Drought 2015 – Status

Drought Emergency: How it works:

Ecology Advises the Governor's Office on the need and scope for a drought emergency declaration

Advisory committees: Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC)
Executive Water Emergency Committee (EWEC)

General drought emergency criteria:

- Water supply expected to be at or below 75% of normal (actual or expected)
- Hardships or expected on state resources, sectors, stakeholders or communities
- Drought Emergency declaration can be localized or state wide

DOH Role: State Drought Advisory Committees, outreach and support to drinking water stakeholders.

2015 Drought Timeline:

January	WSAC started monitoring water supply and snowpack conditions
March	EWEC convened for 1st time and recommends a partial drought emergency declaration
	Governor authorizes a state drought emergency declaration
April	WSAC and EWEC recommend an expansion of the drought declaration
	Governor expands drought emergency declaration
May	WSAC and EWEC recommend a statewide emergency declaration
	Governor expands the drought emergency to statewide (though December 2015).
July	The State legislature authorizes drought emergency funding (18 million for biennium)
	Ecology and Health promulgate separate "emergency funding" programs as emergency rules

Impacts to date:

Agriculture
Fisheries across the state
Drinking Water (Olympic Peninsula & SW Washington communities, small systems statewide and Puget Sound)

Health Activities:

Right now – drinking water is considered the 1st tier impact, but drought can and will impact other aspects of public health as the drought continues, and conditions change.

DOH Drought Team:

- Work with water systems that are at risk or experiencing "drought related" challenges
- Coordinate with Ecology on drought outreach activities
- Coordinate between state agencies on drought activities
- Review drought grant applications and provide feedback to Ecology
- Work with DOH DWSRF staff on emergency loan applications
- Respond to stakeholders, community, and media inquiries
- Work with governmental and non-governmental partners on education, tools, and technical assistance for small systems and at risk communities.

What's Ahead? Forecasts & Implications.