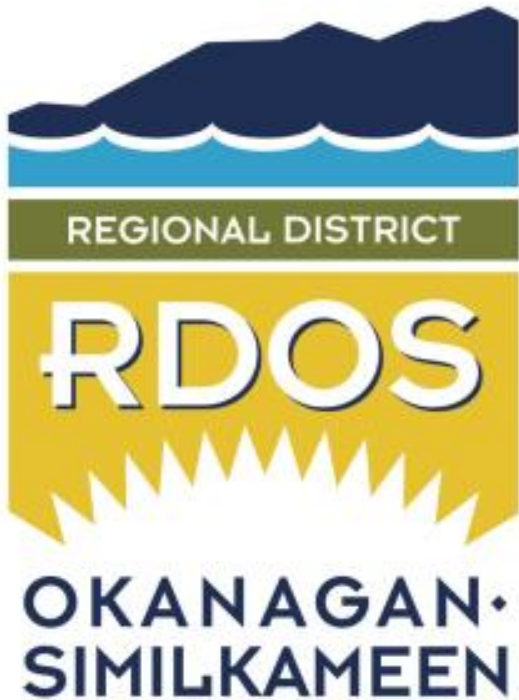




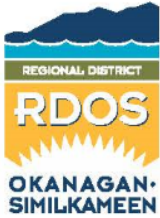
Water Conservation

from a local government perspective

Shelley Fiorito, Project Coordinator,
Utilities

RDOS Water Systems

- The RDOS manages 10 small water systems within the region that focusses on residential users.
- In the Similkameen, the only system managed by the RDOS is in Olalla.
- Water use regulation bylaw no. 2824, 2019 outlines responsibilities of the RDOS and applies to users of the managed systems.



Water Management in BC

- Working with other organizations

Provincial Departments: Forests, Natural Resources, Environment, Municipal Affairs, Ag and Agri-Food

Local purveyors: Irrigation and Improvement districts

Municipal Governments: Penticton, Summerland, Princeton, Keremeos

Regional organizations: OBWB – Make Water Work, OK Waterwise

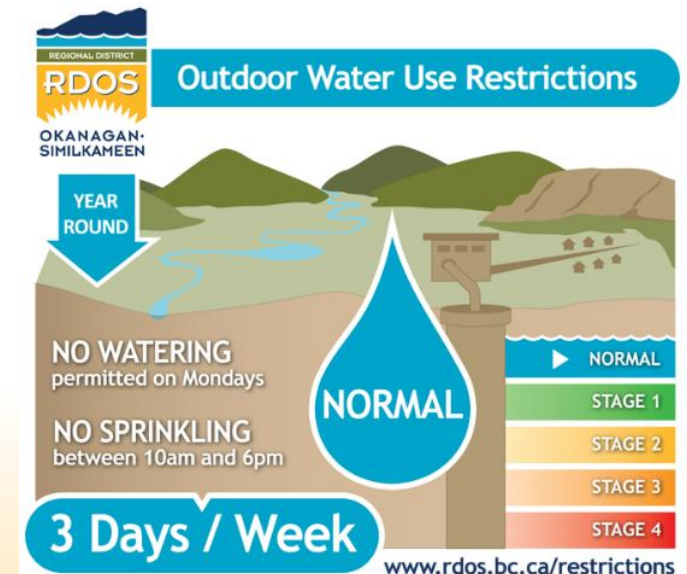
Water Restriction Stages

- A scale has been developed to indicate the level of concern conditions in the region:
 - snowpack, precipitation, freshet, groundwater recharge, infrastructure limitations, water quality and level of demand.
 - Users are asked to water on specified days based on even/odd civic address numbers.

