

## Drought Declaration by WA and Summer Watering Schedule Recommendation:

The WA State Dept. of Ecology declared a statewide drought on April 8<sup>th</sup>, projecting that the state's water supply will fall short this summer due to the "dismal snowpack" which currently sits at about 50% across the state. Although the District does not expect the District's water supply to be hugely affected, since it is from an aquifer, it is still important to be mindful of the supply shortage in the area and to make every effort to conserve water.

During the summer months, when water consumption increases, the water supply is often at its lowest. Long periods of high demand, such as during a summer drought, can endanger the supply of water. Well performance and system reliability also decline when a water source is stressed by prolonged and excessive usage.

The District recommends that customers voluntarily follow an **Odd/Even Summer Watering Schedule** as an effective conservation tool. **An odd/even schedule** simply means if your house address ends in an odd number, you use water outdoors on odd calendar dates, and if your house number is even, you plan your outdoor watering for even numbered dates. **A mandatory odd/even schedule** would be the first method put into effect if adequate water supply becomes threatened by high demand.

**Putting water conservation strategies** to work all year long is necessary prevention to protect your water system from reaching the point of water shortage. **Visit Water Conservation - Washington State Department of Ecology for more info.**

**To save water, start with irrigating less!** Only water your landscape when it needs it. Many people are overwatering their lawns, which increases weeds, reduces drought tolerance and, of course, wastes water.

## 2025 Annual Water Use Efficiency Performance Report

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Law (House Bill 1338), to address the increasing demand on our state's water resources. The law established that all municipal water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water right certainty and flexibility to help meet future needs. The Legislature directed the Department of Health to adopt an enforceable Water Use Efficiency program which became effective on January 22, 2007.

The WUE program requires water systems to manage water loss and pay attention to their usage patterns by reporting annually to the State Health Department, system customers, and the public.

- The District has several programs in effect to promote conservation.
- The District's water commodity rate is tiered so that the more water that is used the greater the cost.
- The voluntary *Odd/Even Outdoor Watering Schedule* is promoted in the summer months. Compliance reduces the strain on water system supply.
- **FREE** water conservation devices and water-saving documents are available at the District office.
- All of the District's water service connections are metered.

The summary results for the 2025 reporting period for each of the District's water systems are presented in the table below. The District adopted new WUE Goals in 2025 to reduce DSL to less than ten percent in all systems over the next twenty years and to reduce residential consumption by two percent over the next six years. The District's progress on the adopted goals is reported to the Department of Health annually. If you have any questions about the Water Use Efficiency law, or would like additional information on each system's progress towards the goals, please contact Sean Vance, District Manager at 253-841-9698 or email [sean@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:sean@valleywaterdistrict.com).

System Name	12-month WUE Reporting Period	Total Water Produced & Purchased (TP) – Annual Volume	Authorized Consumption (AC) – Annual Volume	Distribution System Leakage – Annual Volume TP - AC	Distribution System Leakage – % DSL = [(TP - AC) / TP] x 100 %
Alderwood	1/2/25 - 1/7/26	24,943,486 gallons	19,455,044 gallons	5,488,442 gallons	22.00 %
Buttes	1/5/25 - 1/7/26	36,757,500 gallons	35,461,681 gallons	1,295,819 gallons	3.53 %
Chinook	2/7/25 - 2/4/26	12,899,200 gallons	11,922,454 gallons	976,746 gallons	7.57 %
Country/Eldorado	2/7/25 - 2/4/26	33,491,000 gallons	26,326,406 gallons	7,164,594 gallons	21.39 %
Sierra	2/5/25 - 2/4/26	11,110,882 gallons	10,952,676 gallons	158,206 gallons	1.42 %
Valley	1/7/25 - 1/7/26	90,324,827 gallons	85,562,026 gallons	4,762,801 gallons	5.27 %
View Royal	2/6/25 - 2/3/26	72,754,245 gallons	64,597,856 gallons	8,156,389 gallons	11.21 %
Winchester	2/5/25 - 2/3/26	2,723,009 gallons	2,376,396 gallons	346,613 gallons	12.73 %