Consent Agenda
July 21, 2025

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT WATER STATISTICS MONTHLY UPDATE

Issue

The July 2025 Drought Management Water Statistics Monthly Update is provided to Council for information.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That the Drought Management Water Statistics Monthly Update for July 2025 be received as information.

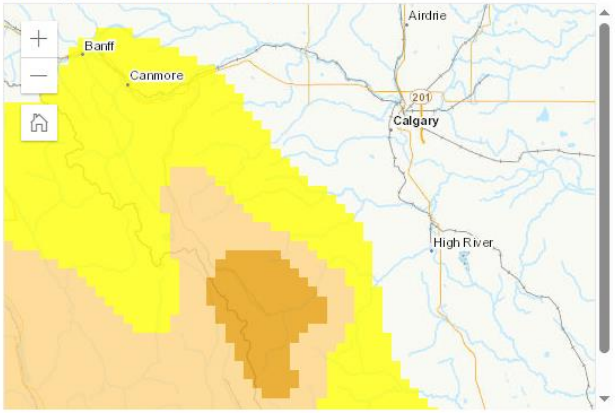
Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

1. Drought Classification and Indices

Canadian Drought Monitor

- Current Classification (Okotoks & West Region): D0-D1 - Abnormally Dry to Moderate
- Date of Data: as of June 30, 2025
- Trend vs. Previous Month: Drought conditions **improving**
- Canadian Drought Monitor Maps:

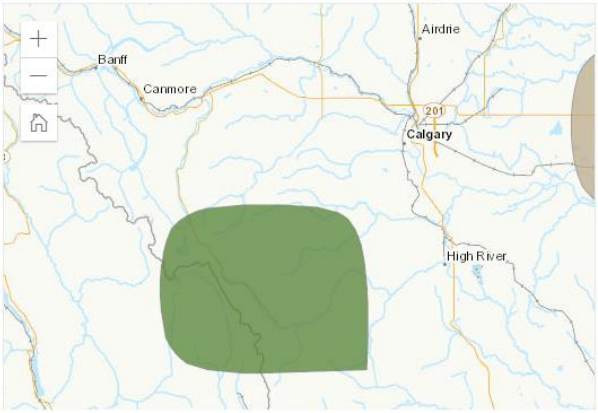
Drought conditions as of June 30, 2025



Legend for current drought conditions:

- D0 - Abnormally dry
- D1 - Moderate drought
- D2 - Severe drought
- D3 - Extreme drought
- D4 - Exceptional drought
- Drought not analyzed

Drought Outlook for end of the following month



Legend for drought outlook:

- Drought Removal
- Drought Improves
- Drought Develops
- No change in drought
- Drought Worsens

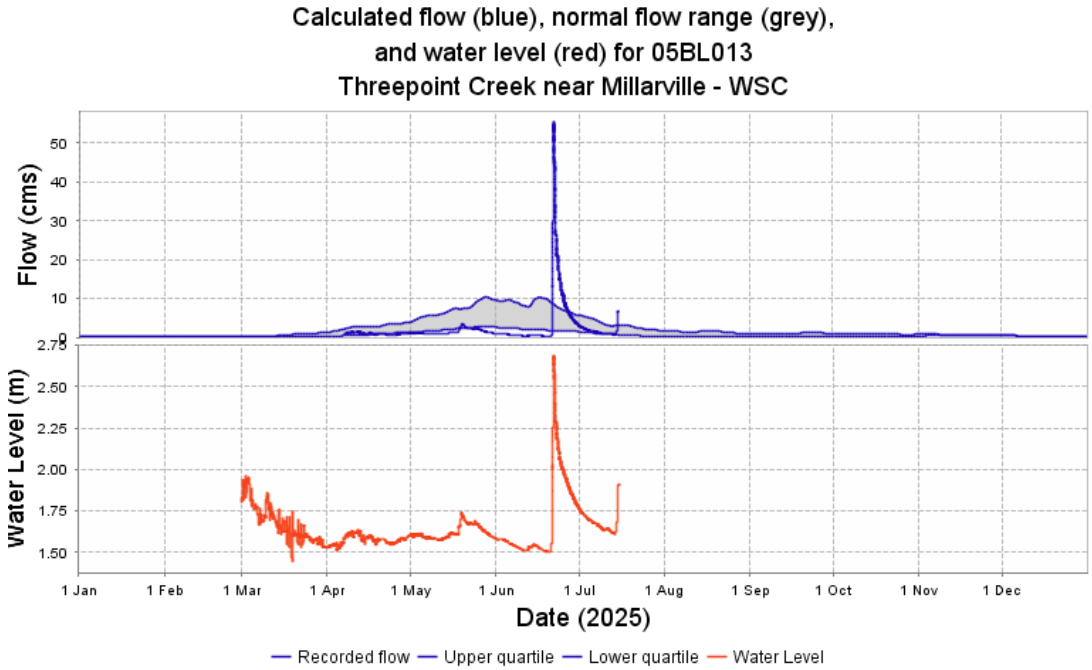
Reference: https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather/canadian-drought-outlook

