



APPENDIX I – Water Use and Drought Restriction Policy

Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District
Water and Sanitation Department – Rules and Regulations

WATER USE AND DROUGHT RESTRICTION POLICY

PURPOSE

The Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District (“District”) provides water distribution, wastewater collection, and treatment of water and wastewater services for the Copper Mountain villages and ski area. The District’s water supply is derived primarily from groundwater produced by three wells. District infrastructure is designed to provide a reasonable and reliable level of water service for residents, businesses, and visitors.

However, weather conditions, extended drought, equipment failures, source water limitations, or contamination events may reduce available water supplies and necessitate mandatory water use restrictions. The District recognizes that water use is unique to each customer and that conservation measures may create short-term inconveniences. Nevertheless, responsible water conservation is essential to protecting the long-term reliability and sustainability of the District’s water supply system.

STANDARD WATER USAGE GUIDELINES

The District encourages all customers to practice water conservation year-round, not solely during periods of drought or water shortages.

Recommended indoor conservation measures include:

1. Installing low-flow plumbing fixtures and water-efficient toilets;
2. Operating dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads;
3. Promptly identifying and repairing plumbing leaks; and
4. Utilizing water-efficient appliances and fixtures whenever practical.

Outdoor water use should recognize the unique character and environmental sensitivity of the alpine mountain environment. Landscaping should prioritize native and drought-tolerant vegetation, and xeriscape designs are strongly encouraged. Irrigation systems should utilize drip irrigation where feasible and minimize the use of overhead spray irrigation.

Where automatic irrigation systems are installed, rain sensors or other moisture-sensing controls should be utilized, or irrigation systems should otherwise be manually shut off during or following precipitation events. Grass should generally not be cut shorter than four inches (4”) in height to promote soil moisture retention. Large areas of high-water-demand turf grass, including bluegrass lawns, are strongly discouraged.

INDICATORS AND TRIGGERS

Staff shall monitor four primary indicators to determine the appropriate response level:

1. **Drought Status** – [US Drought Monitor](#)
2. **Snowpack**: [SNOTEL](#) measurements and snowpack observations
3. **Water Table**: Real-time monitoring of well level sensors
4. **Wellfield Production**: Available well flow compared to system demand. Sufficient aquifer recharge time.



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WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVELS

Water shortage declarations are based on the above indicators. Any of the indicators can trigger a response level.

Response Level	Conditions	Restrictions
Normal Operations	No critical indicators present	Encourage voluntary adopted outdoor watering schedule (3x/week)
Stage 1: Moderate	Preliminary signs of critical indicators	Invoke mandatory adopted outdoor watering schedule (3x/week)
Stage 2: Severe	Some critical indicators present.	Mandatory outdoor watering schedule (2x/week)
Stage 3: Extreme	Multiple critical indicators present.	Restrict outdoor water usage to hand-watering only.
Stage 4: Exceptional	Emergency conditions	No Outdoor Water Usage Allowed – including but not limited to irrigation, hand watering, washing of vehicles, structures, boats, etc.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Normal Operations:

- Under normal operations outdoor watering and conservation measures are voluntary. Water only as needed and no more than three (3) days per week. The District strongly encourages all users to always practice water conservation.

Stage 1: Moderate Water Shortage Conditions- Mandatory Restrictions:

- **All Addresses:** Outdoor watering only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
- **Black Out Days:** Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- **Watering Windows:** Outdoor watering permitted only before 8:00 AM and after 8:00 PM.

Stage 2: Severe Water Shortage Conditions - Mandatory Restrictions:

- **All Addresses:** Outdoor watering only on Tuesdays & Saturdays.
- **Black Out Days:** Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- **Watering Windows:** Outdoor watering permitted only before 8:00 AM and after 8:00 PM.
- A surcharge may be added to all irrigation use rates – this includes irrigation Tiers 1, 2, 3, & 4. This is to increase awareness of the drought's severity.

