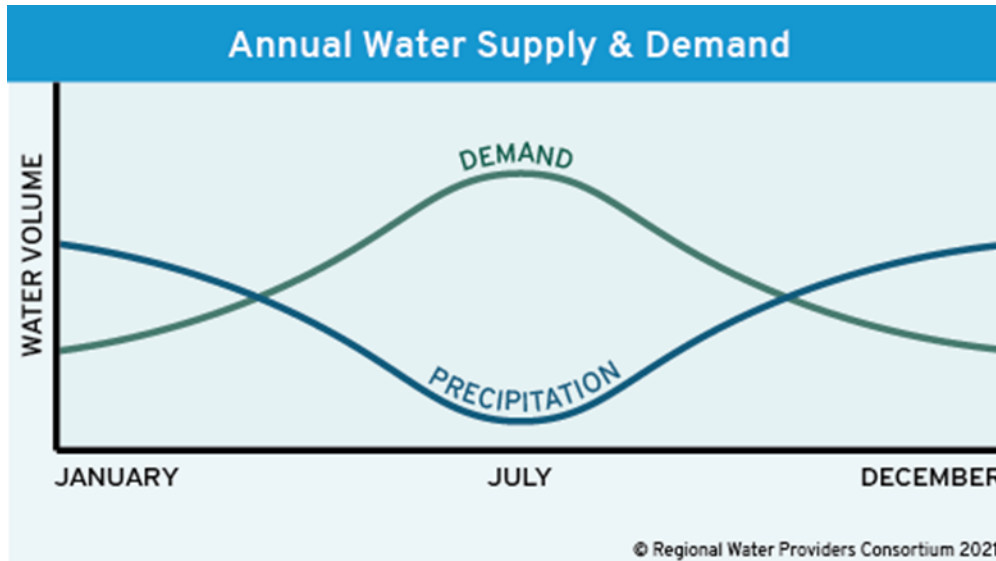


We have “Summer Droughts” Every Year



This summer feels different. With climate change, reduced snowpack, and the likelihood of a longer, hotter dry season, more people are asking us: *What are we going to do?*

In the Pacific Northwest, summer drought isn't unusual—it happens every year. We typically receive little to no rainfall during the same months when water use is at its highest. Our primary source, the Clackamas River, depends almost entirely on winter snowpack and rainfall. When that natural storage is lower or melts earlier, river flows drop—especially in late summer.

Unlike other drinking water sources in the Portland metro area, we don't have large upstream reservoirs to draw from. The hydroelectric system operated by Portland General Electric on the Clackamas is “run-of-river,” meaning water flows through the system rather than being stored for later use. Locally, our only stored supply is limited to in-town water reservoirs and tanks.

So what are we doing?

As water providers, we're actively maintaining our system—checking for leaks, improving efficiency, and planning for peak demand. But managing supply is only part of the solution.

Our water systems operate 24/7, year-round, and are constantly balancing supply and demand. When water use is low, we're not producing more than needed. That means during the summer months—when demand is highest—how you use water at home plays a critical role in making sure there's enough for everyone.

As summers become hotter and drier, using water efficiently isn't just about supply—it's about balance. We can still enjoy our landscapes and gardens while making thoughtful choices that reduce waste and protect the Clackamas River, we all depend on.

The CRWP offer a variety of tools, resources, and water conservation rebates to help you use water more efficiently. If you're ready to get started, visit our [website](#), [email us](#), or give us a call at 503-723-3511—we're here to help.