



August 3, 2023

Dear South 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 South 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 South Thompson, and the snowpack has mostly melted. Flows in the South Thompson River are currently below record lows for this time of year.

The Ministry of Forests recently raised the drought level for entire South Thompson watershed to a **Drought Level 5**. **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 South Thompson River provides important habitat for many culturally and ecologically significant fish and other wildlife species.