



Town of New Castle **Planning/Building & Code
Administration Department**
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Memo: Mayor Art Riddile & Town Council Members

From: David Reynolds

Date: May 31, 2018

Subject: Policy Discussion of Water Conservation & Irrigation

Due to concern about snow pack levels, snow water equivalent levels and wild fire potential, staff wishes to update Council and discuss the following during the June 5 Council Meeting:

A. The current condition of snowpack and water levels in the region.

Report by Tim Cain

Upper Colorado Snow Water Equivalent Update

The *Snow Water Equivalent* is the amount of water in our region's snowpack. It is measured most locally at a site located near Bison Lake which is 26 miles north of Glenwood Springs.

The *Snow Water Equivalent* in the Upper Colorado River Basin which feeds our water supply is currently at 28% of normal. On May 24, 2018, the Basin was at 45% of normal. The Upper Colorado River Basin's geographical area stretches from Copper Mountain to the east and Mesa Lakes near Grand Junction to the west. It includes Bison Lake to the north and McClure Pass south of Marble.

South of the Upper Colorado River Basin is the Gunnison River Basin. There the Snow Water Equivalent is at 2%, which is significantly worse than the Upper Colorado River Basin.

B. Current Wild Fire Forecast

Report by Tim Cain

Fire Marshall Orrin Moon reported on May 30 that his department took moisture samples of 3-inch to 6-inch trees in the Rifle Airport area in April of 2018. This sampling gives an indication of the amount of moisture in a tree and helps establish an estimated time for which trees might burn. The tree moisture level in April was determined to be 5%. In July of 2017, the tree moisture level was also found to be at 5%. This means that we were already at midsummer dryness in April. Based on these May 30 findings, Fire Marshall Orrin Moon was considering a Phase I Fire Ban.

Carbondale and Garfield County have announced that as of May 31, 2018 they have declared a Phase I Fire Ban.

Glenwood Springs has announced that as of June 1, 2018 they have declared a Phase I Fire Ban.

C. Report from Public Works to include:

Report to be delivered by John Wenzel

1. Summer water usage levels verses winter water usage levels
2. Sources and alternate sources of water
3. Means of town irrigation, raw water vs. treated water
4. Discussion of Town of New Castle Drought Plan Regulatory Policy

Town of New Castle
Drought Plan Regulatory Policy
Approved on May 7, 2013

The Town of New Castle and its surrounding watershed is experiencing drought conditions of significant concern. Droughts occur with unpredictable frequency, intensity and duration. During a drought, water supplies will be below normal, requiring customers including the Town to reduce their water use for a period of time. Water supply projections and hydrologic conditions are significant components in deciding when a drought response is needed. The Drought Plan Regulatory Policy is intended to assist the Town Council in reacting to a drought.

The plan recommends a progressive response (Phases) to worsening drought conditions and has three elements: communication activities (notice), drought severity indicators (triggers) and response actions.

For these reasons the Town of New Castle formally adopts a Town Policy which adheres to the following section of the Municipal Code:

At any time the water available to the town is insufficient to provide unlimited usage to all customers, the town administrator or town council shall be authorized and empowered to ration and limit the usage of water for other than in-house uses for such periods of time and under such rules and regulations as the town administrator or town council shall from time to time adopt. Rationing and limitation of usage shall become effective on the day following the publication in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the town of the regulations governing the rationing and limitation upon such water usage. (Ord. 2002-5 § 4 (part); prior code § 11-16-010

Notice:

Notice of water use restrictions shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation. In the event of a water supply emergency declared by the Town Administrator, notice of water use restrictions may be given by delivery of a flyer delivered to property served with Town water.

Phase 1

- Triggers:
 - 1) Limitation on diversion of Town's Spion-Kopp Ditch water rights at Williams Canal

* Town diverts some of its Coryell Ditch water rights through the

Red Rock Ditch for irrigation at water Lakota Canyon Ranch Golf Course at the KSE pump station

* No Colorado River pumping required

2) Reduction in ability to divert water at Red Rock Ditch for raw water irrigation purposes

* Town inspects Red Rock Ditch and removes any unauthorized pumps

* Colorado River pump station may be turned on if Red Rock ditch flows are inadequate for raw water irrigation needs *after* Phase 1 water restrictions have been implemented *and* a discussion of the costs of pumping water has been conducted with the various raw water users. Water to irrigate the Lakota golf course shall be the first water delivered from the Colorado River Pumps and any remaining water divertible from the Red Rock Ditch shall be used for other raw water users.

