FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Utah Water Conditions Update

SALT LAKE CITY (Dec. 20, 2023) – As of late-December, northern Utah has seen some positive progress in the snow season, while the southern part of the state is still recording below-normal numbers. With 105 days remaining until the typical peak snowpack, the state is planning for all scenarios.

Statewide Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), which determines the amount of water available in the snow, is slightly below normal for this time of year. One notable highlight is soil moisture, which is in a favorable state. Adequate soil moisture supports healthy spring runoff, agricultural activities and sustaining ecosystems.

Utah's reservoirs, vital for storing water for various needs, currently stand at 78% full statewide. This is around 20% higher than normal reservoir levels for this time of year. For the most part, reservoirs will likely stay near these levels until spring runoff.

"It's early in the season, and I'm hopeful Mother Nature will deliver some much-needed snow, but we are planning for all possibilities," Candice Hasenyager, director of the Division of Water Resources, said. "We need to be vigilant to changing conditions and ready for whatever amount of snow the state receives from now until April."

The division continues to help Utahns save water across all sectors. Now is an excellent time to maximize indoor water efficiency by checking for leaks and upgrading old fixtures with water-efficient ones.

"We are naturally spending more time indoors during the holidays. Take this time to be a good water steward in your home," Hasenyager said. "Even if it's not on your loved one's gift list, a water-efficient toilet (tied with a big bow) can make a great gift! "

To encourage water conservation among Utahns, the Department of Natural Resources continues to promote initiatives such as the Agricultural Optimization Program for farmers and SlowtheFlow.org for residents. These programs aim to educate and incentivize water-saving practices, ensuring Utahns become more drought resilient and prepare for future conditions.

