



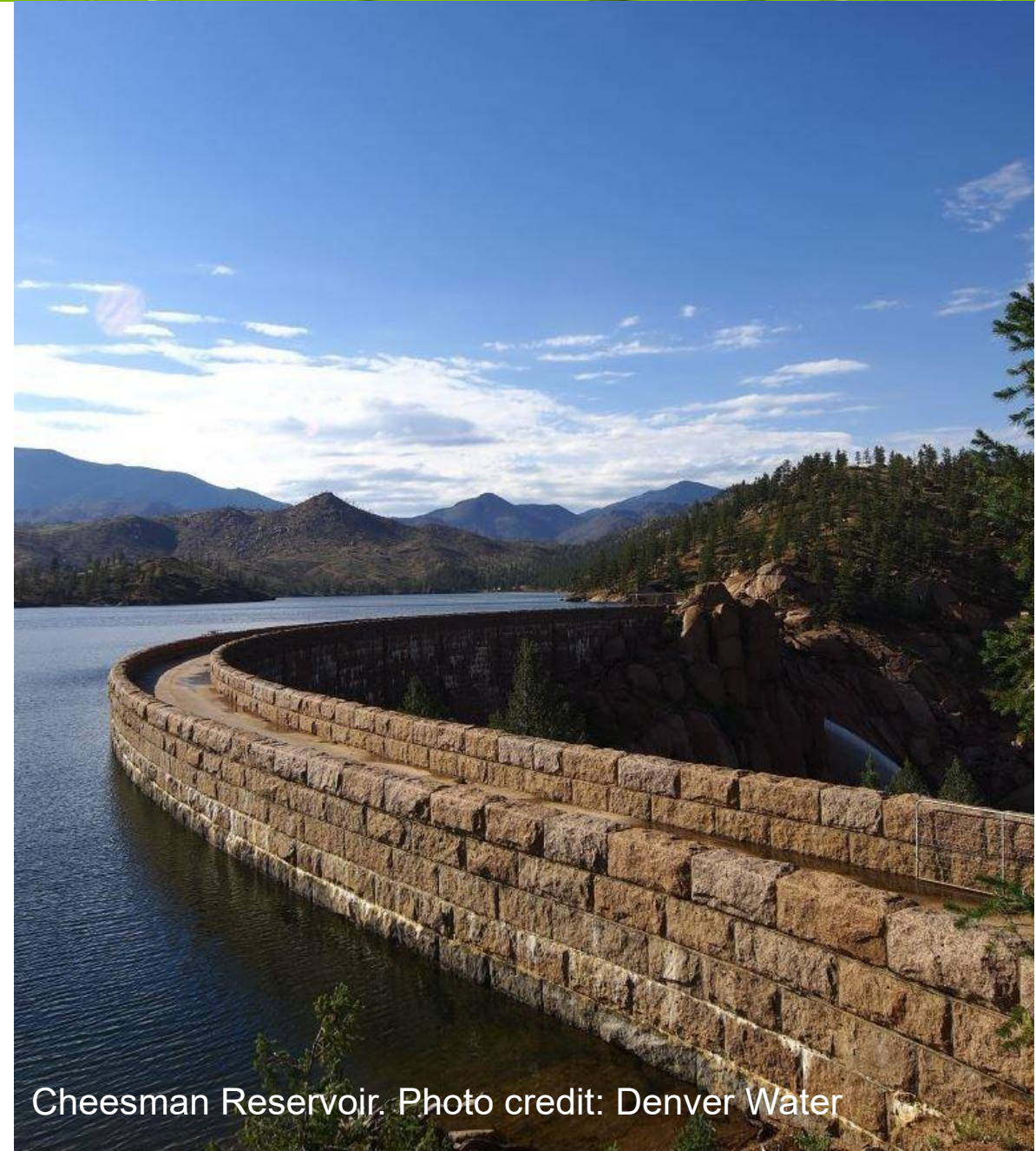
Denver Water drought overview

May 13, 2026



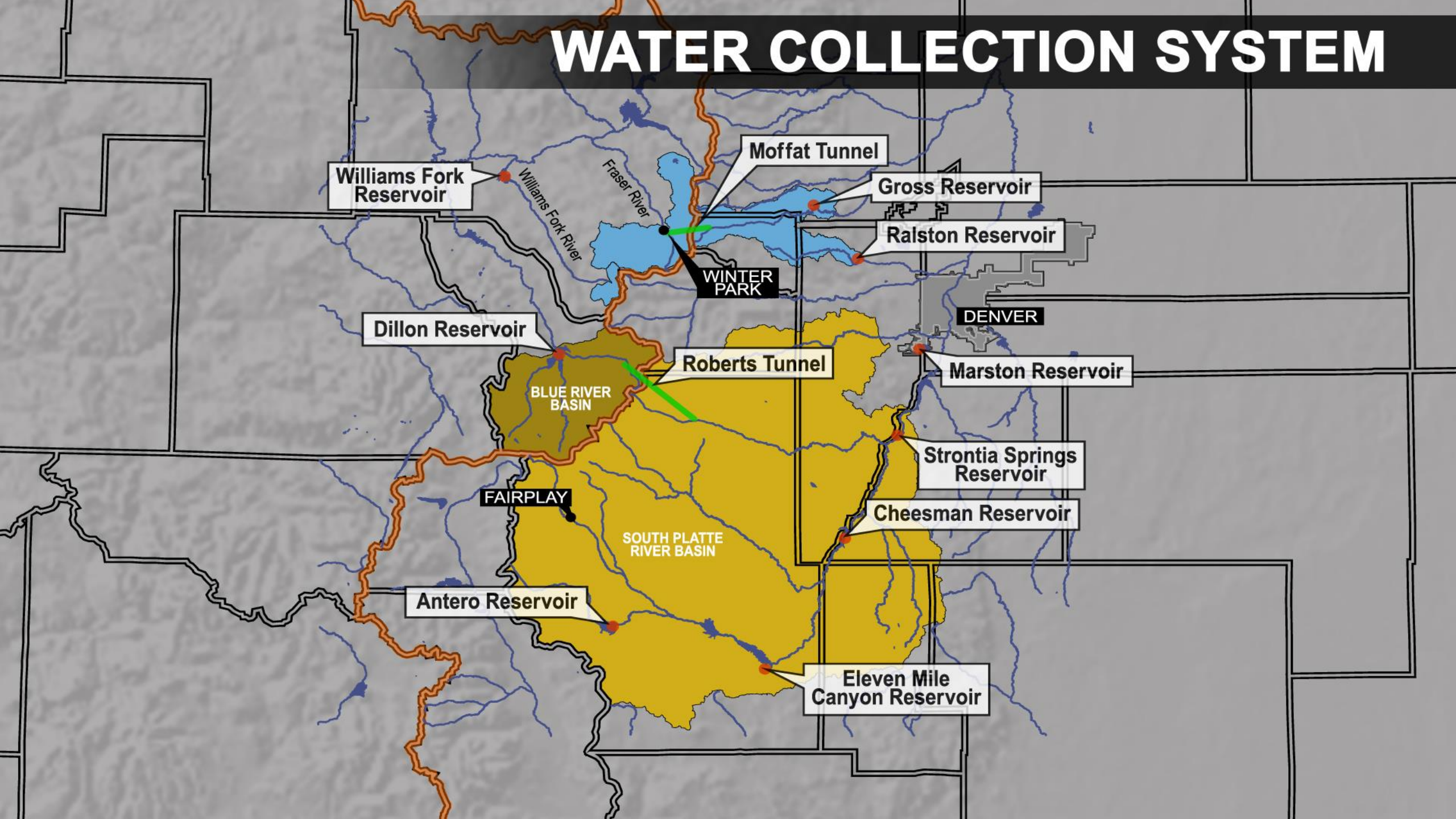
Denver Water facts

- Colorado's oldest and largest water utility, founded in 1918.
- Serves 1.5 million people (25% of the state's population) with less than 2% of all the water used in the state.
- 4,000 square miles of watershed area.
- 3,000 miles of pipe; 20,000+ hydrants; 80,000+ valves; 20 dams; 12 reservoirs; 4 treatment plants; 20 pump stations.
- 1,100 employees working statewide.
- Water supply comes from snowmelt feeding the South Platte and Colorado rivers.

