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Utah Water Conditions Update

SALT LAKE CITY (Jan. 16, 2025) – Northern Utah has experienced near-normal precipitation, although much of it has been in the form of rain rather than snow, which could affect water storage for the spring melt. In southern Utah, however, snowpack remains 27-64% of normal for this time of year, continuing dry conditions in that region.

"We're encouraged to see most reservoirs at or above normal levels for this time of year, even in areas with below-normal snowpack," Candice Hasenyager, director of the Division of Water Resources, said. "The dry soil moisture in southern Utah combined with below-normal snowpack could pose challenges for water availability in certain basins."

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's January Report, almost no measurable snow fell in southwestern Utah during December, and the regional snow water equivalent was consequently some of the lowest of all observations.

Reservoirs are at 77% of capacity, offering some reassurance to water users. This is 20% higher than is typical for this time of year and a testament to the carryover storage from the last two years of above-normal snowpack.

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center models how much water supply is anticipated based on soil moisture and snowpack. The majority of water supply forecasts fall in the 70-90% of average range. In southern Utah those forecasts are in the 40% of average range.

"Every drop saved today contributes to a more resilient water supply tomorrow," Hasenyager said. "Runoff efficiency will depend on weather conditions, but we all have a role to play in protecting this precious resource."

In Utah, about 95% of our water supply comes from snowpack. Reservoir storage helps us preserve that water for use in dry summer months and drought years. To encourage water conservation among Utahns, the Department of Natural Resources continues to promote initiatives such as the Agricultural Water 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. Many indoor water-saving tips are available on the Slow the Flow website.

