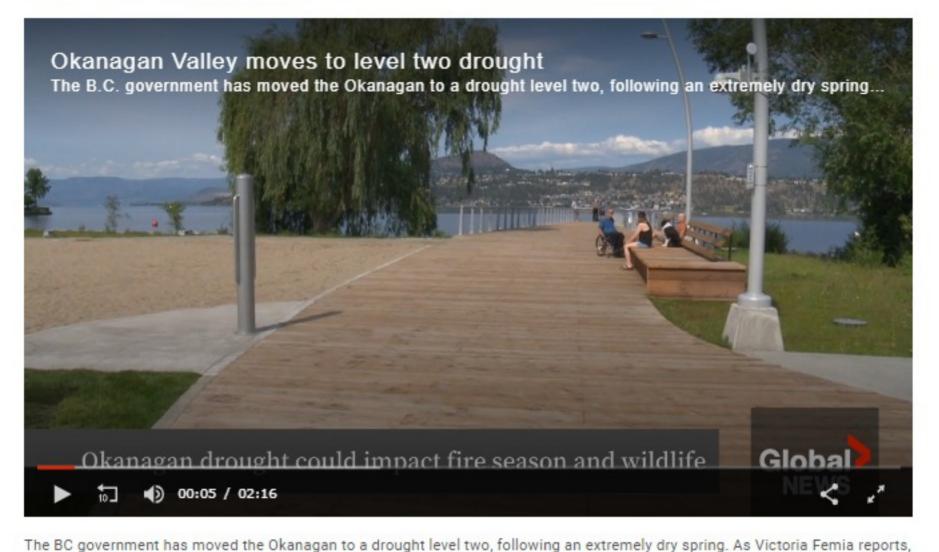
ENVIRONMENT

Okanagan Valley moves to level two drought



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Jun 24, 2023
 VIDEO LINK: https://globalnews.ca/news/9791736/okanagan-valley-moves-to-level-two-drought/

if the Okanagan doesn't get a good amount of rain soon, there could be major impacts on the ecosystem and the wildfire season

summer.

could be damaging.

The BC government has moved the Okanagan region to a level two drought,

cautioning the public to prepare for potentially worsening conditions this

is beginning to impact everything from wildlife to wildfires.

"We need to be making sure that there is enough water for the food crops in

the fall and the fish that are returning to our streams and of course make sure

According to the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the lack of water and moisture

there is enough for firefighting," said Corinne Jackson, Okanagan Basin Water Board.

A level two drought isn't expected to severely impact the environment,

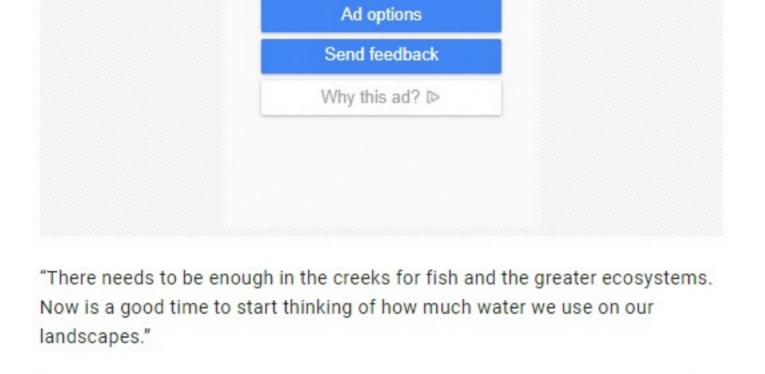
enough rain. If the region does get to the point of a severe drought the effects

however Jackson says that could quickly change if the valley doesn't get

"Not only how much water, the temperature. So, obviously the lower the water the warmer it gets which is lethal for fish," said Jackson.

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have any impact on an actual wildfire so things can dry quite quickly, it would just be dependent on if we're seeing hot temperatures that are also resulting in a low relative humidity percentage as well," said Melanie Bibeau, BC

"Fire danger rating is currently low to moderate which is quite favourable at this time of year. We will see if we do have any drying trends occurring or if we're seeing any dry lighting or anything like that."

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Wildfire Fire Information Officer.

"In the coming days, it'll still be warm and dry. 24 and up to 30 degrees for

According to meteorologist Yvonne Schalle some rain is in the forecast, but

daytime highs and dry until early next week," said Schalle.

In 2021, the Okanagan hit a level four drought and it ended up being one of

the worst wildfire seasons on record for the Kamloops Fire Centre.