

Volume 21 Issue 3

September 2021



NEWSLETTER

North Unit Irrigation District

Water Shut off Update

At the September 14, 2021 North Unit Irrigation District Board of Directors Meeting it was voted to reallocate 0.10 acre foot to patron allotments for both Deschutes and Crooked River rights.

The District will begin re-priming the system as necessary October 1. We will begin taking water orders October 5, for deliveries beginning October 6, 2021. The district's main canal diversion in Bend and Haystack Dam will be tentatively shut down the morning of Wednesday, October 20, 2021. The last date ditchriders will make water adjustments for patrons will be Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

The last date to place an order is before 5:00 pm on Monday, October 18, 2021 below Haystack or between 6:30am and 7:30am on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, for water users above Haystack.

Water will remain running for those who have ordered it until the main canal and laterals have drained completely.

Please keep in mind these dates are tentative and could change based on weather and/or irrigation demand. Please plan your operations accordingly and visit www.northunitid.com for any updates to the above schedule.



NUID's Automated Calling System

You may have noticed an increase in automated phone calls coming from our office. We are finding it necessary to make more frequent announcements as water conditions change rapidly and want to ensure we connect with you as quickly as possible. Our database is still developing, so please let us know if you would like to be added. In the future we hope to expand to text messages.

Crop Reports

Ditchriders will once again be collecting annual crop information from patrons. Requests will include information about the types of crops grown, numbers of acres, population, and total acres irrigated by sprinkler or drip. Thank you for your time and cooperation during this annual process.



Inside This Issue:

Weed Management	2	Maintenance Season	3
Online Customer Portal	2	Irrigation System Changes	3
Canal Right of Ways	2	Ownership, Lease, Billing Changes	3
Contact Information	2	Email Communication	3
Office Hours	2	Board of Directors Election	3

Weed Management in Fallowed Fields

Fallowing fields hopefully includes a noxious weed management strategy, otherwise growth could get out of control. The district realizes weed management on fallow fields can be costly, even seemingly impossible when the weather is dry, hot, and windy.

Although more costly since those fields are not producing a crop, or have enough water, noxious weed management is still a necessary practice. Without a proactive weed management program, weeds can become debris blown into canals that plug off diversions and worse yet cause overtopping or breaches. In addition, cleaning weed build up in the canal system is a strenuous and time consuming effort that often leads to work related injuries.

North Unit Irrigation District is committed to supporting our patrons, neighbors, and partners in the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Committee. While the district puts efforts into removing weeds at our facilities, we have listed some resources below to help you manage yours.

The weed management experts at OSU Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Madras, suggest planting a dryland cover crop now, establishing by winter precipitation to outcompete weeds, and prioritize timing of small weed spraying with systemic herbicides. For more questions, please contact the OSU Extension Office in Madras directly.

Online Customer Portal

The Online Customer Portal has become a district staple. In addition to providing a platform for water requests to be made online, the customer portal provides real-time access to water balances.

If you have questions about how to sign up for the customer portal, please contact the district office at 541-475-3625 or e-mail us at nuid@northunitid.com and we will help you set up your account.



Canal Right-of-Ways

Title to most of the district's facilities are held in the name of the United States, by the Bureau of Reclamation. In some cases the United States holds title to the land itself, but in most cases the United States has an easement or right-of-way for operation and maintenance of canals and laterals.

Please keep in mind before you build any structure, fence, put up a haystack, park equipment, plant trees or vegetation, irrigation lines, etc. near a canal or ditch that you check with the district office to obtain the size and location of the district's easement/right-of-way.

The district's easement/right-of-way can vary 10 feet from the center of a

canal/ditch up to 250 feet on both sides of the canal/ditch.

It is also important to remember canal roads exist solely for the purpose of operating and maintaining the district. In some circumstances the property owner may use the canal road, but only for purposes which do not interfere with district operation. In no circumstance may the roads be used as a means of public access. Easements and the lands containing the district's service roads are nearly all privately owned. Therefore permission to walk or ride on many of the district's service roads may be required from the underlying landowner to avoid trespassing.

Management:

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Board of Directors:

Division 1: Ryan Boyle
Division 2: Mike Kirsch
Vice Chair
Division 3: Martin Richards
Chair
Division 4: Richard Macy
Division 5: Vern Bare

Office Hours:

Irrigation Season
Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00
Saturday 8:00 - 4:00
Sunday 9:00 - 5:00

Phone: (541) 475-3625

(541) 475-3652

Fax: (541) 475-3905

Email: nuid@northunitid.com

Website: www.northunitid.com

The District office will be closed for Thanksgiving beginning at noon, on November 24– November 28, 2021.



Tree/Vegetation Removal on District Easements

In the coming months the district will be performing tree and vegetation removal from its canals and easements as part of routine operations and maintenance activities. Removing trees and vegetation will improve canal integrity and minimize the likelihood of canal failure due to vegetative degradation. The removal of vegetation is recommended by canal inspections performed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Maintenance Season

When the irrigation season ends, the district's maintenance season begins. To keep things running smoothly please make sure all irrigation and other equipment (wheel-lines, pipe, etc.) are removed from the district's easements and wheel-lines are secured. Equipment and items left in easements

can interfere with maintenance operations and cause damage to both district and patron equipment. As such, the district is not responsible for irrigation or other equipment left in the easement, that is damaged. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Irrigation System Changes

If you have an existing pivot, are planning to install a pivot, or changing your irrigation practices, please check with the district office regarding the water rights on the property. The place of use and the location of water rights are crucial when proving beneficial use.

Ownership, Lease and Billing Changes

Water rights are appurtenant to the land and it is important to keep the district informed of any ownership changes. Ownership records determine who is responsible for the billing and who is allowed to vote on district matters. Recorded documents resulting from changes in ownership due to a sale of the property, putting property into a trust, estate, marriage, divorce, or death must be provided to the district. Please notify the district of any lease and/or rental changes to your property.

This information is used to determine who can order water on your property and who can bunch the water for excess purposes. The district as a courtesy will bill the responsible parties, but the landowner is ultimately responsible for all charges. If you have an agreement with a lessee or renter, please notify the district to enable us to bill the appropriate person. Statements are mailed the first part of December; it would be extremely helpful if you would provide the district with all changes before the end of November.

Email Communication

District patrons can receive newsletters, water delivery information, canal chemical treatment notices, notifications of system problems, delivery interruptions, and changes in policy by email.

Please contact the district office to be added to the email notification list by calling (541) 475-3625 or by sending an email to nuid@northunitid.com

Board of Directors Election

The North Unit Irrigation District Board of Directors consists of five landowners with water rights inside the boundaries of the district and represent five geographical divisions. Each board member serves a three year term that expires on a rotational basis.

The term for Division 4 will expire on December 31, 2021. The district is now accepting nominations for this position, being held by Richard Macy. Division 4 covers the Culver area south of Eureka and Dover Lanes to Highland and Iris Lanes between Bald-

win Drive and Lake Billy Chinook.

To determine if you are in that division, a map can be viewed at the district office or online at the district's website <https://northunitid.com/board-of-directors/>

To be eligible a candidate must be 18 years of age or older, be a owner of water right land situated within the boundaries of the district from their respective division, be a resident of the State of Oregon, and submit a petition signed by 10 landowners with North Unit Irrigation District water rights.

The petition must be returned to the district office before 5:00 pm, October 5, 2021. Petitions can be obtained from the district office.

If only one petition is received for a division, that petitioner will be certified as having been nominated and elected for that division.

The receipt of two or more petitions will require an official election to be held November 9, 2021.