

PUBLIC WORKS MEMORANDUM
#11-2026

DATE: April 13, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
Jason Loveland, Deputy City Manager *12*

FROM: Sarah Borgers, Director of Public Works *SB*

SUBJECT: CR-67 - Stage 2 Drought Declaration

PURPOSE

To consider CR-67, a resolution approving a Stage 2 Drought Declaration, implementing mandatory water restrictions, imposing a Stage 2 Drought Surcharge, and authorizing the City Manager to lift the Stage 2 Drought Declaration should conditions substantially improve.

BACKGROUND

Current water supply and climate indicators show severe drought both locally in Northglenn and within the City's water supply watershed. Inflow into Standley Lake, Northglenn's water storage facility, ended two weeks earlier than normal. Standley Lake did not reach full capacity. Ongoing drought conditions and below-average water storage levels are expected to continue. These conditions warrant the declaration of a Stage 2 Drought, including implementation of mandatory watering restrictions and a Stage 2 Drought Surcharge.

Northglenn Municipal Code Section 16-23-1 authorizes City Council to declare a drought and the City Manager to promulgate rules and regulations upon such declaration. Staff recommends the following mandatory water restrictions:

- No irrigation of sod prior to May 1st
- Two-day-per-week watering schedule
- No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Repair of any water leaks
- New sod allowed only with exemption
- No power-washing houses, fences, sidewalks, etc.
- Residential Stage 2 Drought Surcharge of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons used above 18,000 gallons
- Commercial Stage 2 Drought Surcharge of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons used above 100% EQR

A presentation will be provided outlining current conditions, drought stage overview, enforcement, and planned community communication.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

Reduced water consumption will negatively impact Water Fund revenues. This impact may be partially offset by the drought surcharge revenues. Northglenn Municipal Code Section 16-10-4 establishes a Stage 2 Drought Surcharge of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used over 18,000 gallons. Actual budget impacts will be dependent on the level of compliance with water restrictions by consumers.

If CR-67 is approved, the Stage 2 Drought Declaration would be in effect until lifted. The resolution authorizes the City Manager to lift the declaration should conditions substantially improve.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of CR-67.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions, contact Sarah Borgers, Director of Public Works, at sborgers@northglenn.org or 303.450.4005.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation

CR-67 - Stage 2 Drought Declaration

DROUGHT DECLARATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Sarah Borgers

Director of Public Works

303.450.4005 / sborgers@northglenn.org

Becky Smith

Director of Planning and Development

303.450.8741 / bsmith@northglenn.org

City Council Meeting

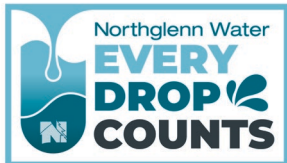
April 13, 2026



CITY OF
Northglenn

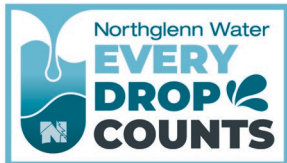
PURPOSE

To present an overview of current drought conditions, recommended drought declaration, and discussion of drought enforcement.



AGENDA

- **Current Drought Conditions**
- **Drought Stage Overview & Recommendation**
- **Enforcement**
- **Communications Plan**

