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Utah Water Conditions Update

SALT LAKE CITY (Dec. 18, 2025) – A warm and dry December and November have left the state with below-normal snow totals. While this is a reason for concern, two or three good storm cycles could bring the state up to normal levels. Utah's snowpack typically peaks around the beginning of April.

The northern half of the state is experiencing the poorest conditions. Early snow helped the southern Utah basins. After a record-setting month in October for precipitation, Salt Lake City followed up with another record-setting month, but this time for the highest November average temperature. Halfway through this December, the average monthly temperature of 42.2°F is a staggering 8.6°F above average.

"Utah's water supply has been driven by extremes and has only experienced four 'normal' snow years in the past 30 years," Candice Hasenyager, director at the Utah Division of Water Resources, said. "The one thing we can control is how we use our water and what impactful decisions we make to be good water stewards."

Utah's soil moisture levels are above normal for this time of year. In dry years, the ground acts like a sponge, absorbing much of the snowmelt before it can run off into reservoirs. Because our soils are now well-saturated, they are primed for a more efficient spring runoff.

93% of the state is currently experiencing some form of drought. Last year at this time, 19% of the state was in drought.

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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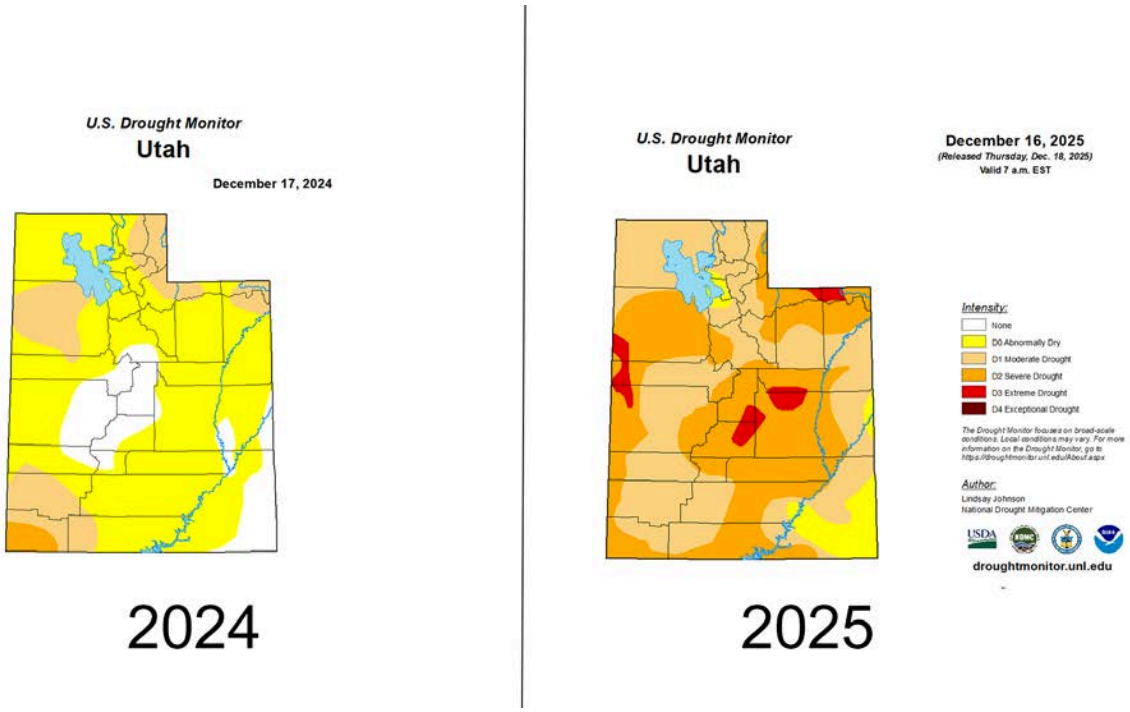
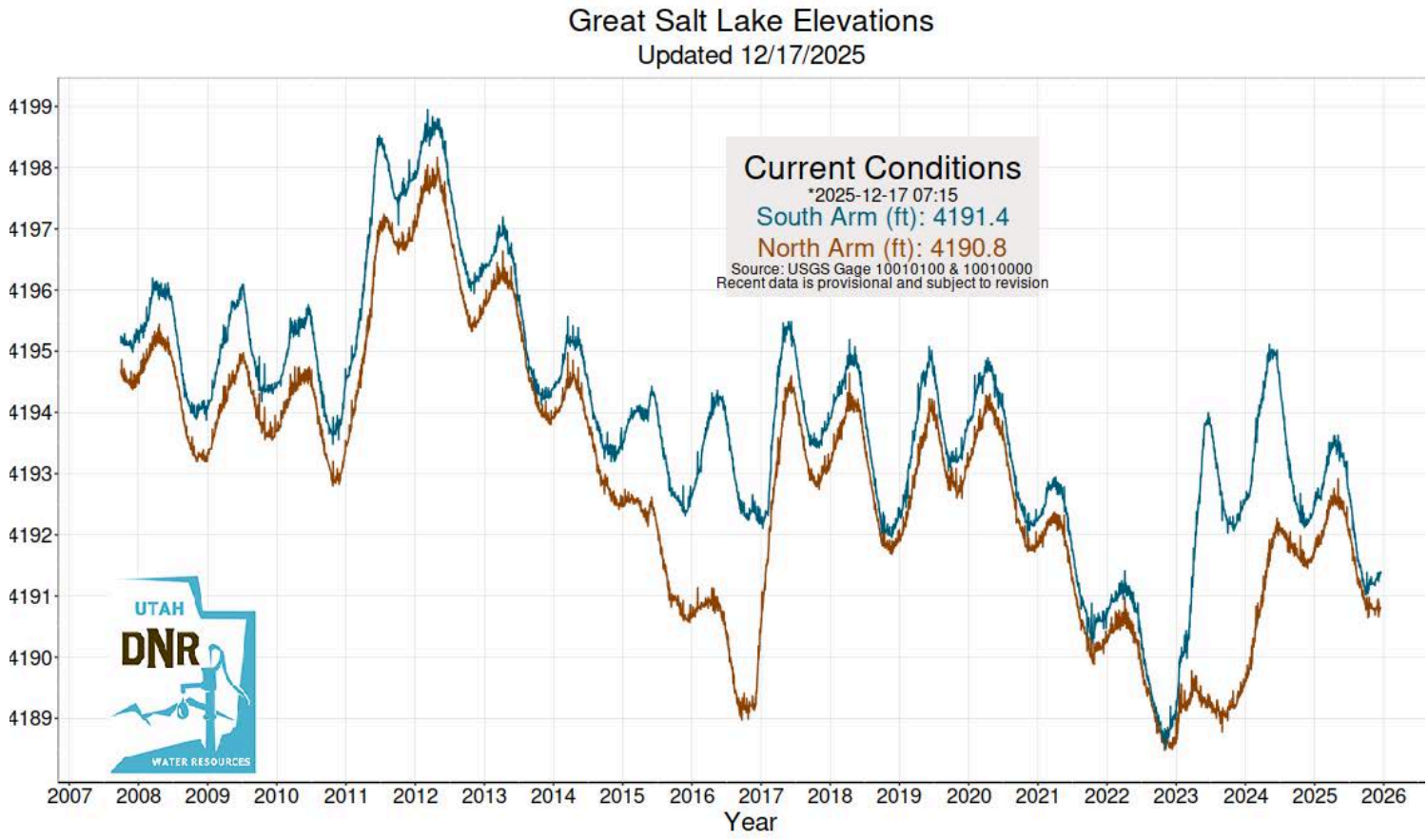
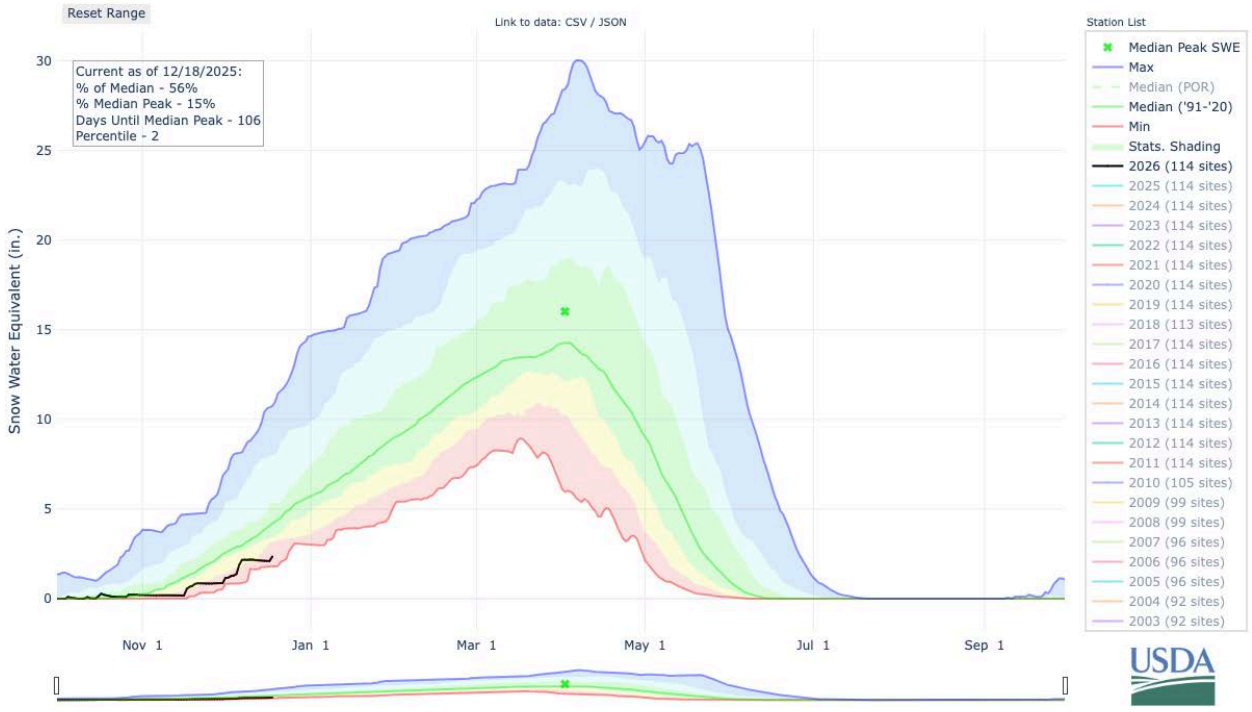


