



Manager's Message

For the 4th year in a row, NUID has endured extreme drought conditions and, record lows for many district supply inputs, including patron allotments. Thankfully, favorable wet weather conditions this past spring helped many, but it was a far cry from the historical average water supply and availability. NUID staff and management have diligently pursued opportunities to shore up the district's water supply. These opportunities included the Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Plant concept (LBC), Deschutes Water Bank Pilot Program, water transfers from other districts, and continued efforts to finalize the PL-566 Piping project.

As of December 7th, Wickiup Reservoir is 28% Full. This is 11,896 acre-feet more than the same time last year. Favorable weather to date has placed the basin snowpack (snow water equivalent) at 176% of the average, with more forecasted. Prineville Reservoir is only 10% full, and records for daily low water levels continue to be broken. Each year, NUID receives up to 10,000 acre-feet of storage in Prineville Reservoir if the capacity exceeds 86,113 acre-feet. Due to drought conditions and proportional fill, NUID only received 3,877 acre-feet from Prineville Reservoir this season. The Crooked River system is volatile, and with a couple good storms, Prineville reservoir could fill. Portions of the Crooked River drainage indicate snowpack ranging from 162% to 175% of the average.

As part of a 2021 State Emergency Drought Aid package, the district received \$600,000 to begin work on an Appraisal and Economic Study for the Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Plant concept (LBC). The LBC project would allow NUID to source water from its existing Crooked River water rights and enable access to water NUID was previously unable to utilize, such as releases from Wickiup wintertime flows. NUID would decommission its existing Crooked River pumping plant, allowing unobstructed fish access to Bowman Dam. The LBC project offers numerous district and environmental benefits, and our partners are excited about securing consistent and safe water for future farming generations, while providing ongoing ecological benefits. Both studies are expected to be completed by Fall 2023. Once complete, NUID anticipates initiating a full Feasibility Study for the LBC concept. Working with Oregon delegation, a \$3.5 million Senate appropriations line item was created through the 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) effort, for the LBC feasibility study. To date, the CDS has yet to be ap-

proved by Congress, but we anticipate its passing before year's end. These funds will aid NUID and our partners in completing the necessary work to advance the LBC concept.

The district has received grant funding to aid in the survey, design, and engineering of the PL566 Piping project. The proposed project will install 27.5 miles of gravity-pressurized, buried pipe on laterals 31,32, 34, and 43. The key elements required to construct the project (i.e. Watershed Plan and Archaeological survey) are nearing completion, and the district anticipates starting construction fall of 2023.

District staff are busy this maintenance season with multiple piping projects, gate upgrades on the main canal, silt removal projects, and emergency repairs to the Haystack Dam. In addition to routine repairs and upgrades of district infrastructure.

Management and partners have conducted meetings with State Representatives, County Officials, and the heads of State Agencies to request additional emergency drought aid for NUID and its patrons. We remain optimistic given the current state political climate (lame duck) and will continue to press for much-needed assistance. We have completed year two of the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (DBHCP), and things have gone as well as they could, considering the historic drought we are engaged in. As many know, 2021 was year 1 of implementation for the DBHCP, which Central Oregon irrigation districts and the City of Prineville worked on collectively. The 30-year plan includes modification of river flows during specific periods of the year, modified reservoir operations, and a financial commitment aimed at restoration projects in the Upper Deschutes River basin. The Bend Bulletin recently provided an article that offers an update on Bullfrog control which directly impacts the Oregon Spotted Frog and the DBHCP. The Madras Pioneer re-posted the article in its November 29 edition. For additional updates and information, I encourage you to visit the media tab on NUID's website and download the November 2022 NUID Town Hall presentation. I recapped the 2022 water year, updates on district projects, and the DBHCP.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and pray for rain!

Josh Bailey

2022 Board Election

This was our busiest election yet! Three petitions were received for Division 3 and two for Division 5, which resulted in a district wide election held on November 8, 2022. Those running for Division 3 were Ryan Feigner, Ron Oliver, and JoHanna Symons. Ryan Feigner was Elected to Division 3. Those running for Division 5 were Trish Backsen and Vern Bare. Vern Bare was Elected to Division 5. Vern has been a Board member since 2006. Their terms will start January 1, 2023 and run for three years.

