

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

May 13, 2019

Maia D. Bellon, Director
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Director Bellon:

Based on the recommendation from the Executive Water Emergency Committee, I affirm that drought conditions in the state of Washington have expanded since the previous drought emergency declaration on April 4, 2019. Therefore, I hereby authorize and direct you, as Director of the Department of Ecology, to take action, including necessary orders, to formally declare a drought emergency in the following areas:

Colville	Grays-Elochman	Soleduc
Kettle	Willapa	Lye-Hoko
Chelan	Upper Chehalis	Elwha-Dungeness
Entiat	Lower Chehalis	Quilcene-Snow
Wenatchee	Deschutes	Stillaguamish
Naches	Kennedy-Goldsborough	Lower Skagit-Samish
Lower Yakima	Skokomish-Dosewallips	Upper Skagit
Cowlitz	Queets-Quinalt	Nooksack

Snowpack levels, precipitation, and soil moisture in these watersheds are much below normal. Forecasts by the National Weather Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service indicate a high probability that rivers in these watersheds will experience extreme low conditions.

This shortage creates a strong possibility of undue hardship for water users, including agricultural irrigators, as well as municipal and community public drinking water systems. Reduced stream-flows in these watersheds could cause deleterious effects on fisheries. I encourage the Department of Ecology to coordinate with other state agencies, federal agencies, tribes, and water users to help protect our important human, economic, and natural resources.

Together, I want us to ensure that Washingtonians have the information and assistance they need to get through this drought in the best shape possible. Throughout the coming months, I would like the Department of Ecology and other agencies to keep me informed about the latest drought conditions and the effects on residents and resources.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