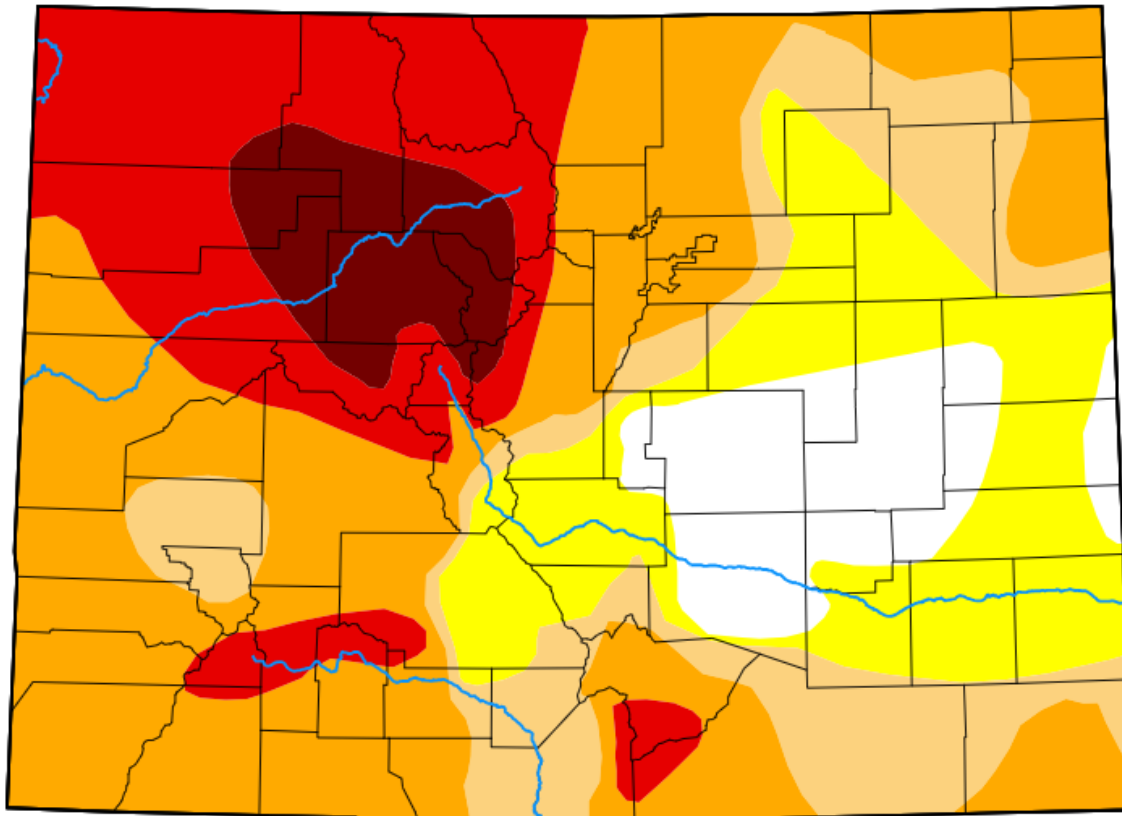
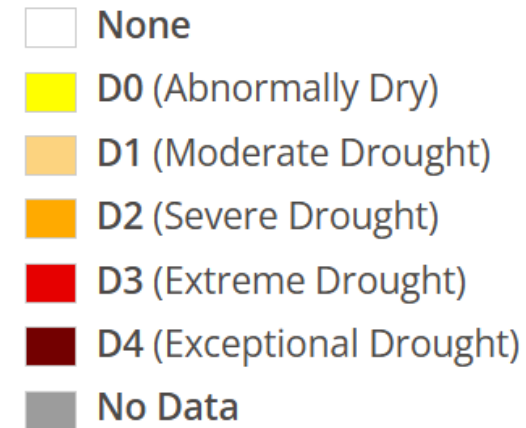


