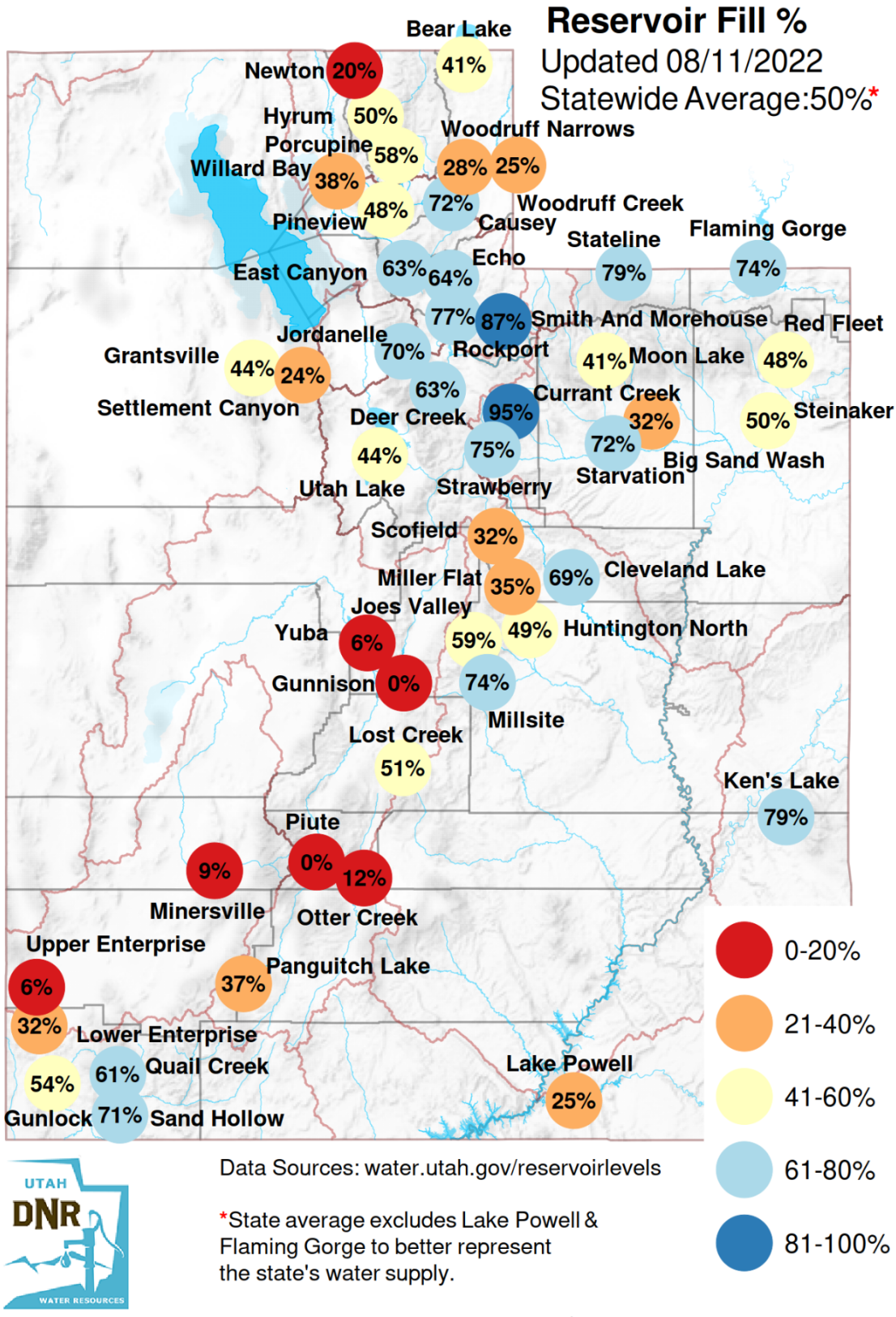


ear River	Rights Satisfied	Stream Flow
2022	24%	341 cfs
2021	23%	320 cfs
2020	75%	1066 cfs
2019	10%	141 cfs

Provo River	Rights Satisfied	Stream Flow
2022	20%	91 cfs
2021	13%	61 cfs
2020	13%	61 cfs
2019	27%	121 cfs

Duchesne River	Rights Satisfied	Stream Flow
2022	27%	276 cfs
2021	23%	238 cfs
2020	16%	166 cfs
2019	52%	538 cfs

Sevier River	Rights Satisfied	Stream Flow
2022	16%	67 cfs
2021	17%	71 cfs
2020	17%	70 cfs
2019	48%	196 cfs


Reservoir Fill %
Updated 08/11/2022
Statewide Average:50%*
Bear Lake
41%
Newton 20%
Hyrum 50%
Porcupine 58%
Willard Bay 38%
Pineview 48%
Woodruff Narrows
28%
25%
72%
Woodruff Creek
Causey
Stateline
79%
Flaming Gorge
74%
Echo
East Canyon 63%
64%
77%
87%
Smith And Morehouse
Red Fleet
Jordanelle
70%
Rockport
Grantsville
44%
24%
41%
Moon Lake
48%
63%
Currant Creek
Settlement Canyon
Deer Creek
95%
32%
50%
Steinaker
44%
75%
72%
Big Sand Wash
Starvation
Utah Lake
Strawberry
Scofield
32%
Miller Flat
35%
69%
Cleveland Lake
Joes Valley
Yuba
6%
59%
49%
Huntington North
Gunnison
0%
74%
Millsite
Lost Creek
51%
Ken's Lake
79%
Piute
0%
9%
12%
Minersville
Otter Creek
Upper Enterprise
Panguitch Lake
6%
37%
32%
Lower Enterprise
Quail Creek
61%
54%
Lake Powell
25%
Gunlock
71%
Sand Hollow
0-20%
21-40%
41-60%
61-80%
81-100%
UTAH
DNR
WATER RESOURCES
Data Sources: water.utah.gov/reservoirlevels
*State average excludes Lake Powell & Flaming Gorge to better represent the state's water supply.
Total capacity including these is 40%