

British Columbia Drought Monitoring Summary

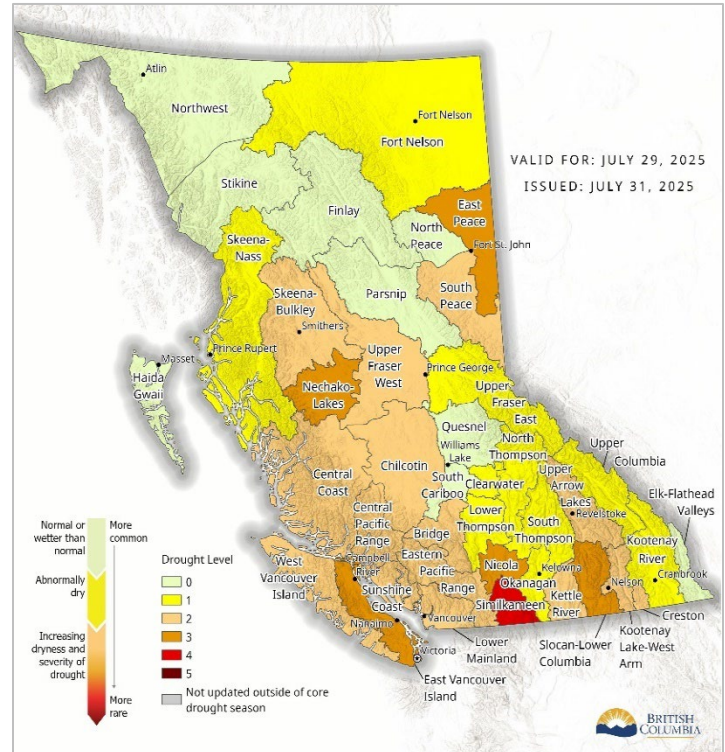
Valid for: 2025-07-29 | Issued: 2025-07-31

Key Messages

- Recent rainfall has led to improved drought conditions in parts of the northeast and southeast.
- Ongoing dry conditions along coastal regions continue to deepen precipitation deficits and worsen drought, particularly in the East Vancouver Island basin.
- Despite near-normal rainfall in some areas providing short-term drought relief, long-term drought effects persist, particularly in the northeast.

Looking Ahead

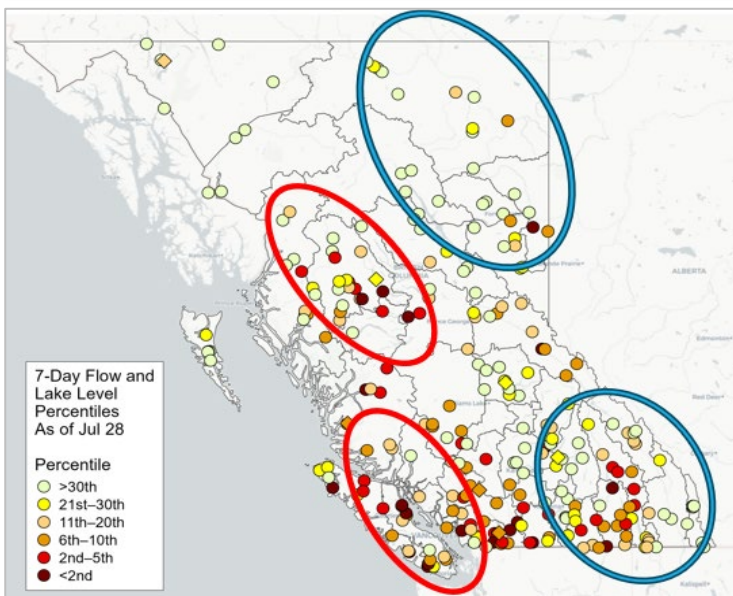
- Widespread showers in the northeast and southern interior expected by Friday, with heaviest rainfall totals for the south alongside thunderstorm activity.
- Temperatures warming into Thursday before cooling with the incoming wet weather.



Provincial drought levels issued July 31, 2025. Visit the [B.C. Drought Information Portal](#) to view the full map and additional data layers.

Risk Profile

- Slight rise in Kiskatinaw River (Northeast) flows from recent rain but still record low for this time of year.
- Koksilah River flows have seen a small boost from voluntary irrigation scheduling, though flows remain near levels of risk to aquatic ecosystems.
- Fish salvage conducted in Coldwater River for juvenile Coho salmon.
- Flows in the Similkameen River continue to be extremely low for this time of year.
- Reports of fish stranding on Vancouver Island with fish salvages underway.
- Reservoir releases into the Cowichan and Englishman Rivers are being reduced further to preserve storage levels.



7-day streamflow and lake level percentiles as of July 28, 2025. Blue circles show areas improved by recent rain; red circles mark areas of streamflow declines from ongoing dryness. Source: River Forecast Centre.

Product Description and Explanation

British Columbia Drought Monitoring Summary

Product Description

The British Columbia Drought Monitoring Summary is published by the Water Management Branch. It is a one-page summary document issued when provincial drought levels are updated.

Purpose

The Drought Monitoring Summary provides additional context to current drought levels published on the [B.C. Drought Information Portal](#), including on conditions, local impacts, potential risks and short-term outlook. Its intended users include the general public, media, and staff who are involved in water management and drought hazard response/planning in First Nations, local, provincial and federal government. Information contained in the Drought Monitoring Summary may differ from local conditions.

Distribution and Timing

The Drought Monitoring Summary is published on the B.C. Drought Information Portal. The Water Management Branch maintains an e-mail distribution list for issue of the Drought Monitoring Summary. To be added to the list, please send a request to DroughtOps@gov.bc.ca. The Drought Monitoring Summary is typically published on Thursday mornings and is based on information valid as of Tuesday morning of the same week. This means that the Drought Monitoring Summary (and the published drought levels) may not reflect conditions, observations and assessments at the time of publication. Users should be aware that conditions may change substantially from one issue date to the next.

Technical Details

Drought levels measure the severity of dryness relative to the historical record across broad spatial scales, primarily using meteorological and hydrological indicators (see the [B.C. Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan](#) for more details). Drought levels do not consider forecasted conditions and are not intended to measure the severity or risk of drought impacts. The risk profile described in this Drought Monitoring Summary may include available information on ecological or socio-economic impacts and potential risk factors and is not intended to guide specific actions.

Further Information

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

Drought Operations

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