DROUGHT MONITOR

Map released: Thurs. March 26, 2026

Data valid: March 24, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

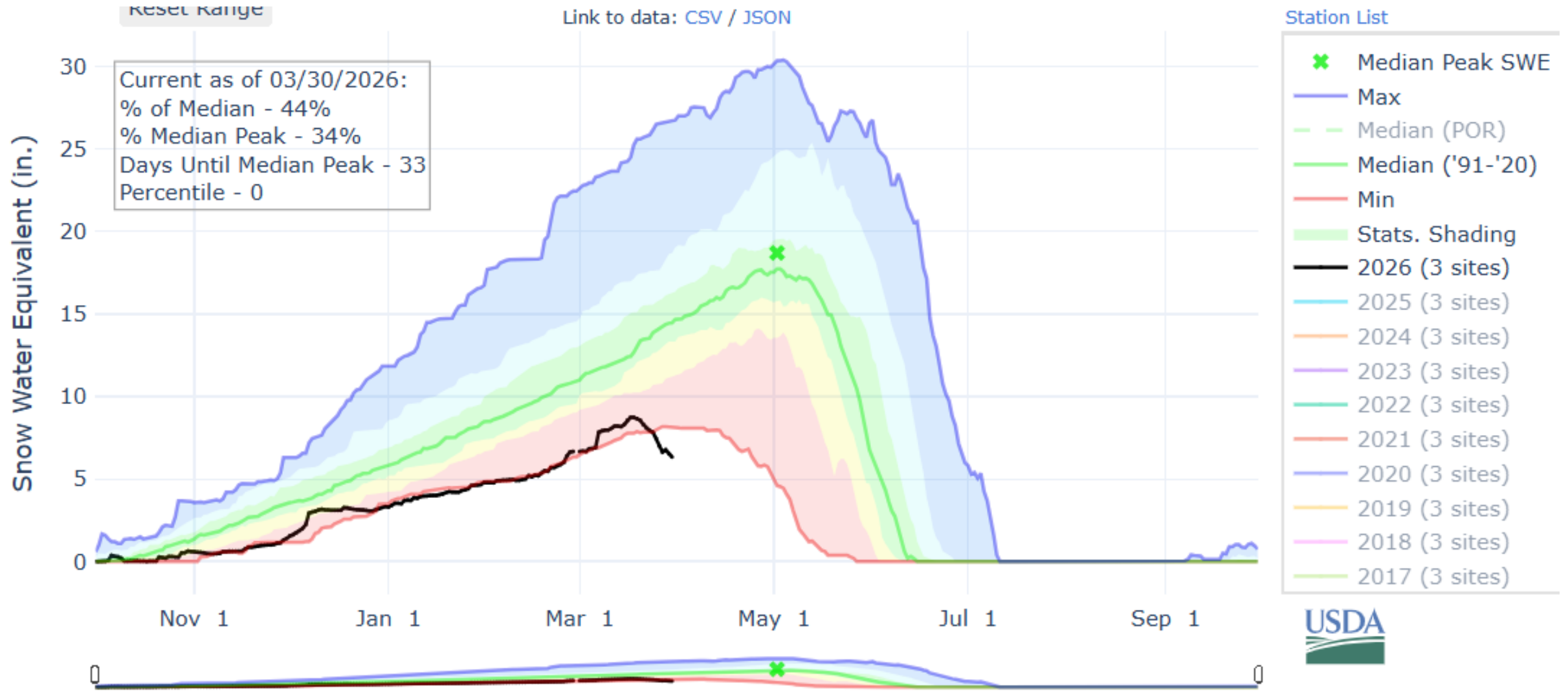
[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture