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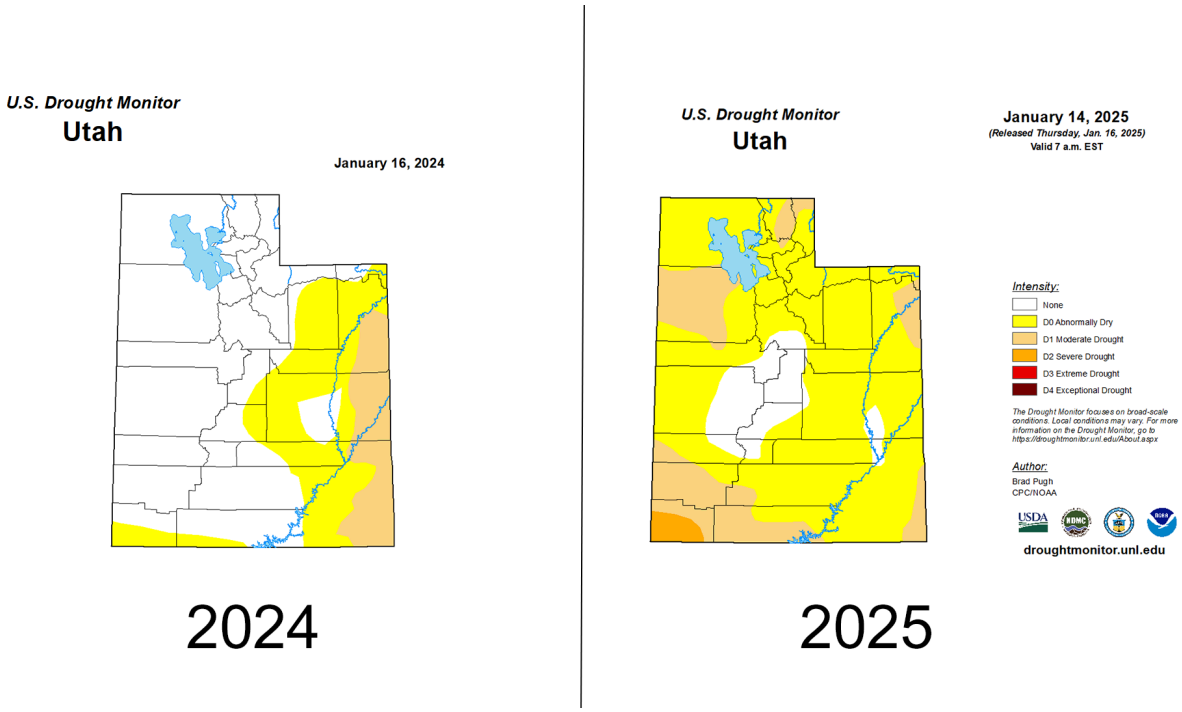
