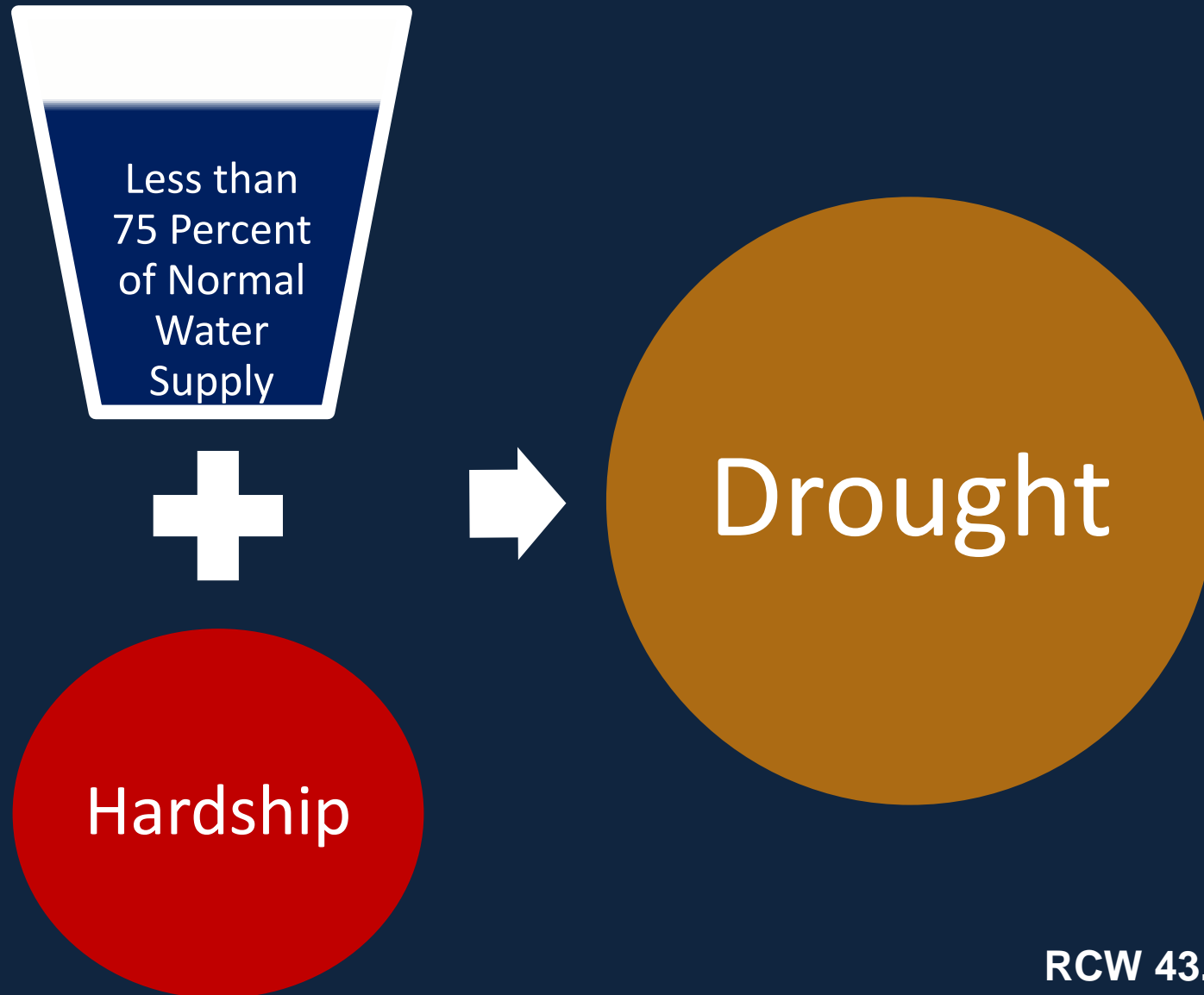


Water Supply Availability Meeting

August 10, 2018

Time	Subject	Responsible	Representing
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome/Information for Media Framework for Drought Declarations in Washington State	Jeff Marti Kristin Johnson-Waggoner	Ecology
10:15 – 10:30	Regional Climate Perspective 1. Recent precipitation and temperature 2. Seasonal forecasts/ENSO	Karin Bumbaco and Nick Bond	Office of Washington State Climatologist
10:30 -- 10:45	Current Streamflow and Groundwater Conditions	Mark Mastin	USGS
10:45 –10:50	Status and Forecast for Yakima Basin Water Supply	Chris Lynch	Bureau of Reclamation
10:50-11:15	Impacts Summary Input from Other Water Managers and State Agencies	All	