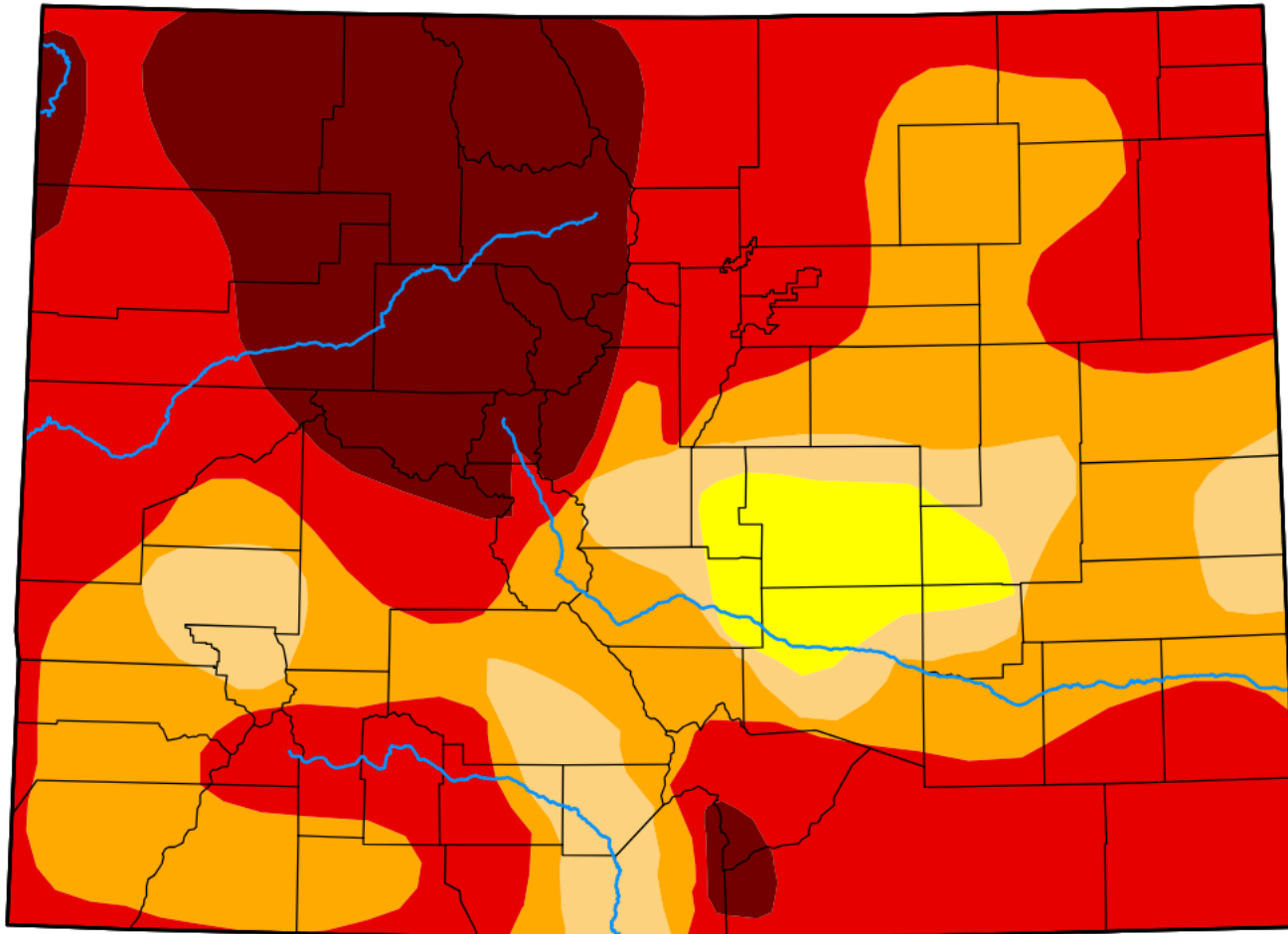


Cheesman Reservoir. Photo credit: Denver Water

WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM










Colorado Drought Monitor



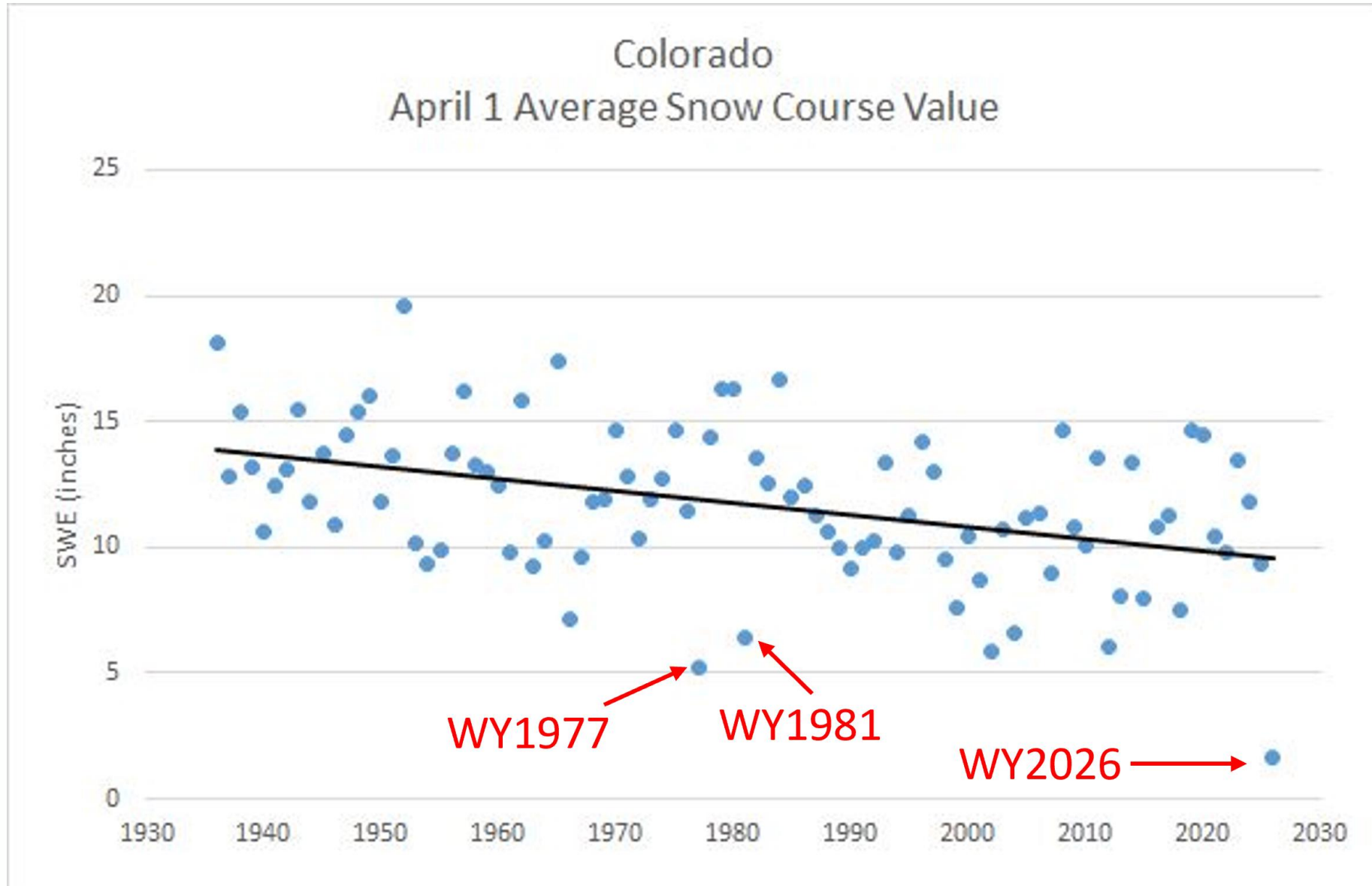
Map released: Thurs. May 7, 2026

Data valid: May 5, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

-  None
-  D0 (Abnormally Dry)
-  D1 (Moderate Drought)
-  D2 (Severe Drought)
-  D3 (Extreme Drought)
-  D4 (Exceptional Drought)
-  No Data