- A. Property owners who use Town raw water for irrigation are restricted in their use effective on the following day after public notice to irrigating lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation planted in the ground to two hours, between the hours of twelve a.m. to ten a.m. and six p.m. to midnight. Irrigation is limited to every other day based on designation from the Town's Public Works Director.
- B. Exemption Permits. An exemption permit can be issued for the purpose of watering newly installed landscaping, lawns and trees. Water exemption permits are limited to irrigating four hours per day for a period of thirty days in one calendar year. Water usage is subject to water rates then in effect.
- C. Restrictions on Town. The town government shall abide by the watering restrictions and exemptions set forth in this section. The town is restricted in its use of water for street cleaning or emergency purposes except for life-safety situations. The Town may reduce watering parks and open spaces or share Colorado River pump costs with Lakota Canyon Ranch.
- D. Construction Water. Town water is limited in use for construction purposes from a hydrant or otherwise, including but not limited to tire washing, dust suppression, and to clean construction debris from streets. At the discretion of the Public Works Director, a valid permit from the town may be issued for the sale of bulk water.
- E. Recreational Water Use. Water use restrictions shall not apply to children's games or activities that utilize water so long as at least one child is actively

participating in the game or activity while the water is being used. Unattended running sprinklers or water toys shall be subject to fines applicable to unauthorized irrigation.

Phase II

- Triggers:
 - 1) Red Rock Ditch call water right called out of priority
 - 2) Combination of the New Castle Pump and Pipeline and the Town's Coryell Ditch is inadequate to fully meet the domestic and irrigation needs of the Town (excluding irrigation of the Lakota Canyon Ranch golf course)
 - * Town allocates its Coryell Ditch water rights between the municipal intake on East Elk Creek and the Red Rock Ditch to maximize utility of available water.
 - * Town inspects Red Rock Ditch and removes any unauthorized pumps.
 - * Colorado River pump station may be turned on if combination of diversions at the municipal intake in East Elk Creek and diversions at the Red Rock Ditch are inadequate for both treated and raw water irrigation needs *after* Phase II water restrictions have been implemented *and* a discussion of the costs of pumping water has been conducted with the various *raw* water users. Water to irrigate the Lakota golf course shall be the first water delivered from the Colorado River Pumps and any remaining water divertible from the Red Rock Ditch shall be used for other raw water users.
- A. Property owners who use Town water for irrigation (either from the Town's potable system or a raw water irrigation system) are restricted in their use effective on the following day after public notice to irrigating lawns, trees, shrubs to two times a week for two hours between the hours of twelve a.m. to ten a.m. and six p.m. to midnight.
- B. Exemption Permits. An exemption permit will not be issued for the purpose of watering newly installed landscaping, lawns and trees unless the applicant can demonstrate to the Town Administrator a need that outweighs the benefit of not allowing for an exemption permit e.g. new commercial business or subdivision that grades raw land that will be subject to noxious weed growth unless mitigated by seeding the property and including landscape such as trees, shrubs, drought tolerant plants, etc.

- C. Restrictions on Town. The town government shall abide by the watering restrictions and exemptions set forth in this section. The town shall restrict its use of water for street cleaning or emergency purposes except for life-safety situations. The Town shall reduce watering parks and open spaces and share Colorado River pump costs with Lakota Canyon Ranch.
- D. Construction Water. Town water shall be limited in use for construction purposes from a hydrant or otherwise, including but not limited to tire washing, dust suppression, and to clean construction debris from streets. At the discretion of the Town Administrator, a valid permit from the town may be issued for the sale of bulk water
- E. Recreational Water Use. Water use restrictions shall not apply to children's games or activities that utilize water so long as at least one child is actively participating in the game or activity while the water is being used. Unattended running sprinklers or water toys shall be subject to fines applicable to unauthorized irrigation.
- F. Washing vehicles, sidewalks and driveways. It is strongly recommended that residents utilize the commercial businesses in town that provide car washing services and to limit the amount of time it takes to wash your sidewalk and driveway. Car washing facilities utilize conservation measures that will reduce water consumption. Washing of sidewalks and driveways is strongly discouraged.

