

Drought Resources

As drought intensifies and water availability continues to lessen, many residents are experiencing the effects of depleted water sources. Wells are running dry, farmers are struggling to find water for their crops, and we are on the brink of a water security crisis. Because of the severity of the situation, we want to ensure that you are aware of the current drought resources made available to you.

There are several sites that can provide financial and technical assistance in the face of extreme drought. The [NRCS](#) (Natural Resources Conservation Service) is closely monitoring the drought and is assisting farmers, ranchers, and residents in implementing water conservation tactics to alleviate the severity of the effects of drought. They are a wonderful resource to turn to for information on minimizing the effects of drought on fallowed lands, pastures, and irrigated crop land. The NRCS also has a plethora of information regarding monitoring the current drought and [streamflow forecast](#) which can be extremely valuable. Additionally, the [Drought Calculator](#) and the [US Drought Monitor](#) are two great resources for drought information across the US and to make more informed decisions as to alternative drought strategies.

See below for more information on rainwater catchment systems and household tips to conserve water.

Water Conservation

During the summer dry season when drought is at its peak, it is imperative that we do our best to enhance instream flow. When creek levels are maximized, water security increases for residents and makes it possible for endangered fish to survive. Augmented stream flow results from conserving water and minimizing the amount of water extracted from vital creeks and alluvial wells during the summer dry season.

One of the best ways to maximize instream flow is through installing rainwater catchment systems. These water conservation systems allow water to be captured during the winter rainy season which is then stored for summer use. This enables landowners to refrain from drawing water directly from vital creeks or from wells that tap into their aquifers. Storage capacity for these systems generally range from 9,000 gallons for a small residential site to around 30,000 gallons for rural residential sites to 235,000 gallons for a cattle ranch. In addition to rainwater catchment systems, you can help to enhance instream flow by following several household

water conservation practices. Installing a low-flow showerhead and faucet aerator, irrigating gardens, and taking shorter showers can significantly reduce the amount of water usage on your property. Please contact us if you are interested in having a rainwater catchment system installed on your property!