

# Stage 3: Exceptional Drought

An Exceptional Drought has been declared by the Drought Preparedness Committee because indicators point to conditions that are extreme. Stage 3 indicates exceptionally dry conditions and will recommend water rationing. If conditions warrant, the Drought Preparedness Committee may not allow outdoor watering, and indoor water use may be restricted. Stage 3 drought recommendations could affect the quality of life in Grand County and will result in the long-term loss of landscapes.

## Indicators and Triggers

- The [US Drought Monitor Index](#) has Grand County in an extreme (D3) drought or exceptional (D4) drought conditions.
- [Snow-water equivalent](#) is less than 50% of median on April 30<sup>th</sup> and precipitation accumulation for the water year is less than 50% of average.
- [Standardized Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index](#) is greater than -1.6.
- [QuickDRI](#) is red - indicating exceptionally dry and intense conditions.
- [VegDRI](#) is indicating extreme drought.
- The situation suggests that severe impacts on water-dependent businesses are unavoidable.

## Recommended Actions

The following recommendations are voluntary and not regulatory in nature. Suggested actions go above and beyond the ‘*Routine Water Conservation Practices*’ recommended for everyday indoor and outdoor water use.

**Drought Pricing:** Drought pricing by municipal water restrictions is recommended for Stage 3 restrictions.

**Well Users:** In all cases, please review the well permit and/or water court decree for the legal uses of the well. For more information, see the Division of Water Resources website <https://dwr.colorado.gov/services/well-permitting>. To search for a well permit visit <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/WellPermits>.

| Element   | Stage 3: Exceptional  |
|---|---|
| <b>Outdoor watering and irrigation</b>  |   |
| Lawn grass (residential, HOA, commercial, industrial, institutional)            | No lawn watering.<br><br><i>Follow best management practices for Watering a Home Landscape During Drought as recommended in Appendix C of Final Drought Preparedness Plan:</i><br><a href="https://www.co.grand.co.us/1341/Drought-Preparedness-Program">https://www.co.grand.co.us/1341/Drought-Preparedness-Program</a> |
| Agricultural water, golf courses, and vegetable gardens                         | Voluntary reductions.   |
| Water wise landscapes, native/adaptive, Trees, shrubs, and perennials (private) | Water no more than one day per month.   |
| New landscape establishment   | Not allowed.  |
| Municipal streetscape   | No watering.  |
| Flowers gardens (private)   | No watering.  |
| Sport fields and parks  | Irrigated per mandatory scheduling or water budget restrictions to achieve a 30% reduction.   |
| <b>Water Features</b>   |   |
| Swimming pools, hot tubs & water features                                       | Operation of single-family residential pools and hot tubs will not be permitted. No filling of pools or hot tubs.   |
| <b>Washing / Events</b>   |   |
| Cars - washing at home and charity events                                       | Not permitted. Must use commercial car wash.  |
| Fleet vehicle washing   | Not allowed.  |
| Street cleaning   | Street sweeping for extreme health and safety issues only.  |
| Driveway and sidewalk washing   | Washing and spraying on impervious surfaces is prohibited.  |
| <b>Commercial-Institutional Processes</b>                                       |   |
| Restaurants   | Water served only on request.   |
| Lodging   | Change linens and towels only on request.   |
| Mag chloride application / grading  | Grade only after rain events.   |
| Bulk water / Construction water   | No waste of water.  |
| Hydrants  | Hydrant flushing is prohibited unless necessary for public health and safety reasons. Use of all water for fire training and use of water from hydrants is not permitted unless necessary for public safety.  |