



May 1, 2026

# PRESS RELEASE

***GRAND COUNTY, CO – The Grand County Drought Preparedness Committee has officially declared that Grand County is in Stage 3 – Exceptional Drought, prompted by high temperatures and below-average precipitation.***

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor Index, 99% of Grand County is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought. In Grand County, March was the 9th driest March on record over the last 132 years at 1.14” below normal and it is the 10th driest year (Jan-March) at 2.34” below normal. It was also the hottest March on record at 4.2°f above historic average setting multiple record highs. Colorado headwaters snowpack is holding near 20%.

As we move into spring, below-average precipitation and above average temperature signal likely water shortages for rivers and streams, impacting water supply. We urge residents to be mindful of indoor water conservation practices to help mitigate future impacts. Let’s all work together to safeguard our water resources - **HELP OUT - DURING DROUGHT**

## **Local Drought Impacts**

- **100% of people and businesses in Grand County are affected by drought**
- **WP Ski Area closed well over a month earlier than in 2025 and Rocky Mountain resorts collectively saw a 25% decrease in skier days**
- **Rafting, Fishing, hunting, and skiing opportunities are reduced**
- **Reservoirs are low, mandatory water restrictions are implemented, and water temperatures increase**
- **Estimated 30,200 acres of hay production are in Extreme or Exceptional Drought conditions in Grand County**
- **Estimated 10,700 head of cattle will be reduced this season in Grand Co**

**Find more tips and resources at [co.grand.co.us/1349/water-conservation](https://www.co.grand.co.us/1349/water-conservation) and <https://www.co.grand.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/19662/Stage-3-Exceptional-Drought---Final?bidId=>**

*These recommendations are voluntary and not regulatory in nature. Per the Drought Preparedness Plan, Grand County will remain in Exceptional Drought until the Drought Preparedness Committee reconvenes in May.*