Phase III

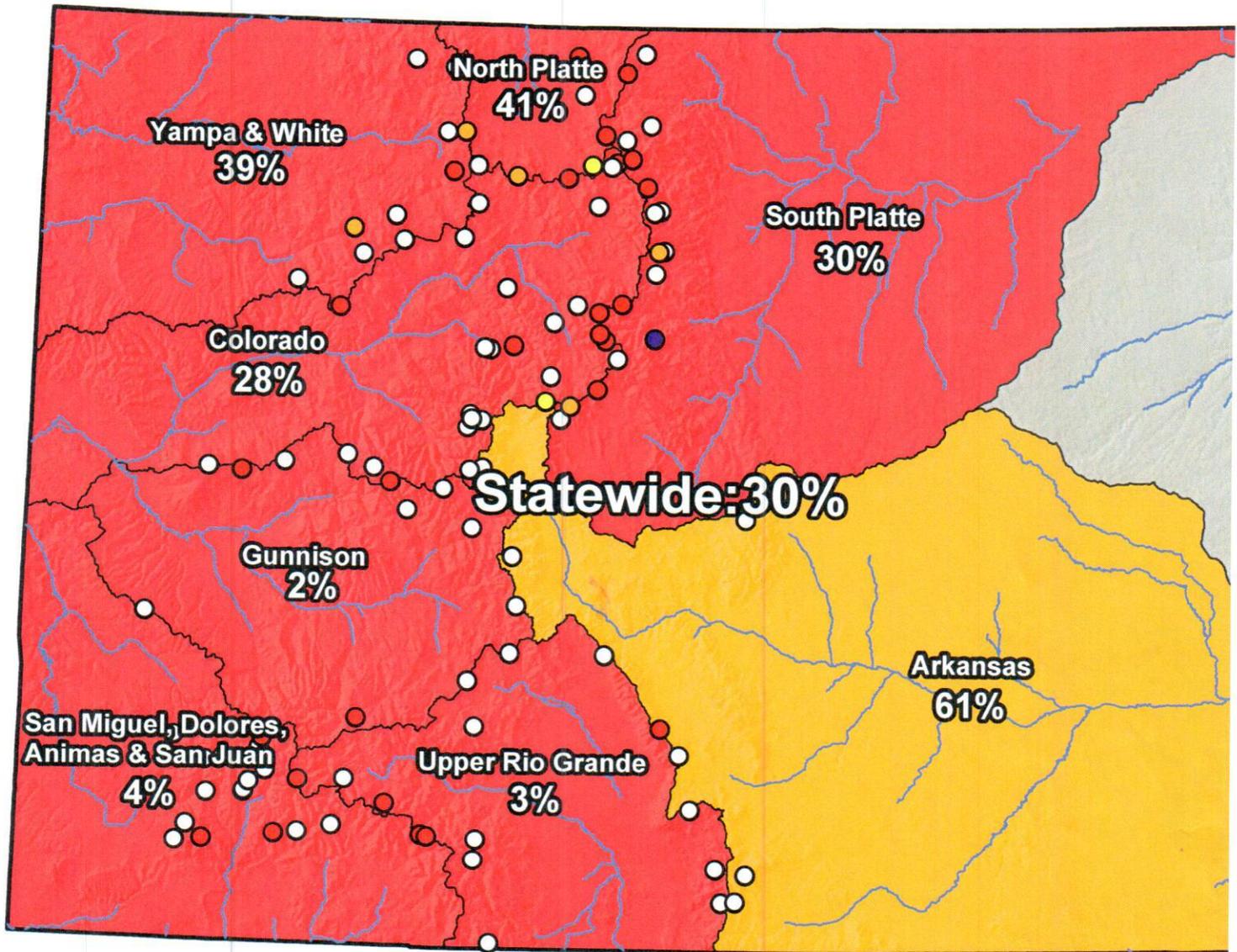
- Triggers:
 - 1. New Castle Pump and Pipeline water right is called out of priority (in whole or in part) and the Town's Coryell Ditch water rights are inadequate to fully meet the domestic and irrigation needs of the Town (excluding irrigation of the Lakota Canyon Ranch golf course)
 - * Town maximizes water derived from the New Castle Pump and Pipeline water right and the Town's Coryell Ditch water right to meet as much of the Town's domestic and irrigation water needs
 - * Town inspects Red Rock Ditch and removes any unauthorized pumps.
 - * Colorado River pump station supports potable and raw irrigation water to the Town
- A. Property owners who use Town water for irrigation (either from the Town's potable system or a raw water irrigation system) are restricted in their use

effective on the following day after public notice to irrigating lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation planted in the ground to once every three days for two hours between the hours of twelve a.m. to ten a.m. and six p.m. to midnight.

