

*Working together to serve
and improve the small
grains industry of
Washington*



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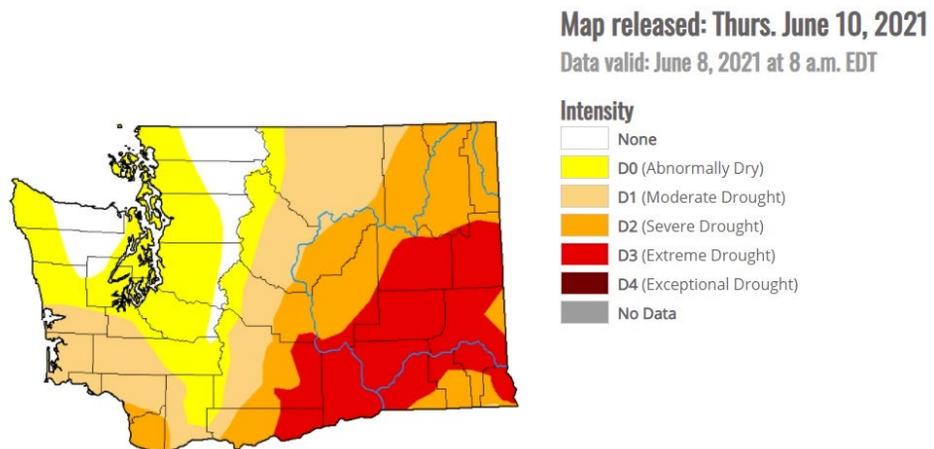
June 15, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

The Washington wheat industry is asking for your assistance with a growing disaster in our state. Deepening drought conditions are spreading throughout Washington – particularly in counties known for producing high quality wheat. While we have benefitted from having hardy varieties to match each region’s growing conditions, the lack of moisture we are experiencing year to date will ultimately result in significant quality concerns and a sharp reduction in yield. Complete crop loss is also a looming reality for some dryland growers.

The following drought monitor map shows all or portions of 12 counties in a D3 or Extreme Drought status. It is expected more counties will reach D3 status within the next two weeks.



We implore you to coordinate with the Department of Ecology, and, considering the current conditions, announce a drought declaration in all wheat counties of Washington state. A drought declaration will open the doors for growers to access critical resources needed during these challenging times of economic hardship.

The wheat industry is always willing to meet with you to discuss important issues. The emerging disaster due to drought conditions is no exception. Time is of the essence, and we appreciate your immediate attention to this crisis.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ryan Poe in black ink on a light background.

Ryan Poe
WAWG President

Handwritten signature of Mike B. Carstensen in black ink on a light background.

Mike Carstensen
WGC Chairman

Articles of Interest:

[Farmers are feeling the pain as drought spreads in the Northwest](#) (NPR 6/3/21)

[Department of Ecology issues drought advisory for most of Washington](#) (Dept. of Ecology 5/27/21)

[Eastern Washington in first-of-its-kind drought advisory with dry conditions across U.S.](#) (MyNorthwest 6/9/21)

CC

Jeff Marti, Ecology
Mike Mandere, USDA