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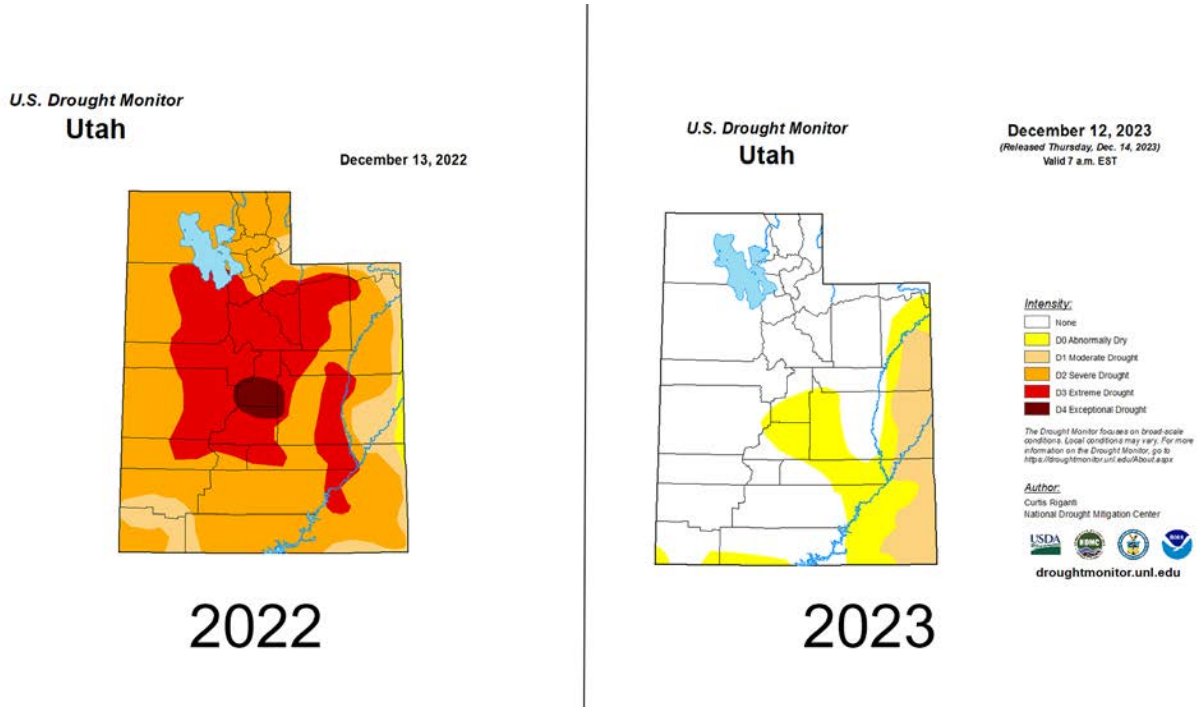