Stage 3: Extreme Water Shortage Conditions – Mandatory Restrictions:

- No automated sprinkler or spray irrigation systems are allowed. No washing of vehicles, structures, boats, or watering of turf surfaces, etc.
- Hand watering only, using either a watering can or a hose with a shut-off nozzle is allowed. Turning a hose on and leaving it unattended, or turning on a sprinkler, is not allowed.
- Hand watering or drip irrigation is permitted exclusively in accordance with the designated Stage 2 (above) watering schedule. Hand watering is allowed at any time of day. Hand watering turf surfaces is not allowed.
- A surcharge may be added to all water service and irrigation use rates – this includes Tier 1, 2 & all Irrigation Tiers. This is to increase awareness of the drought's severity.



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Stage 4: Exceptional Water Shortage Conditions – Emergency Declaration:

- No outside water usage is permitted – including irrigation, hand water, washing of vehicles, structures, boats, etc.
- A surcharge may be added to all water service and irrigation use rates – this includes Tier 1, 2 & all Irrigation Tiers. This is to increase awareness of the drought's severity.

INVOKING RESTRICTIONS

If conditions of the water system or the water supply limit the availability of water that normal water use may endanger the adequacy of the water supply, the District may declare a water supply emergency and implement restrictions that are reasonably necessary to conserve and protect the water supply. This is to insure an uninterrupted flow of water through the system. Such water use regulations and restrictions shall remain in force and effect until the District determines that the conditions requiring their imposition no longer exist. Compliance with water use restrictions is a requirement of these Rules & Regulations.

Water use restriction conditions include but are not limited to: impairment of water supply quantity and/or quality; water main break; loss of electrical power or pump outages; or loss of system pressure. The District may use; emergency notification systems, electronic messaging and/or local signage, as deemed appropriate and necessary in the discretion of the District to notify the public of the drought response levels and any water use restrictions.

Restrictions may be imposed with the following steps. (1) Recommendations of the District Manager and Public Works Director, or employed water operators of the District, (2) Approval of the recommendations by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting of the Board. In the event of an emergency, the restrictions may be imposed prior to a regular or special board meeting with the approval of the District Manager. In such event, the Board of Directors will act to ratify or repeal the restrictions at the next board meeting.

ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY FEE STRUCTURE

Water violations can be observed and reported by any resident, employee, or Board Member of the District. The first violation will be reported to the property owner either orally or in writing. Subsequent violations of water restrictions shall be in writing and carry the following penalty fees to the next quarterly billing.

1. **First Violation:** Written Warning / Educational Visit or Call.
2. **Second Violation:** \$250.00 fine added directly to next water bill - Immediate notification.
3. **Subsequent Violations:** \$250.00 fine per occurrence. The period of time for a single violation is assumed to be one day. Further violations could result in potential service being shut off and other applicable fines.

Violation notices will be sent electronically to the property owner and/or management company. The District will make every reasonable effort to send electronically, and by posting the violation notice on the property, to inform the property owner of the violation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The District will provide notice of any water restriction in effect by posting on the District's website. Additional means of notice may include through the quarterly billing mailed to owners, emails to water users via the Copper Mountain Resort Association homeowner newsletter, special mailings to owners, and as determined at the discretion of the District's Board of Directors, District Manager, or Public Works Director.



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VARIANCE

If you have a special need—such as compliance with Summit County building requirements, maintain a publicly used area, or have a vegetable garden/greenhouse — you may apply for a temporary variance from Stage 2 or Stage 3 restrictions. No variance will be granted to Stage 4 restrictions.

Email Your Request: send a brief explanation to admin@coppermetro.org.

Include Key Details:

- Name and service address.
- Reason for the request.
- Describe the nature and amount of water use requested that requires a variance.
- How long you will need the variance.

Wait for Approval: Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. You must receive a formal approved Variance Permit issued by the District before increasing water use or violating any water use restrictions then in effect.