



File photo of drought conditions in Kalamalka Provincial Park (ID 59301229 © Katyenka | Dreamstime.com)

'SEVERELY DRY'

By Liam Verster

Okanagan moved to Drought Level 3

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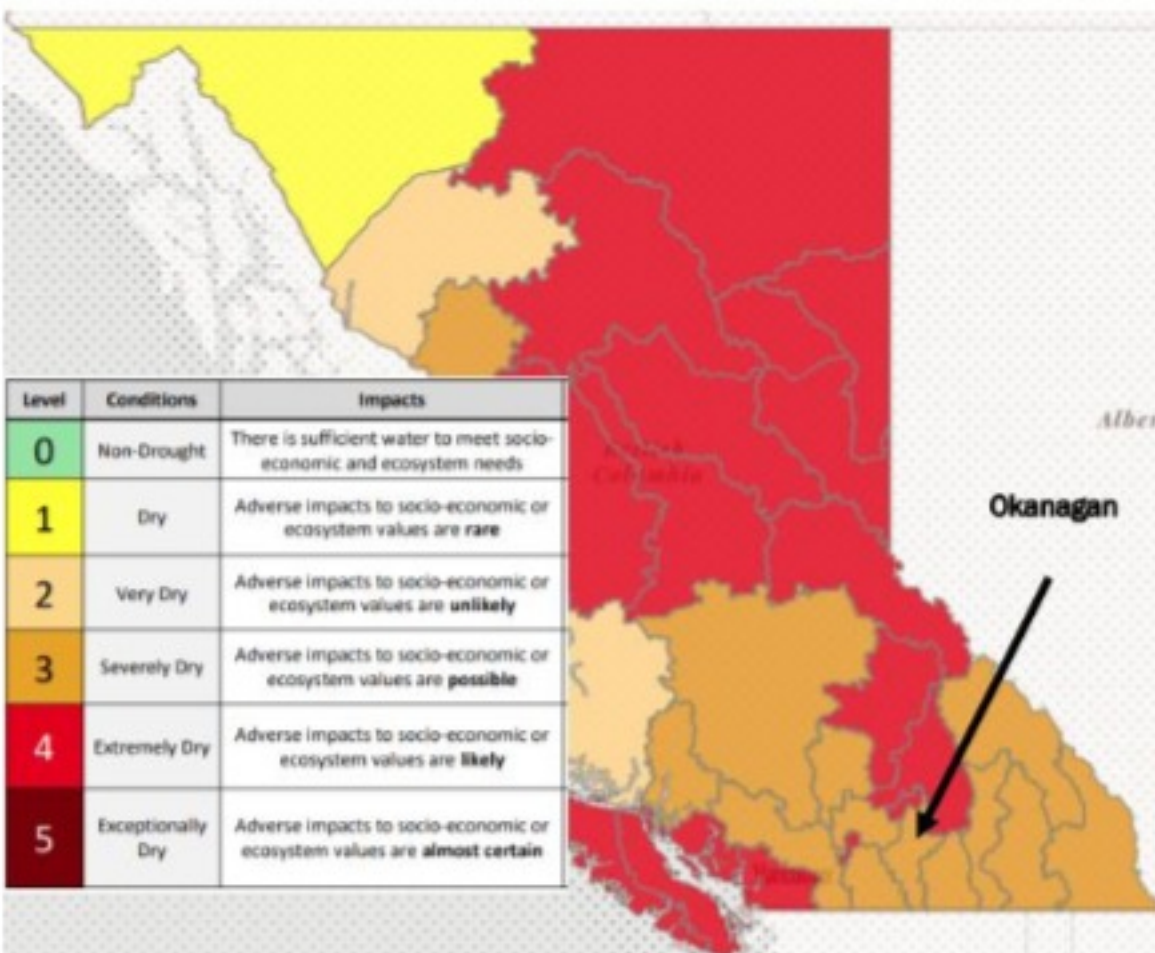
The drought level for the Okanagan has increased.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board said Tuesday, July 11, a lack of precipitation, rising water temperatures, declining stream flows and above normal temperatures in the forecast have led to the drought level increasing.

The Level 3 classification (on a scale of 0-5) indicates the area is severely dry and there may be adverse impacts to socio-economic and ecosystem values including to water supply, agriculture, fish, and firefighting and domestic use.

Provincial drought level map on July 6, 2023

Source: [BC Drought Information Portal](#)



Drought map of B.C. (Image credit: Province of B.C.)

The Okanagan Water Basin Board (OBWB) stated everyone is responsible for conserving water to reduce the risk of negatively affecting the environment and other water users.

It recommends people limit their water use wherever possible, and suggests people follow the conservation tips set out in the [Make Water Work campaign](#).

The OBWB noted regulatory rules are in place to protect fish within the Okanagan region. However, the agency added the drought conditions could be harmful as low water levels can impede fish passage to spawning and feeding areas and higher temperatures can increase susceptibility of disease and cause low oxygen levels in the water, resulting in fish kills.

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