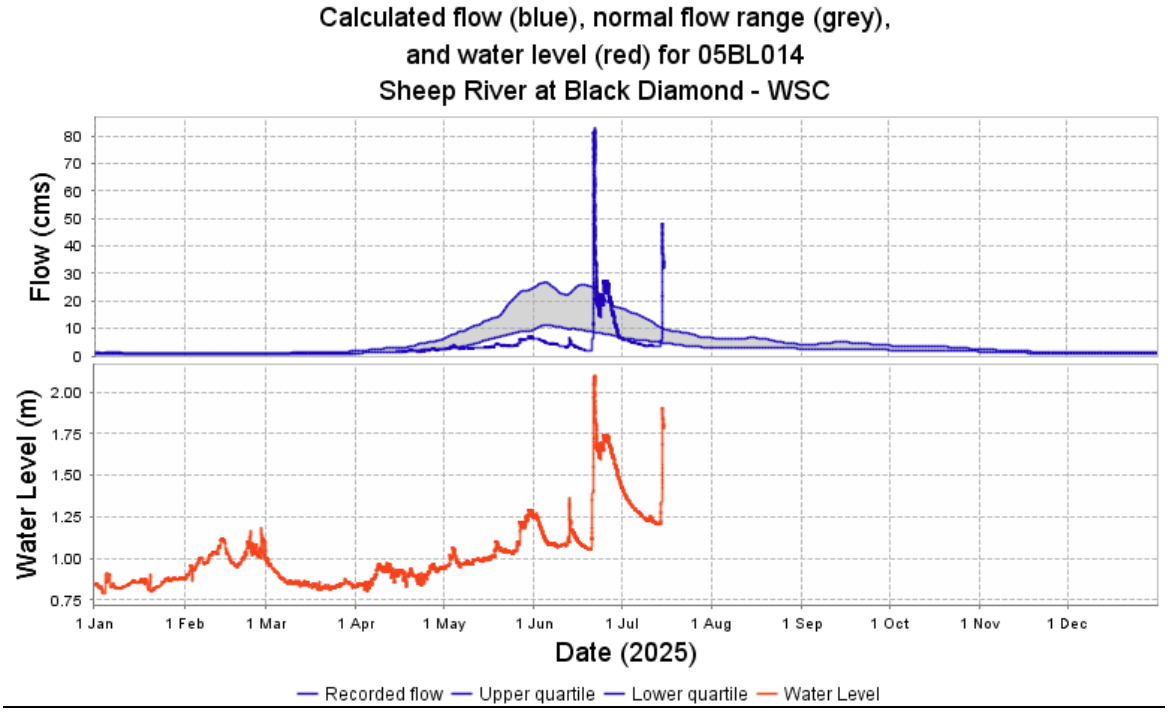
2. Mountain Snowpack and Runoff Forecast

Station	Current Value (Snow Water Equivalent mm)	Historical Average Comparison	Water Supply Forecast	Runoff Forecast – Change from last month
Mount Odlum	0 mm	Snowpack depleted approx. three weeks earlier than 2024	Much below average to below average for March to September period	No change

3. River Flows (Sheep River) – as of May 20th

Station	Combined Flow m3/sec	Instream Objective	Status or advisories
Diamond Valley + Threepoint Creek	50.76 m3/sec	5.56 m3/sec	Data reflects most recent rain events on July 13 and 14. Current river flows are well above the instream objectives and remain subject to rapid changes due to precipitation variability.





4. Groundwater and Well Production

Metric	Current Value	Comparison to Last Month	Data Source
Well Production Capacity (MLD)	11-12 MLD*	Same as last month	Previous 7-day average
Average Water Demand (MLD)	9.2 MLD* (peak of 10.3 MLD on July 8th)	Decreasing demand observed	Previous 7-day average
Capacity vs Demand	Capacity exceeds demand by ~ 24%	Increasing	
Reservoir Levels	90-95%	No Change – Stage 1 Water Conservation	Previous 7-day average

*MLD Mega Litres per Day

References

Canadian Drought Monitor
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather/canadian-drought-monitor

Mountain Snowpack
Measured in "snow water equivalent" (mm), compared with the historical average (% of historical average).
https://rivers.alberta.ca/

Sheep River Flows
Information relating to Sheep River flow rates (taken from Diamond Valley and Threepoint Creek flow stations). Includes any posted water advisories and instream objectives (during spring/summer months).

Well Production Capacity vs Water Demand
Current total well production capacity (raw water supply) compared with water demand (treated water to distribution). Based on seven (7) day average, measured in MLD. Total well production is influenced by groundwater levels (i.e. production increases or decreases with groundwater levels).

Reservoir Levels
Operating levels across three main reservoirs: South Reservoir, Zone 2 North, and Zone 3/4 North.

Strategic Plan Goals

☐	Responsibly Managed Growth	☒	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
☐	Strong Local Economy	☐	Enhanced Culture & Community Health
☐	Organizational Excellence		

Equity/Diversity/Inclusivity Impacts and Strategy
n/a

Environmental Impacts
Recent rain events in June and July have provided much needed moisture and have contributed to increased river flows for the Sheep River. At the time of this report, the Sheep River is flowing well above instream objectives with recognition that precipitation can be highly variable and river flows remain subject to rapid changes. From a licensing perspective (and while above instream objectives), the Town is able to draw water from the restricted and seasonal portion of its water license portfolio.

Compared to previous years, water demand in June 2025 was approximately 5% higher than in June 2024, but remains lower than in 2022 and 2023. For Okotoks, outdoor water use continues to follow the Stage 1 Water Conservation Schedule, with reservoir levels being sustained even during peak watering days.

Alberta is presently in water shortage management stage 2 moderate drought (out of 5), with the potential to escalate to higher stages if dry weather conditions persist. Specific data on precipitation levels, temperature anomalies, and snowpack measurements can provide additional context for understanding the severity of the situation.

Concurrently, efforts to mitigate the impacts of the water shortage through conservation measures and sustainable water management practices are underway, with recommendations for individuals and communities to participate in water-saving initiatives.

Water Services continues to monitor the situation and, if drought conditions worsen, activate the water shortage response plan.

Community Engagement Strategy
n/a

Alternatives for Consideration
n/a

CAO Comments
This monthly monitoring report highlights the declining risk of drought for our area.

Attachment(s)
n/a

Prepared by:
Davey Robertson
Water Manager
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