

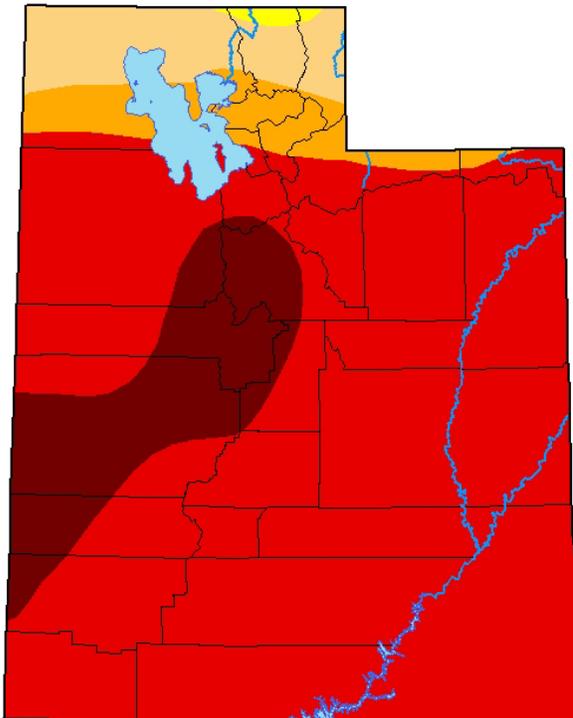


# Utah Department of Natural Resources Water Resources

## Drought Update October 2020

Nearly all of Utah is in some stage of drought. Fire danger is high, native vegetation is sparse and streams are low. In many areas, livestock was brought off rangeland almost a month early due to lack of forage. Total rainfall over the last 60 days is under 1" for the majority of the state, with much of that area seeing less than 0.5" and some seeing less than 0.1". In parts of Millard County, irrigation water was cut to 10% of allotment in July. This lack of precipitation can be seen in soil moisture gauges.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Utah



**September 29, 2020**

(Released Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	99.62	93.20	87.26	12.80
<b>Last Week</b> 09-22-2020	0.00	100.00	98.90	93.20	83.93	10.07
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 06-30-2020	3.96	96.04	81.89	47.99	1.21	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12-31-2019	17.19	82.81	55.72	30.47	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2019	45.82	54.18	29.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 10-01-2019	45.82	54.18	29.59	0.00	0.00	0.00

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>

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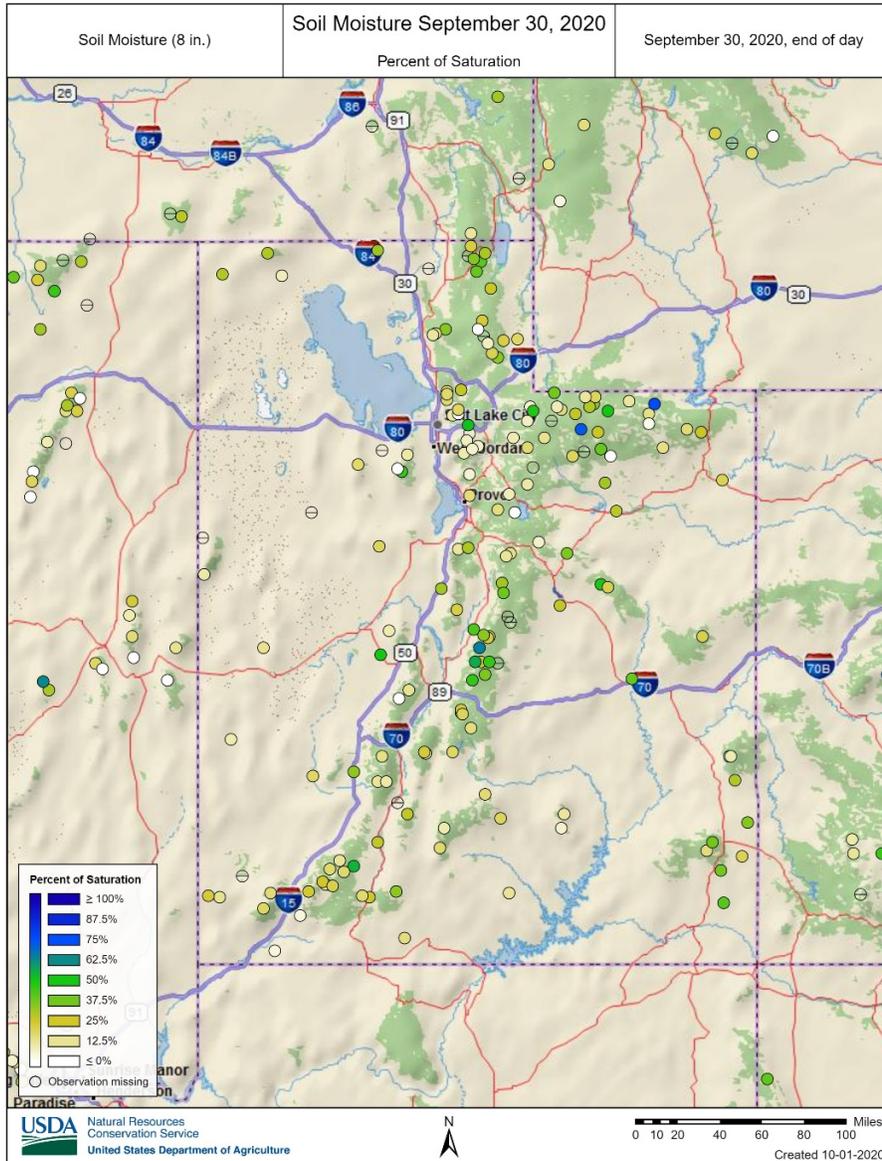
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)





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Occasional isolated storms add some moisture however the effect typically covers a small area and is short lived.



