
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Vernon Water Warns of Dry Summer

Greater Vernon Water (GVW) is encouraging everyone to plan ahead for a dry summer based on the current water supply forecast. Our Duteau Creek water storage reservoirs (Aberdeen, Haddo and Grizzly) are beginning to fill but are below average levels due to our dry spring. While we usually receive significant rain in June to help fill our reservoirs, this year's forecast indicates there is a high chance of getting less than our normal June precipitation.

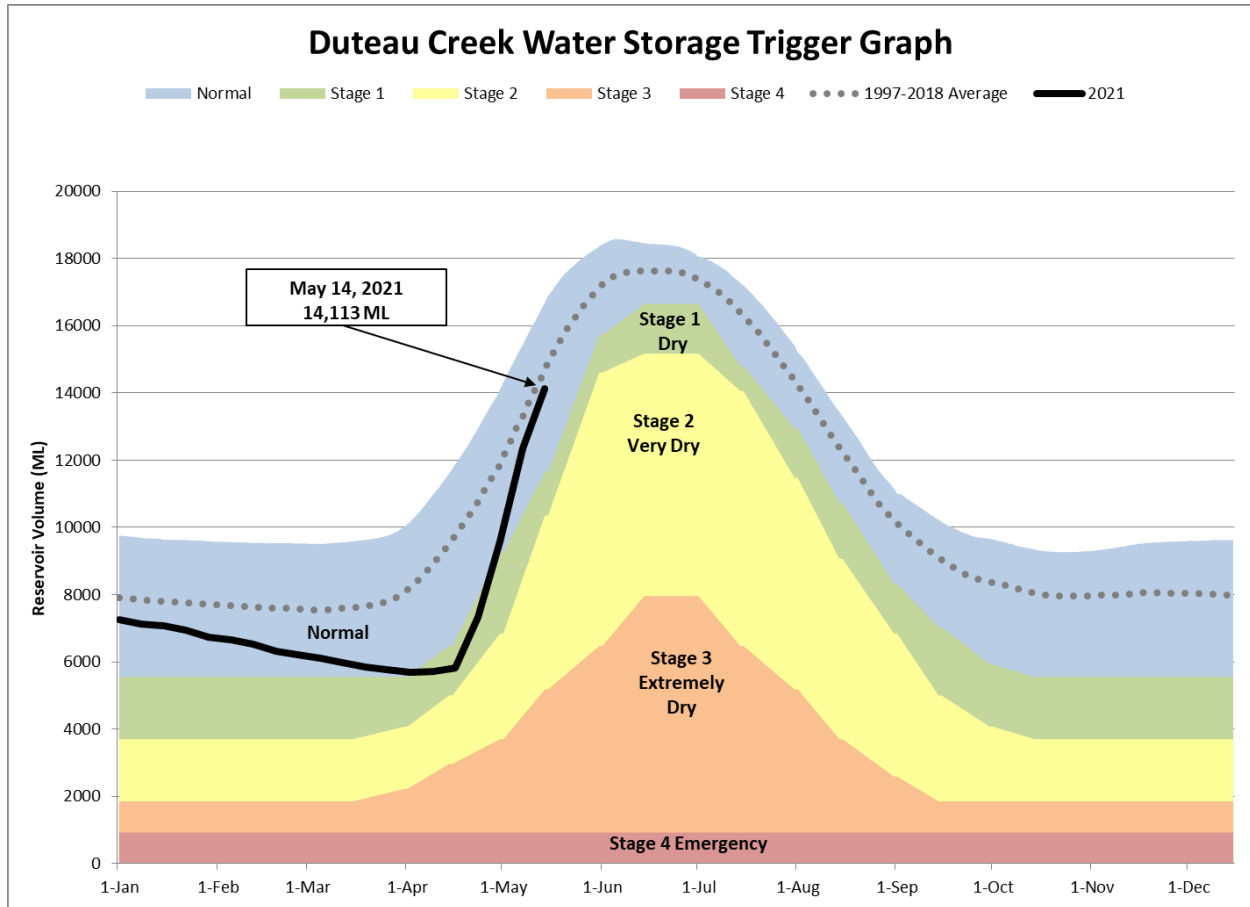
GVW staff are actively managing reservoir water outflows to maintain as much water in storage as possible while preserving stream flows for ecosystem needs. June is a critical time for GVW to assess water levels for the summer and staff are monitoring the situation closely. For more information on the GVW Water Shortage Management Plan, see www.rdno.ca/waterrestrictions.

While we must wait and see whether June brings our usual rains, we can take steps now to plan ahead for dry conditions and make yard care easier in our naturally dry climate:

- Check irrigation systems for leaks.
- Set your irrigation controller to deliver the right amount of water for your yard's needs. Established plants need less water over time and less water in cooler weather. Watering once per week is reasonable for this time of year (unless you have potted plants that quickly dry out).
- Most lawns only need to be watered once a week. Less frequent watering encourages strong roots.
- Spring is a great time to replace thirsty plants with waterwise plants. There are many colourful flowers, shrubs, and trees that are easy to grow in our naturally dry climate.

We can all do our part to use water efficiently and save it for where it is needed most – our farms, forests, and fish. Looking for advice on upgrading your yard to be more waterwise? Call our Water Ambassador at 250-550-3798 to book a free Waterwise Yard Check-Up. Or visit www.rdno.ca/waterwise for lots of helpful tips on finding leaks and a great plant list to help you choose waterwise plants for your yard.

Duteau Creek Water Storage Trigger Graph is on the next page.



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