



## Manager's Report

by Josh Bailey

Central Oregon is entering its fourth year of historical drought conditions. Crook County is the only remaining D4 (excessive drought) declaration county, in the western United States. Jefferson County is not far behind with D2 and D3 (severe to extreme drought) conditions. Snow water equivalent is 117% of normal, with soil moisture 58% of normal, and stream flows 71% of average. The good news is, Wickiup Reservoir (NUID's primary storage) is 66% full. This time last year, the reservoir was only 54% full. Prineville Reservoir is also expected to be fuller than last year, meaning NUID will receive more stored water. Typically we receive 10,000 Acre-Feet, but last year, the district only received 3,877 Acre-Feet.

Despite extreme and persistent drought conditions, adhering to the Habitat Conservation (HCP) Plan means that irrigation districts are authorized to continue to access what limited water supplies are available and district patrons can rely on these supplies. The districts coordinate real-time water management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Due to cooler and wetter spring conditions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended adaptive management for the start of the 2023, irrigation season. This means on April 1, 2023, the flow out of Wickiup Reservoir will be 400 CFS instead of the HCP required 600 CFS.

On March 29, 2023, the NUID Board of Directors met to set the 2023 water allotment of .70 for Deschutes and .35 for Crooked River Water Rights. Water will begin being delivered on Monday, April 17. Water users above Haystack

Reservoir (South of Haystack) may order through the online customer portal by 5:00 pm April 16, or by contacting their ditch rider by phone on the morning of April 17 between 6:30 am and 7:30 am. Water users below Haystack Reservoir (North of Haystack) can order through the online customer portal or call the NUID office before 5 pm April 16.

NUID staff drained Haystack Reservoir last fall to perform critical inspections and maintenance. The Bureau of Reclamation engineers gave Haystack a clean bill of health and district operations staff have been slowly refilling it since late February. The reservoir is 74% full and will return to normal operation once the irrigation season begins. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will stock approximately 9,000 Trout/Steelhead in the reservoir mid-April.

We recognize that 2023 will be another challenging year, and NUID Staff and Board of Directors are committed to doing everything we can to manage the water as efficiently as possible.

### Minimum Water Orders

Please note, all water orders shall be a minimum of 0.10 cfs with the only exception being those with orifice deliveries. Any water order for less than 0.10 cfs shall be recorded as an order of 0.10 cfs and charged accordingly. Please refer to NUID Resolution No. 2020-6 for further information.

### Water Allotment

On March 29, 2023, the NUID Board of Directors set the 2023 irrigation season allotments at .70 acre-foot per acre for Deschutes River and .35 acre-foot per acre for Crooked River.

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## Delinquent Accounts & Lien Process

As a reminder, the district sends delinquent letters to all unpaid accounts as of May 15 each year. A notice of intent to lien will be sent to delinquent accounts on July 15, or the first business day thereafter, each year. If payment is not received within 30 days, a notice of claim of lien will be filed on August 15 of each year with the recording officer of the county in which the land is located, pursuant to ORS 545.494. The district's lien process includes assessing fees for placing and removing liens as well as other related administrative fees. The administrative fee is set at \$150 per

account. Pursuant to ORS 545.496 the district will withhold delivery of water from any tract of land until all charges are paid in full including interest, lien fees, collection costs, and administrative fees.

For your convenience the district accepts payments via Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover and E-Check. The payment is processed through Point & Pay, a third party processing center that charges a convenience fee. Visit NUID website at [www.northunitid.com](http://www.northunitid.com) to pay online or contact the District office at (541) 475-3625 to process a payment.

## Ownership of Land Within a Reclamation District

North Unit Irrigation District is a Bureau of Reclamation project; as such there are ownership entitlements that must be adhered to in accordance with the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA), of October 12, 1982. This act placed limitations on the amount of land a landholder may own within a Reclamation project located in the 17 western states.

