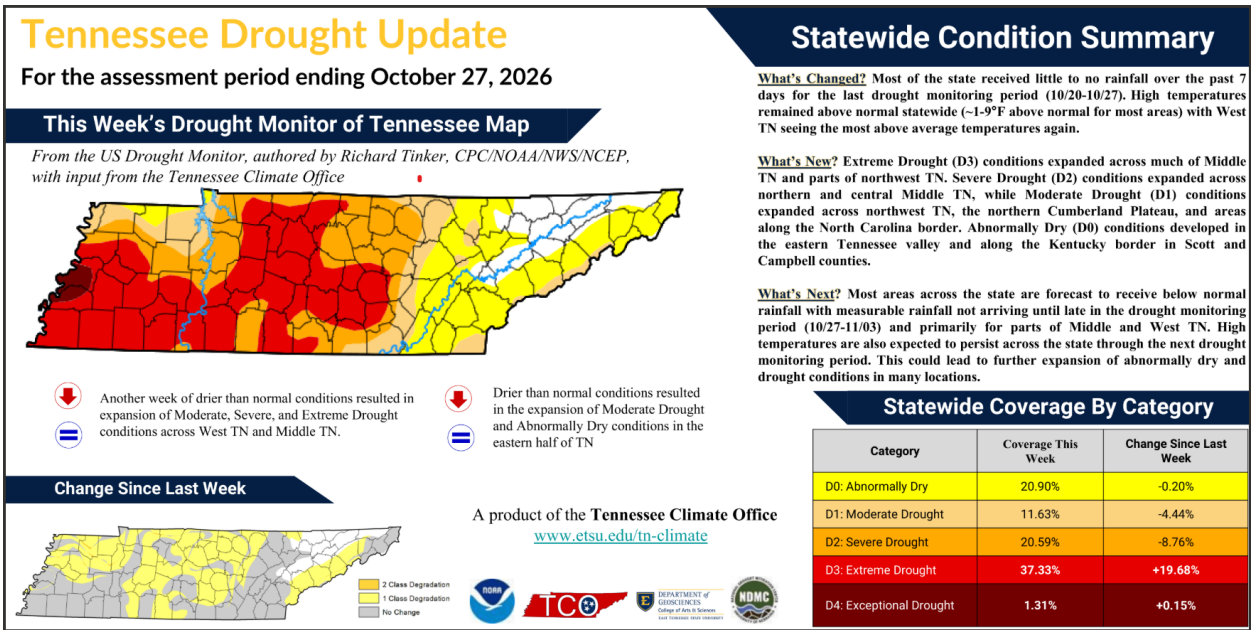

Duck River Awareness Statement

Public and Media Information Document

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Duck River Watershed Drought Conditions: What Residents Need to Know

The Duck River is one of Tennessee's most significant natural resources, providing drinking water for communities, supporting agricultural and industrial uses, and sustaining one of the most biologically diverse freshwater ecosystems in North America. During drought conditions, reduced stream flows increase stress on both water supplies and aquatic habitats.

The Duck River Watershed is currently experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Most of the watershed is designated as being in severe drought. These conditions could worsen in the upcoming months and affect ground water levels, stream flows, aquatic ecosystems, agricultural operations, and recreational activities. Water resource managers, local utilities, agricultural producers, businesses, and residents all play an important role in protecting this vital water resource during periods of reduced rainfall.

Please follow any water utility requests or guidance from your water provider regarding water usage and conservation. Be prepared, everyone can help extend available water supplies for all needs during drought conditions and reduce environmental impacts.

The Duck River Agency along with State and Federal agencies are monitoring conditions as they develop and will provide updates as needed.

Water Conservation: What You Can Do

At Home

- Repair leaking faucets, toilets, and irrigation systems.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.
- Take shorter showers and turn off water when not in use.
- Install water-efficient fixtures and appliances.

Outdoors

- Water lawns only when necessary (1 to 2 times per week) and during early morning or evening hours.
- Leave lawns slightly longer, which helps retain soil moisture.
- Reduce landscape watering to 1 to 2 times per week at most.
- Consider drought-tolerant plants and landscaping practices.
- Use mulch to retain soil moisture.
- Avoid washing vehicles and driveways unless necessary. Use commercial car washes.
- Collect rainwater where allowed and practical.

Key Messages for Media

Headline Message:
The Duck River Watershed is experiencing moderate drought conditions, and community-wide water awareness and conservation can help protect water supplies and endangered species, support local economies, and preserve one of Tennessee's most important river systems.

Supporting Messages:

1. Residents should follow any local utility provider requests for water conservation.

2. Every gallon conserved helps extend available water supplies.
3. Protecting river flows through water conservation helps sustain aquatic habitats and biodiversity.
4. Water utilities are actively monitoring conditions and coordinating any response efforts needed.
5. Continued public awareness and cooperation are critical during drought conditions.
6. The Duck River Agency, along with State and Federal agencies, will continue to monitor drought conditions as they develop and provide additional information on conservation measures if needed.

The Duck River Agency appreciates your support in this request. We will continue to monitor the situation and make further announcements in the coming weeks. For more information contact David Money, DRA Executive Director, (931)300-3353 or david@duckriveragency.org .