SNOWPACK – CLEAR CREEK

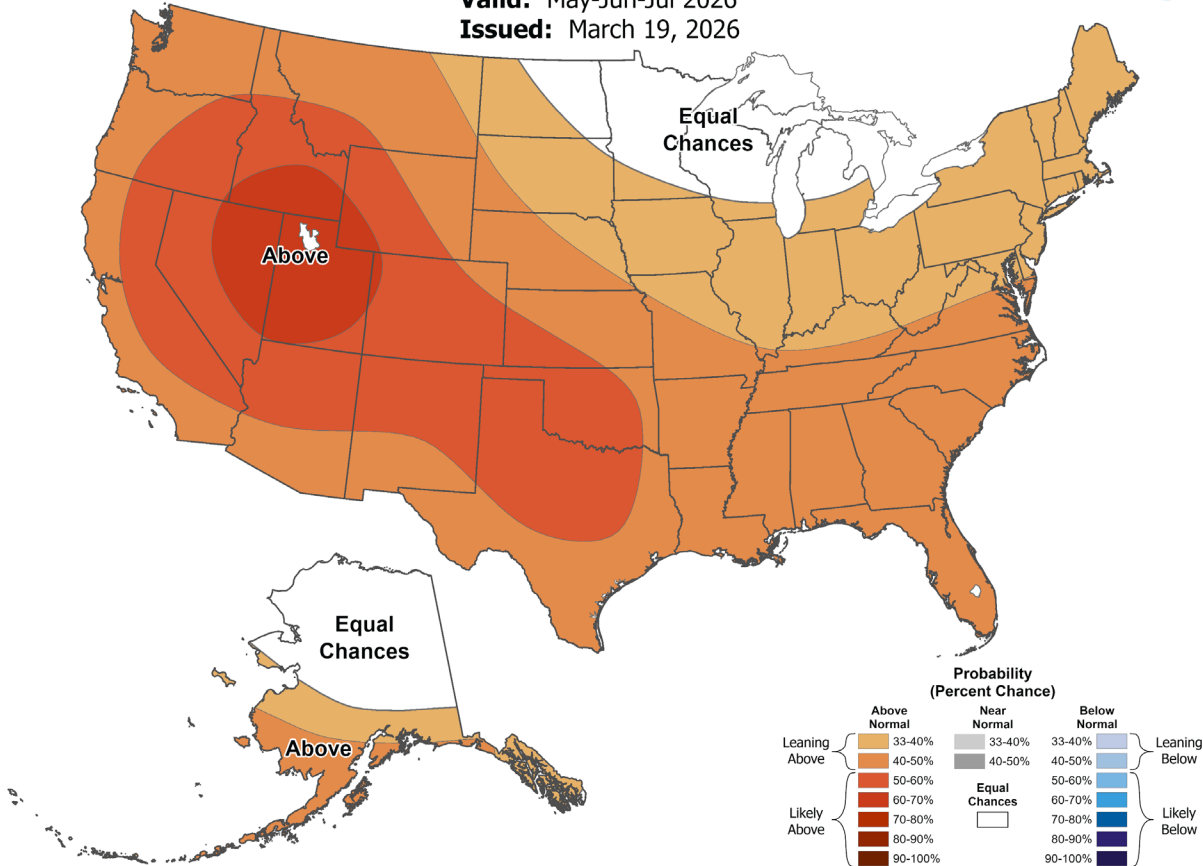


MAY – JULY FORECAST



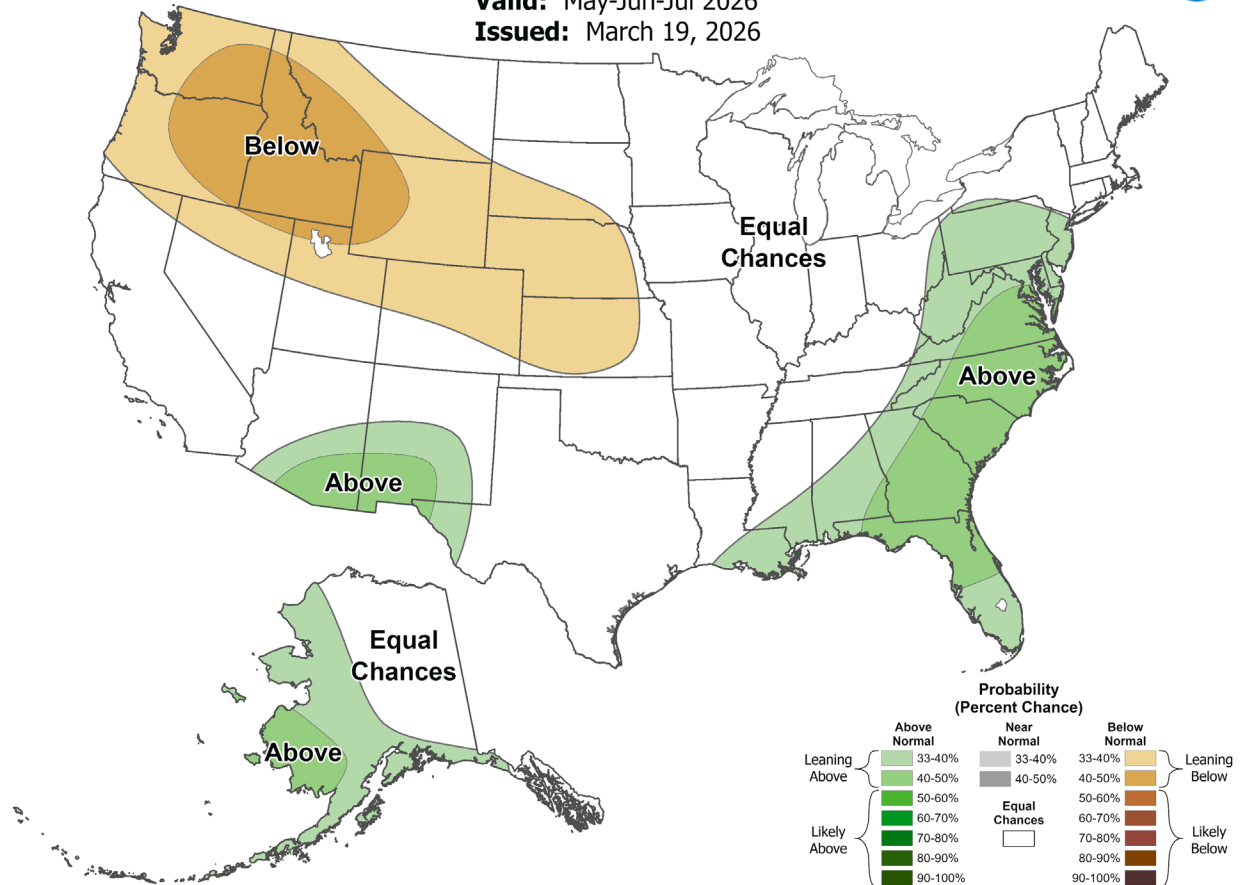
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: March 19, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: March 19, 2026



CURRENT CONDITIONS

- Drought conditions are severe
- Standley Lake did not fill
- Northglenn water rights into the lake ended early
- There is currently no inflow into Northglenn storage
- Summer water inflow is expected to be minimal



NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY STATUS

- **Denver Water: Mandatory restrictions (2 days/week)**
- **Aurora Water: Mandatory restrictions (2 days/week)**
- **Thornton: Mandatory restrictions (2 days/week)**
- **Westminster: Drought Watch – Voluntary**



DROUGHT STAGES



Non-Drought Conditions



Voluntary Restrictions



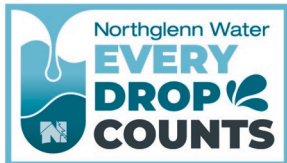
Mandatory Restrictions



Turf Ban



Emergency Rationing



CURRENT DROUGHT STAGE

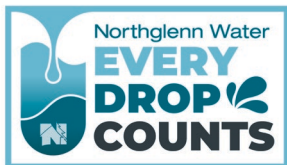


STAGE 1 DROUGHT: VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS

Primary goal: Education with increased focus on water conservation communication and outreach

Common Indicators:

- Potential for not filling Standley Lake
- U.S. Drought Monitor of D1 or greater
- Below average snowpack/streamflow forecasts



RECOMMENDED DROUGHT STAGE

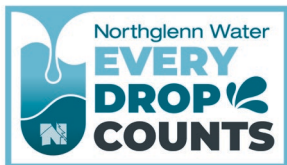


STAGE 2 DROUGHT: MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS

Primary goal: Meaningfully reduce water demand to accommodate reduced water supply