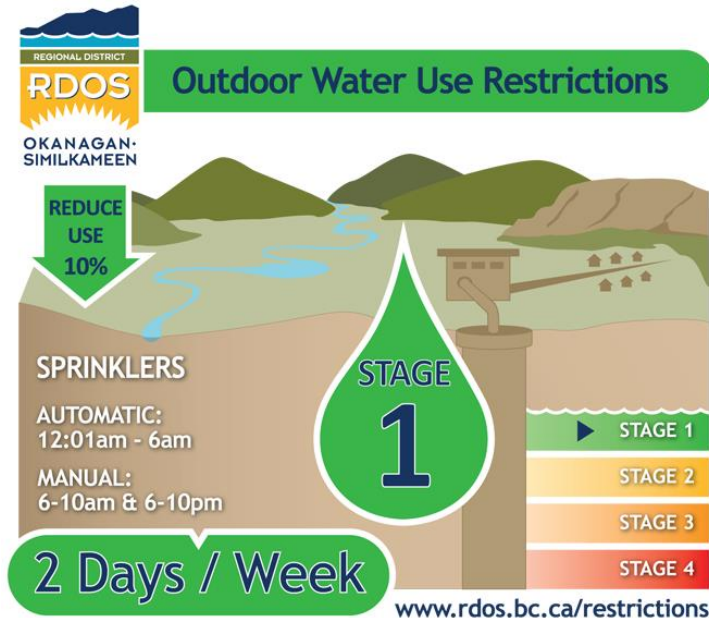
Regional Water Restrictions

Stage Normal is the baseline, increasing through Stage 1 to Stage 4

Stage Normal indicates no particular concerns, however, sensible consumption is expected based on the semi-arid environment we live in.



Stage 1

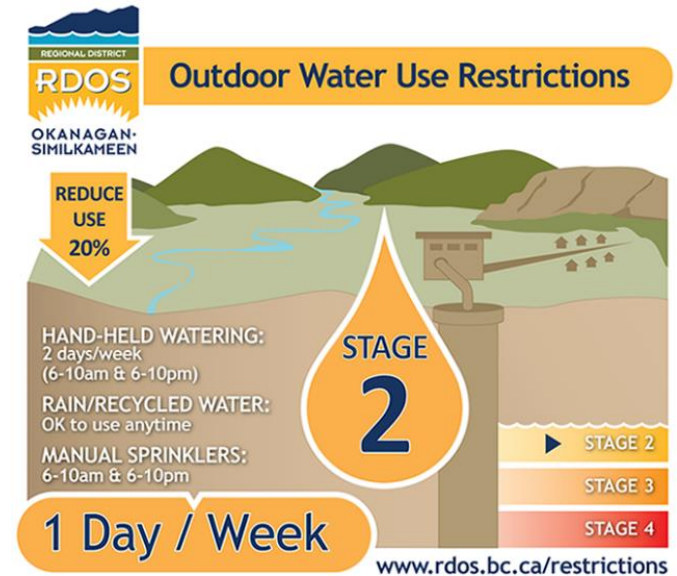


Stage 1 introduces a limitation on outdoor watering by requesting a 10% reduction on use.

The focus for **Stage 1** is to encourage efficiencies in watering practices and drought awareness. Generally implemented when restrictions are expected to escalate

Stage 2

Stage 2 encourages a 20% reduction in outdoor watering as well as reducing frequency to once a week



Necessary reductions in response to local water supply concerns and/or drought conditions. Restrictions apply to residential, commercial and institutional users. Voluntary reductions for Agricultural users.

Stage 3



Stage 3 is a significant reduction of 50% consumption and no sprinkling or lawn watering. Triggered by serious drought concerns and increasing risk of wildfire

Manual and automatic sprinkling not permitted for residential users, no establishment allowances for new landscaping. Commercial and institutional use limited to 1 day a week. Agricultural users restricted to 2 days a week

Stage 4

Stage 4 represents a critical shortage of water and no outdoor watering of any kind is permitted, 90% reduction required. Critical supply is at risk. Fire protection supply compromised.



Residential, commercial and institutional outdoor use not permitted. Agricultural use allowed to sustain livestock and perennial crops



Suggested Actions

Reduce outdoor watering by recommended percentage. A slow reduction in use allows landscaping to adjust to less water. Less surface watering can encourage healthy deep root growth and increase stability of trees, shrubs and even turf.

Suggested Actions

Assess irrigation systems for leaks and inefficiencies. A drip system is the most effective and lowest water use irrigation plan for residential landscaping. Leaks can account for substantial volume loss.



