



Washington State Drought Framework

Northwest Drought Forum

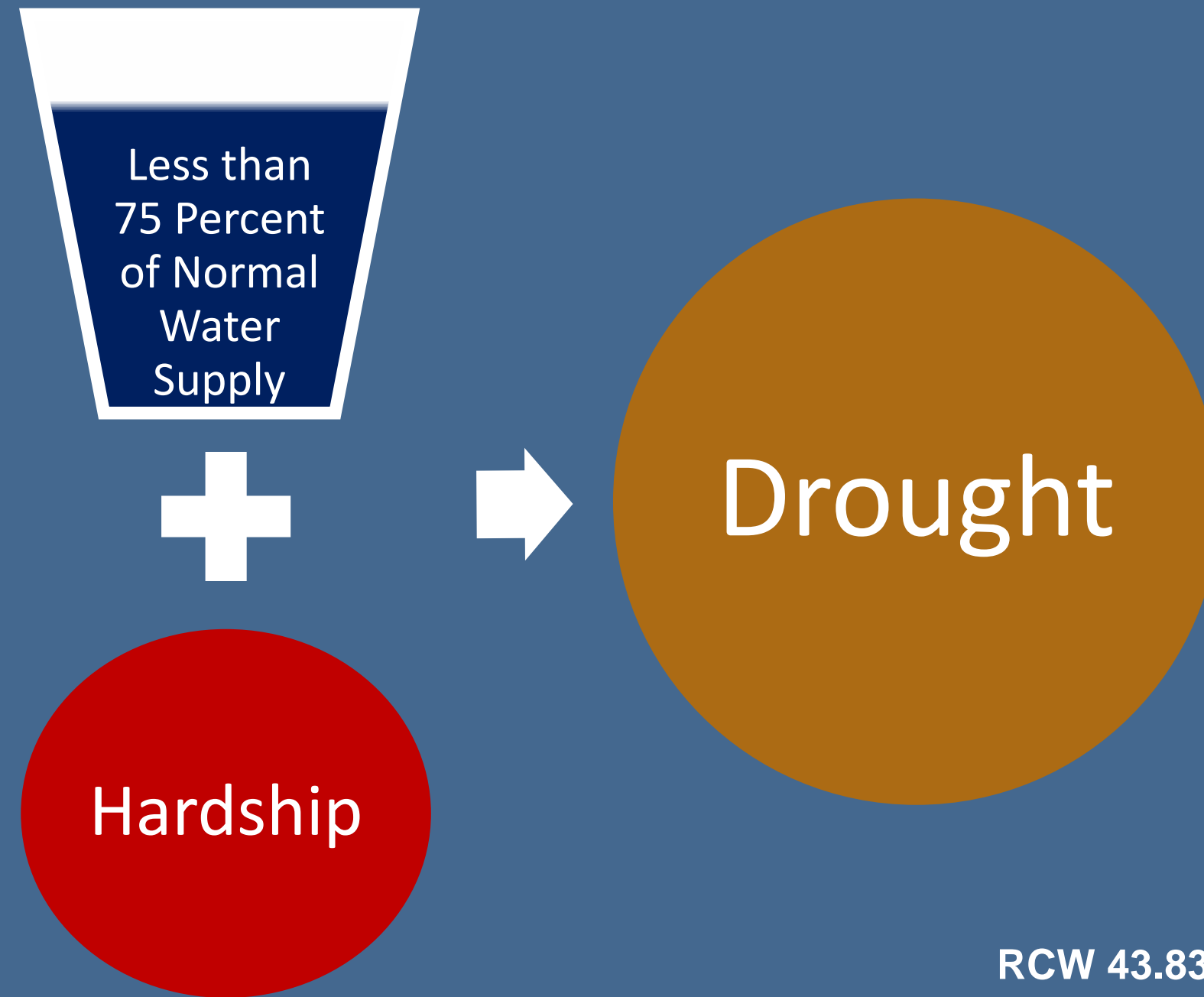
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Department of Ecology

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Washington State's Drought Trigger



RCW 43.83B.400

Effects of a Drought Order



Some key points about Washington

- Our drought criteria is water supply-oriented.
- Our criteria and our response framework is geared to solving water supply issues. Irrigation. Drinking water. Fisheries.
- For drought indicators, we emphasize seasonal water supply forecasts.
- Our response framework is not well suited to mitigating impacts of rangeland and dryland farmers.
- We will declare drought based on a forecast.
- Our declarations are “top down”. No petitions required. But there is a process for petitions as well.
- Our declaration areas are usually watersheds, not counties.