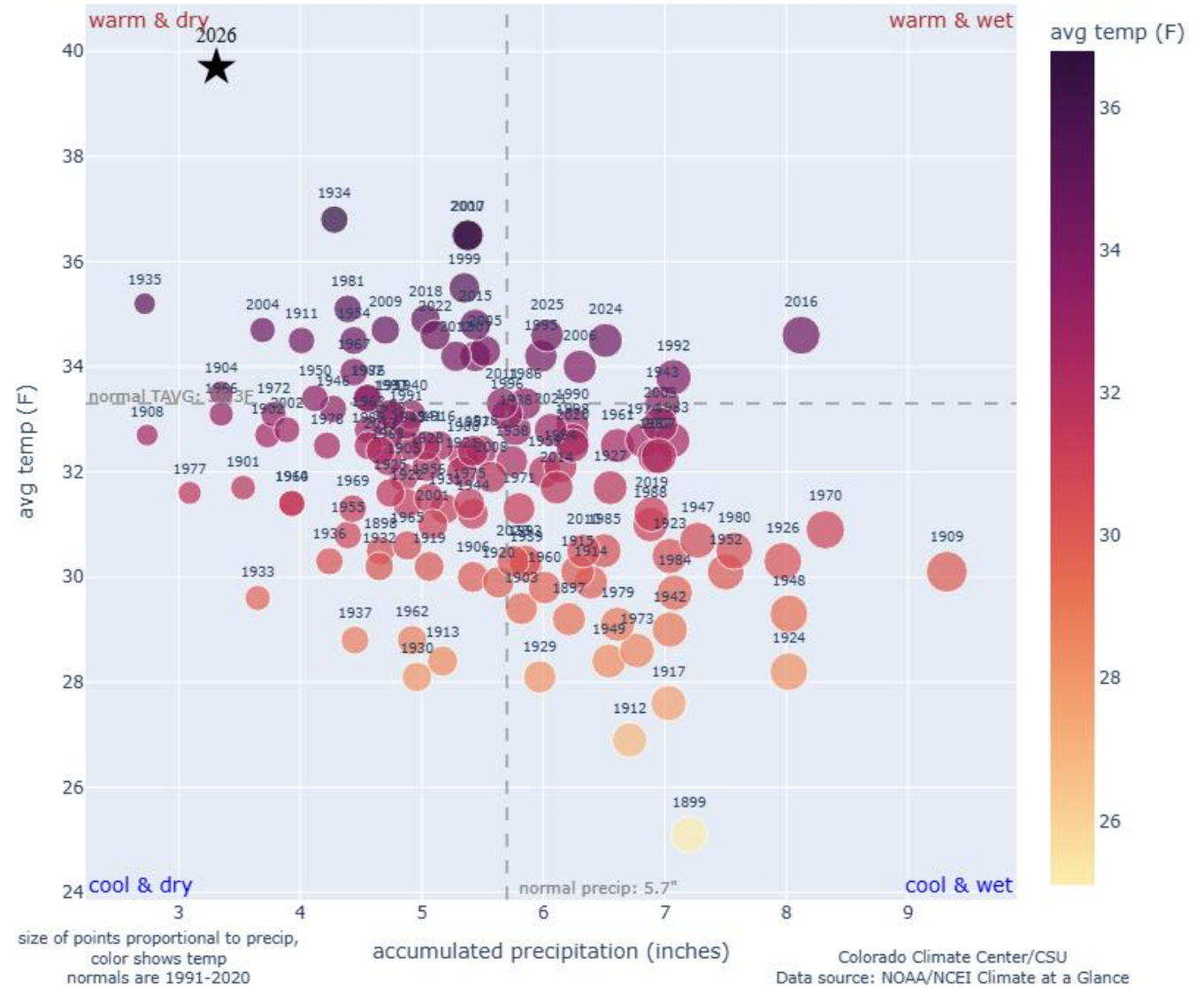
Statewide Snow Course Data



South Platte Basin Winter

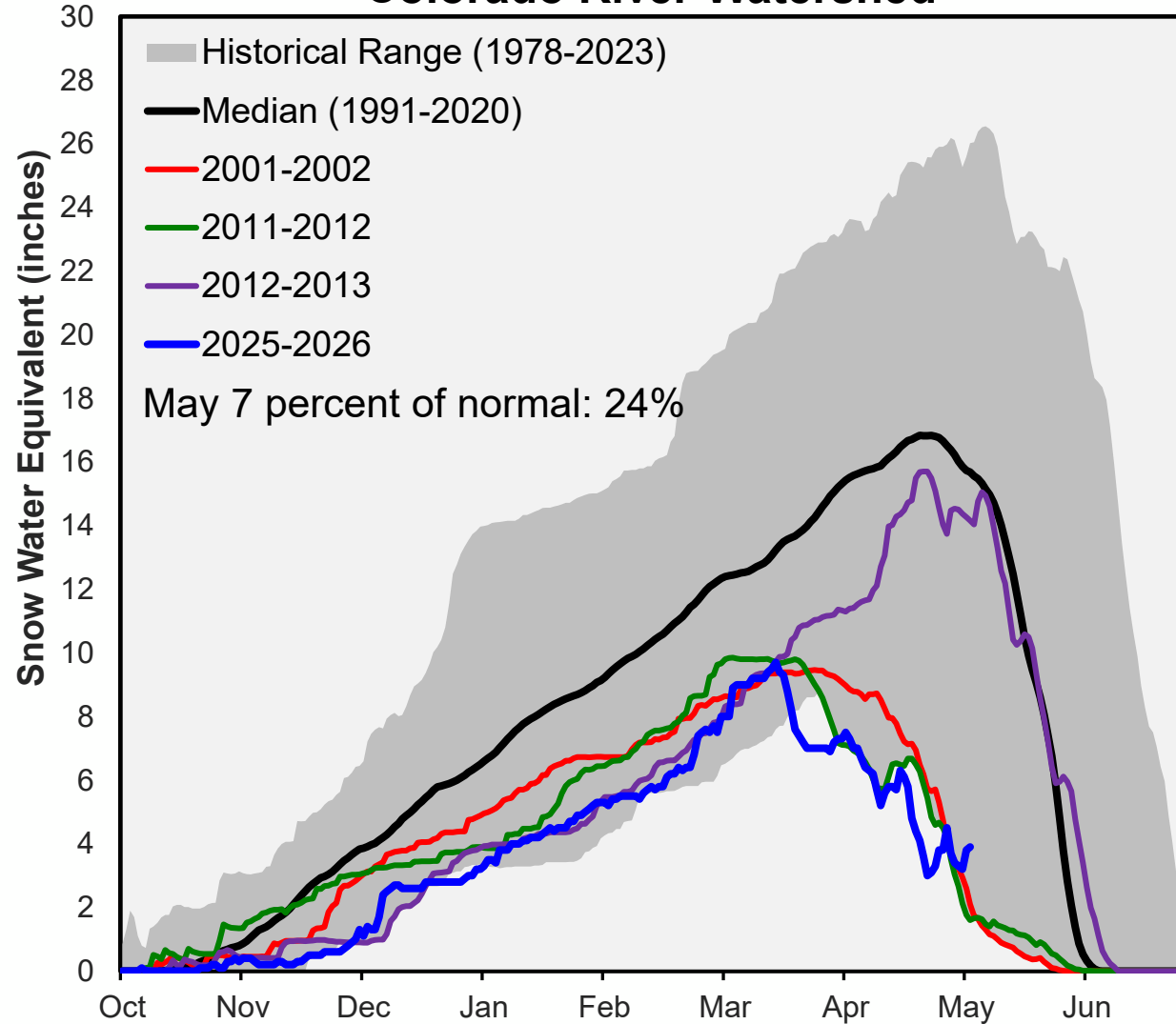
This winter was among the **driest** and by far the **warmest** winter in the South Platte Basin.

