

Agenda

Everett, Seattle, Tacoma

- Potential Impacts of Drought Declarations
- Water Supply Status
- Recommendations

Potential Impacts from Drought Declarations

- Everett/Seattle/Tacoma have managed around lack of snowpack, have enough supply for people and fish
- Drought declarations in WRIs 7/8/9 could result in significant lost revenue for the major water suppliers
 - Not unusual for our customers' consumption to drop following a drought declaration
 - For example, a 5% reduction in regional consumption could result in \$15M+ lost revenues in a year

Everett Water Facts

- Service Area – Snohomish County
- Population Supplied – 580,000 (80% of Sno Co)
- Average Annual Demand – 50 million gallons per day
- Peak Day Demand – 115 million gallons per day
- Source – Sultan River, a tributary of the Skykomish River
- Snohomish Basin (WRIA 7)

City of Everett – Water Supply

- Lowest snowpack on record
- Near normal precipitation
- Stored more spring runoff than normal
- Reservoir storage above normal
- Projected water supply adequate to meet instream flow requirements while continuing to meet water supply needs for our customers
- Normal conservation measures

Seattle Water Facts

- Population Supplied – 1.3 million
- Average Annual Demand – 115 million gallons per day
- Peak Day Demand – 200 million gallons per day
- Sources: Two Protected Watersheds, Cedar & SF Tolt
 - Chester Morse Lake & Masonry Pool, Masonry Dam, Cedar River (WRIA 8)
 - SF Tolt Reservoir, SF Tolt Dam, SF Tolt River (WRIA 7)
 - Wells provide backup supply

City of Seattle – Water Supply

- Current water supply outlook is good
- Filled reservoirs earlier than usual to make up for lack of snowpack
- Will capture additional spring rainfall runoff in reservoirs
- Projected water supply adequate to meet instream flow requirements while continuing to meet water supply needs for our customers
- Normal conservation measures
 - “Use water wisely as always; don’t use it differently than in any other year”

Tacoma Water Facts

- 316,000 total people directly served by Tacoma Water
- 221,000 more people are served in our Partner service areas
- 63% of services inside the City of Tacoma (37% outside)
- Average daily use of 50 million gallons per day
(80 million gallons per day with Partners)
- Summer Peak demand of 80 million gallons per day
(100 million gallons per day with Partners)
- 95% Green River, 5% groundwater wells

Tacoma Water – Water Supply

- Current water supply outlook is adequate
- Adaptively managed flows to aggressively fill the reservoir in March in recognition of lack of snowpack
- Will utilize groundwater supplies earlier and to a larger extent than normal
- Water supply is projected to be adequate to meet instream flow requirements while continuing to meet the needs of our customers
- Normal conservation measures
 - “As always, we encourage water conservation and wise water use.”

Near-term Recommendations

- State and major water suppliers should work together to identify drought areas and develop appropriate messages

Long-term Recommendations (1)

- Re-evaluate state drought criteria in light of this year and future low snowpack years
 - Many climate change models indicate less snow in the future
 - Current drought criteria leads the state to drought declarations in low snowpack years
 - How often will drought declarations occur in the future?

Long-term Recommendations (2)

- State should work with this year's affected parties (small water suppliers, hatcheries, other?) to begin long-term planning against future low snowpack
 - Everett/Seattle/Tacoma have been analyzing impacts from climate change for some time, would like to participate in efforts moving forward