



February 15, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

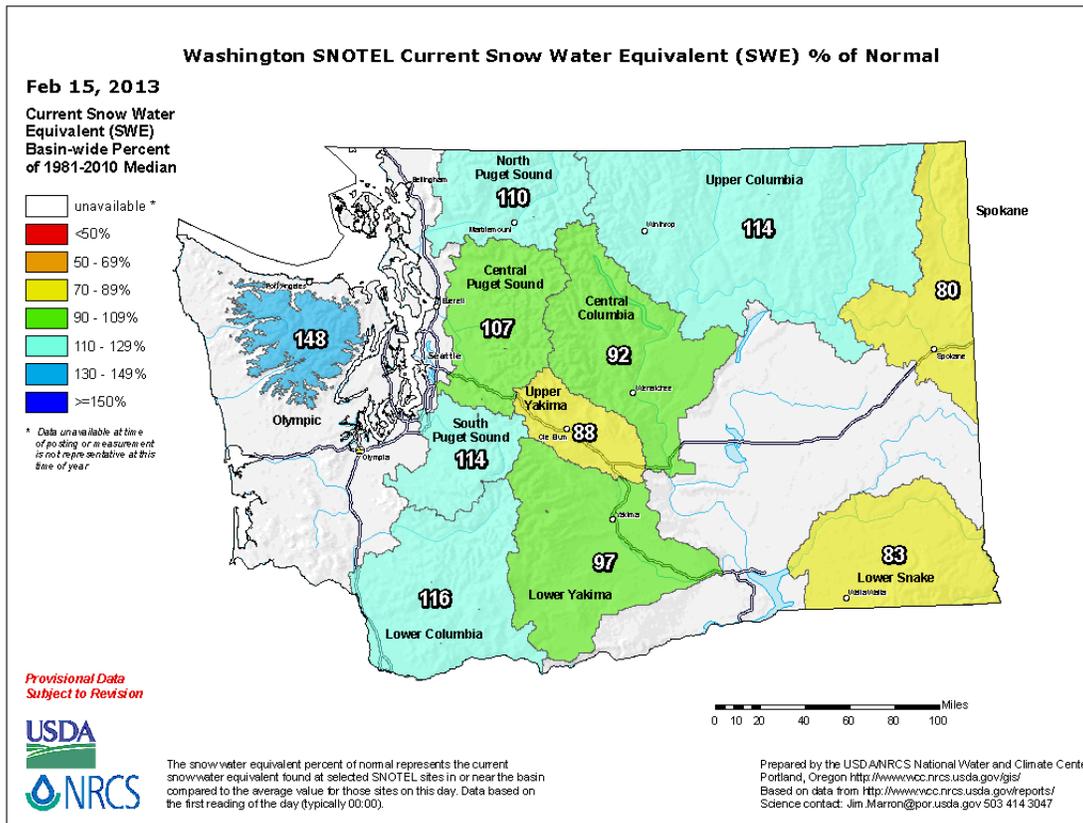
**TO: Interested Parties**

**FROM: Donelle Mahan, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager**

**SUBJECT: 2013 Fish Survey Season-Water Level and Streamflow Forecast**

The Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, provides the following forecast for statewide water abundance for the 2013 fish survey season. This information is provided to focus appropriate attention on potential drought conditions when scheduling and conducting fish surveys as described in the Forest Practices Board manual section 13, "Guidelines for determining Fish Use for the Purpose of Typing Waters" (see WAC 222-16-031 *Interim Water Typing System*).

For the upcoming 2013 survey season, March 1 through July 15, drought may be a factor in accurately determining fish presence or absence for some areas of Washington.



Map courtesy of <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/>

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service's January 1, 2013 report on Washington's Water Supply Outlook indicates statewide snow pack levels are 148 percent above normal for this time of year. For details of this report go to <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/data/wsorwa113.pdf>.

Landowners and interested parties should be mindful that drought conditions could develop during the survey season. Proponents of water type changes should provide information demonstrating how stream flows and fish use determinations were unaffected by drought conditions, if present. Drought conditions may be present where basins have 70 percent or less of the basin's snow water equivalent. For details regarding whether or not drought may affect a specific basin, please review <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/snow.html>.

If applicable, proponents should also provide information demonstrating how fish use determinations were unaffected by mass wasting or stream scouring events where a water type change is being proposed.

If you have questions about conducting fish surveys or water typing, please contact Forest Practices staff at one of the six DNR region offices below:

Northeast: (509) 684-7474  
Northwest: (360) 856-3500  
Olympic: (360) 374-2800  
Pacific Cascade: (360) 577-2025  
Southeast: (509) 925-8510  
South Puget Sound: (360) 825-1631