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Well Users Asked to Conserve Water

Water Conservation Essential to Insure Adequate Water Supply

October 19, 2007 – Henderson County, NC: While drought conditions in Henderson County continue to be classified as “extreme,” citizens on municipal water systems are not the only ones being asked to conserve water. Henderson County officials are recommending all residents who are on well water to conserve.

“Thousands of Henderson County residents use individual or shared wells as their main source of water supply and these wells remove water from the aquifer or groundwater which is then recharged by rainfall,” said Henderson County Environmental Health Supervisor Seth Swift. “During severe droughts, groundwater levels will drop thus decreasing the amount of water available.”

According the U.S. Geological Survey, the mountains of Western North Carolina have seen a decline in groundwater levels over the past year.

“A drinking water well that is pumping more water than can be replenished will no longer function, and may go dry,” Swift said.

“The number of wells which have gone dry in Henderson County has remained small over the last year; however, with the drought continuing, this can change quickly. Individuals should take steps to limit any unnecessary water use,” Swift said.

Individuals on wells are strongly advised to stop all outside irrigation and car washing. These activities involve a large volume of water. Also water from irrigation is normally evaporated by the sun and does not help replenish the groundwater table.

"Sediment in the water or low water pressure is often a sign that a well is beginning to dry up. Well pumps may be damaged or destroyed if allowed to run under dry conditions," Swift said.

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