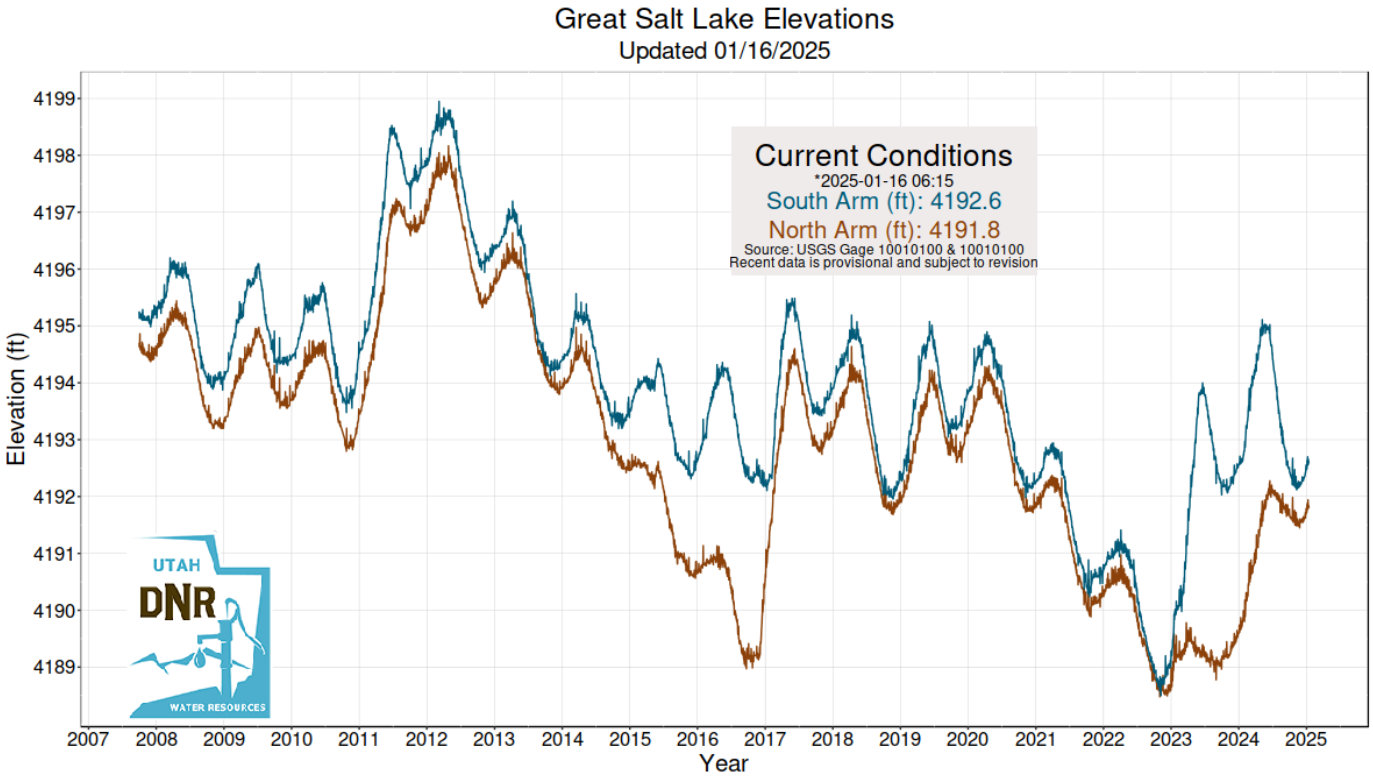
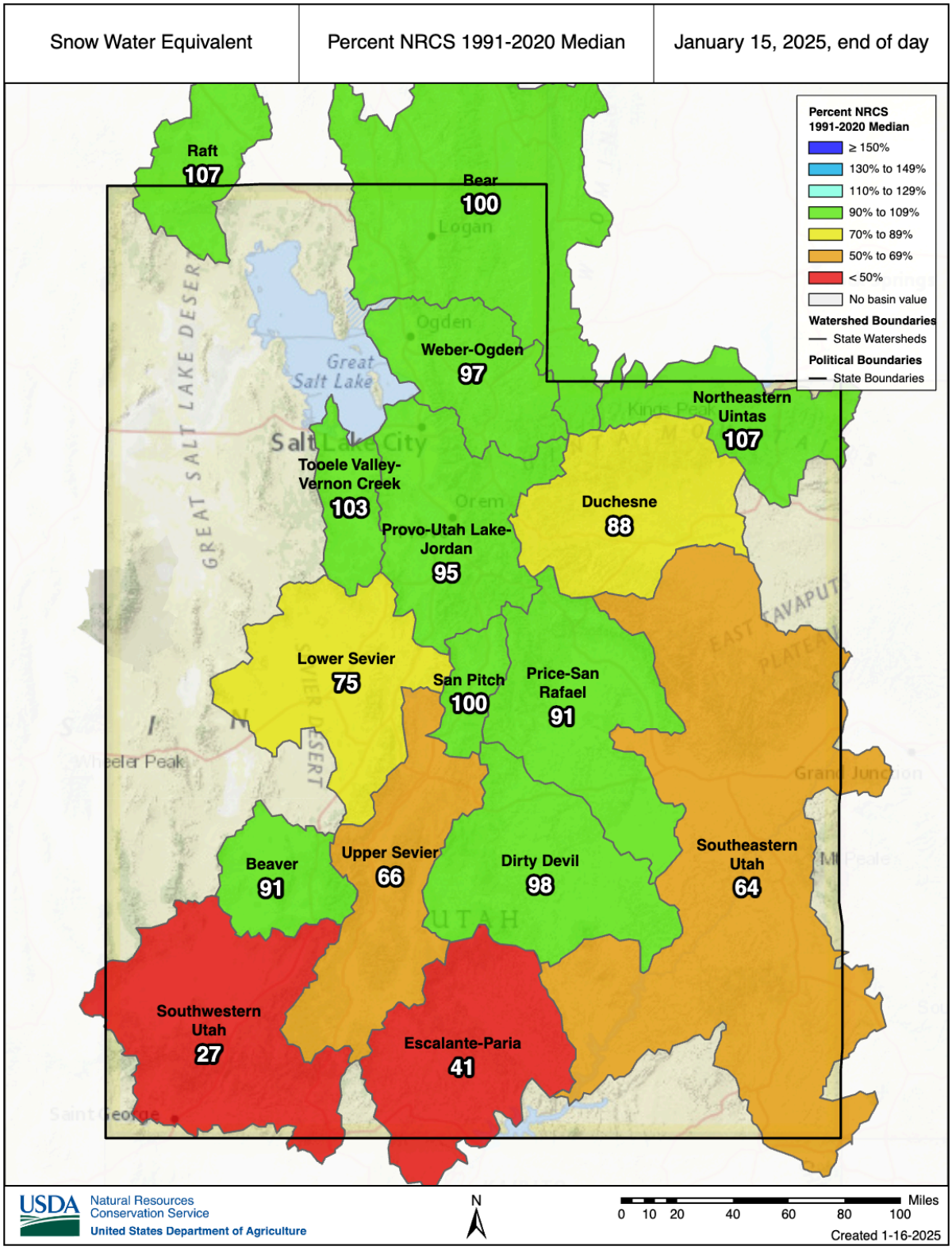


