

Grey Forest Utilities Memo

October 27, 2025

To: City of Grey Forest Water Customers
From: Erik Remmert, General Manager, Grey Forest Utilities
Subject: **Continuing Drought and Implementation of Stage Three**

Notice of Stage Three - Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

In August 2025, GFU, acting on behalf of the Grey Forest Water System (GFWS) issued a **Stage Two Drought Condition** notice to all customers of the Grey Forest Water System informing everyone that the level of our wells had dropped below the level of 500 feet. At that time, mandatory water restrictions were enacted per the City of Grey Forest's current drought contingency plan until the wells returned to normal levels (Stage 1 or better) for at least 30 days, or until the underlying conditions requiring the notice were no longer in effect.

The Current Situation:

The wells levels remained between 500' to 520' until early October, when the levels dipped below 520'. As of Monday, October 27st the well levels are at 527', which pushes the GFWS into **Stage Three Drought Condition** per current drought trigger provisions. The City of Grey Forest has a drought contingency plan that must be implemented as the water wells approach or pass certain well levels. *At this time, the plan requires that Stage 3 be implemented. Stage 3, like Stage 2, is not voluntary; the restrictions are mandatory and failure to follow the restrictions can lead to you being in violation of the ordinance and you may be fined.* We have included a copy of the current Drought Contingency Plan for your convenience. I encourage you to read it. It can also be reviewed on the City of Grey Forest website under the city code or on the Grey Forest Utility website under [Drought Contingency Plan – Grey Forest Utilities](#) .

Reason for Limiting water use and times of use:

The continuing drought has had a negative impact on our well levels and thus the supply of water that is available to our water customers has been impacted. Limiting certain types of water use and the timing of the use will ensure water is available for your essential needs.

Requirements:

As a Stage 3 severe water condition exists there is a *goal of reducing the total water usage of the systems by 30%*

Per the Grey Forest drought contingency plan enacted by the City of Grey Forest, the Stage 3 water use restrictions are now in force for all Grey Forest Water System customers. Violations will result in penalties:

- A. Water customers are required to limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to the hours between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on your designated watering day *by handheld watering devices only*.
- B. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited.
- C. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.
- D. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
- E. Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the city water system.
- F. All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.
- G. The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:

- I. Wash-down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
- II. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
- III. Use of water for dust control.
- IV. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
- V. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

Request:

Please check to be sure that you have fixed any leaks in your water lines and your irrigation systems. Please water your flowers and shrubs by hand and only use water outside during the times that it is permitted under the Stage 3 restrictions. Do not use water for prohibited uses under the drought contingency plan.

Also, please be observant and report to GFU any concerns you may have about water being wasted or removed/drained or pumped from our water system during the drought emergency. The number you can call to report potential waste or theft of water from the system is the GFU office number 210-695-8781 and of course you can contact the Grey Forest Police Department or City Hall.

Conclusion:

GFU will be monitoring the well levels two to three times a week while they remain at Stage 3 levels. If we find that the wells are not sustaining their levels on a continuing basis under Stage 3 it is possible that we may have to implement water rationing per the next phase of the drought contingency plan. *At this time GFU is not concerned about the safety of the water supply nor having enough water to supply the City of Grey Forest citizen's health and sanitary needs.*

Thank You in advance for your cooperation in protecting and conserving this valuable community resource!