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Happy Holidays



Season's Greetings



Drought Relief Fund

The final round of 2021 DAS Drought Relief Grant Credits were applied to eligible patron accounts December 1, 2022. Eligibility required an active NUID account and the property must not have been sold during the year. The *per acre* dollar amount credited to eligible patrons was \$13.60. The total amount of your credit will be reflected on a credit summary, which will be enclosed with your 2023 Notice of Charge. The balance due on the 2023 Notice of Charge reflects any credits and is your current balance due. Any accounts that still have a credit balance after 2023 charges have been assessed, will receive a refund check by June 2023. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the NUID office.

District Charges

The 2023 District Operating Budget was approved and charges were set at the board of directors' meeting on November 15, 2022. The board unanimously voted to increase the O&M charges from last year. The O&M charges increased from \$66.08/acre to \$68.79/acre. Legal fund charges decreased from \$6.46/acre to \$5.88/acre. All other charges remain unchanged. An explanation of the 2023 District Charges is attached (page 4). The approved budget is available for review at the district office.

Ownership Changes

Ownership changes due to marriage, divorce, death, establishing trusts, LLC's, etc. must be reported to the district once processes are finalized. It is important that the district's records are kept current and match the ownership documents recorded with the county. These changes can directly effect those water users that are required to complete Reclamation Reform Act certification forms and can delay the delivery of water until records are brought current. Please update the district as these changes occur.

Temporary Water Right Transfers

For several years now the district has been participating in a pilot project for temporary transfers of water, which allows a landowner to dry up a piece of land and move the water right to another parcel for the water season. If you plan to participate in a temporary transfer in the future please contact the District office for a list of requirements, procedures, or with any questions.

District Right-of-Ways/Easements

Tis the season for maintenance and general upkeep of the irrigation project. District canals, laterals, service roads and control devices are within specified Right-of-Ways (RoW) established by the Bureau of Reclamation when the irrigation project was constructed. The RoW's were established to allow the District to operate, maintain and repair the irrigation project works. Landowners and water users may not encroach or prevent the district from accessing these lands. Please keep these RoW areas clear of buildings, fences, equipment, etc. in order to prevent delays and damage in performing district maintenance operations. Maps of RoW widths are available at the district office. Please call in advance to request copies of maps. Keep in mind that tree and woody vegetation removal from canals and easements is also part of routine operations and maintenance.



Office Closure Dates

The district office will be closed for the holidays beginning at noon on December 23 through December 26, 2022. The office will also be closed at noon on December 30, 2022 through January 2, 2023.

Management:

Josh Bailey, District Manager

jbailey@northunitid.com

Mike Britton, Executive Manager

mbritton@northunitid.com

Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager

gcalhoun@northunitid.com

Dennis Krueger, Watermaster &

Construction Supervisor

dkrueger@northunitid.com

Jackie Looney, Finance Manager

jlooney@northunitid.com

Office Staff:

Michelle Camphouse

mcamphouse@northunitid.com

Collin Cowsill Water Operations

ccowsill@northunitid.com

Julia Turek

jturek@northunitid.com

Pam Watson

pwatson@northunitid.com

Board of Directors:

Division 1: Ryan Boyle

Division 2: Mike Kirsch, Vice Chair

Division 3: Martin Richards, Chair

Division 4: Evan Thomas

Division 5: Vern Bare

Office Hours:

Irrigation Season

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00

Saturday 8:00 - 4:00

Non Irrigation Season

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30

Phone: (541) 475-3625

Fax: (541) 475-3905

Email: nuid@northunitid.com



Happy Holidays



Season's Greetings



Ditch Rider Cell Phone #'s

Listed below are Ditch Rider's cell phone numbers. Please do not call them past 5:00 PM. Non Irrigation season Monday-Friday. Irrigation Season Monday - Saturday.

Name	Ride #	NUID Cell Phone #
Wayne Jakobsen	34	541-546-5381
Craig Wiseman	37	541-546-6733
Seth Stites	41	541-546-6644
Cole Simmons	43	541-546-6722
David Ludwig	51	541-546-6232
Cesar Saldaña	53 & 58	541-546-7658
Tom Walton	57	541-475-7338
Jesse Young	58-11	541-475-2638
Marc Chapman	63	541-475-2678
Kody Edmondson	64	541-475-2873

Energy Trust of Oregon Incentives

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent non-profit that provides cash incentives to many sectors, including agricultural producers.

Current incentives include:

- Irrigation Improvements
- Greenhouse Upgrades
- Energy-Efficient Upgrades for Equipment
- Lighting and Lighting Controls
- Irrigation Modernization

Click the link below to learn more information.

<https://www.energytrust.org/program/s/agriculture/>

News Articles

Listed below are a few news articles that were shared with us.

