



Okanogan Conservation District

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For Immediate Release

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS PROJECT IN OKANOGAN COUNTY

Okanogan Conservation District staff are working with partners to create a Local Drought Preparedness Plan for Okanogan County to improve our resiliency, decrease the hardships experienced, and reduce the risks to the water supply. The district and partners will host community meetings from July 30th until August 30th.

The goal of the project is to better understand the current and future water needs of Okanogan County, determine risks, and identify projects that can improve the resilience of communities and mitigate the risks to the water resources in Okanogan County.

Okanogan County is well into the third year in a row of a “declared drought emergency.” Even in years when an official declaration is not issued, the county is experiencing shorter and dryer winters with decreasing snowpack and hotter summers. Current climate predictions forecast that Washington will experience snow drought for at least 40% of the winters between now and 2050.

This project will be successful if all Okanogan County communities provide input and feedback. Community members are encouraged to share the drought impacts they are currently experiencing, concerns they have if drought conditions persist or worsen in the future, and brainstorm project ideas that will mitigate those risks and impacts. Together, we can continue meeting the water needs of our communities during these difficult periods of low water availability now and into the future.

Ways you can participate:

- Attend the community meeting in your area of Okanogan County.
- Take the drought feedback survey that will be released this summer.
- Call or email us to discuss your personal experiences and suggestions for projects.
- [Sign up](https://www.okanogancd.org) for the communication list for updates on the project at www.okanogancd.org.
- Join the conversation and encourage your neighbors to participate.

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