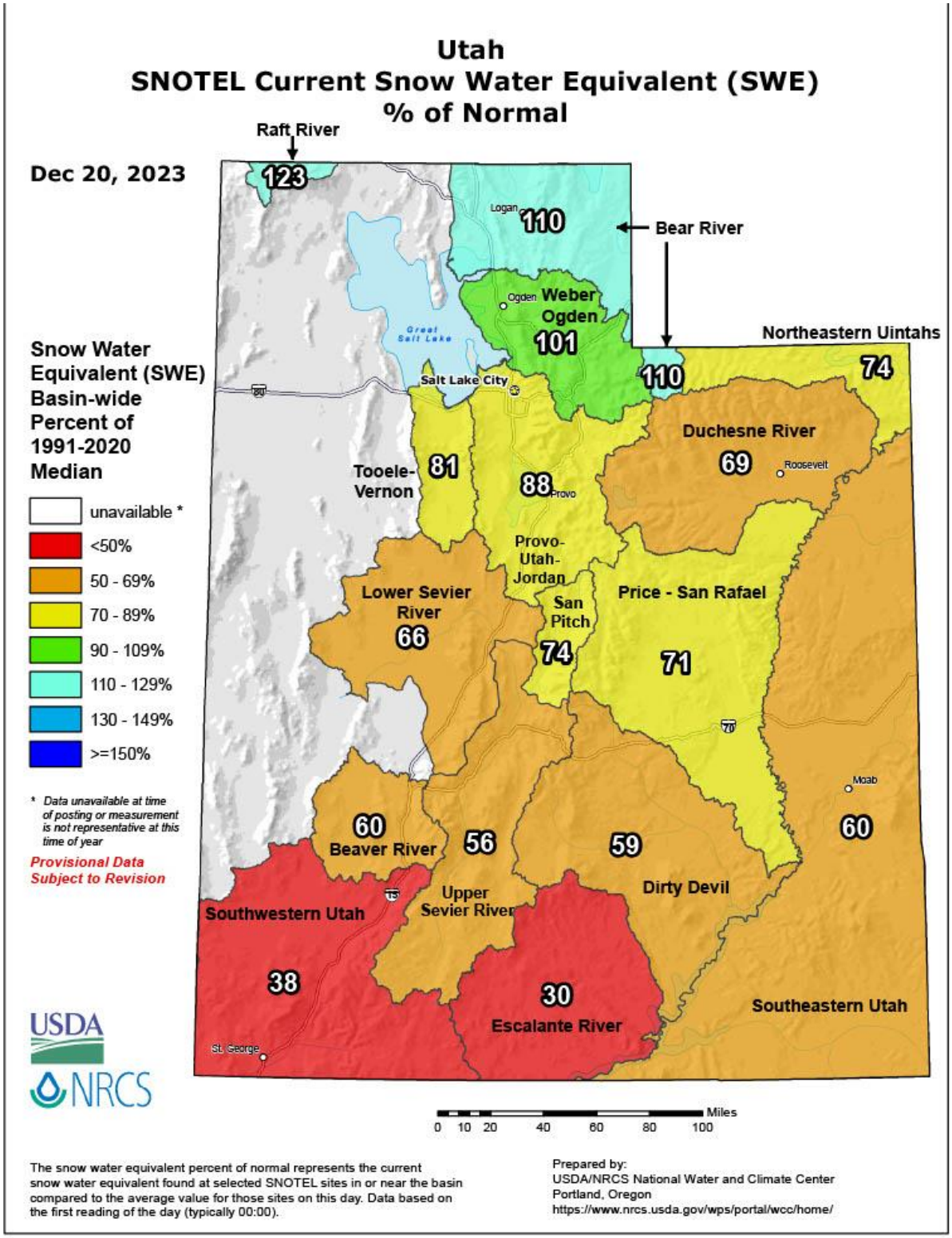
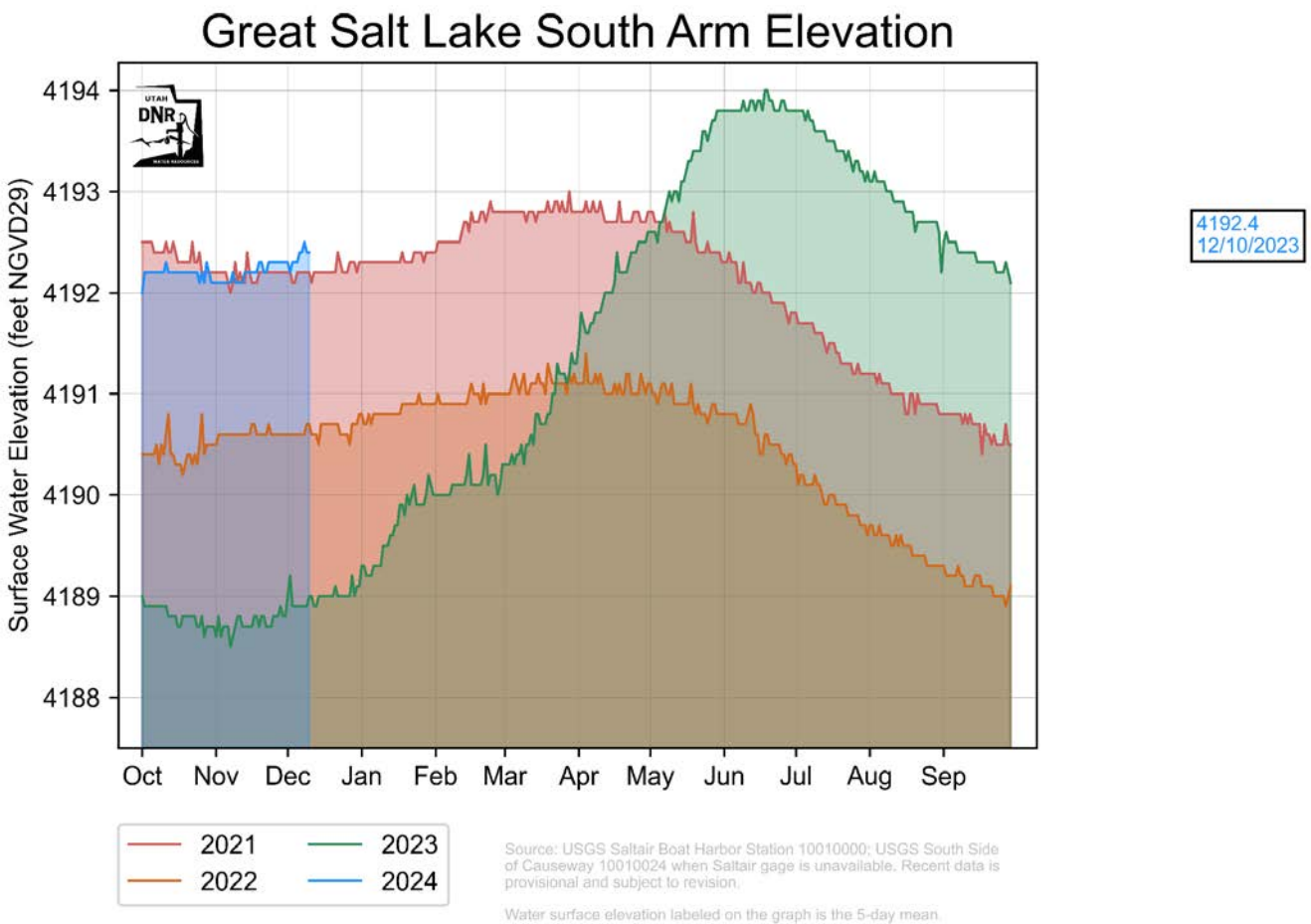


