We work with others to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.

DROUGHT UPDATE—2019

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water

Washington State’s Drought Trigger

Less than 75 Percent of Normal Water Supply + Hardship → Drought

RCW 43.33B.400
Drought Declaration Process

Forecasting and Monitoring
- WSAC—Responsible for assessing whether the water supply is likely to be below 75% of normal
  - Office of Washington State Climatologist
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - National Weather Service
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Army Corps (optional)
  - Bonneville Power (optional)

Evaluating Hardship and Impacts
- EWEC—assessing whether water supply deficits are likely to cause undue hardships to water uses or users
  - Governor’s Office
  - State Conservation Commission
  - Agriculture
  - Commerce
  - Ecology
  - Fish & Wildlife
  - Health
  - Natural Resources
  - Emergency Management Division

October Through March 2019
Drought Declaration Ecology Can....

- Authorize emergency withdrawals
- Authorize emergency water right transfers
- Provide emergency grants and loans

Drought Monies

- Department of Ecology
- Department of Health
- Other
- Webinar—June 24
Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Water Supply Availability Committee—Friday, June 7
- Executive Water Emergency Committee—Friday, June 14
Contact Information

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