



## What can you do?

The average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day (and this average does not consider irrigation)! Luckily, there are low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water (and cash).

- Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath!
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving. You may save up to 500 gallons a month!
- Use water-efficient showerheads. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month!

- Water plants only when necessary and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is being watered (not the streets or the sidewalk). Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.



*Mushrooms growing in your lawn? Then you're likely overwatering! Keep a closer look at your lawn and get to know your sprinkler system and schedule!*

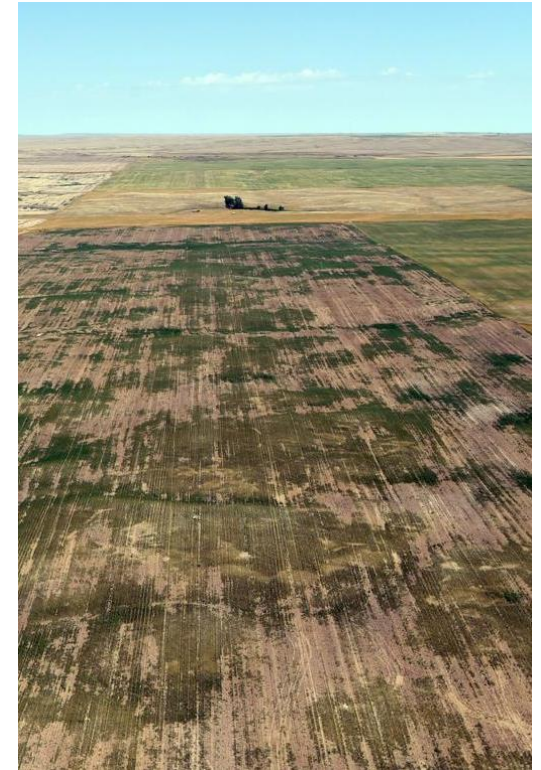


*Sidewalks do not need to be watered! That's literally sending gallons of water down the drain. And you're paying for it!*

Conserving water year-round is our best defense against drought. Try to do one thing each day that will result in a savings of water. Don't worry if it's minimal. Every drop counts. And every person can make a difference. Your individual action(s) can go a long way!

Don't take our water for granted. It is time for Montanans to also be WATER AWARE!

 **FOUR CORNERS**  
Water & Sewer District  
495 Quail Run Road  
Bozeman, MT 59718



# DROUGHT SEASON IS HERE!

*Understand the problem and get to know what can be done so that our district (and you!) doesn't have to suffer the consequences!*



Summer is here...



So is the drought!

## Understanding the Problem...

It's summer, and it's hot! We all want to enjoy some river time, get our gardens flourishing and our lawns green. But with summer comes the risk of droughts and fires! Therefore, we at Four Corners Water and Sewer District wanted to provide you some insight and knowledge of the situation, as well as giving you tips to help us conserve water, and probably save some cash in the process!

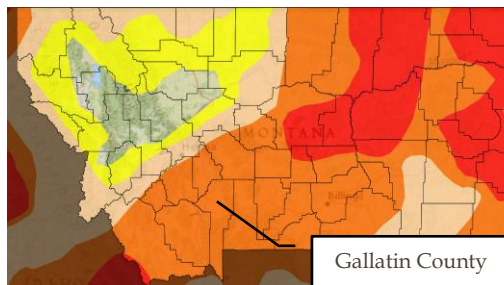
As lucky as Montanans are for having the best recreational rivers at our backyards, that doesn't mean that water shortage and drought doesn't affect us.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, Gallatin County was under severe drought conditions. Since July and August are usually the hottest and driest months of the year, we know water demand is only going to soar from now on. On top of that, our District is experiencing great expansion, which adds more demand to our distribution system. If we don't work together, we all suffer the consequences of having an expensive water bill.

Four Corner's drinking water comes from wells, and a rise in demand could negatively impact our water supply. In order to protect our water sources, new fees and water rates could be put in place. No one wants that, but that will happen if we keep being reckless with our water usage!


The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) uses a five-category system, from Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions to Exceptional Drought (D4). Currently, 98.26% of Gallatin County is under a D2 - Severe Drought conditions.

Our crops, livestock, and water sources are already stressed, but with a couple, simple actions, you can help us save water while helping yourself save some cash, since your water bill will likely decrease.




Drought map of Montana. The orange layer indicates that Gallatin County is currently under a D2 - Severe Drought classification | Drought.gov | Retrieved on Jul 01<sup>st</sup> 2021

**D0 - Abnormally Dry**




- Soil moisture is low; dryland crop germination is poor; pastures are dry
- Fire danger increases
- Streamflow is low, affecting recreational fishing

**D1 - Moderate Drought**




- Producers feed livestock supplemental hay; crops are stressed, and growth is poor
- Fire restrictions are implemented

**D2 - Severe Drought**




- Hay and crop yields are low; hay quality is poor; subsoil moisture is nonexistent
- Fire count and danger are high; air quality is poor, with dust and smoke
- Livestock ponds are low or dry; water quality is monitored; wells are stressed

**D3 - Extreme Drought**



- Crops are not harvestable; winter pasture is opened for grazing; soil has large cracks; fields are bare
- Cattle have very little water; producers are hauling water and buying supplemental feed, culling cattle, and selling early
- Fire restrictions increase

**D4 - Exceptional Drought**



- Pasture loss is widespread; crops are destroyed
- Property is closed for hunting
- Fire risk is extremely high; fires are widespread

The five-category system used to classify drought intensity | Drought.gov | Retrieved on Jul 01<sup>st</sup> 2021

89,513

people in Gallatin County are affected by drought

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No change since last week

↑ 151.8% since last month

100%

of people in Gallatin County are affected by drought

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No change since last week

↑ 60% since last month

Drought conditions for Gallatin County | Drought.gov | Retrieved on Jul 01<sup>st</sup> 2021