Monitoring Impacts

- Critical to anticipating hardship and getting ahead of drought conditions
- Build a period of record of impacts that can be compared to physical conditions
- “Wear and tear” vs inability to cope
- Google “Conditions Monitoring Observation System and Drought!”

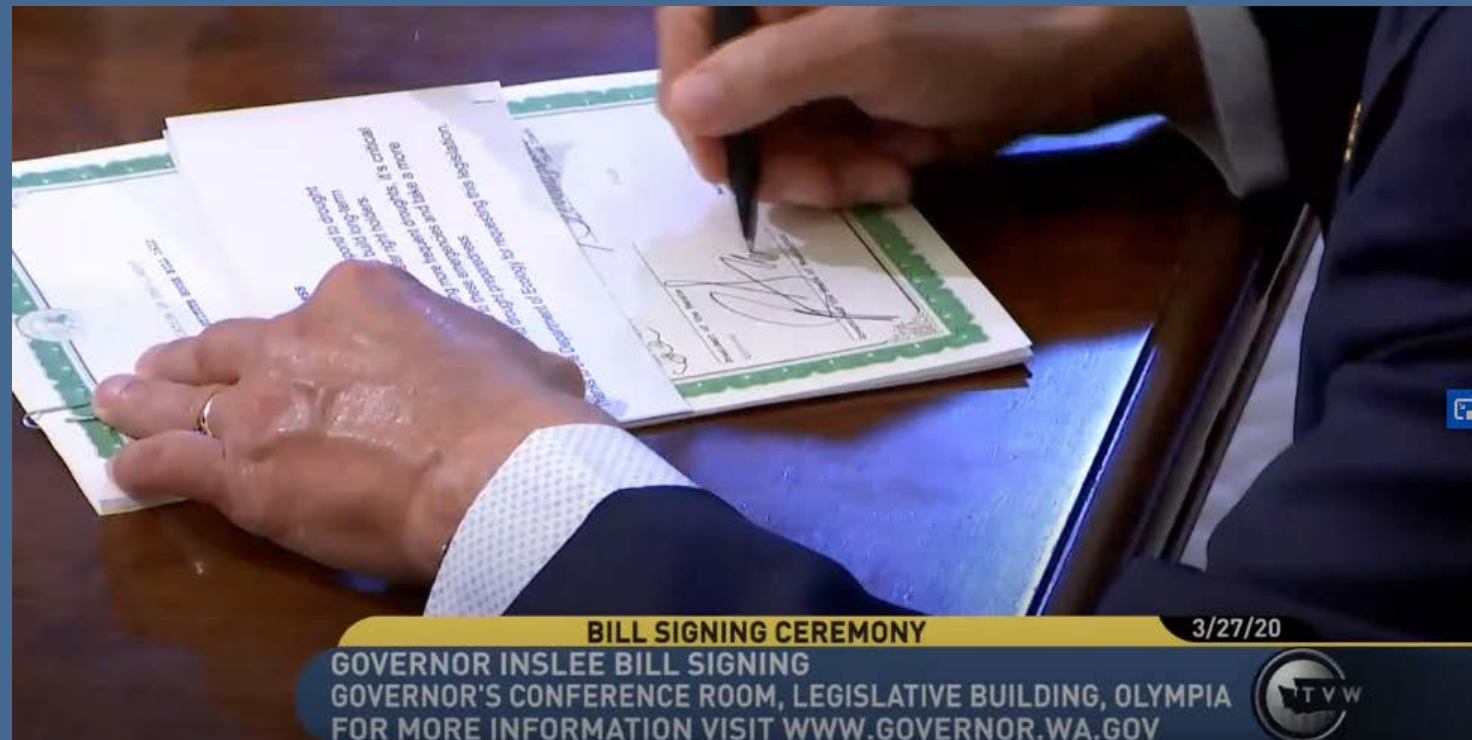


Thank you

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Drought Legislation: ESHB 1622



What's New?

- Drought Advisory Authority
- Support Drought Preparedness Actions outside context of a Drought Emergency
- Long Term Water Right Lease Pilot Study
- Authorizes public to petition for drought declaration status.