- B. Exemption Permits.** An exemption permit will not be issued for the purpose of watering newly installed landscaping, lawns and trees. New commercial and subdivision developments can be issued an exemption permit for the purpose of dust suppression and noxious weed control. The number of hours and days one can use water is determined by the Town Administrator on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Restrictions on Town.** The town government shall abide by the watering restrictions and exemptions set forth in this section. The Town shall not use water for street cleaning. Water may be used for emergency purposes such as those situations surrounding life-safety. The Town may continue any water uses that can be accomplished with water from the well located in the Grand River Park.
- D. Construction Water.** Town water from the domestic water system shall not be used for construction purposes from a hydrant or otherwise, including but not limited to tire washing, dust suppression, and to clean construction debris from streets. The Town may contract to provide construction water from the well located in the Grand River Park.
- E. Recreational Water Use.** Voluntary water use restrictions shall apply to children's games or activities that utilize water so long as at least one child is actively participating in the game or activity while the water is being used. Children's games or activities that utilize water shall be restricted to one hour each day. Unattended running sprinklers or water toys shall be subject to fines applicable to unauthorized irrigation.
- F. Washing vehicles, sidewalks & driveways.** Use of personal (VS Commercial car washes) potable and raw water is not allowed to wash vehicles, sidewalks and driveways.

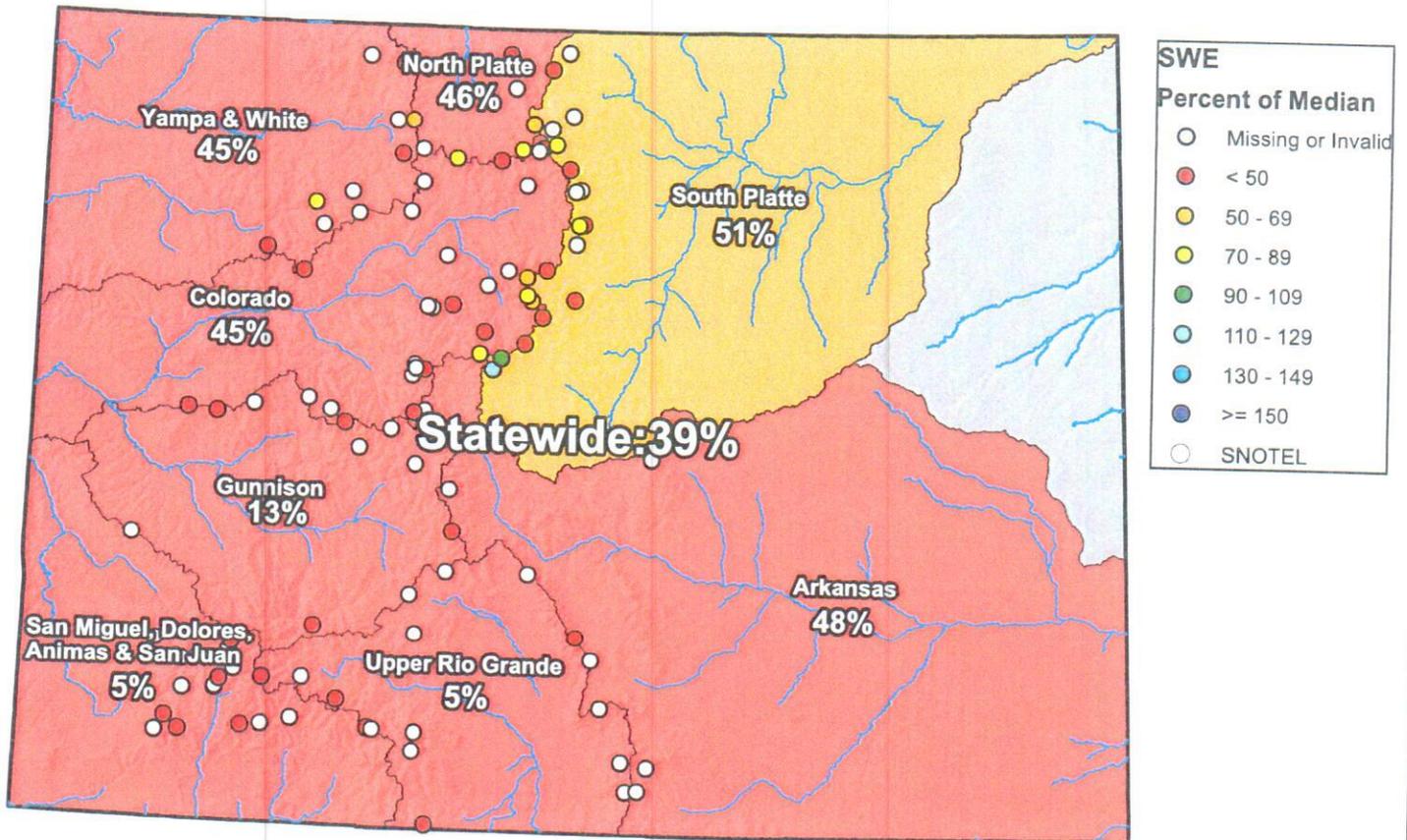
Colorado SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Update Ma

Current as of May 30, 2018



Colorado SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Update Map with Site Data

Current as of May 24, 2018



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service