Colorado CD4 (Platte drainage) average temperature and precipitation, October - March



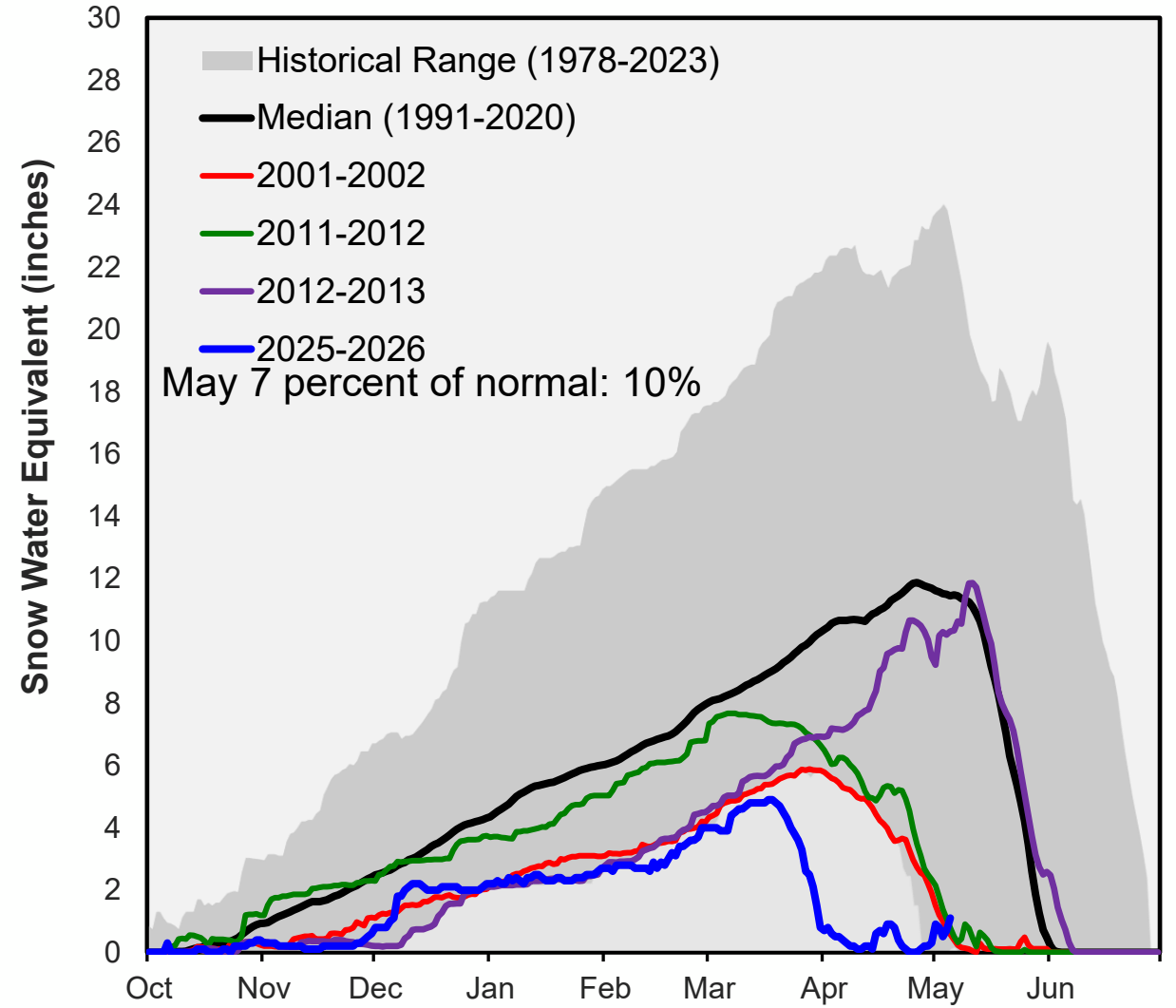
Snow Water Equivalent

Colorado River Watershed



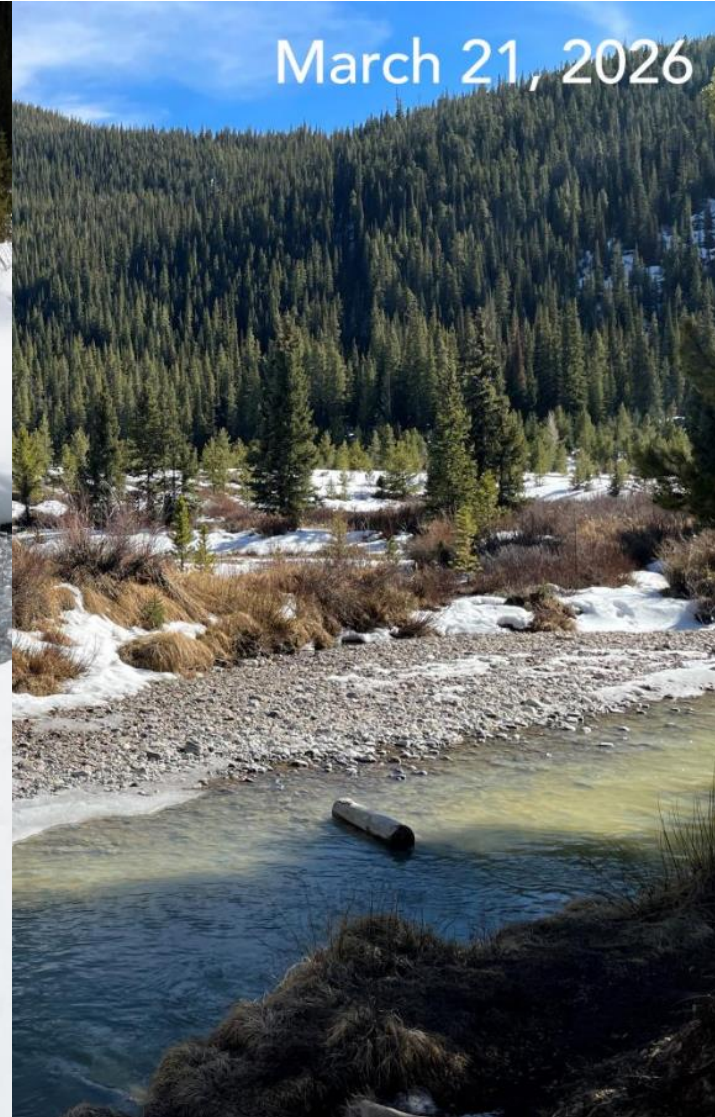
Data are from the 9 SNOTEL stations above Denver Water's Upper Colorado diversion facilities.

South Platte River Watershed



Data are from the 7 SNOTEL stations above Denver Water's Upper South Platte diversion facilities.

What does record-low snowpack look like?



Always in place:

- Summer watering rules
- Landscape transformation program
- Rebates and efficiency tips
- Outdoor water use reports
- And more:



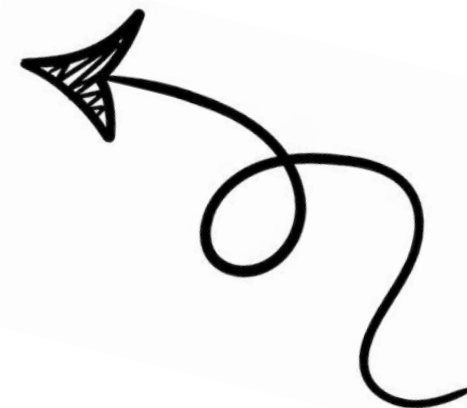
denverwater.org/Conserve



Photo credit: Plant Select

Four stages of response:

- **Watch:** Increased communication and outreach; possible water use restrictions as provided by contract.
- **Stage 1: Mandatory water use restrictions, with assigned watering days – no more than 2 days per week.**
- **Stage 2:** Increased mandatory water use restrictions, including certain prohibitions on outdoor watering.
- **Stage 3:** Rationing of water.



Drought pricing (begins with May use)

Tier 1: indoor use, exempt from charges

Tier 2: efficient outdoor use, additional \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons

Tier 3: potentially inefficient outdoor use, additional \$2.20 per 1,000 gallons


Goals of drought response:







- **Achieve 20% reduction in *all* customers' water use.**
- Uphold community health, safety and economic vitality.
- Maintain customer trust.
- Stretch our water supplies.



What does this mean for outdoor water use?

- Follow watering days schedule.
- There are establishment permits for new seed, sod, plants and waterwise plants.
- Water-use reductions of 20% for all customers, including parks, golf courses and industrial.
- Some parks and golf courses will have separate agreements.