Washington State's Drought Trigger



RCW 43.83B.400

Impact Slides next, save for discussion

Impacts Summary

Drinking water systems – conservation requests

- Two Clallam PUD water systems: Clallam Bay/Seiku (wellfield near Hoko River) and Island View (Olsen Creek - mandatory)
- City of Forks - groundwater near Calawah River
- City of Woodland – Ranney collector - North Fork of the Lewis River
- City of Cheney (chronic issues) - groundwater
- City of Ryderwood – Campbell Creek - mandatory restrictions
- Town of Cathlamet (down to one intake, half of capacity) – Elochoman River
- Small system in western Thurston County (well going dry)
- Moses Lake and Medical Lake have passed summer watering ordinances (not exclusive to this summer) - groundwater
- City of Kelso (Cowlitz River - Ranney collector system)
- Two rural systems in Jefferson County (groundwater)

Continued...

Agriculture

- Non-irrigated crops are showing stress; soil moisture is declining.
- Conservation districts are getting queries from tree growers about irrigation; seedlings are dying, needles are falling.
- Reports of substantially reduced yields on second cuttings of hay (15 vs 70 round 80-pound bales).
- Media report of crop damage near Vancouver.

Fish

- Low Flows
- Thermal block on lower Yakima River
- Fish stranding Dry Creek, trib to Skagit
- Curtailment is underway or notices sent in the Chehalis, Walla Walla and Methow basins (Methow is stabilizing). Notice letters are being prepared for the Similkameen in the Okanogan. NWRO staff reached out to irrigators in Skagit basin.

STOP

Summary of Drought Stages and Triggers

Stage 1 – Advisory

Conditions: Long-term forecast indicates drought of any level of severity may occur, or short-term forecast indicates minor drought conditions may occur in at least some area of the state.

Triggers:

- *Water supply trigger:* Consideration of the following factors suggest a strong likelihood of reduced water supply, that careful management of water supply and demand is advisable, and that concerns should be conveyed to natural resource managers, water users, and the public:
 - Below normal snowpack;
 - Below normal river forecasts;
 - Below average reservoir refill or carry-over from the previous year;
 - Depleted soil moisture or groundwater;
 - Extended precipitation deficit (e.g., the Standardized Precipitation Index is -1 or below); and/or
 - Forecasts of high temperature or low precipitation for an extended period.
- *Hardship trigger:* There is a potential for hardships to water users and uses in the affected area due to drought conditions.

Response: Heightened awareness, increased preparation. Communicate existing monitored conditions and forecasted short term climate outlooks (1-3 months). Coordinate communication with local water managers and affected governments (state, local, tribal). Water users who anticipate hardships would be informed they can petition Ecology for assistance with drought preparedness/response actions. State agencies may begin mobilizing resources, communicating with the Legislature and Office of Financial Management (OFM) on potential funding needs, and preparing for drought response actions.

Stage 2 – Emergency (issue Declaration)

Conditions: Short-term forecast indicates high probability that drought conditions meeting the statutory definition will occur at least in some areas of the state; or drought conditions have actually materialized in at least some area of the state (at any level of severity – minor to severe).

Triggers:

- *Water supply trigger:* Forecasted seasonal runoff is likely to be less than 75 percent of normal; and/or other water supply indicators, as summarized above, have deteriorated to more extreme levels.
- *Hardship trigger:* There is high confidence of existing or imminent hardships to water users in the affected area due to the drought conditions.

Response: Issue Drought Declaration for affected areas. Communicate existing monitored conditions and forecasted short term climate outlooks (1-3 months). Coordinate communication with local water managers and affected governments (state, local, tribal). Activate state systems for response actions defined in the state’s Drought Contingency Plan. (Note: Water users would need to provide evidence of imminent or demonstrated hardship when requesting permits or funding for specific actions under the emergency drought provisions of state law.) Seek emergency funding as needed from the Legislature and coordinate with OFM.