Bullfrog control plan makes progress in Deschutes River

<https://pamplinmedia.com/msp/129-news/564874-452565-bullfrog-control-plan-makes-progress-in-deschutes-river>

Oregon lawmakers consider creating 'water czar' for high-level decisions

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/oregon-lawmakers-consider-creating-water-czar-for-high-level-decisions/article_5dd59248-7731-11ed-9900-a7345e4b5a8b.html

Weather forecaster to wheat farmers: 'I hope you like cold and snow'

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/grains/weather-forecaster-to-wheat-farmers-i-hope-you-like-cold-and-snow/article_4bcfaa0c-7588-11ed-b213-c33f2b236c32.html

The Largest-Ever Dam Demolition Will Restore Salmon Habitat

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/the-largest-ever-dam-demolition-will-restore-salmon-habitat-180981190/>

Farm Groups Highlight the Importance of Alfalfa in the Face of Ongoing Western Drought

<https://mailchi.mp/familyfarmalliance/alfalfa-report?e=df016f03fb>

Dairy farmers seek FDA approval of feed additives

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/dairy/dairy-farmers-seek-fda-approval-of-feed-additives/article_36d82cd0-65f4-11ed-9f38-23699830b716.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily-capital-press-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

Potato shipments mixed amid holiday boost in demand

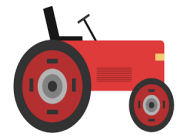
https://www.capitalpress.com/state/idaho/potato-shipments-mixed-amid-holiday-boost-in-demand/article_68c34a5e-653b-11ed-a6aa-17af731cce3e.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily-capital-press-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

Bend's Old Mill District architect, Bill Smith, dies at 81

<https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2022/11/bends-old-mill-district-architect-bill-smith-dies-at-81.html>

Farm Fair Information

The 43rd annual Central Oregon Farm Fair is scheduled for February 1st & 2nd, 2023 from 9am - 4pm at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds.



Equipment Rental

Remember to schedule your equipment rental jobs before March 1, 2023 in order to allow District staff time to complete your project prior to the 2023 irrigation season. Contact Dennis Krueger for arrangements. Click the link before for more information.

<https://northunitid.com/equipment-rental/>



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North Unit Irrigation District

2021 DAS Drought Relief Credits:

The final round of 2021 DAS Drought Relief Grant Credits were applied to eligible patron accounts December 1, 2022. Eligibility required an active NUID account, and the property must not have been sold during the year. The per acre dollar amount credited to eligible patrons was \$13.60. The total amount of your credit will be reflected on a credit summary, which will be enclosed with your 2023 Notice of Charge. The balance due on the 2023 Notice of Charge reflects any credits and is your current balance due. Any accounts that still have a credit balance after 2023 charges have been assessed, will receive a refund check by June 2023. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the NUID office.

2023 Explanation of Charges:

The following charges are billed in December and become delinquent April 15:

Operation & Maintenance Charge (O&M) \$68.79 / acre

This charge is for the operation & maintenance of the district and includes items such as building, canal, auto, and equipment repairs and maintenance. It also includes wages, taxes, safety, training, weed control, and other miscellaneous expenses necessary for the district to maintain its infrastructure and deliver water. The charge varies yearly and is dependent upon the budget adopted by the board of directors.

Account Charge \$225 / account

The district implemented an account charge in 2005. The charge covers administrative costs incurred by the district staff when performing name changes, balance transfers, easements, maps, and other miscellaneous items for patrons.

Legal \$5.88 / acre

The district established a legal assessment to cover the costs of the HCP, Oregon Spotted Frog litigation, Crooked River Legislation, and the public relations support, communication, and marketing for these issues.

Construction \$2.35 / acre

This charge is a repayment to the Bureau of Reclamation for the construction of the project.

Safety of Dams

The Bureau of Reclamation completed a modification on Wickiup Dam and the district is required to pay \$5,766,972 of the total cost, over a 30-year period. Repayment is \$6.00 per acre with an additional account charge of \$15.18 per account for any landowner with 10 acres or less of water rights. Only Deschutes water right acres are subject to this charge.

Excess \$41.27 1st ft, \$48.15 2nd ft

At the end of the water season, usage over your minimum is calculated and bills for excess water are sent towards the end of October and become delinquent April 15th of the following year. This is required under the district's contract, with the Bureau of Reclamation. If available, this allows a minimum of 2.0-acre feet of water per acre on Deschutes water rights and 1.0-acre foot per acre on Crooked River water rights before excess will be charged.