



The BC Government recently issued a Level 4 Drought Rating for the Thompson Nicola Region, the Okanagan Region and a Level 3 Drought Rating for the North Thompson.

The BC Government describes Level 4 as: Conditions are extremely dry. Any further declines in stream, lake and aquifer levels could lead to water shortages and affect people, agriculture, wildlife and fish stocks. For more information, please visit: <http://bcrcfbc.env.gov.bc.ca/lowflow/droughtmap.htm>

We are asking all TNRD citizens for voluntary water consumption reduction. Everyone is urged to maximize their water conservation efforts.

In the big picture, we need to be sure there is enough water for farms and fish downstream from us. Currently within the TNRD the river systems most at risk are the **Nicola River, South Thompson River** and the **North Thompson River**.

Drought Information:

Drought is a recurrent feature of climate involving a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in a water shortage. In British Columbia, drought may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation in the mountains, hot dry weather and reduced rainfall. This affects water levels in rivers, reservoirs, lakes and aquifers.

Voluntary water reduction applies to all water use. It does not apply to "grey water" (defined as household waste water that does not come from toilets) recycled water or collected rain water.

Water Reduction Suggestions:

- Reduce or eliminate watering of all landscaping
- Wash dishes by hand – use two sinks/basins one for washing and one for rinsing and reuse leftover grey water to water lawn or feed houseplants
- Eliminate outdoor washing of cars and boats, except for safety purposes, such as windows and lights
- Take shorter showers – an 8 minute shower uses 40-80 gallons, so reducing to a 4 minute shower uses only 20-40 gallons
- After you wet your toothbrush, turn off the tap and don't leave it running– 4 gallons of water per minute are saved
- Rinse your razor in the sink – fill the sink with warm water and reuse
- Keep a jug and/or bottle of drinking water in the fridge to use instead of running tap water until it is cool for drinking
- Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables and/or after boiling and steaming vegetables and recycle it to water house plants

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility. If everyone does their part, the diminishing water can last longer.

Thank you,

TNRD