



For Immediate Release

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**Water Providers form Drought Response Information
Project, launch website at
www.thedripwebsite.com**

GRAND JUNCTION, CO, May 27, 2004--The beauty that surrounds the Grand Valley is unique and magnificent. But it is also delicate. Cycles of drought are typical of Colorado's history, but the Grand Valley has grown tremendously in the past decade, forcing our water supplies to stretch further than ever before. Last winter's snowfall helped drought conditions, but did not eliminate water supply concerns. Grand Junction receives only eight inches of rain every year on average.

This year, the four water utilities, Grand Junction, Palisade, Clifton, and Ute Water along with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, have created the Drought Response Information Project, or DRIP. The project is a collaboration between the valley's domestic water providers and CSU Cooperative Extension to provide information and educate the public concerning the Drought Response Plan, the importance of water conservation and how to reduce water use. The project is working to provide the latest scientific data on drought conditions and what we can do as a community to use our water more efficiently.

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The group is launching a public information and education campaign to inform the public about drought and the continuing role it plays in our water usage, now and in the future.

The DRIP Project has also launched a new website at www.thedripwebsite.com which contains the valley's Drought Response Plan, information on drought, a current map showing drought areas in the state, and web links to additional information from the CSU Cooperative Extension and all four local water utilities.

The Drought Response Information Project is asking customers to voluntarily cut normal water consumption. How hard is this to do? Even cutting 20% is easily attainable, especially with irrigation water. If you're watering five days a week, water only four. If you water 15 minutes per station, water only 12 minutes per station. If you are thinking of a new yard, consider waiting until the fall or learn more about water conserving landscapes. Xeriscape can reduce landscape water use by seventy percent or more.

For more information on the Drought Response Information Project contact your local water utility or visit the new website at www.thedripwebsite.com where you will find links to more information and the CSU Cooperative Extension web site with many recommendations on lawn care and landscaping.

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