



Summer 2021 Newsletter

Dear District Members,

On June 16th, Routt County declared Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in place for Routt County and only a week later declared Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. On Friday, July 9th, the Morgan Creek wildfire started southeast of Seedhouse Road and by August, the blaze had grown to over 7500 acres. We have all endured several anxious weeks of smoke-filled air. Needless to say – despite the welcome late-July monsoons – we are in the midst of a severe drought and a dangerous fire season.

With mandatory stage 2 water restrictions in place in neighboring water districts, the Board has determined the need to enact water restrictions for the Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District. What does this mean for residents? First and foremost, the Board's primary responsibility is to provide water for domestic use and fire protection. After Health and Safety, the watering of landscaping is a secondary concern.

Fortunately most District members already appreciate the beautiful natural scenery that surrounds us and have adapted home landscaping to follow suit. Most residents have opted to forego landscape watering in the name of water conservation. We greatly appreciate their efforts. Our mountain water is a gift not a given. There are precious few rural areas which have a water & sewer system like ours.

With that said, we would like to educate district members on the realities of the finite water supply in the district. Many new residents are not aware of where our water comes from. Between 1972 and 2007, the District had relied on primarily one ground water well to provide water to its customers. In late 1990-2000, the District drilled four new wells, but found little or no water. The District also drilled several alluvial test wells along Willow Creek to investigate the potential for an infiltration gallery, but the alluvium could not provide a usable quantity of water. Obtaining an adequate physical water supply (quantity and quality) has proven difficult for the District. In 2007, a filtration system was installed in the well on Jupiter Place. In 2013, our original well was re-drilled & cased to ensure we could rely on the well for many more years. The current water system consists of these two producing wells, which yield about 90,000 gallons per day. These wells supply approximately 125,000 gallons of underground storage.

District water consumption in the summer months is double the amount it is in the winter, currently topping 40,000 gallons per day. A few years ago, a detached garage in our District caught fire. The North Routt Fire Department arrived quickly and flames were doused before they spread to any surroundings. The Fire Department drew water from our fire hydrants to fight the fire and it took one and one half days of running both wells at full capacity to replenish our storage. Fighting such a structure fire can easily use greater than 4,000 gallons of water per minute. This is a very real reminder how quickly our system could be drained and how crucial water conservation is to our district.

The following watering schedule is being utilized by many communities, including the City of Steamboat Springs. This is what our District board has adopted as well.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even	Odd	Even	No Watering	Odd	Even	Odd

Watering is allowed three days a week for each household, with no watering between the hours of 10 am to 6 pm. If your house number ends on an even number (for instance 57410), you can water on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. If your street number ends in an odd number (for instance 57415), you can water on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. No watering is allowed by anyone on Wednesday.

Section 7 of our Rules and Regulations discusses Water Conservation. Watering of landscaping is limited per "Section 7.2.1: Drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardening are encouraged. Otherwise hand-held devices with spring-loaded nozzles can be used. These are the only options allowed." Irrigation of grass lawns – by oscillating sprinklers or in-ground heads – is prohibited. And unfortunately, washing vehicles (including boats & ATVs) or hard surfaces is not allowed, either.

With less snowfall, less snow pack, and drier summers, we feel it is important for the watering of landscaping to be more intentional and carefully monitored by homeowners. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you are renting your home, please be sure that your tenants understand these rules as well. If you see anyone violating these watering rules, please let us know.

Sincerely,
The Steamboat Lake Water & Sanitation District

Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation Contact Information

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