Graphic compares Utah's current drought situation to 2024. Currently, 2% of the state is in the severe category of drought and 20% in the moderate category. Last year at this time, 10% of the state was in moderate drought. Source: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?UT



The graph shows Great Salt Lake levels since 2007.
Source: https://water.utah.gov/great-salt-lake-elevation/

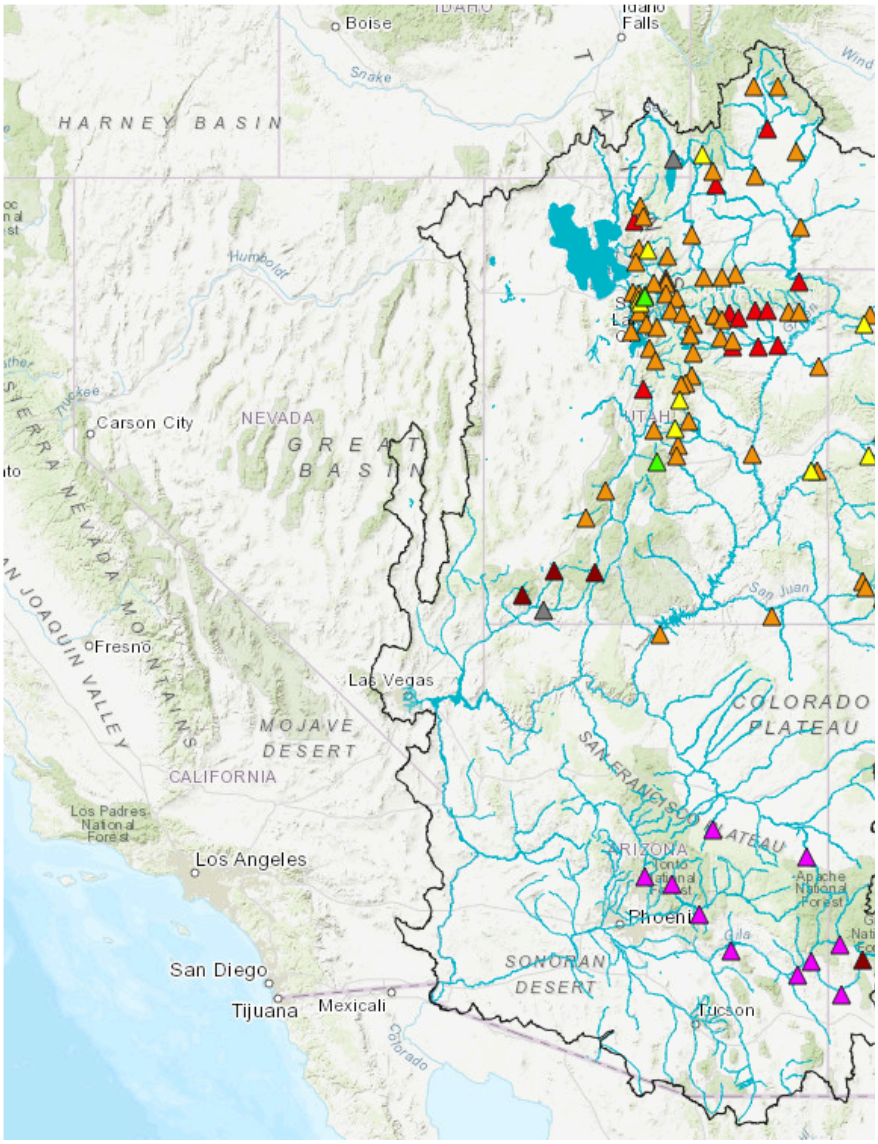


