

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF WATER, LAND AND RESOURCE
STEWARDSHIP

Water Sustainability Act

Ministerial Order No. M311

WHEREAS I, Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, after review of information on the decline of flow in the Salmon River, consider that the flow of water in the Salmon River has dropped below 0.625 cubic metres per second and is so low that the survival of the Chinook salmon fish population in the stream has become threatened;

AND WHEREAS based on the scientific evidence presented to me, I am satisfied that without intervention on the Salmon River, its tributaries, and hydraulically connected aquifers, the required flow for the Chinook salmon fish population will not be available until a significant precipitation event occurs in the area, which is not expected to occur in time to protect the survival of this population of fish;

AND WHEREAS in those circumstances, after giving due consideration to the needs of agricultural users, the Minister may make an order pursuant to section 88 of the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) respecting the diversion, rate of diversion, time of diversion or use, including storage and time of storage, of water from a stream, or an aquifer hydraulically connected to that stream, regardless of the precedence of rights;

AND WHEREAS I have given due consideration to the needs of agricultural users who may be affected by this order.

THEREFORE, for the purposes of protecting the survival of the Chinook salmon fish population, I, Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, (the "Minister"), pursuant to section 88 of the *Water Sustainability Act*, make the order set out in the attached Schedule.

August 19, 2026

Date



Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the order.)

Authority under which order is made:

Act and section: Water Sustainability Act, S.B.C. 2014, c. 15, s. 88

SCHEDULE

1. Effective on the date of signature, all diversion and use of water for certain irrigation and industrial use purposes by holders of authorizations (identified by licence number in Appendix A to this order, including any licences subsequently issued in substitution for any of those authorizations) and transitioning groundwater users (defined in section 3 of this order and identified by application number in Appendix B to this order, including under any licences subsequently issued from those applications), and all unauthorized diversion and use of water, from the Salmon River, its tributaries, and hydraulically connected aquifers must cease, as follows:
 - a. This Order applies to the water licences listed in Appendix A to this Order, including any licences issued in substitution for any of those licences, and transitioning groundwater users listed in Appendix B to this Order, including any licences subsequently issued from those applications, and to diversion and use of water for certain irrigation and industrial purposes under those licences by their licensees and to diversion and use of groundwater by transitioning groundwater users for irrigation under the provisions of section 140 of the WSA;
 - b. Irrigation for the production of forage/grass crops, including, but not limited to, grass/legume, alfalfa/grass, and corn must cease;
 - c. Authorized irrigation for the production of non-forage/grass crops, including market vegetables, fruits, nursery/tree containers may continue;
 - d. Licensed irrigators who also hold a supporting storage licence and have remaining storage water available may continue to divert and use water from that storage in accordance with the conditions set forth in their licence documents. If and when that storage is exhausted, irrigation of forage/grass crops must cease as required by this order;
 - e. Diversion and use of water for the following industrial sub-purpose must cease:
 - i. Lawn, Fairway and Garden Watering;
 - f. Diversion and use of water for all other industrial use purposes may continue;
 - g. Diversion and use of water by persons without lawful authority to do so must cease, other than for essential household use as defined in section 22(11) of WSA.

2. For clarity, the Salmon River, its tributaries, and hydraulically connected aquifers, to which this order applies are as follows:
 - a. Adelphi Creek, Aljohn Spring, Anna Spring, Annie Slough, Archie Spring, Bailey Spring, Banks Brook, Barbara Spring, Bishop Creek, Bolean Creek, Buchanan Creek, Bulow Brook, Cedarhill Brook, Clear Brook, Culling Brook, Currie Creek, Dear Spring, Dorothy Spring, Elsom Spring, Ess Brook, Fairbanks Brook, Falkland Creek, Ferris Creek, Fowler Creek, Francis Spring, Gillis Brook, Gleneden Brook, Gordon Creek, Grier Creek, Haines Creek, Hardy Pond, Huntley Brook, Huntley Spring, Ingram Creek, Ivor Creek, Jay Spring, Johnson Spring, Joseph Creek, Kelly Spring, Kernaghan Creek, Kirwan Spring, Leo Brook, McAchaney Creek, Melody Pond, Moffat Creek, Monte Lake, Moore Brook, Mouttell Creek, Mowat Creek, Needoba Pond, North Silver Creek, Palmer Creek, Pearse Spring, Peebles Spring, Percival Creek, Pike Pond, Poyntz Creek, Pringle Creek (not irrigation canal associated with Monte Lake Water Users' Community), Pringle Creek, Rumball Creek, Salmon River, Sanderson Creek, Silver Creek, Silvernails Pond, Six Mile Creek, Six Mile Creek (Old Channel), Spa Creek, St. Laurent Creek, Stephen Creek, Syme Brook, Symonds Spring, Tener Spring, Titus Creek, Turner Spring, Valentine Creek, Wall Creek, Wallenstein Creek, Warren Creek, West Gleneden Brook, Whitaker Creek and Wilmot Creek.
 - b. Aquifer 97, Aquifer 98, Aquifer 99, Aquifer 102, Aquifer 103, Aquifer 289 and Aquifer Grand Prairie unconsolidated.
3. For the purposes of this order, **“transitioning groundwater users”** refers to persons who were already diverting and using groundwater when the WSA came into force on February 29, 2016, and who qualified and applied for authorizations under s.140 of the WSA during the transition period ending March 1, 2022, to continue their existing non-domestic groundwater diversion and use but whose applications for authorizations remain to be decided. This order also applies to the holders of licences issued from any of those applications if any of them are subsequently decided while this Order remains in effect.
4. This order remains in effect until September 30, 2026, or until further order of the Minister.
5. Contravention of an order of the Minister made under section 88 of the WSA may be charged as a high penalty offence under section 107(1)(e) of the Act or may be subject to an administrative monetary penalty under s.99 of the WSA and the Administrative Penalties (*Water Sustainability Act*) Regulation.