 **It's a drought. Use Only What You Need.**
Mandatory 2 days per week watering restrictions are in effect.

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Single-family homes:							
Odd-numbered address							
Even-numbered address							
All others, including: multifamily and commercial							

Water your yard only on your 2 designated days and before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
Find more information and water-saving tips at denverwater.org/Conserve.

**USE ONLY
WHAT YOU
NEED.**

What does this mean for indoor water use?

- Check and repair leaks in toilets, faucets, kitchen appliances.
- Run full loads in washing machine and dishwasher.
- Take shorter showers.
- Capture water when it's warming up.
- Turn off water when brushing teeth.
- Use high-efficiency showerheads and toilets.



What does this mean for businesses?

Restaurants

- Only serve water to customers upon request.
- Shared water stations or jugs are allowed.

Car washes

- Public car washes can continue to operate.
- Fleet vehicles limited to once a week except for safety/health reasons.

Golf courses and parks

- Still subject to 20% reduction in water use.
- Some courses and parks have water budgets.



What does this mean for businesses?

Public pools

- Continue to operate normally.
- Water fountains and features discouraged from operating.



Healthcare

- Follow outdoor watering rules.
- Find indoor efficiencies where possible, but health and safety are a priority.



USE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED.SM



Thank you for helping Denver Water protect our community's water resources. Please use this form to report water waste you observe in the Denver Water service area. Your input helps us respond more effectively. For more information please visit denverwater.org/Conserve

Date and time you observed the water waste*

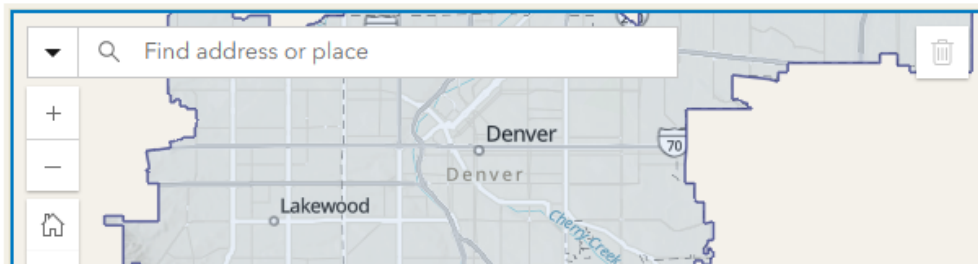
Email Address*

An email address is required so we can confirm receipt of your report and contact you if additional information is needed. Your email will only be used in connection with this report.

Where did you see the water waste occur? Please drop a pin on the map to indicate the exact location.*

Note:

- Location must be placed within the Denver Water Service Area in blue.
- The locations in red are exempt from drought watering rules.



Violations and enforcement

- It takes everyone doing their part.
- Education-based approach with increasing severity:
 - Education
 - Warning
 - Fines for repeated violations (\$250-\$1,000)
- Water waste reporting app (English/Spanish).

Ongoing communications & outreach

- Weekly updates via TAP (denverwater.org/TAP).
- Customer tips & what Denver Water is doing.
- Social media.
- Bill inserts.
- E-newsletters.
- Stakeholder outreach: Community partners, landscapers, HOAs, restaurant trade groups, West Slope.
- Presentations to neighborhood organizations.
- Educational campaign launching mid-June.



Coordination with the City & County of Denver



DENVER CITY
COUNCIL
MEMBERS



MAYOR'S OFFICE



DENVER PARKS &
RECREATION



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
&
INFRASTRUCTURE



OTHER CITY
DEPARTMENTS,
AGENCIES AND
OFFICES



ONE WATER

**THIS PROPERTY IS ON
A WATER BUDGET**

- Reducing water use by 20%.
- Approved to irrigate any day of the week.



denverwater.org/Conserve

**USE ONLY
WHAT YOU
NEED.™**

 DENVER WATER

Resources for more information:



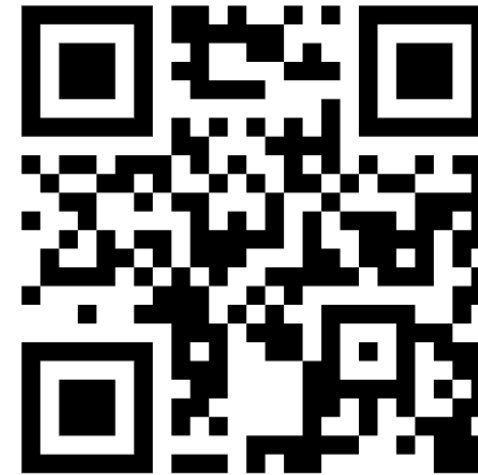
Get
conservation
tips



denverwater.org/Conserve



Stay in
the know



denverwater.org/TAP

Customer Care
303-893-2444

denverwater.org

WaterUDoing@
[denverwater.org](mailto:WaterUDoing@denverwater.org)





Questions?