Drought Declaration and Funding Update

Jeff Marti, Water Resources Program
August 9 2021
Statewide Average Temp

6.0°F degrees above normal

The 1st warmest July since 1895

Statewide Average Precipitation

0.06” of rain averaged statewide (-0.84” from normal)

The 4th Driest since 1895
3rd Warmest March – July since 1895

2nd Driest March – July since 1895
WA PASTURE AND RANGE Condition Index

Based on NASS crop progress data.
Map of 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Washington)

Sunday, August 08, 2021

Time series plot of 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Washington)
Powers granted to Ecology

- Authorize emergency withdrawal of public surface and ground waters, including dead storage...
- Approve a temporary change in purpose, place of use, point of diversion, or point of withdrawal.
- Employ additional persons for specified terms of time, consistent with the term of a drought condition, as are necessary.
- Acquire needed emergency drought-related equipment.
- Enter into agreements with applicants receiving emergency withdrawal authorizations...to recover the costs...of mitigation for emergency withdrawal authorizations.
- Enter into interagency agreements...to partner in emergency drought response.

https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.83B.410
• July 28th -- Emergency drought relief funding rule published
  • Limited amount of dollars ($750K)
  • Rule reserves first $1 million of grants to state agencies
    • Departments of Health (~$270K)
    • Fish and Wildlife (~388K)
    • State Conservation Commission (~100K)

• If more money becomes available, we will consider opening up grant program to other public bodies (e.g., irrigation districts, counties, cities, PUDs, Tribes and others).
Thank you
USDA Crop Progress and Condition: Spring Wheat in Washington, 2021

Condition Year
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021

Condition Type
- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor

Progress
- Emerged
- Headed
- Harvested

Progress Year(s)
- 2021
- 2020
- 2019
- 2018
- 2017

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Crop Progress Report