



Job Number: 130358

August 14, 2024

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DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
4936 BARRIERE TOWN RD
PO BOX 219
BARRIERE BC V0E 1E0

Dear District of Barriere,

Request for Reduction of Water Use - Drought Level 3

B.C. experienced severe drought last year and remains at high risk this year. Many areas in the Thompson Okanagan region are already experiencing severely dry conditions. The Barriere River watershed has been elevated to Drought Level 3. This means adverse impacts to people and the environment are possible. We all need to take action to start saving water.

All water users are asked to voluntarily minimize water use and withdrawals for essential and non-essential purposes.

Making voluntary reductions now may prevent or delay the need to restrict or suspend water use later in the season. Temporary protection orders may be issued as a last resort if voluntary efforts are not enough to restore water flows and protect at-risk fish and the environment from long-lasting or irreversible harm. By working together, we can all be better prepared for a severe drought.

Communities may also issue water restrictions depending on local water supply and demand. If you also use water from a water provider, check with your local authority for water restrictions in your area.

Saving water is everyone's responsibility, even more so in times of drought. Small changes make a big difference when we do them together.

Why your help matters

When conditions are dry, surface water and groundwater levels can drop if there's not enough rain or snowmelt to replenish them. Groundwater can be connected to surface water. This means diverting groundwater can also lower levels in nearby rivers and streams.

Sustained low stream flows and above average water temperatures can stress or kill fish. This can cause significant or irreversible harm to fish populations and species at risk, and impact other wildlife and critical habitats.

We also need to make sure there is a fair supply of water for people to drink, grow our food, and fight fires.

Current conditions in your area

The Barriere River watershed provides important habitat for many culturally and ecologically significant fish and other wildlife species. The seven-day average stream flow for the Barriere River is currently within the 5-10th percentile of normal. Flows may drop below critical levels for fish passage or spawning.

Stay informed about conditions in your area by visiting the B.C. Drought Information Portal regularly at droughtportal.gov.bc.ca.

What you can do

Follow the obligations and withdrawal limits in your water licence. If you also use water from a water provider, follow local water restrictions in your community.

Review and monitor your water usage. Reduce non-essential water use and find ways to use less water for essential purposes. You can also save water by reducing what you use water for, and the frequency of that use.

Irrigators should repair leaks in irrigation systems, improve sprinkler irrigation efficiency, use a soil moisture device to determine when to irrigate, complete regular nozzle checks, and coordinate community irrigation scheduling. Storage licensees are encouraged to rely on their stored water and minimize stream/aquifer diversions. Drought resources and supports are available to farmers and food producers at gov.bc.ca/AgDrought.

Domestic users can save water at home – follow local water restrictions, water lawns only once a week for one hour (or not at all), limit car washes, shorten showers, turn off the tap, and fix plumbing leaks. If you're able, consider planting drought-resistant lawns and gardens, invest in water efficient taps, toilets and washers, or install rain barrels to collect water. Many communities offer rebates and incentives. Learn more ways to save at gov.bc.ca/Drought.

If drought conditions worsen

The Province will continue monitoring drought conditions. If drought levels increase, you can expect to receive further requests for voluntary water reductions. If voluntary efforts are not enough to restore critical water flows, temporary protection orders may be issued as a last resort to legally restrict or suspend water use.

To protect water licence holders and the environment, we will continue to investigate and

address unauthorized water use. While our first step is always to work together to help people come into compliance, enforcement action may be taken on unauthorized users and anyone who does not follow authorized withdrawal limits or temporary protection orders. Failure to comply could result in administrative penalties of up to \$500,000 under the *Water Sustainability Act* and regulations.

Incidents of suspected water and environmental violations can be reported to the Natural Resource Violation line at 1-877-952-7277.

Drought preparation and response

The Government of B.C. is working with communities, farmers and businesses to prepare for drought now, and in the years to come. This includes monitoring conditions, supporting farmers and food producers, building infrastructure to better manage and store water, protecting fish, animals and the environment, and encouraging everyone to use less water. Learn how B.C. is preparing and responding to drought at gov.bc.ca/Drought.

If you have any questions about drought conditions and your role in drought response, please contact DTR.WaterStewardship@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your efforts to save water. By working together, we can respond early, recover faster, and be more ready for the future.

For reference, our records indicate you hold the following water licences in this area:

Licence: C046787 **Source:** Barriere River

- **Purpose Use:** Waterworks: Local Provider
- **Quantity:** 2,488,984.27500 m3/year

Licence: C050374 **Source:** Leonie Creek

- **Purpose Use:** Waterworks: Local Provider
- **Quantity:** 497,796.85500 m3/year

Licence: C050375 **Source:** Leonie Creek

- **Purpose Use:** Stream Storage: Non-Power
- **Quantity:** 740,088.00000 m3/year

Licence: 503457 **Source:** 294, Barriere River

- **Purpose Use:** Waterworks: Local Provider
- **Quantity:** 248,898.00000 m3/year

Sincerely,



Colleen D. Dreger, Assistant Water Manager