

Gene Tautges, President/Chairman
Alex Boehmer, Vice President/Treasurer
Bill Hudson, Secretary



Glenn Walsh, Director
Bruce Jones, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Josh Pike, Bill Hudson
FROM: Justin O. Ramsey, PE
CC: Andrew Connor, Cyndi Foster, Justin Stone, Renee Lewis, Kyle Tjelmeland
DATE: July 27, 2026
RE: Drought Update

Below is the PAWSD Drought Stage Trigger worksheet.

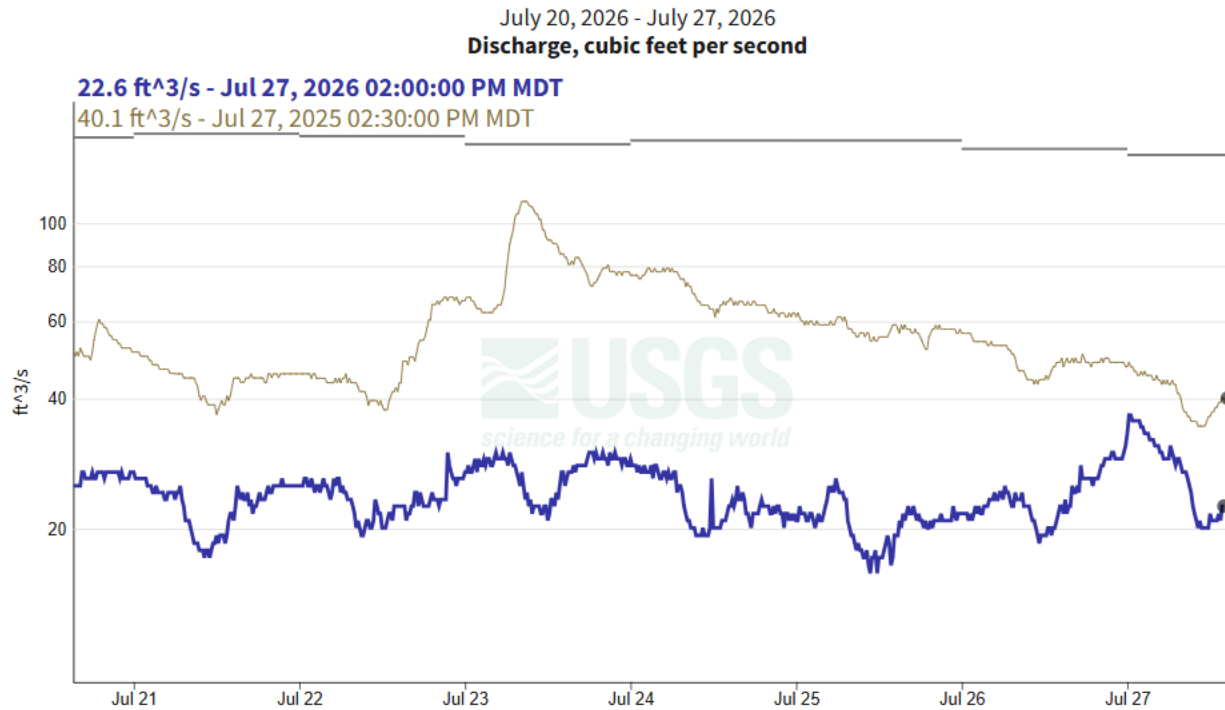
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
Drought Stage Trigger Points
Data Entry Sheet

Today's Date	:	7/27/2026
Hatcher Reservoir		
Level	:	7,737.17 Feet
San Juan River Flow	:	22.6 CFS
CO Drought Monitor	:	D2
Drought Stage	=	Stage 2

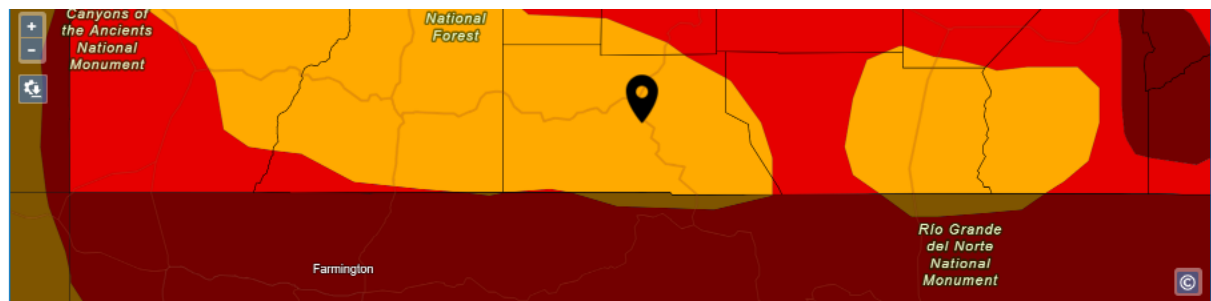
The recent rains have maintained the flows in the San Juan River and have reduced the drop in Hatcher Reservoir, however the current Hatcher Reservoir level coupled with the San Juan river flows will keep the District in Stage 2 Drought Restrictions per the 2026 Drought Management Plan.

Median San Juan River flows for today are 142.5 cfs, last years flow was 40.1 cfs. The National Integrated Drought Information System continues to keep us in Severe Drought.

San Juan River Flows as measured at the USGS San Juan River gage (USGS-09342500)



US Drought Monitor Current Conditions for Archuleta County



The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country using 5 classifications: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1–D4).

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Source(s): [NDMC](#), [NOAA](#), [USDA](#)

Legend

Drought & Dryness Categories

	D0 - Abnormally Dry
	D1 - Moderate Drought
	D2 - Severe Drought
	D3 - Extreme Drought
	D4 - Exceptional Drought
	Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)

% of Archuleta County

0%
0%
98.10%
1.90%
0%
100.00%

Stage 2 requirements are:

- Irrigation permitted only between 9 PM to 9 AM based upon address
- Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on odd numbered calendar days while even numbered addresses may irrigate on even numbered days
- Irrigation is permitted Monday – Friday Only. Weekend watering is prohibited.
- Gardens (edible and ornamental) may be hand watered using a hose or drip irrigation.
- Restaurants shall serve water only upon the request of customers.
- Hotels encouraged to replace towels and bed linens for new guests and at the request of existing guests.

The goal of Stage 2 restrictions is to reduce District wide water use by 20 to 30 percent. In our area, it's most effective to irrigate between evening and early morning because the cooler, calmer conditions allow water to soak into the soil instead of being lost to the sun and wind. During the day, high temperatures, low humidity, and frequent afternoon winds drive up Evapotranspiration, meaning much of the sprayed water evaporates or drifts away before it can benefit plants. By irrigating from about 9 PM to 9 AM, more water reaches the root zone, coverage is more uniform, and plants are better able to absorb moisture, making the process both more efficient and healthier for vegetation. Alternating irrigation days by address reduces daily peak demands. Disallowing weekend irrigation reduces overall water consumption.

Water rate tier multiplier of 2.0x for residential flows above 4,000 gallons remain in effect.

The District greatly appreciates everyone's continued diligence in conserving water. If you have any questions regarding the current Drought Management Plan, it can be found on the website at <https://www.pawsd.org/water-service/water-conservation/>