



August 3, 2023



Dear Thompson River watershed residents:

Re: Drought conditions and water reduction notice

You are receiving this letter because you hold one of the largest water licences within the Thompson River watershed. The Provincial Water Stewardship group is contacting you to communicate current conditions within the basins.

The Southern Interior region of British Columbia has been experiencing above average temperatures and below average precipitation this year. Peak spring freshets occurred very early throughout the Thompson, and the snowpack has mostly melted. Flow in the Thompson River has been at record lows for the time of year since early June, and current flows are at levels typically seen in mid-late September.

The Ministry of Forests recently raised the drought level for Thompson watershed to a Drought Level 4. **We are requesting that all water users increase their water conservation measures and, as one of the largest water users in the watershed, we are requesting that you reduce your consumption by 30 to 50%.**

Level	Impacts	General Response Measures
0	There is sufficient water to meet socio-economic and ecosystem needs	Preparedness
1	Adverse impacts to socio-economic and ecosystem values are rare .	Conservation
2	Adverse impacts to socio-economic and ecosystem values are likely .	Conservation Local water restrictions where appropriate
3	Adverse impacts to socio-economic and ecosystem values are possible .	Conservation Local water restrictions likely
4	Adverse impacts to socio-economic and ecosystem values are likely .	Conservation and local water restrictions Regulatory action possible
5	Adverse impacts to socio-economic and ecosystem values are almost certain .	Conservation and local water restrictions Regulatory action likely Possible emergency response

We are sharing this information with you in the spirit of cooperation and stewardship. If you have been making use of your large water licence(s), and are able to reduce your consumption, then your actions have the potential to make a bigger impact than most. The Thompson River provides important habitat for many culturally and ecologically significant fish and other wildlife species.

If you would like more information on changing drought conditions, please access the British Columbia Drought Information Portal that is managed by the Ministry of Forests at <http://bit.ly/BCDroughtPortal>.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has published online resources on drought preparedness and response strategies that agricultural producers could implement. They are available at <https://bit.ly/BCDrought-Agriculture>.

We appreciate your support, and we understand the impacts that drought can have on everyone. Through water conservation measures and working together we can work to protect aquatic life and support water users in the Thompson River watershed.

If you have any questions, please contact Carla Hartling at Carla.Hartling@gov.bc.ca or at (250) 312-6713.