Appendix A- List of Water Licences with Irrigation and/or Industrial Purposes Subject to Minister's Order

Surface Water Licences:

500736, 501784, 501785, 502037, 502038, 502054, 502056, 503081, 503963, 504062, 504527, 506467, 506468, 506469, 506701, 507204, 507350, 507351, 507352, 507503, 507660, 508165, 508520, 508698, 508708, 509620, C022993, C023037, C023918, C025174, C026747, C027093, C027094, C027262, C027933, C027934, C030240, C030660, C031439, C033653, C036463, C037008, C037009, C037311, C037312, C037462, C037463, C037854, C037857, C037915, C038152, C039100, C039101, C039102, C040006, C040285, C040763, C040764, C040963, C040964, C040965, C041514, C041515, C042311, C042460, C042461, C042653, C042655, C042874, C043194, C043196, C043200, C043202, C043203, C043205, C043849, C043851, C044365, C044552, C044553, C044682, C044763, C044888, C044889, C046344, C046346, C046348, C046952, C047944, C048584, C048738, C048739, C049377, C049735, C052455, C052490, C053222, C053296, C053297, C053298, C053300, C053302, C053380, C053661, C055503, C055507, C055699, C056111, C058175, C058176, C058179, C058180, C058589, C058894, C059164, C059165, C061128, C062439, C063517, C063655, C063711, C063712, C064973, C065021, C065676, C066986, C066997, C067286, C067343, C067344, C067355, C067487, C067566, C068192, C068193, C068287, C068315, C068370, C068371, C068372, C068448, C068668, C068932, C068933, C068934, C068936, C069012, C070121, C070122, C103629, C104045, C104934, C104936, C107823, C107887, C107888, C108022, C111192, C111194, C111207, C111344, C111790, C112386, C112387, C112388, C112497, C112498, C112752, C112754, C112755, C112756, C112760, C112761, C112762, C112780, C112781, C112782, C112783, C112784, C113864, C114217, C114218, C114236, C114240, C114241, C115347, C115352, C115355, C115376, C115377, C115405, C115407, C115422, C115550, C115569, C115570, C115724, C115748, C115807, C115835, C115858, C115865, C116182, C116183, C116719, C116720, C119091, C119093, C119095, C119097, C119587, C120227, C120228, C120555, C120702, C120703, C120704, C120705, C120958, C120959, C122269, C122964, C122965, C123232, C123234, C123235, C123237, C123252, C123255, C125961, C126969, C126995, C127342, C127358, C127362, C127363, C127482, C127486, C127488, C127517, C127518, C127519, C127526, C127549, C127560, C127570, C127630, C127647, C127699, C127718, C127723, C127725, C127749, C127750, C127817, C127892, C127942, C128030, C128072, C128075, C128101, C128111, C128151, C128886, C128887, C128895, C129136, C129137, C129231, C129238, C129240, C129258, C129306, C129311, C129624, C129625, C129905, C131435, C131436, C131583, C132568, C132569, C132645, C132663, C133004, C133005, C133026, C133265, C133785, C133794, C133854, C134078, C134285, C134290, C134291, C134386, C134397, C134398, C134399, C134400, C134407, C134430, F005820, F005873, F006749, F006976, F007536, F007582, F008081, F009074, F009862, F011764, F012715, F014299, F015004, F015993, F016090, F016926, F016985, F017276, F017521, F017522, F018281, F018467, F018564, F019297, F020473, F020998, F021360, F021401, F021405, F038981, F039358, F039359, F040516, F042549, F042965, F043394, F043940, F043941, F044458, F045775, F046279, F046739, F053299, F065015, F068563, F068564, F068585, F114235, F115346, F115857, F115870,

F116803, F116813, F127801, F127819, F128222, F129387, F130580, F131879, F131880, F134069, F134071

Groundwater Licences:

500056, 500089, 500127, 500128, 500304, 500305, 500306, 500307, 500403, 500592, 500601, 500649, 500650, 500777, 500778, 500996, 501010, 501066, 501067, 501169, 501218, 501314, 501369, 501408, 501580, 501848, 501919, 501969, 502057, 502104, 502137, 502158, 502250, 502342, 502351, 502482, 502703, 502737, 503090, 503135, 503152, 503257, 503294, 503510, 503749, 503865, 503866, 503916, 503963, 504062, 504511, 504527, 505648, 505649, 505650, 506575, 506580, 506690, 507204, 507297, 507503, 507511, 507935, 508067, 508078, 508101, 508142, 508145, 508153, 508157, 508165, 508245, 508248, 508319, 508334, 508427, 508503, 508698, 508699, 508707, 508708, 508857, 508858, 508859, 509262, 509402, 509604, 509620

Appendix B – List of Transitioning Groundwater Users by Existing Use Groundwater Applications for Irrigation Purpose Subject to Minister’s Order

Applications with the following FrontCounter BC Tracking Numbers:

100239797, 100360213, 100369382, 100371320, 100375704, 100378259