Hot, dry winds were a recurring condition along the north/south center of the state. This year set a record for the hottest, driest August on record in Utah. That combination deepened the already existing drought conditions.

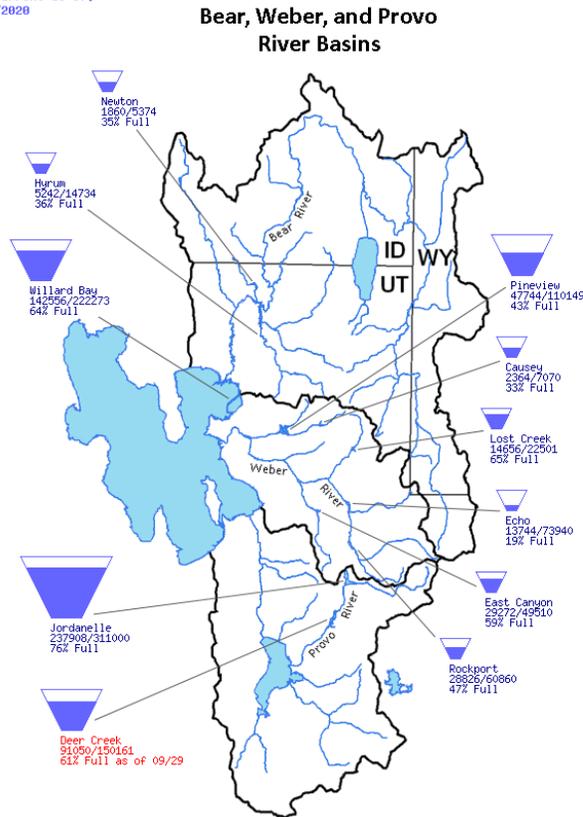




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The Great Salt Lake south arm elevation was 4192.5 on September 29, 2020, 13" above the historic low set in 1963. Reservoirs around the state were able to store water from the above-average 2019 water year. However, vegetation has suffered from recurring drought. Wildlife and vegetation will need more than a single good year to recover as will Lake Powell, Yuba Lake and other reservoirs. Reservoir levels around the state are analyzed at the first of the month and statistics will be available next week on the Division of Water Resources website.

Data Current as of:  
09/30/2020

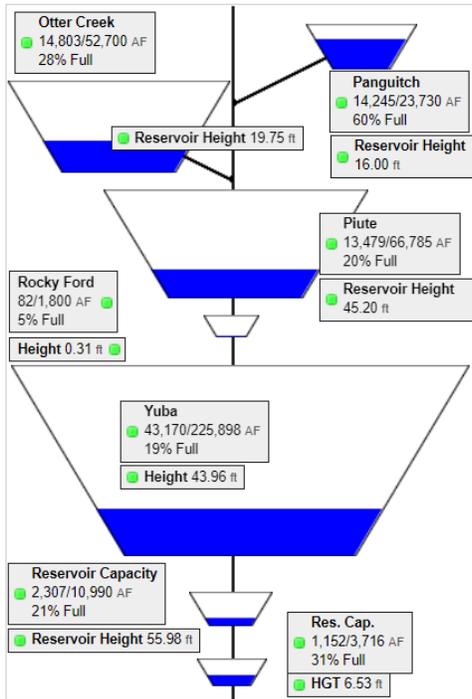


Source Bureau of Reclamation

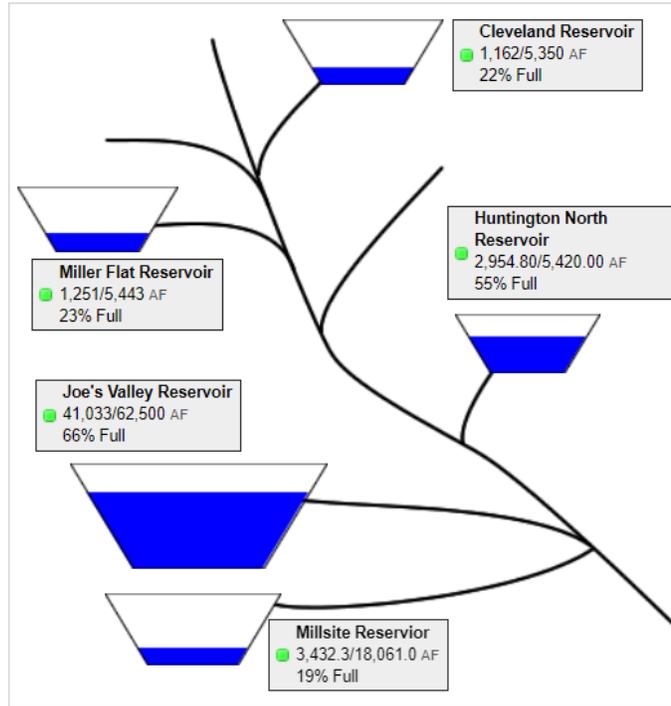




# Utah Department of Natural Resources Water Resources



Source Sevier Water Conservancy District



Source Emery Water Conservancy District

Weather forecasts predict dry conditions will continue. Dry conditions in fall will reduce the benefit of winter snowpack. Snowmelt will first soak into the extremely dry soil before running off into streams and reservoirs. Drought conditions could potentially develop very rapidly in the spring and deepen throughout next summer. The Division of Water Resources will monitor conditions closely over the winter to be prepared to respond rapidly in the spring if conditions do not improve.

