

Evergreen Metro District

Water Outlook Report

2020

Evergreen Metro District receives its drinking water supply from Evergreen Lake. The water that feeds Evergreen Lake comes from the Upper Bear Creek Watershed. The watershed originates on the east side of Mount Evans and extends down to Evergreen Lake. The water supply exists in the watershed in the form of snowpack, rainfall, small tributaries and ponds, and groundwater. The watershed is a dynamic, ever changing environment. To stay in touch with water conditions, the District monitors several key water and weather databases on a constant basis. This is very important in the early spring months of March and April. The information is analyzed to determine the outlook for stream flows and water availability for the upcoming summer season. The newsletter is provided for your use so that you may plan your summer landscaping and irrigation use responsibly.

2020 Water Outlook

Winter and early spring snow produced a fair snowpack. The snowpack did not exceed the 30-year average. As a result, we were relying on lower temperatures and cloud cover to protect the limited snowpack. This was not productive as spring weather has been warmer and drier than normal and the snowpack melted off quickly. Couple this with lower than normal spring rain and the runoff was low and stream flows have declined rapidly. Couple this with extended forecasts of higher than normal temperatures and average or lower than normal precipitation point to lower than normal stream flows through the summer months. Low stream flows will mean summer drought conditions will probably happen.

What Does This Mean?

It means the supply of water will be lower than normal. Evergreen Metro District has a Water Conservation Plan in Place. It is required of all water utilities in the State to maintain and comply with. The District Water Conservation Plan has 3 levels of Drought Response.

Pre-Irrigation Season Drought Response Level #1 - Voluntary water conservation.

THE DISTRICT IS ANNOUNCING A LEVEL 1 DROUGHT CONDITION. VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION BY OUR CUSTOMERS IS RECCOMMENDED.

- Unless conditions significantly change due to long periods of precipitation or individually large storm events that create large increases in stream flow, Drought Response Level #1 will remain in place for the remainder of the irrigation season; July 1st to October 31st.
- The District is currently asking all customers to voluntarily reduce water usage, particularly outside watering of grass and landscaping.
- Outside watering is recommended to occur before 10:00 AM and after 6:00 PM for maximum conservation of water.
- If the flow in Bear Creek holds at or above a 10.0 cfs reading at the Evergreen Lake gauge, then this will be the extent of action taken.

Drought Response - Level #2 – Mandatory Water Conservation

- These drought conditions would be determined by a Bear Creek gauge reading of 10.0 cfs to 5.0 cfs for a 7-day running average at the Evergreen Lake gauge.
- Watering zones should operate for irrigation no more than 30 minutes per zone per watering day.
- Golf courses will be required to reduce their irrigation use by 30%.

- All irrigation taps serving public parks and ball fields will be required to go to three days per week irrigation watering, and reduce their water use by 30% on a metered average.
- All outside watering will be required to occur before 10:00 AM and after 6:00 PM, unless maintenance of the irrigation system is involved.
- Water rate penalties will go into effect for customers that ignore the cutback request.
- Penalties will be waived for first time offenders; however, 2nd offenses and on will be subject to \$50.00 per offense fines.
- Customers will be limited to water use of 14,000 gallons per month per equivalent tap, and all water used at and above that amount will be billed at the tier 2 drought penalty rate that is established annually by the Board.
- All water haulers using the pay station will be limited to hauling for indoor use only. No hauling for irrigation purposes will be allowed.
- Hauling violations will result in loss of hauling privileges.
- The 7-day running average at the Evergreen gauge will be used by the Water Conservation Committee to change drought level responses at their discretion, and public announcements will be made whenever drought response changes are made.

Severe Drought Response Level #3 - Crisis Water Management

- Drought Level 3 will be determined by a Bear Creek gauge reading of 5.0 cfs or less at the Evergreen Lake gauge based on a 7-day running average.
- The Water Shortage Response Team will be notified of the worsening conditions.
- The response to this worsening drought condition will be to declare a state of water emergency.
- Signs declaring this emergency state will be strategically placed around the District.
- The District will restrict all water use to basic indoor uses and aggressively enforce an outside watering moratorium.
- No lawn irrigation will be allowed.
- Hand watering of shrubs, plants, and flowers will be allowed.
- Car washing can occur with a bucket and hose with a shut off nozzle.
- This outside watering moratorium should allow for some flow down Bear Creek until stream flows drop to 2.5 cfs or below. Then Evergreen will be relying on Evergreen Lake as an emergency supply and Bear Creek below the dam will go dry.
- Fines will be imposed on customers violating the outside irrigation ban.
- Fines will be \$100.00 for 1st offense, \$200.00 for 2nd offense, and all subsequent offenses.
- All golf courses and irrigation taps will be cut off until this level of drought is lifted, except for minimal drafts on storage for Evergreen Golf Course to water tees and greens only.
- This state of emergency will be broadcast on Denver radio and television stations along with notice at all public buildings, the local newspapers, and the District's customer bills, website, Facebook page, and phone answering message.
- Customers will be limited to water use of 7,500 gallons per month per equivalent tap, and all water used at and above that amount will be billed at the tier 3 drought penalty rate that is established annually by the Board. All water used at and above that amount will be billed at the tier 2 (double the tier 1) drought penalty rate that is established annually by the Board.
- A public announcement will be made whenever this Severe Drought Level has ended or an increase in stream flow above 5.0 cfs for a 7-day running average has occurred that will allow the District to administer a Level 2 drought condition response.

Water Rationing

- After Level 3 drought responses have been enacted, and the level of Evergreen Lake continues to decline to 1 foot below the top of the dam, the Committee may enact a water-rationing program. Signs will be placed at strategic locations around the District declaring the emergency water rationing program.
- Initial water rationing shall require all residential and commercial customers to restrict their indoor water use to 6,000 gallons per month per equivalent tap.
- A water penalty rate will be enacted per thousand gallons for all use above 6,000 gallons per equivalent tap per month.
- If the water level in Evergreen Lake continues to decline past 2 feet down even more severe water rationing will be enacted.
- No outside use of water for irrigation of any kind will be allowed for any reason.
- No car washing or any outside household use of water will be allowed.
- Public announcements will be made in the local news and posted on the District customer bills, website, Facebook page, and phone answering message when a change in drought conditions occurs.
- Fines will be set at double previous rates, and will be assessed against all outside water use.

**Contact us at 303-674-4112 or at ddevaney@evergreenmetro.org
visit us at www.evergreenmetro.org if you have questions.**