



Water Shortage Warning Order

Fact Sheet

On February 11, 2026, the Governing Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District) issued a Water Shortage Warning Order 26-001 calling for voluntary reductions in water use for all water classes within the District. The order reads as follows:

1. A Water Shortage Warning is issued for all surface and groundwater sources throughout the District.
2. All users in all classes of use are encouraged to reduce water use and to conserve water to the maximum extent possible.
3. Landscaping irrigation users are encouraged to limit irrigation to the low evaporation periods of the evening and early morning hours.
4. These voluntary measures shall not be construed to limit any activities designated to prevent the spread of fire or to save property from being destroyed by fire.
5. These voluntary measures do not exempt any water user from complying with applicable mandatory water use restrictions placed on public supply utility customers due to capacity problems with water supply facilities. In such cases, water users are urged to reduce water use in a manner consistent with the specific local restrictions, and to the extent practicable with this Order.
6. This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until rescinded by the Governing Board.

Why is this action needed?

As of February 5, 2026, drought conditions encompassed the entire District. Streamflow conditions throughout the District were below-normal to extremely-below-normal, and groundwater levels were continuing to decline. The District-wide average rainfall deficit for the previous 120 days was 6.2 inches. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center seasonal Forecast for February through April 2026 indicates above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation are expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist through April of 2026.

Water conservation measures and voluntary reductions in use will reduce drought impacts and help extend our water resources. Although the water supplies within the District are currently able to meet demands and no losses of supply or capacity have been reported, the Water Shortage Warning Order will increase public awareness and enhance water resource protection. The Water Shortage Warning Order is anticipated to be rescinded once wetter conditions return to the affected areas.

Where can I obtain additional information?

Additional information regarding water conservation measures can be found on the District website, at nwfwater.com. For additional information regarding the Water Shortage Warning Order or hydrologic conditions, please contact [Donnie Hicks](tel:(850)951-4679) at (850) 951-4679, or Donnie.Hicks@nwfwater.com.