Suggested Actions



MakeWaterWork Plant Collection

PLANT TYPE CODES

G Grass S Shrub ES Evergreen Shrub T Tree
P Perennial FS Flowering Shrub ES-H Evergreen Shrub/Hedging

WATER NEEDS

0-3" (7.5cm) per year 4-7" (10-18cm) per year 8-11" (20-28cm) per year

LIGHT REQUIREMENTS

S Full Sun PS Part Sun - Part Shade SH Shade



COMMON NAME	SYLX NAME	LATIN NAME	TYPE	WATER NEEDS	LIGHT	EDIBLE	NATIVE
PERENNIALS							
Barrenwort		Epimedium (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	PS/SH		
Bigroot Cranesbill		Geranium (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	S/PS		
Blanket Flower	kc'lunus	Gaillardia (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	S		Native
Blue Flax		Linum perenne	⊗ P	💧*	S/PS		
Butterfly Gaura		Gaura lindheimeri	⊗ P	💧	S		
Chives		Allium schoenoprasum	⊗ P	💧	S	Edible	
Cushion Spurge		Euphorbia polychroma	⊗ P	💧*	S/PS		
Dusseldorf Pride Thrift		Armeria maritima (var.)	⊗ P	💧	S		
Firewitch Pinks		Dianthus (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	S	Edible	
Garlic Chives		Allium tuberosum	⊗ P	💧	S	Edible	
German Iris		Iris germanica	⊗ P	💧	S		
Gloriosa Daisy		Rudbeckia hirta	⊗ P	💧	S		
Hardy Ice Plant		Delosperma (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	S		
Heartleaf Bergenia		Bergenia cordifolia	⊗ P	💧	PS/SH		
Hen and Chicks		Sempervivum (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	S/PS		
Jupiter's Beard		Centranthus ruber	⊗ P	💧	S/PS		
Lamb's Ears		Stachys byzantina	⊗ P	💧	S/PS/SH		
Lavender		Lavandula (spp.)	⊗ P	💧	S	Edible	

spp. - means more than one species of the plant family is low water. var. - means more than one variety of the plant is low water. *Two drops in full sun. **Three drops in full sun.

Watering Instructions

On average, the Okanagan gets about 11 inches (28 cm) of natural precipitation annually. The amount of additional water a plant will need in the growing season will be affected by the type of soil it is growing in and whether or not the soil has been covered by mulch (which helps retain moisture).

The water needs indicated (1 or 2 drops) are for mulched, average, well-drained soil with good organic content and after the plants are established. Plants in sandy soils will need a bit more water, and plants in clay soils will do well with less than the suggested supplementation.

It is important to water deeply and less often so that water soaks into the soil and encourages deep root growth. A deep watering would be an application of one inch. (Measure how long that takes by putting out tuna cans within the area near you water.) Any supplemental watering that is required is needed most in our dry summer months.

To attract pollinators, choose plants with different bloom times.

OKANAGAN
waterwise
One valley. One water.

MakeWaterWork.ca

For a more extensive WaterWise plant list visit:
okanaganxeriscape.org/db

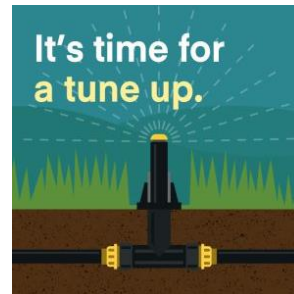
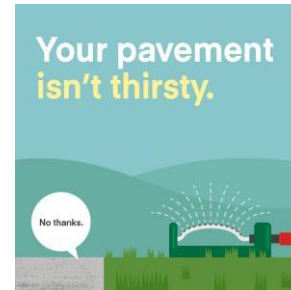
Review landscaping and replace thirsty plants with dry climate native species.

See:

www.makewaterwork.ca

for recommendations on water conservation

Makewaterwork.ca



Expectations for users

There are updates on the RDOS website and social media platforms for Stage Normal at the beginning of the growing season and when any changes are made.

ALL RDOS WATER SYSTEMS



RESTRICTIONS FOR ALL SYSTEM USERS

STAGE NORMAL

We are informing all RDOS owned/operated water system customers that watering restrictions are now in effect at Stage Normal.

