

## Mayors take Governor's Challenge

Written by

Tuesday, 23 October 2007 05:57

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Governor Mike Easley urged North Carolinians yesterday to cut their water use by 50 percent between now

and Halloween, and local Mayors, Boone's Loretta Clawson included, say their communities are up the challenge.

"I'm calling on the citizens of Boone to try to do this, and we'll just obey what the governor says. We really want to try to get out of this drought. The rain has helped, but, we're still in the drought," Clawson says.

Blowing Rock Mayor J.B. Lawrence knows increased water conservation will make a difference.

"Conservation measures to date have improved our water resources. Our reservoir is about a foot and a half fuller than it was, even before this rain," Lawrence says.

Blowing Rock has already taken drastic measures. Over the summer, the town implemented Stage III mandatory Conservation measures, forbidding water use outside unless in a fire emergency, and restricting water served in restaurants to water ordered. Boone is still in Stage I, a step below mandatory restrictions.

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Easley says that, while many communities statewide have implemented restrictions, those may not be enough to conserve water for the months ahead.

Easley officials can use the next week to see whether the state will be able to manage as the supply of water continues to drop.

Easley's office will monitor public water systems across the state, then release a list of those that saw significant reductions in water consumption between yesterday and October 31.

&quot;This is the list to be on,&quot; Clawson says.

Lawrence joins Clawson in hoping High Country communities get on that list.

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"Whether we can cut 50 percent, that's a real challenge, particularly at this time of year because it's the height of the tourist season, but we'll certainly make every effort to," Lawrence says.

Water Conservation Links:

[http://www.ncwater.org/Water\\_Supply\\_Planning/Water\\_Conservation/wc\\_tips.pdf](http://www.ncwater.org/Water_Supply_Planning/Water_Conservation/wc_tips.pdf)

<http://www.p2pays.org/water/moretips.asp>

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pubs/simple.htm>