

# Water Resource Depletion and Environmental Sustainability

Water is a precious and limited resource in Iron County, a region already grappling with severe drought conditions. The proposed mining operation is indicated to consume **4,000 gallons of water per hour**, across **11 hours of daily operation**. This translates to a staggering **44,000 gallons of water per day**.

Considering a 5-day workweek; over time this expands to:

Acreage	Gallons per Year	Acre-Feet per Year	5 Years (Acre-Feet)	10 Years (Acre-Feet)	20 Years (Acre-Feet)
20	228,800,000	702	3,511	7,022	14,043
200	2,288,000,000	7,022	35,108	70,216	140,432
1100	12,584,000,000	38,619	193,094	386,189	772,378

This excessive water usage threatens the sustainability of local aquifers and water resources, which are essential to both residential and agricultural communities. Many landowners, including myself, depend on these aquifers for well water. Depleting these resources could lead to irreversible damage, compromising water availability for generations to come.

## Draught Conditions in Iron County:

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, all of Iron County is currently classified under drought conditions, with the majority categorized as experiencing extreme or severe drought. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District has actively urged the community to conserve water due to record low precipitation levels.

As discussed in the St George News, on 02/18/2025, in the article entitled "Facing drought conditions, Iron County water managers urge residents to conserve," *As of Feb. 14, the snow water equivalent at Webster Flat stands at 35% of the median, concerning local water authorities.*

*Recent storms have brought the equivalent up slightly, but this year still marks the driest year to date in the past 131 years in Iron County.*

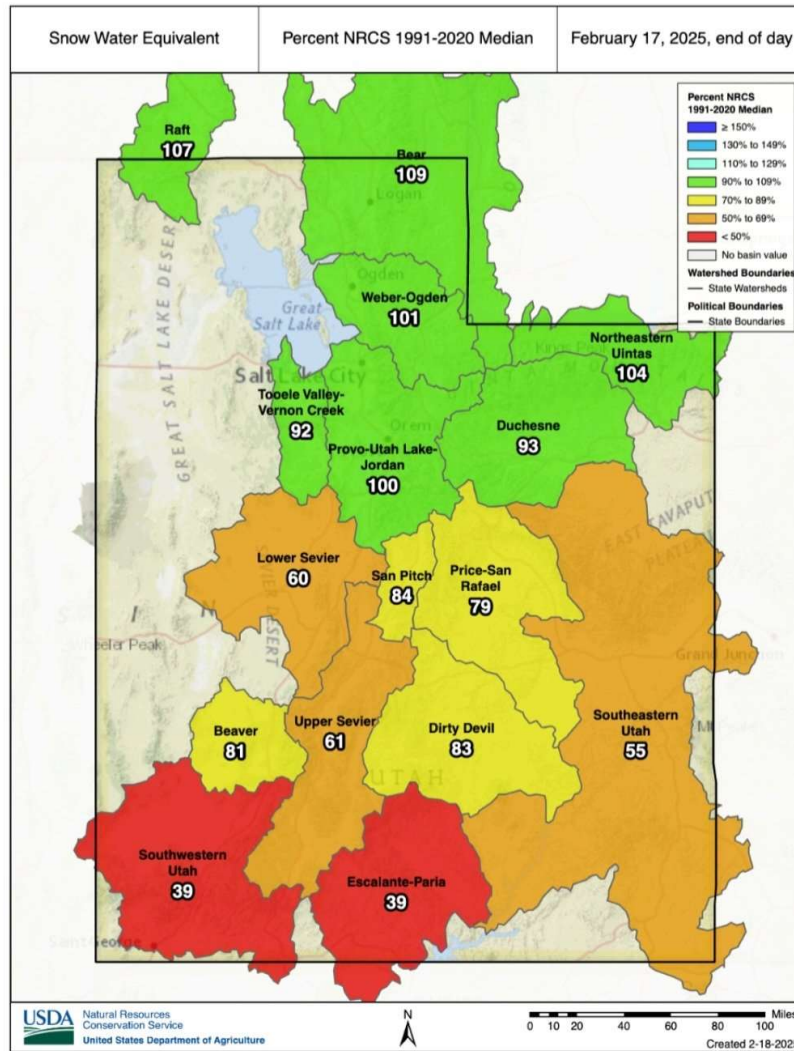
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*To address the drought and other local water challenges, the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District issued a press release urging all residents, businesses, agricultural producers and government organizations to prioritize water conservation efforts.*

*"Without significant precipitation, we are facing a record drought, and it's important that our community work together to conserve and manage our resources," General Manager Paul*

Monroe said. "While we are actively pursuing solutions due to water challenges, we need everyone to contribute to making every drop count."

Publicly available information at: [https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/facing-drought-conditions-iron-county-water-managers-urge-residents-to-conserve/article\\_f62f1dfc-ee44-11ef-8017-9fb7dc6b44b7.html](https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/facing-drought-conditions-iron-county-water-managers-urge-residents-to-conserve/article_f62f1dfc-ee44-11ef-8017-9fb7dc6b44b7.html)



Map shows snowpack at a basin level. Source: NRCS

Credit: Utah Water Conditions Update Feb. 18, 2025

Approving this mining project would undermine ongoing water conservation initiatives, contradict public advisories, and accelerate the depletion of vital water reserves.