Even numbered properties → Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Odd numbered properties → Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday

GALLAGHER LAKE WATER	MISSEZULA LAKE WATER	NARAMATA WATER	OLALLA WATER
SAGE MESA WATER	SUN VALLEY WATER	WEST BENCH WATER	WILLOWBROOK WATER
OKANAGAN FALLS WATER			

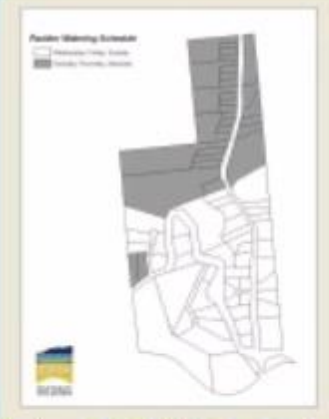
FAULDER WATER

Shaded Grey properties on map

→ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Non-shaded properties on map

→ Wednesday, Friday, Sunday



For More Watering Restriction Stages, visit: <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems/>

For General Inquiries: Utilities Department: 250-490-4135 or email: utilities@rdos.bc.ca.

For after-hours water-related emergencies, please contact Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
May 1, 2023

Drought progression

RDOS WATER SYSTEM

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
RDOS
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

STAGE 1

watering restrictions
in effect

**Reduce water use by
10%**

Even Numbered properties	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
Odd Numbered properties	Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

See <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems/water-restrictions/> for more info

RDOS WATER SYSTEM

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
RDOS
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

STAGE 3

watering restrictions in
effect

**Reduce water use by
50%**

Even Numbered properties	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
Odd Numbered properties	Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

See <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems/water-restrictions/> for more info

RDOS WATER SYSTEM

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
RDOS
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

STAGE 2

watering restrictions
in effect

**Reduce water use by
20%**

Even Numbered properties	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
Odd Numbered properties	Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

See <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems/water-restrictions/> for more info

RDOS WATER SYSTEM

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
RDOS
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

STAGE 4

watering restrictions in
effect

**Reduce water use by
90%**

No outdoor watering

See <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems/water-restrictions/> for more info

As restrictions escalate, signs will be placed throughout the community to inform residents of changing conditions.