Map shows snowpack at a basin level. ***Source:*** *NRCS*

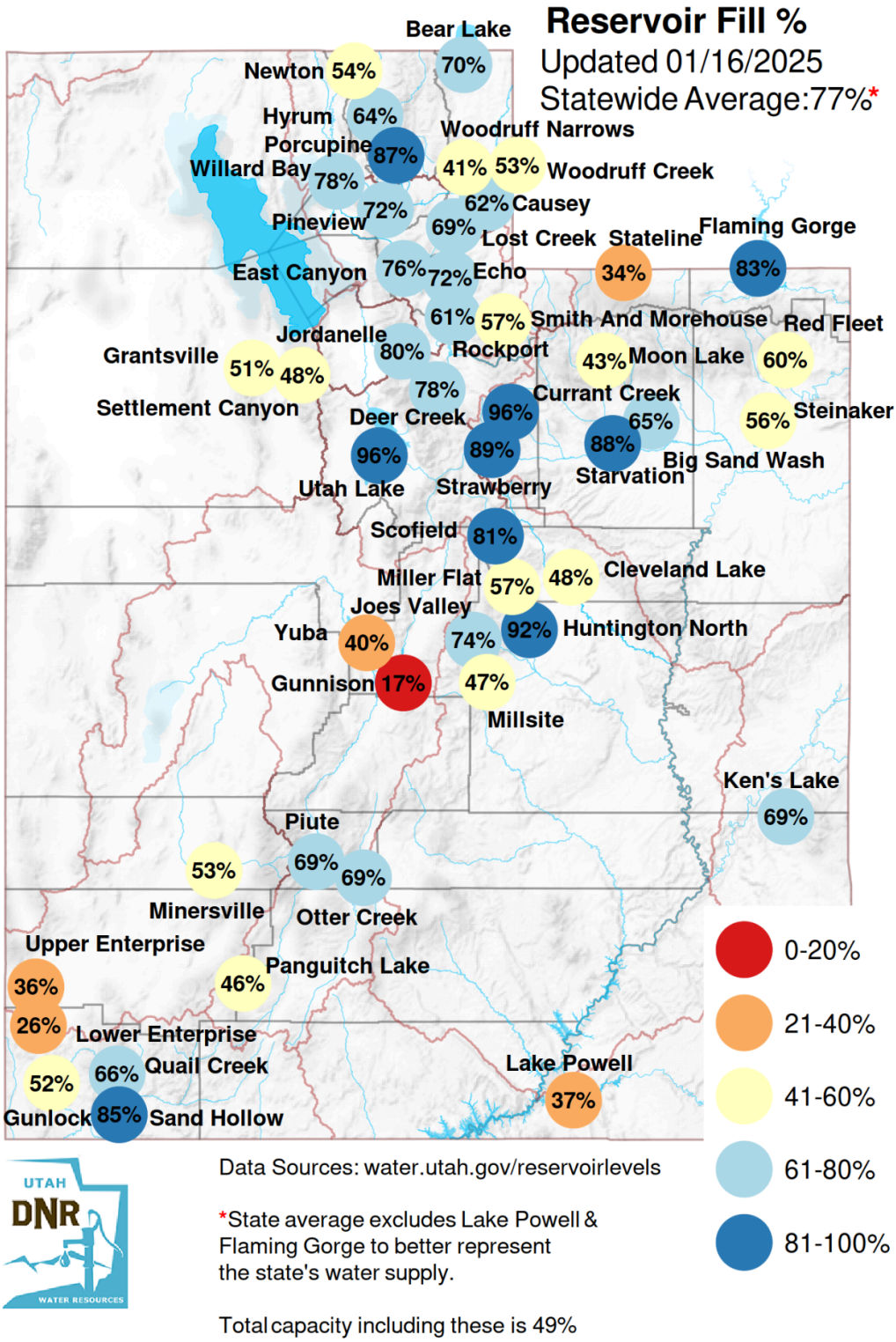
CBRFC Water Supply Forecasts 01/16/2025

Percent Average

- < 30%
- 30-50%
- 50-70%
- 70-90%
- 90-100%
- 100-110%
- 110-130%
- 130-150%
- 150-200%
- 200-300%
- 300-500
- >500%
- Regulated
- No Forecast



Map shows river forecasts produced by the [Colorado Basin River Forecast Center]



For more information, visit drought.utah.gov