



# Cowlitz County

Department of Public Works  
1600 – 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Kelso, WA 98626  
[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us)

## News Release

August 9, 2018

### Contact

Mark Koelsch  
Project Manager/Communications  
Phone: (360) 577-3030  
[koelschm@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:koelschm@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

## Cowlitz County Announces Water Restrictions for Ryderwood

Cowlitz County is requesting Ryderwood residents conserve water by implementing water use restrictions effective immediately. These restrictions will remain until further notice. No specific end date can be identified at this time.

The dry spring season and severe drought conditions in southwest Washington have resulted in low stream flows in creeks and rivers throughout the area. Cowlitz County collects water for the Ryderwood water system by means of an intake structure on Campbell Creek. Production capability is directly dependent on the level, flow, volume and clarity of Campbell Creek. At present, the flow in Campbell Creek is extremely limited. If these conditions continue, the Ryderwood system may reach a point where adequate amounts of water cannot be produced to fully meet utility customer demand.

The reservoir is currently full. However, in an abundance of caution, to protect our customer's health and the quality of water being supplied by keeping the system operational, Cowlitz County is asking Ryderwood residents to refrain from all outdoor water use. This includes watering of lawns or ornamental plants and washing vehicles within Ryderwood.

Other recommended water conservation measures include:

- Limit showers to 5 minutes
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth
- Limit the cycles in the dishwasher and clothes washer by operating them only with full loads

County staff and partner agencies will share additional information and answer questions at the monthly Ryderwood Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Residents will also be notified door to door about the water use restrictions.

Cowlitz County considers this to be a serious situation and appreciates every customer's participation. It remains the County's hope that this will be a temporary condition. County staff are exploring viable options to obtain water to serve the citizens of Ryderwood, in the event that drought conditions persist. If you have questions that need to be answered prior to Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, please contact Mark Koelsch at [koelschm@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:koelschm@co.cowlitz.wa.us) or 360-751-8765. After that time, please contact Patrick Harbison at [harbisonp@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:harbisonp@co.cowlitz.wa.us) or 577-3030, Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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