



OKANAGAN REMAINS IN DROUGHT LEVEL 1 BUT HOT, DRY SUMMER EXPECTED

The B.C. Government has elevated most basins in the province to a Level 2 drought rating, but the Okanagan remains in Level 1 based on current water supply.

That said, it is expected that we will experience another year of extremes in the Okanagan valley. We had record-setting snow packs this winter, but they melted quickly in May and early June due to hot weather. Although the weather has been cooler this week, forecast is for above-normal temperatures this summer.

While Okanagan water purveyors are generally experiencing average or above-average supply conditions, everyone is encouraged to use water wisely and ensure their drought plans are ready to activate if needed. The province is asking licensees with upstream storage to closely follow their release schedule requirements to avoid low flows downstream and potential impacts to fish. Flows in some streams can change rapidly during hot, dry conditions.

All independent licensees on streams, and all groundwater users who are on aquifers that may be connected to streams, are encouraged to monitor their withdrawals and ensure they are using water efficiently.

Information on drought levels and average streamflows is available on the [BC Drought Information Portal](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH!

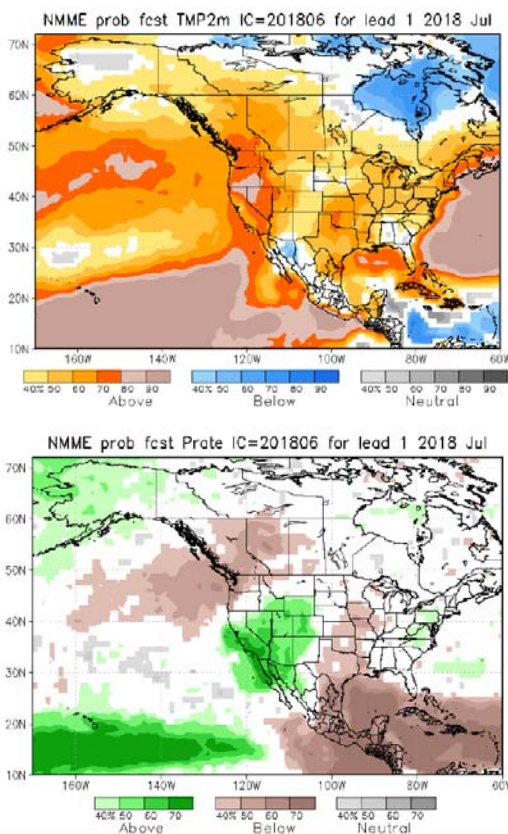
The OBWB would like to hear about your water supply. Please let us know if you change watering restrictions, and any other factors that influence water availability in your communities.

Contact Kellie at
kellie.garcia@obwb.ca or
250-469-6321.



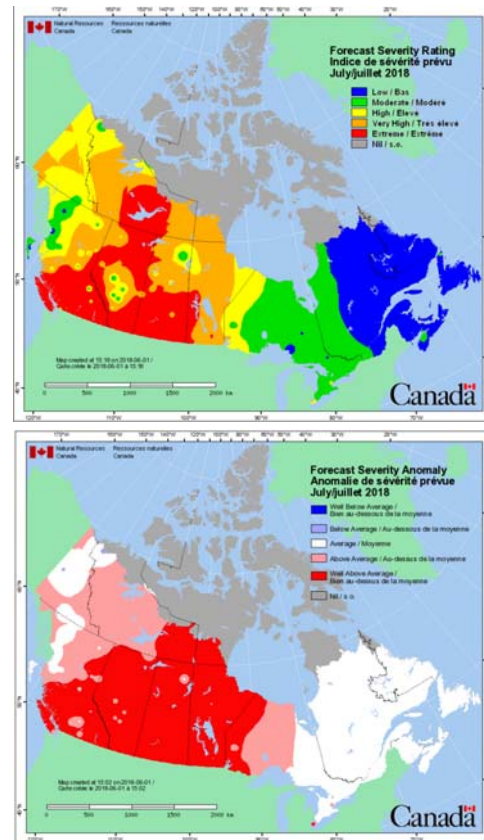
WEATHER FORECAST

According to the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), the outlook for the Okanagan in July is hotter than average temperatures and below-average rainfall. (Forecast maps retrieved on June 22 from www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/NMME/monanom.shtml)



An above-normal Build Up Index, or total amount of fuel available for combustion, combined with the expectation of warmer and drier conditions, will most likely bring a busy fire season. Areas predicted to have extreme fire seasons are determined by comparing the Forecast Severity Rating map with the Forecast Severity Anomaly map. See cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/maps/forecasts for more info.

WILDFIRE RISK



COMMUNICATING WATER CONSERVATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The OBWB, through its Okanagan WaterWise outreach and education program, re-launched the **Make Water Work (MWW)** campaign on May 17. Make Water Work is a valley-wide outdoor water conservation initiative developed and delivered in partnership with Okanagan water utilities and aimed at tackling the 2nd largest use of water in our valley—residential outdoor use.



The decision to move ahead with the launch, despite flooding at the time, was based on several factors, including: 1) Despite some Okanagan residents being affected by flooding, many more were already out working in their gardens and turning on the irrigation; 2) Local government and utility partners noted that conservation was needed because water treatment plants were being overburdened; 3) The need to launch ahead of the long-weekend, when people would be in their yards and/or heading into garden centres. Garden centre partners were reporting an already very busy season with people buying plant material and we wanted to encourage WaterWise purchases with the *Make Water Work Plant Collection*; and 4) We were already hearing that we are headed for a repeat of last year – flooding, followed by drought and an extreme fire season.

The launch included mayors from throughout the Okanagan pledging to conserve and Make Water Work, and encouraging their residents to do the same. Residents who pledge at www.MakeWaterWork.ca are entered to win \$500 in WaterWise yard prizes. As part of the MWW campaign we provide utility partners with bookmarks, our popular Frisbees, and other materials to encourage and engage residents in a conversation around conservation. Okanagan WaterWise is also at outreach events throughout the valley, helping get the message out.