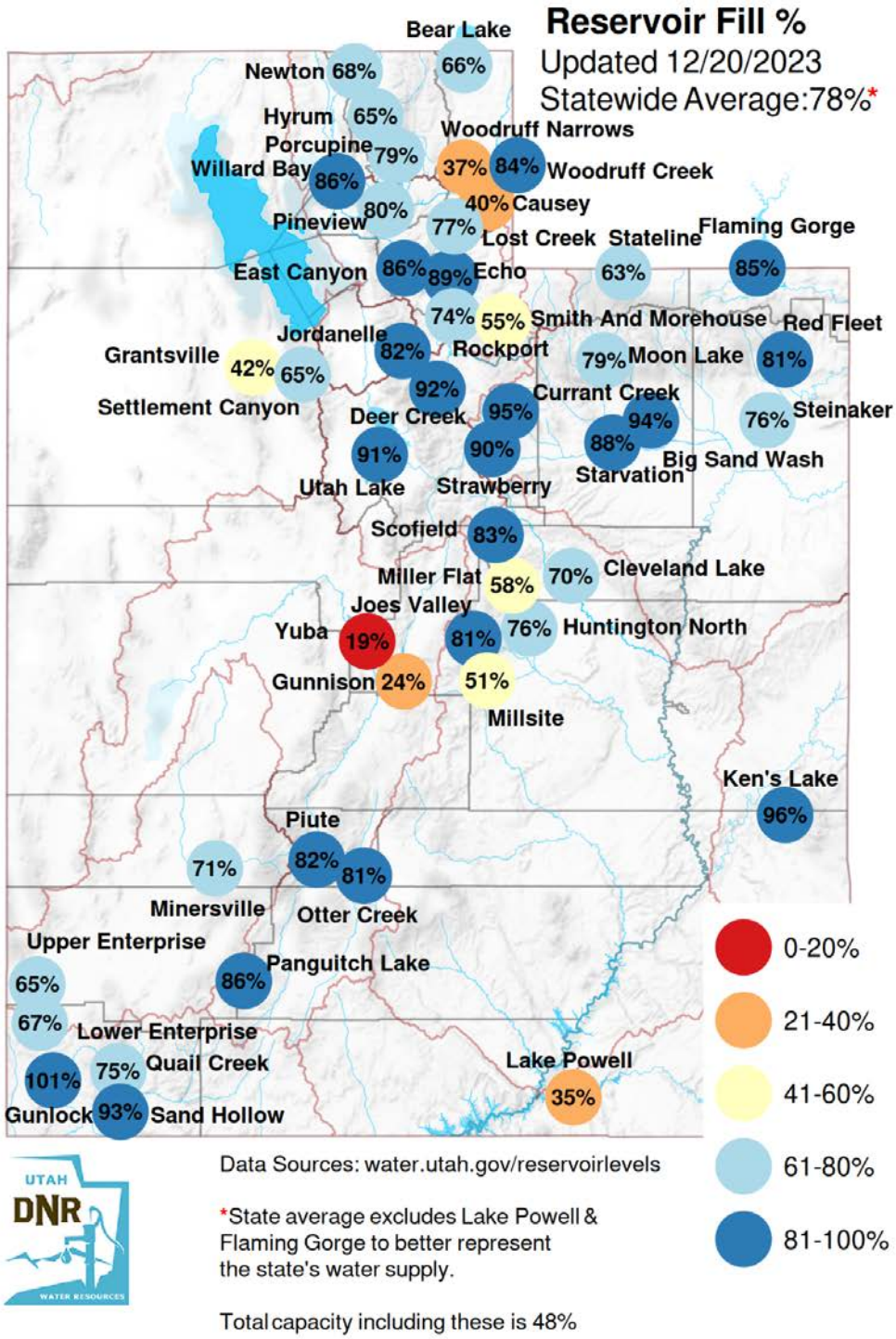
Graphic compares Utah's current drought situation to 2022. Currently, moderate drought covers 9% of the state. Last year at this time, 90% of the state was in severe drought.


Utah
SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)
% of Normal
Dec 20, 2023
Raft River
123
Logan
110
Bear River
Ogden
Weber
Ogden
101
Great Salt Lake
Northeastern Uintahs
74
110
Salt Lake City
Duchesne River
69
Roosevelt
Tooele-
Vernon
81
88
Provo
Provo-
Utah-
Jordan
Lower Sevier
River
66
San
Pitch
74
Price - San Rafael
71
Moab
60
60
Beaver River
56
59
Dirty Devil
Upper
Sevier River
Southwestern Utah
38
30
Escalante River
Southeastern Utah
St. George
Snow Water
Equivalent (SWE)
Basin-wide
Percent of
1991-2020
Median
unavailable *
<50%
50 - 69%
70 - 89%
90 - 109%
110 - 129%
130 - 149%
>=150%
* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year
Provisional Data
Subject to Revision
USDA
NRCS
Miles
0 10 20 40 60 80 100
The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).
Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/

. *Source - NRCS*



The graph shows Great Salt Lake levels since 2021. Great Salt Lake levels have stabilized for the season and are likely to rise during the next few months as winter storms roll in.



For more information, visit drought.utah.gov