

DISTRICT WIDE MESSAGE FROM PAWSD:

Stage 2 Drought Restrictions

On January 21, 2021 the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved the 2020 Drought Management Plan (Plan). The Plan sets trigger points for Voluntary drought procedures and four mandatory drought restriction stages from Low through Severe.

The trigger points for Stage 2 Drought Restrictions are any one of the following:

- On or before April 8th, SnoTel Water Equivalency Reaches 0”;
- On or before April 13th, a call is put on Four Mile Creek;
- Hatcher Reservoir levels reach 527 acre feet; and/or
- San Juan River reach 482 cfs.

At the July 31, 2025 Special Board Meeting the PAWSD Board of Directors voted unanimously to enter Drought Stage 2 per the PAWSD Drought Management Plan because one or more of the above triggers had been met.

The goal of Stage 2 Drought Restrictions is to reduce water consumption throughout the District by 20 - 30%. This requires the following limitations to irrigation:

- Irrigation is limited to 6 PM - 9 AM.
- Odd/Even watering days are based on address (i.e., if your address is an odd number water only on odd numbered calendar days and vice-versa for even numbered addresses).
- Irrigation is only permitted Monday through Friday. Weekend watering is prohibited.
- Gardens (e.g., edible and ornamental) may be hand watered using a hose or drip irrigation.
- Restaurants shall serve water only upon the request of customers.
- Hotels are encouraged to replace towels and bed linens for new guests and at the request of existing guests.
- A water rate adjustment of two times the standard tier rate is in effect for residential usage of more than 4,000 gallons a month. NOTE: There is no tier-rate adjustment or surcharge for commercial users or residential flows under 4,000 gallons per month.

Non-compliance of the drought stage requirements can result in fines up to \$500.

The Drought Management Plan can be found at: <https://www.pawsd.org/water-service/water-conservation/>.