



Steamboat II Metropolitan District

For Immediate Release:

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Steamboat Springs, CO – With no drought relief in sight, with the Yampa River dropping to historic lows, and with discharges from Fish Creek Reservoir now exceeding natural inflows, the four districts that provide water to the Steamboat Springs area - the Mount Werner Water District, the City of Steamboat Springs District, the Steamboat II Metro District, and the Tree Haus Metro District – have issued a drought warning and have announced mandatory Stage 2 water restrictions in accordance with Steamboat Springs Water Conservation Plan adopted in 2011 by the City Council and Board of Directors of the Mt. Werner Water District. The Stage 2 water restrictions go into effect immediately.

Current conditions have met all the criteria for issuing a drought warning as specified in the 2011 Steamboat Springs Water Conservation Plan:

- April 1st snow water equivalent (SWE) at the Tower SNOTEL site below 80% of average;
- an early run-off (before July 1) resulting in low flows in the Fish Creek Watershed;
- persistent higher than average temperatures;
- below average precipitation

Mandatory Stage 2 Water Restrictions

- Potable water shall be used for beneficial purposes and should not be wasted.
- No outdoor watering 10AM – 6PM.
- Watering schedule based on the last number of customer street address:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even	Odd	Even	No Watering	Odd	Even	Odd

- No vehicle washing at residences.
- No washing hard surfaces (eg. driveways, sidewalks, parking areas). Use a broom.
- No running outdoor water features.
- No use of domestic water for dust control.
- Limit the filling of swimming pools to one filling per year, unless draining for repairs.
- Permits may be secured for newly-sodded lawns and newly-planted trees for up to 14 consecutive days and for newly-seeded lawns for up to 25 consecutive days with the exception of Wednesdays.

- **Tips for conserving water:**

- Avoid watering in windy conditions.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering hard surfaces. Set timers to avoid over-watering.
- Because our clayey soils restrict penetration of water, it is better to water for three short intervals than for one long interval.
- When irrigating with a hose, use a spring-loaded nozzle, not a free-running hose.
- Cut your lawn no shorter than 3 inches to reduce soil moisture loss and to promote deeper roots.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs or sodding new lawns during the drier, hotter months.
- Plant native grasses and shrubs or drought-tolerant species in place of water-intensive species.

From the end of run-off - typically in mid-late July - Steamboat depends upon a combination of natural flows and reservoir releases from the Fish Creek watershed to carry it through the summer, fall, and winter. This is not a typical year. “The natural flows in Fish Creek have already dropped to mid-summer levels, requiring us to release reservoir water six weeks earlier than normal to meet irrigation demand”, said Jay Gallagher, Mt. Werner Water General Manager. “Reducing water demand will allow us to strike a balance between conserving our water supplies in the reservoirs and meeting riparian needs.” Reducing consumption will ease the demand placed on water filtration facilities and lower operating costs. “In the long run, wise water use and lowering per capita usage will also allow the community to defer the large capital costs of an expansion of the filtration plant,” said Joe Zimmerman, Water Superintendent for the City of Steamboat Springs.

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For more information on water saving tips and a list of drought-resistant plant species, please visit the City or District websites: www.steamboatsprings.net or www.mwwater.com .

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