

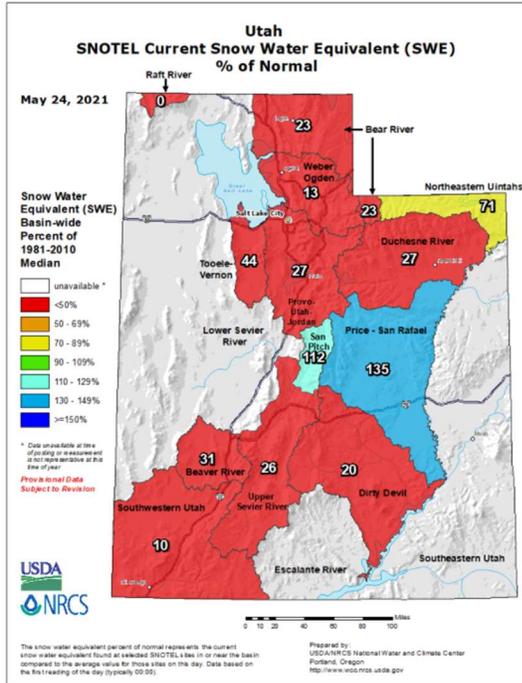
Salem City Water Conservation

Attention: Salem City Residents

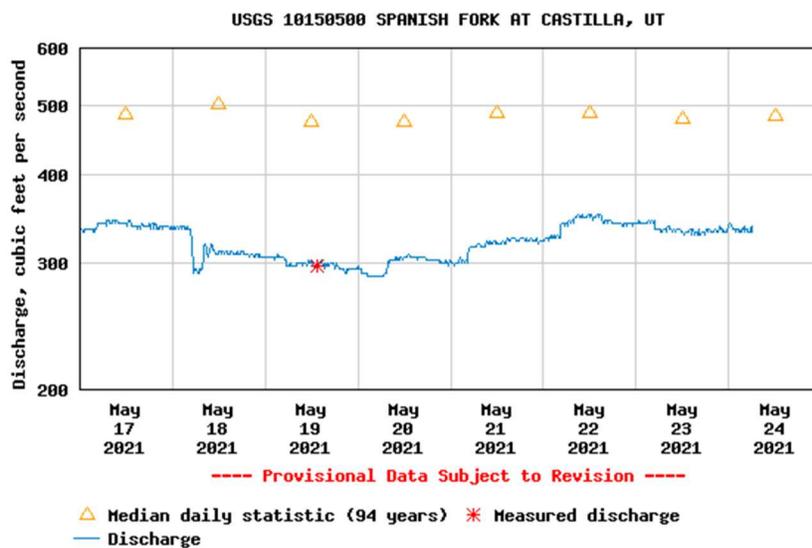
As you know, we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the 2nd driest state in the nation.

According to NOAA & the USGS, 2020 was the driest year since 1895 and the 4th hottest year since 1895.

The snowpack during last winter was weak to say the least. (See the current SNOTEL Map below)



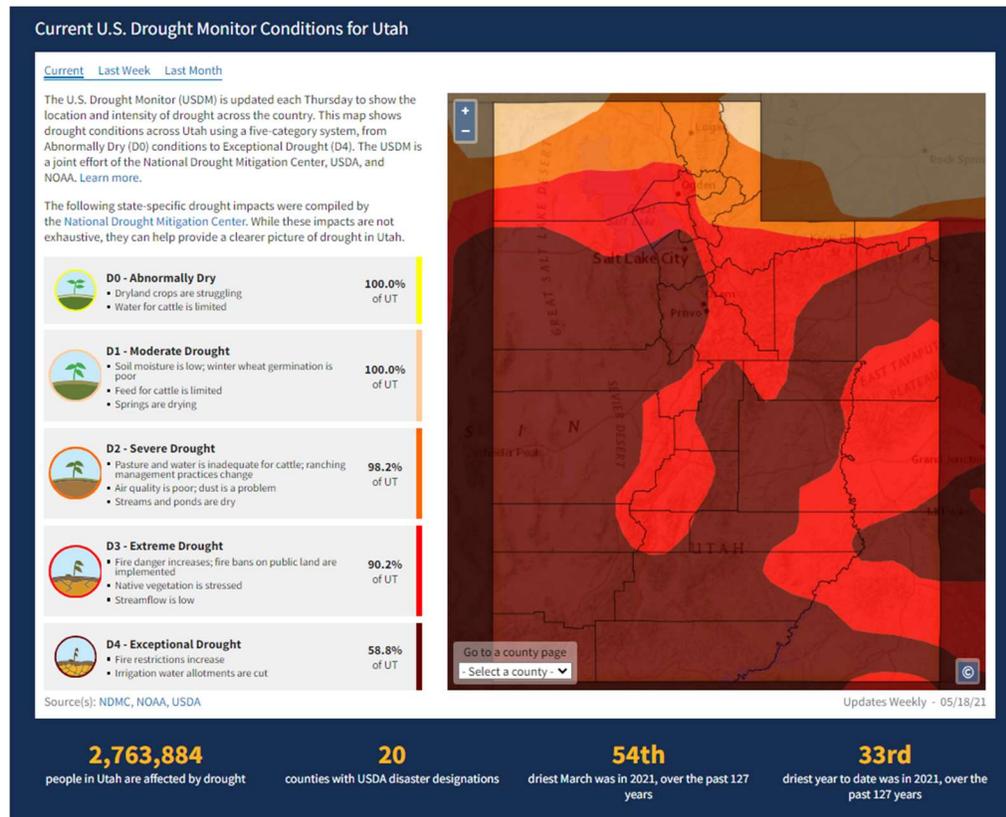
With the extremely poor snow pack the Spanish Fork River is also running at historic lows. See the graph below.