Common indicators:

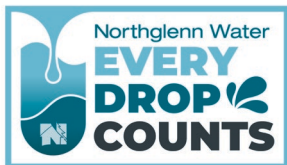
- Strong indication Standley Lake won't fill
- U.S. Drought Monitor of D3 or greater
- Drought conditions expected to persist
- Well below average snowpack/streamflow





STAGE 2 DROUGHT: MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS

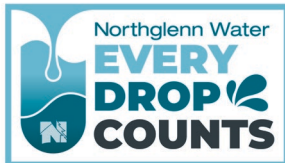
- **No Irrigation of Sod Prior to May 1st**
- **Two-Day per Week Watering Schedule**
 - Even Number Addresses: Sun/Thurs
 - Odd Number Addresses: Weds/Sat
 - Commercial (to include Apartments and HOA Common Areas): Tues/Fri
- **No Watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.**





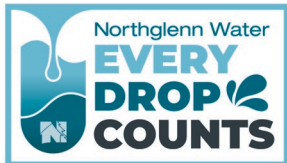
STAGE 2 DROUGHT: MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS

- **Repair any outdoor or indoor water leaks**
- **New sod allowed only with exemption**
- **No power-washing house, fence, sidewalks, etc.**
- **Water Surcharge:**
 - Residential: \$2.00 for every thousand gallons above 18,000 gals
 - Commercial: \$2.00 for every thousand gals above EQR



RECOMMENDATION

- **Conditions warrant declaration of a Stage 2 Drought: Mandatory Watering Restrictions**
 - Implement communication plan
 - Finalize enforcement policy for implementation
 - Implement City irrigation water reduction goals
 - Stand-up operational systems



ENFORCEMENT

- **Recommended Tiered Response:**
 - Door Hanger - Education
 - 1st Penalty: \$50
 - 2nd Penalty: \$300
 - 3rd Penalty: \$999

**Municipal Code allows up to \$999 fee for non-compliance with an allowance for Council to approve a tiered structure. Fees would be applied to utility bill.*



OOPS!
We noticed a watering issue at your address.

TODAY'S ISSUE:

- ☐ Watering on the wrong day
- ☐ Watering at the wrong time
- ☐ Overwatering

NOTES:

This is a just friendly reminder! But future violations will result in fines, so let's get it right together.

YOUR WATERING SCHEDULE:

Even-numbered addressesSundays & Thursdays

Odd-numbered addressesWednesdays & Saturdays

Commercial, Apartment & HOA common areas Tuesdays & Fridays

Only water before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

NEXT TIME, FINES APPLY

1st violation	\$50
2nd violation	\$300
3rd violation	\$999

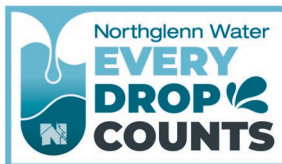
QUESTIONS?
We're here to help. Learn more about how to conserve water at northglenn.org/drought.



EVERY DROP COUNTS.
Thanks for doing your part, Northglenn.

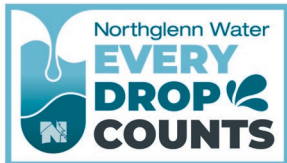


The City of Northglenn is currently under a Stage 3 Drought Declaration with mandatory water restrictions pursuant to Section 10-24 of the Northglenn Municipal Code. These water restrictions are in place to maximize the useful benefits of water to our community during times of water supply limitations.



