Today’s Objectives

• Review water supply relevant information for priority watersheds

• Make recommendations where watersheds are likely to be below 75 percent of normal supply, or put them on a watch list

• Share information regarding potential hardship (time-willing)

• Schedule next meeting
Ecology Convenes WSAC

WSAC makes recommendation re: water supply

EWEC makes determination re: hardship

Governor’s Office Issues Written Approval

Tribal Notification

Ecology Issues Drought Declaration Order

WSAC = Water Supply Availability Committee (Technical)
EWEC = Executive Water Emergency Committee (Policy)
Administrative Drought Trigger

- Water supply conditions where a geographical area or a significant part of a geographical area is receiving, or is projected to receive, less than seventy-five percent of normal water supply as the result of natural conditions and the deficiency causes, or is expected to cause, undue hardship to water users within that area.[WAC 173-166-030(2)]
Describing geographic areas for the purpose of declaring droughts

"Geographical area" can be natural or political. Examples:
(a) The state of Washington.
(b) Counties.
(c) Water resource inventory areas (WRIAs) as defined in chapter 173-500 WAC.
(d) Individual watersheds which constitute only a portion of a WRIA but whose boundaries can be topographically described.
(e) Groundwater management areas and subareas as defined in chapter 173-100 WAC.
(f) Designated sole source aquifers.
(g) Combinations of the above areas.
Modification and Addition of Drought Areas

- Drought Orders may be phased over time
- New areas can be added
- Parties can petition to have areas added
- Orders may be appealed
- Drought Order limited to 1 year from time of issuance
Prioritizing watersheds for drought consideration

- Snowpack dependent
- Time-sensitive
  - Irrigation planning
  - State response
- Statewide, precipitation is generally normal
- Past emergency drought activity
Location of Drought Permit Actions 2001, 2005

http://goo.gl/bXc5G6
Climate Model Projections for Spring Precipitation in WA State: More Recent Forecasts Indicate an Increasing Chance of Below-Normal

Ensemble mean projections from the group of models used in the National Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) and International Multi-Model Ensemble (IMME) show weaker negative precipitation anomalies for WA state, but the same trend in terms of later forecasts indicating lower precipitation.
Spring:
1953
1957
1958
1966
1969
1983
1987
1992
1998
2010

Moderate to strong El Niño events

Longer time scale with SOI < -1
Reference Documents at:  ftp://ecy.wa.gov/WSAC/

Water Supply Assessment by WRIA.docx

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