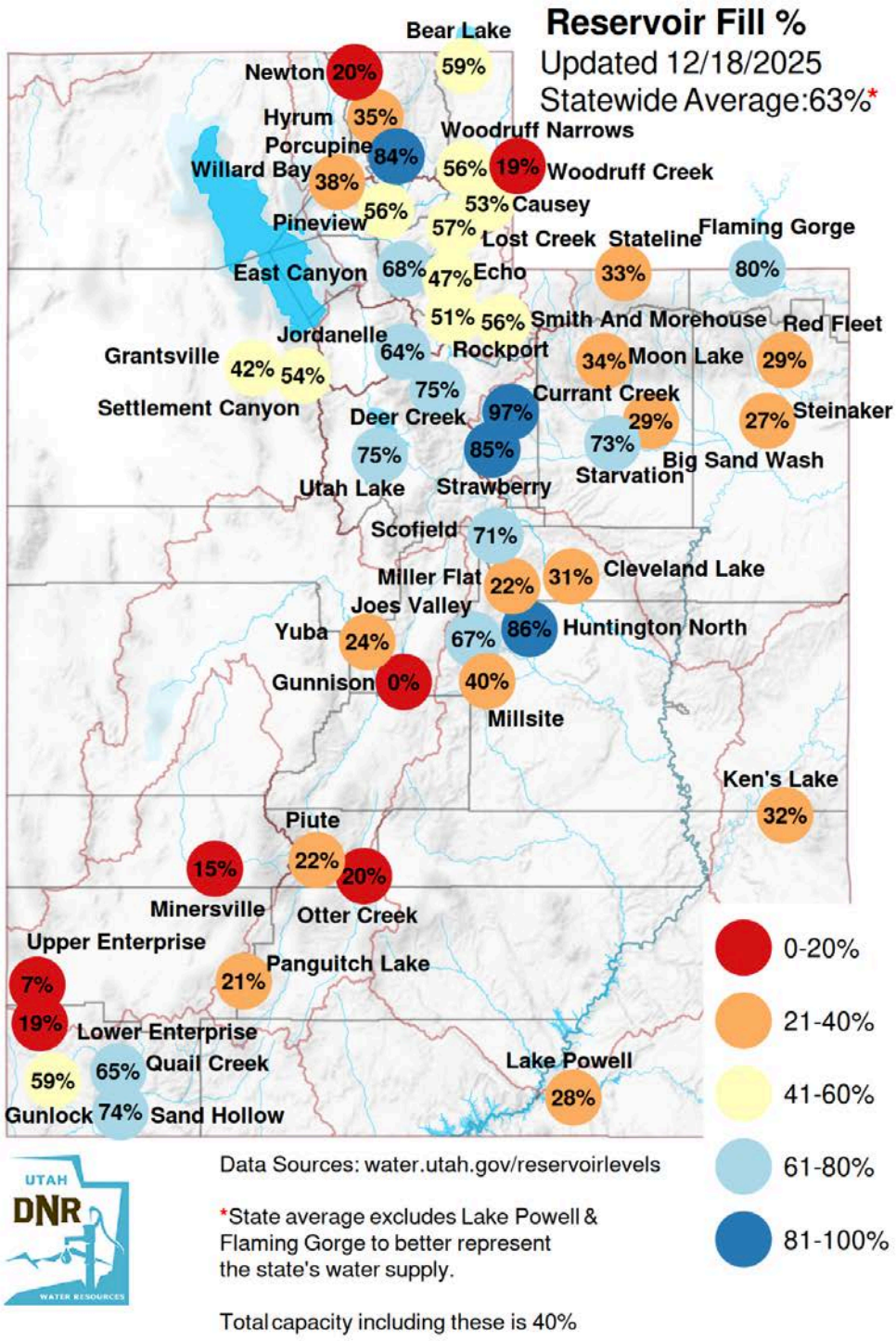
Graphic compares Utah's current drought situation to 2024. Currently, 47% of the state is in the severe category of drought and 4% in extreme drought. Last year at this time, 2% of the state was experiencing severe drought. Source: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?UT



The graph shows Great Salt Lake levels since 2022. Source: https://water.utah.gov/great-salt-lake-elevation/



Graphic shows snow water equivalent compared to a 30-year reference period. **Source:** *NRCS*



For more information, visit drought.utah.gov