All these combined, prompted our Governor to issue his April 2021 Drought Declaration (See the link below). Most of the state is currently in what is called an “Extreme Drought” or “Exceptional Drought.” Hopefully, the recent moisture will help.

<https://governor.utah.gov/2021/03/17/gov-cox-issues-drought-executive-order/>

<https://www.drought.gov/states/utah> (As of 5/18/2021)



In the Governor’s Declaration he asked that Water Companies, Cities, public water suppliers and citizens take measures to prepare for the possibility of a repeat dry, hot summer.

Salem City held a water planning meeting with neighboring cities and water providers, shortly after the Governor’s declaration, to discuss ways to get the water where it was needed and how to best serve our communities. We are closely monitoring the situation.

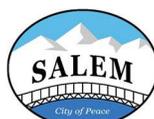


Salem City Water Information

1. There are two categories of water used in Salem City: Drinking Water and Pressurized Irrigation.
2. Drinking water comes from:
 - a. Maple Canyon Well
 - b. Lower Existing Well
 - c. Water Canyon Springs
3. Pressurized Irrigation water comes from:
 - a. Salem Canal Company (Spanish Fork River Water) (50% to 60% +/-)
 - b. Strawberry Highline Canal (Strawberry Reservoir Water) (25% to 30% +/-)
 - c. Contract Water (BYU Well Water) (25% to 30% +/-)
4. During a time of drought (insufficient snowpack & rainfall) both the reservoir and the river flows are reduced, making less water available to the users. Currently, the natural flow of the Spanish Fork River is very low, nearly half of normal. Salem City has water rights for a small percentage of the flow. Our percentage doesn't change year to year but the flow rate changes dramatically depending on drought.
5. To date, our drinking water wells have continued to flow pretty consistently. Please do not waste.
6. Water Canyon Springs are more directly tied to snowpack and flow rates from the spring are low but currently holding.
7. Drought has a direct impact on the availability of irrigation water and may, at some future time of extreme and extended drought, affect our drinking water.

Salem City Growth

8. Does increased housing growth affect water availability? NO, and here's why. When a landowner decides to sell his land to a developer or decides to become a developer and build homes, Salem City requires that a sufficient amount of drinking water and irrigation water be dedicated to Salem City. The amount of water is dependent on the number of homes and size of the lots. The larger the lot the more water that is required. Water rights are legal authorization to use specified amounts of water. A developer acquires the necessary water rights from a person already using that water (usually a farmer/rancher) who will then no longer be able to water their crops or animals with that water. Depending on how the subdivision is designed, the agricultural use of water per acre can be more or less than the farmers usage for the homes on that same acre of land. Generally speaking, growth only shifts water usage from agriculture to homes.
9. Growth does require more water infrastructure that the City must construct. If it's not there, the water can't be moved from its source to where it's needed. The funding for new infrastructure primarily comes from developers building their subdivisions and from impact fees that the home builder pays to the City for each home constructed.



We all need to work together.

If we all work together and conserve a little we can make a big difference. In the Governor's declaration he asked that we find ways to reduce water use, both indoor and outdoor. He offered a few suggestions including;

- Fix leaks
- Run full loads (dishwashers and washing machines)
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth, shaving, soaping up, doing dishes or rinsing vegetables
- Reduce showers by at least one minute
- Wait to water
- Plan now for the irrigation season and consider implementing water-wise landscaping or purchasing a smart irrigation controller

With these in mind here are a few more thoughts.

The average water cycle for a home = 3000 gallons/cycle

A cycle is one complete watering of a yard, all zones.

If we each cut out just ONE water cycle per week we can collectively save over 8 million gallons per week (or about 24 ac-ft). Over 6 months that saves over 194,000,000 gallons (or nearly 600 ac-ft), almost 25% of our total water use.

Ornamental Flowers, shrubs, & vegetable gardens are NOT the problem.

Lawns are the biggest water user.

What else can we do?

1. Reduce water by 1 cycle per week or reduce the time of each station for the same effect.
2. Shut off during rain. Purchasing and installing a rain sensor is an easy automatic way.
3. Convert turf area to landscaped drip systems.
4. Maintain your sprinklers to ensure water is landing on grass rather than concrete & asphalt.
5. Adjust or replace nozzles to make water delivery more consistent within each zone.
6. Use measuring cups to determine how much water is hitting the ground and adjust as needed.
7. Use proper fertilizer to help keep lawn healthy and greener.
8. Adjust your controller each month or buy a smart controller that is weather controlled (CUWCD Rebate of \$75).
9. Plant water wise plants that are better suited for our dry climate.
10. Refer to the Utah Lawn Watering Guide for weekly water requirements.

<https://slowtheflow.org/tools-and-resources/>

Thank you for your help. When we each do a little, we collectively do a lot.