Additional info

RDOS website

<https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems/>

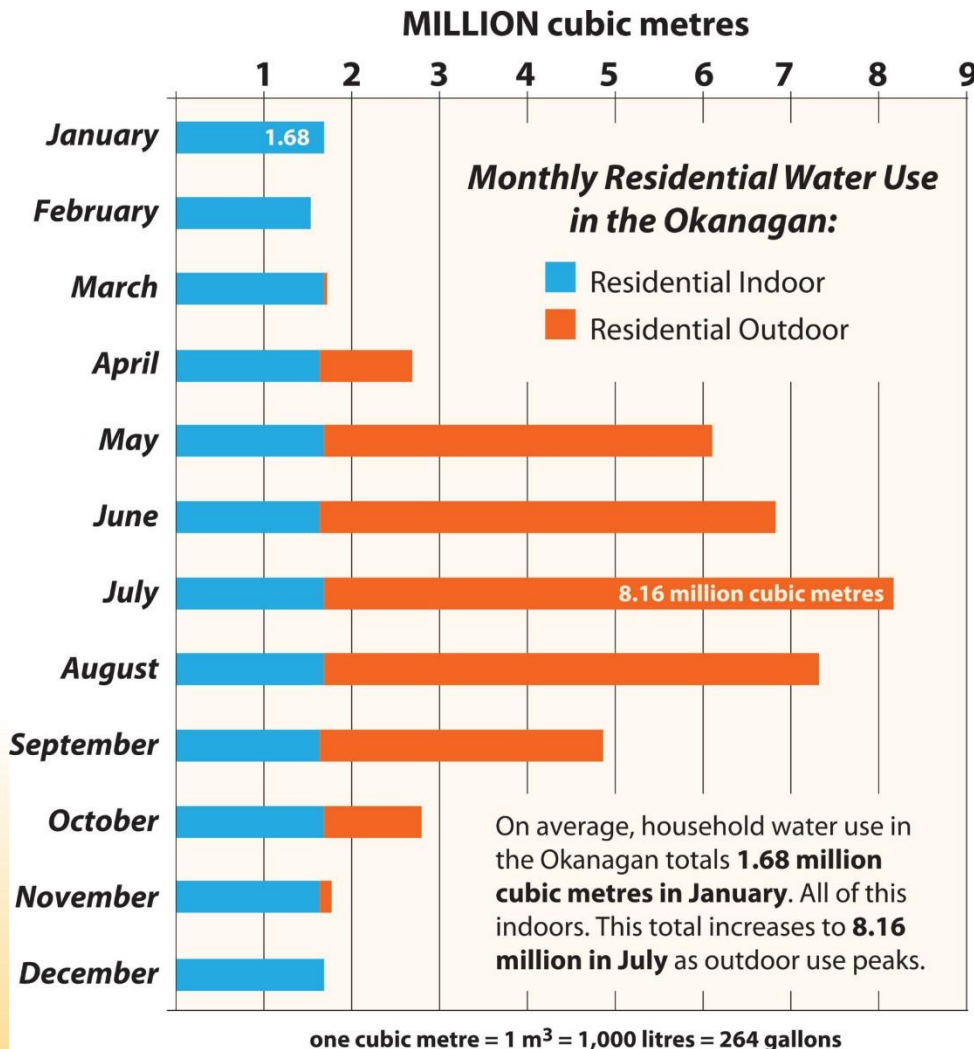
RDOS Regional Connections

<https://rdosregionalconnections.ca/water-conservation>

Voyent Alert

<https://www.rdos.bc.ca/newsandevents/notifications/>

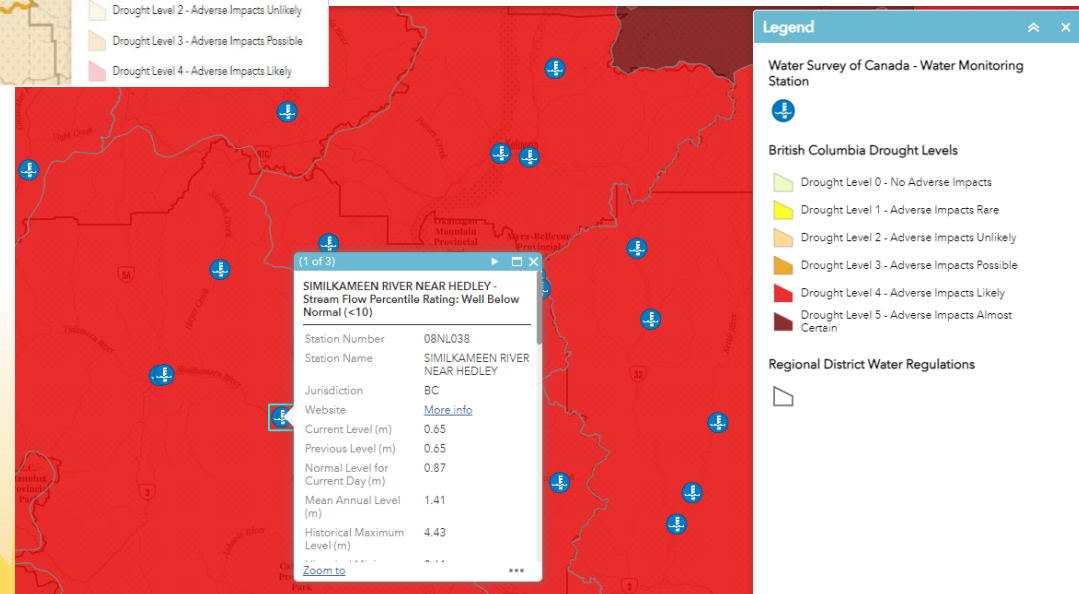
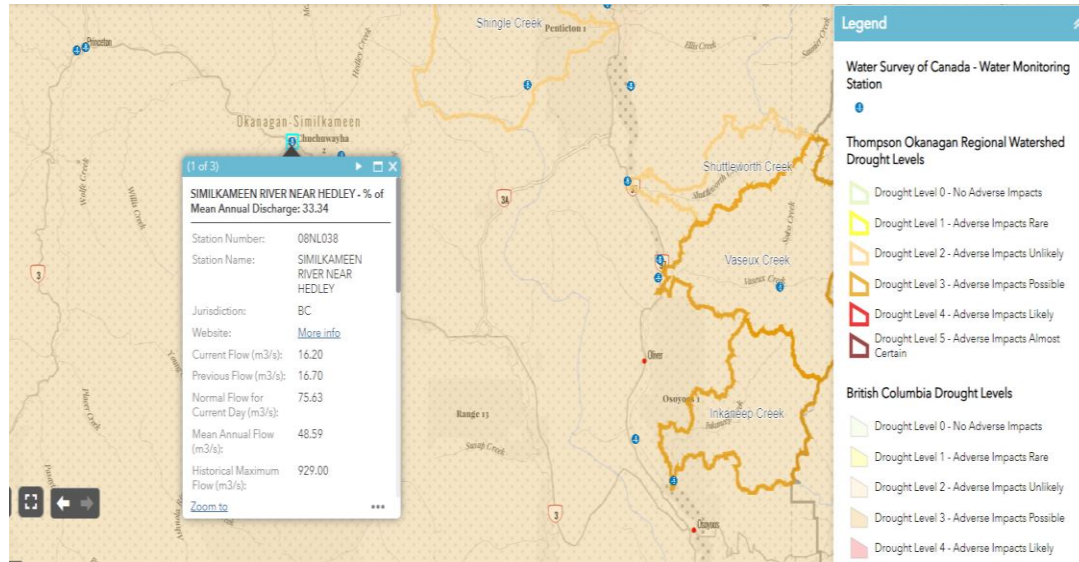
Statistics and data