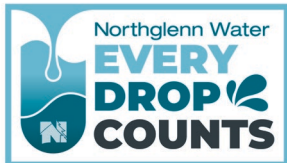
ENFORCEMENT

- **Landscape regulations for residential and non-residential will not be enforced while drought regulations are in effect, except for the following:**
 - Noxious weeds that fall into a health and safety category
 - Grass and weed height will be addressed with a door hanger and only escalated if violation becomes egregious
- **Dormant yards are not "dead" yards**



ENFORCEMENT

- **Exemption: Installation of new sod**
 - *Allowed for new development*
 - *Not to exceed 21 days to establish sod*
 - *New installation of seed would not be allowed*
 - *Apply for the exemption at Maintenance & Operations Facility, 12301 Claude Court*
 - *Customer to post the exemption in a visible location for the duration of the exemption*
 - *Not more than one exemption per irrigation season*
 - *Drip irrigation and hand watering is allowed any day*



COMMUNICATION PLAN

Outreach Avenues:

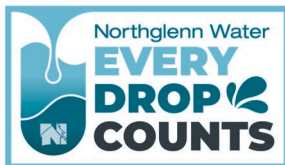
- FAQ (English/Spanish)
- Business cards with QR code (English/Spanish)
- Social media campaign
- Website banner
- Connection newsletter



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



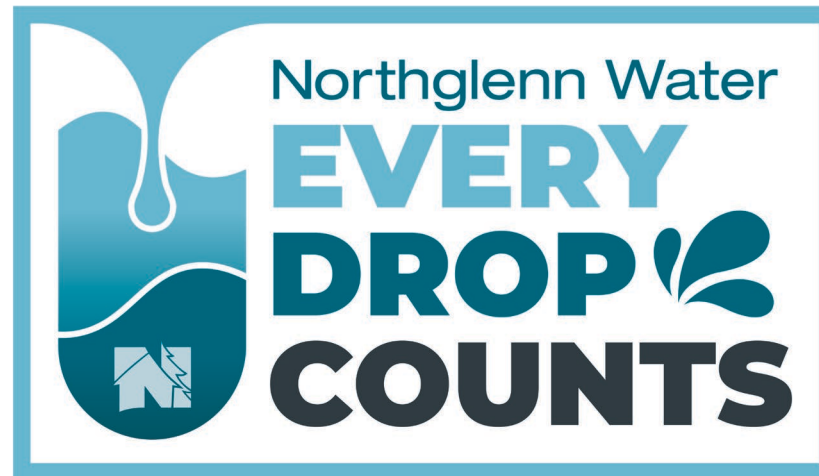
- Slow the Flow: Get a free irrigation checkup and free smart controller and rain sensor if needed
- Garden in a Box: \$25 discount on xeric gardens (quantities limited)
- Lawn replacement: Up to \$750 discount
- 4 free Garden in a Box kits at no cost with DIY sod removal
- \$75 toilet rebate
- \$100 washing machine rebate
- \$50 rain barrel rebate
- Education



MORE INFORMATION

Drought Management Plan and related
information available online:

www.northglenn.org/drought



QUESTIONS?



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SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCIL MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-67
Series of 2026

Series of 2026

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STAGE 2 DROUGHT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN

WHEREAS, the watersheds and water storage facilities from which the City of Northglenn receives its water supply are experiencing below-average precipitation and stream flows; and

WHEREAS, drought management and water conservation efforts are necessary to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents and water system customers, protect the City's valuable water resources, and minimize adverse impacts to City services; and

WHEREAS, the Northglenn Municipal Code provides the authority for the City Council to declare that a drought is occurring and authorizes the City Manager to promulgate rules and regulations to preserve and protect the water resources of the City upon such declaration; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that a Stage 2 Drought declaration, as described in the City's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, is appropriate given the current water supply conditions; and

WHEREAS, during Stage 2: Mandatory Restrictions, the City Manager shall publish, post or otherwise make available copies of the Rules and Regulations in the manner determined by the City Manager as best calculated to reach the largest number of water consumers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. A Stage 2 Drought is hereby declared for the City of Northglenn, effective upon passage of this resolution.

Section 2. The City Manager is authorized to implement rules and regulations governing water usage by all customers of the Northglenn water system in response to the Stage 2 Drought declaration pursuant to Section 16-23-1 of the Northglenn Municipal Code.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, MMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney