

DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS 2004

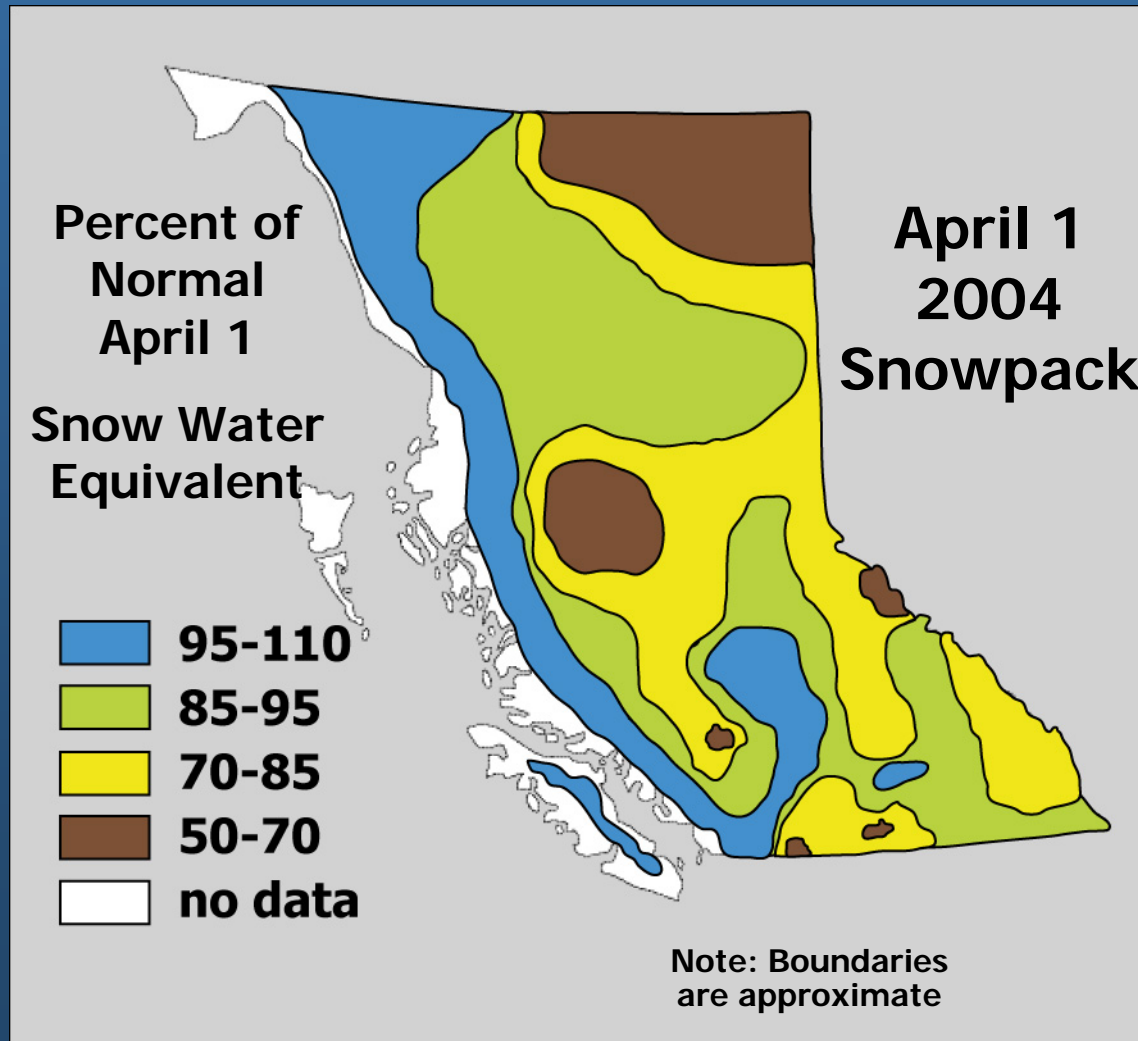
Open Cabinet

September 29, 2004

Drought Response 2004

- April – Forecasts indicate dry
- May – Plan in place
- June/July/Aug – Taking action
- Late August – Rain brings relief
- Continuing action

April – Drought Outlook

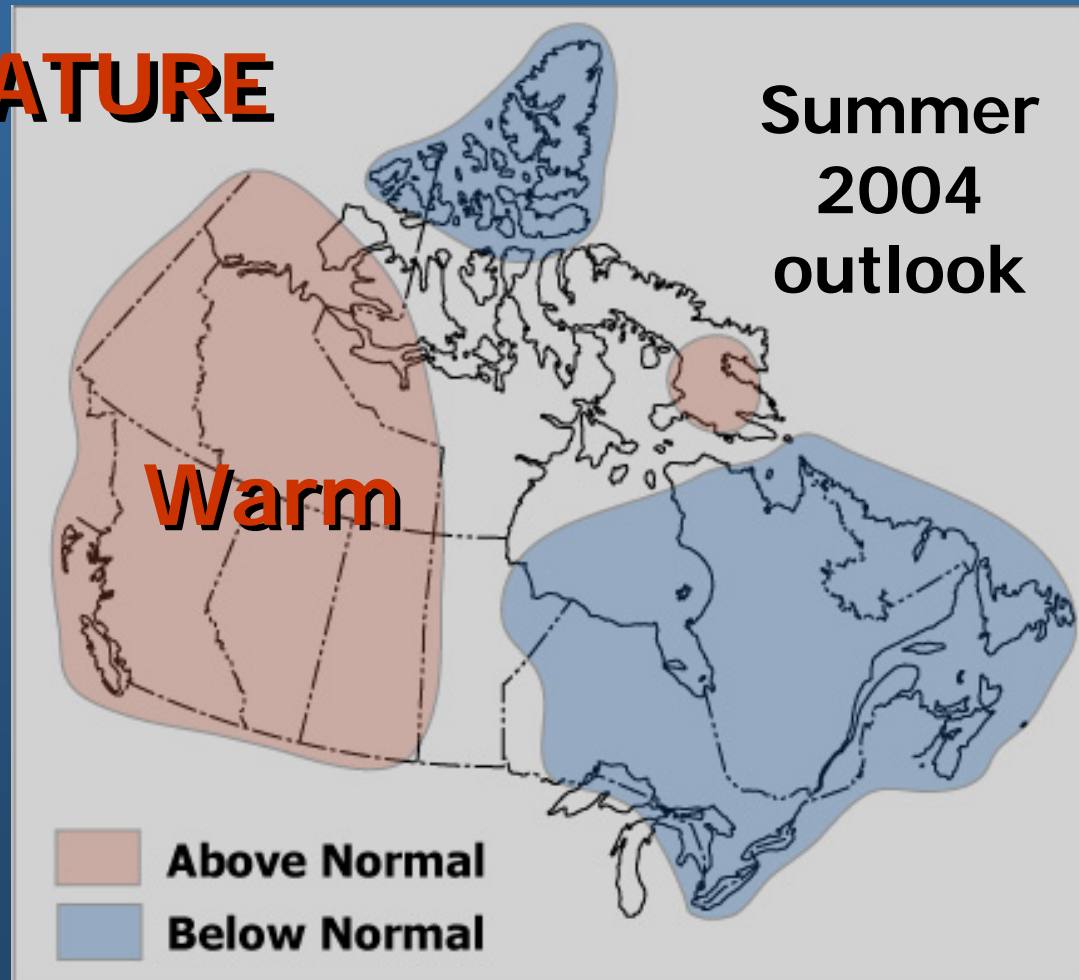


May Conditions

- **Snow pack: 60 - 80% of normal level**
- **Snow melt: 2 - 4 weeks early**
- **Below normal lake and groundwater levels**
- **Cowichan Valley: Water restrictions**

Above Normal Temperatures

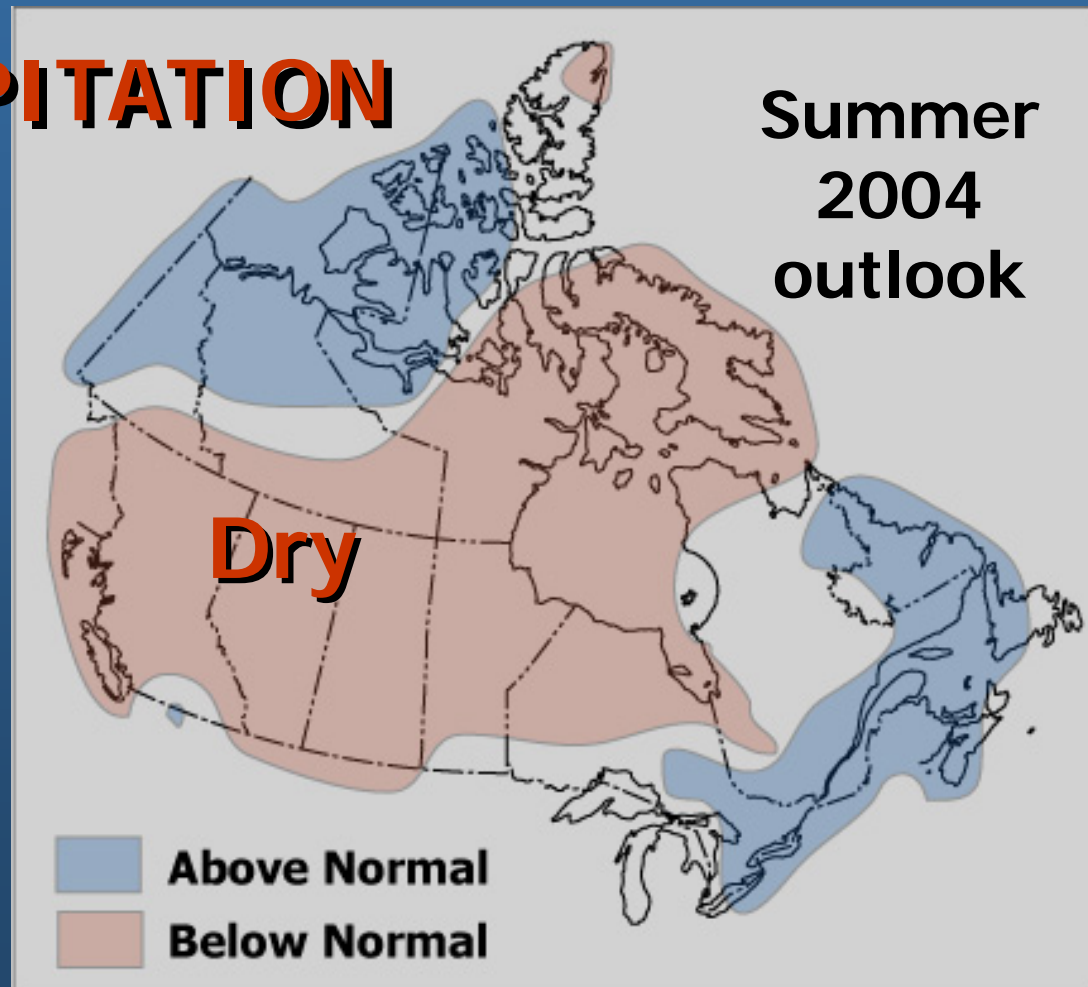
TEMPERATURE



Below Normal Precipitation

PRECIPITATION

Summer
2004
outlook



Source: Environment Canada

B.C. Among World's Highest Water Users

- **Average Canadian uses 343 litres per day**
- **Average British Columbian uses 489.5 litres per day**

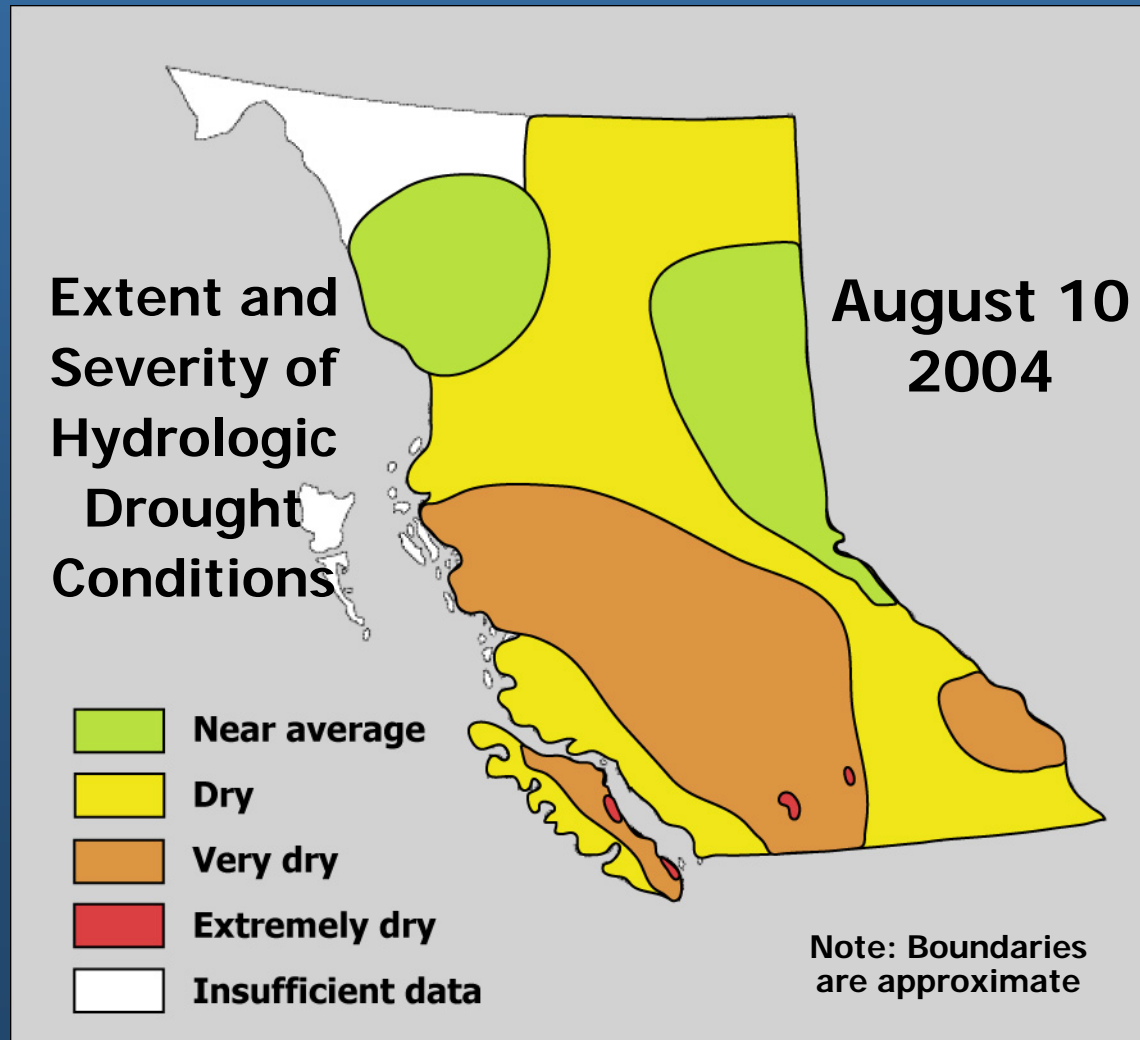
Key Priorities

- **Protect drinking water supplies**
- **Limit economic impacts**
- **Protect fish and wildlife**
- **Promote water conservation**

June, July, August Taking Action

- **Water Forum with local government leaders**
- **\$2 million for planning grants**
- **Drought planning handbook and workshops**
- **“Use Water Wisely” tour**

August Conditions



Conservation Tour Use Water Wisely

- 35 communities, ends in October



Simple steps to a significant reduction

Conservation Tour Use Water Wisely



September – rains bring relief

- By mid-September, most communities were out of drought, reservoirs are filling
- Groundwater not yet responding

Winter Activities

- Grants to communities for drought and water conservation planning
- Working with local water suppliers and communities doing plans
- Okanagan Basin Supply & Demand Study

For Next Spring

- **Local water suppliers better prepared to deal with drought**
- **Continue to change how we think about water in British Columbia**
- **Watch the winter snowpacks and spring weather**

Our climate is unpredictable, so we need to be prepared

For more information

www.lwbc.bc.ca