Why is the City concerned?

Sequim is in the Dungeness Watershed, which was declared to have drought conditions in April 2024

We are experiencing a "snowpack drought," meaning that while total precipitation might be near normal, the snowpack in our local mountains is at least below 75% of normal.

With diminished snowpack, there is a shortened season of snowmelt flow in the Dungeness River, which means:

- Less recharge to the drinking water aquifers we all use.
- Less irrigation water available for farmers to make a living.

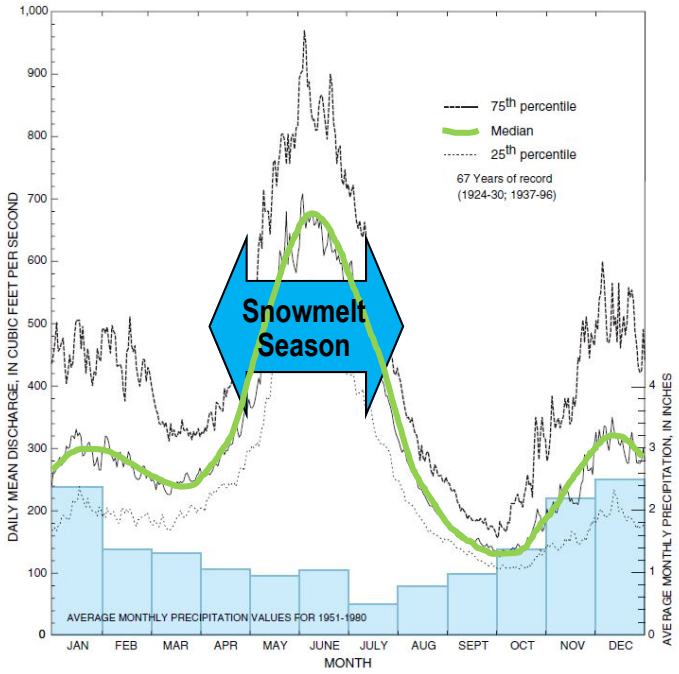


Figure 5. Mean daily discharge for the Dungeness River and average monthly precipitation near Sequim, Washington.
Discharge data are from U. S. Geological Survey streamgaging station 12048000 and precipitation data are from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric (1982).

All water purveyors in declared drought regions are affected.

City of Sequim's current activities related to water conservation include:

Conservation pricing for water customers: Rate goes up after first 600 cubic feet per month, and another hike after 1600. (600 cubic feet per month is about 150 gallons per day, gpd)

New construction requires low-flow fixtures.

Our Water Reclamation Facility on Schmuck Rd produces up to 600,000 gpd reclaimed water for non-potable uses, including irrigation on our playfields and creek replenishment (and sometimes on commercial farms or for aquifer replenishment).

The adopted Storm & Surface Water Master Plan focuses on recharging the aquifer, conserving water resources for all.

The City of Sequim coordinates with regional partners in eastern Clallam County on water storage and other projects.

Additional resources

https://sequimwa.gov/856/Water-Conservation-Drought

https://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/guidelines/guideline-8/

https://extension.wsu.edu/clallam/

CITY OF SEQUIM

www.sequimwa.gov

City of Sequim

Water Saving Tips & Facts

About the Drought



CITY OF SEQUIM

What everyone can do

Since outdoor irrigation is the biggest use of water by far, the City encourages residents to reconsider their lawns…

Let your lawn to go dormant in the summer. Brown is the new green!

If you do choose to let your lawn go dormant, don't start watering it midsummer and then stop again. This will damage grass plants.

If you need to water, do it in the early morning. Frequency depends on the soil.

- One inch of water per week is enough for most of Western Washington.
- Measure the depth of watering with a shallow pan placed under sprinklers.

For details consult WSU Extension at 360-417-2279 or Clallam Conservation District at 360-775-3747. Web addresses on reverse side.



In the garden:

- Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation losses. An occasional, ample watering is more effective than numerous superficial waterings.
- Use trickle or drip irrigation systems for watering trees, shrubs, hilly areas, or widely spaced plants.
- Collect runoff from roofs and paved areas for garden use.
- Use surface mulch around trees, shrubs, flowers, and garden crops to reduce evaporation loss.



In the home:

- Install low-flow toilets (1.6 gallons or less), dishwasher and clothes washer.
- Take quick showers. Run water only for wetting down and rinsing.
- For just a few dishes, washing by hand in a small pan can use less water than dishwashers.
- Minimize rinsing before using dishwasher.
- Run only full loads in dishwashers and clothes washing machines.

It's the new green.



- Use appropriate water-level setting on clothes washing machines.
- Rinse or wash fruits and vegetables in standing, not running, sink water.
- Use the garbage disposal as efficiently as possible—or compost food waste.
- Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator.
- Keep a covered container for cool drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap-water run until cold.
- Keep a pitcher near sinks and tubs to capture water while waiting for it to get hot (or cold).
- Loosen ice cubes by removing the trays a few minutes before they are needed.
- Repair faucets and toilets promptly.
- Clean sidewalk, driveway, and patio with a broom rather than by hosing off.
- Use a bucket for soapy wash water and rinse quickly with a hose when washing house windows or a car.
- Save bath, shower, and laundry water for toilet flushing if water is in short supply.
- Avoid play and other activities with constantly-running water.