1. There is **LESS water available** per person in the Okanagan than anywhere else in Canada. (Source: Statistics Canada, Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics 2003. Catalogue no. 16-201-XIE, p. 8.)
2. The Okanagan has one of the highest rates of water use per person in Canada.
3. The 2nd largest use of water in the Okanagan is used on our household lawns & gardens.

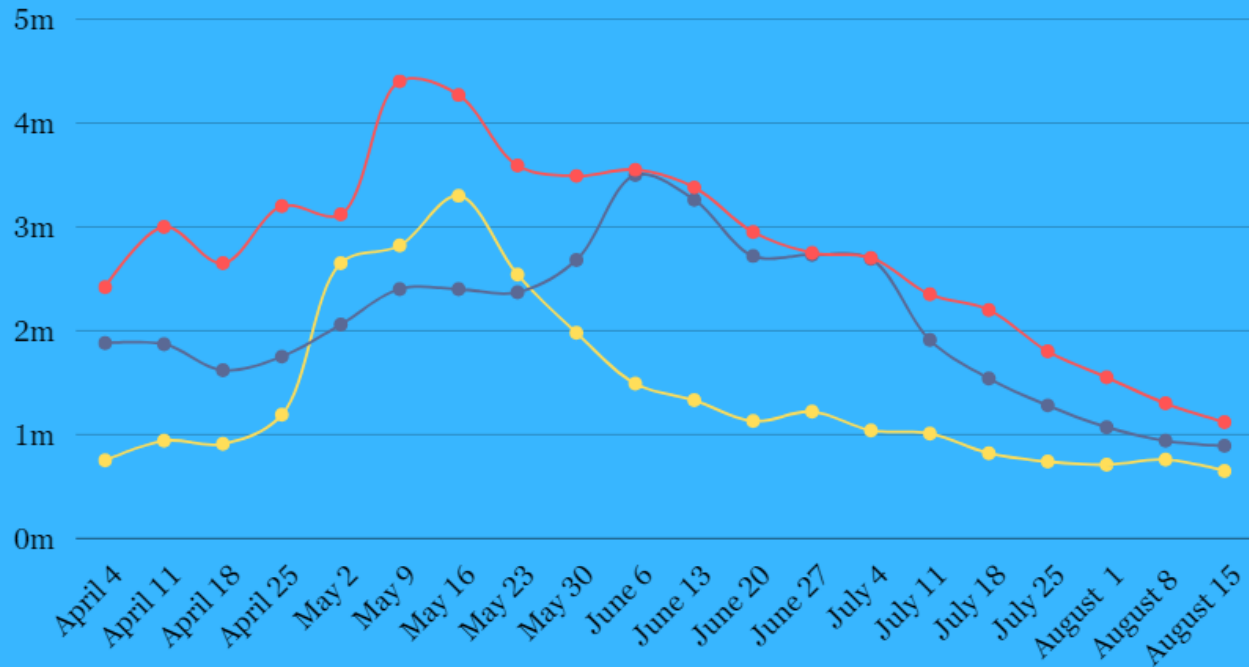
www.makewaterwork.ca

BC Drought Information Portal



Similkameen River Levels

2023



2023

2022

2021

Questions??

Thanks for your interest and
participation!

Shelley Fiorito
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sfiorito@rdos.bc.ca
250-490-4110