If a landholder is a qualified recipient (individuals, married couples, entities ultimately benefiting 25 or less natural persons), your ownership entitlement is 960 acres. If a landholder is a limited recipient (entities ultimately benefiting more than 25 natural persons, example: government agencies, large corporations) your ownership entitlement is 640 acres (other restrictions may apply).

If you purchase land with water right acres over and above your ownership entitlement it becomes "Excess Land". Excess lands are not eligible to receive Reclamation irrigation water. In order for excess land to receive Reclamation irrigation water, it must be sold at a price approved by Reclamation; this is a very slow and expensive process.

Under the district's contract with Reclamation, landowners have the option to do a construction obligation payout, which would allow ownership of land over your entitlement. Payout must take place prior to exceeding your ownership entitlement. Please contact the District office if you have concerns regarding your entitlement, payout questions or rates.

## Reclamation Reform Act

The Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) requires anyone who owns and/or leases 240 acres or more in a District under contract to the Bureau of Reclamation is required to submit certification forms before water delivery. This means that even if you own and/or lease less than 240 acres in North Unit Irrigation District but also own and/or lease in another Bureau of Reclamation District with your total acres adding up to 240 or more, you will need to fill out a certification form. The exception is for a public entity to report if they own and/or lease 40 acres or more. If you were pre-

viously required to complete certification forms, you should have received a separate letter, which addresses RRA issues in more detail. If you did not receive a letter and feel you may need to complete certification forms, please contact our office.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ownership and or lease changes during the irrigation season a new RRA form is required. It needs to be completed and on file with the district on or before the effective date of the change.**

### Management:

**Josh Bailey**, District Manager

[jbailey@northunitid.com](mailto:jbailey@northunitid.com)

**Mike Britton**, Executive Manager

[mbritton@northunitid.com](mailto:mbritton@northunitid.com)

**Gary Calhoun**, Operations Manager

[gcalhoun@northunitid.com](mailto:gcalhoun@northunitid.com)

**Dennis Krueger**, Watermaster &

Construction Supervisor

[dkrueger@northunitid.com](mailto:dkrueger@northunitid.com)

**Jackie Looney**, Finance Manager

[jlooney@northunitid.com](mailto:jlooney@northunitid.com)

### Office Staff:

**Michelle Camphouse**

[mcamphouse@northunitid.com](mailto:mcamphouse@northunitid.com)

**Collin Cowsill** Water Operations

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**Julia Turek**

[jturek@northunitid.com](mailto:jturek@northunitid.com)

**Pam Watson**

[pwatson@northunitid.com](mailto:pwatson@northunitid.com)

### Board of Directors:

Division 1: Ryan Boyle, Vice Chair

Division 2: Mike Kirsch, Chairman

Division 3: Ryan Feigner

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](mailto:nuid@northunitid.com)

Website: [www.northunitid.com](http://www.northunitid.com)



# Customer Water Portal

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Don't forget you can track your water usage and place **water orders**, all online!

For those who have yet to sign up, please visit the NUID website at <http://www.northunitid.com/customer-portal>, for instructions on how to sign up.

You will need a unique key code to set up your account. Please call the district office at (541) 475-3625 and staff will be happy to assist you.

Once your account is set up, you can track your water usage in **real time!** Accounts are updated daily. In addition to placing and managing your water orders, you can also review many of your land-use records.

office with any questions or concerns.



## District Charges

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**Operation and Maintenance Charge (O&M)** - covers costs to operate and maintain the district.

**Account Charge** - covers administrative costs incurred by the district.

**Legal/NEPA/OSF/CR Special Assessment** - legal fees, which include NEPA, Oregon Spotted Frog matters, Crooked River legislation implementation and communications for these issues.

**Construction** - repayment to the Bureau or Reclamation for the construction of the project.

**Safety of Dams** - the modifications on Wickiup Dam completed by the Bureau of Reclamation 2004.

## Paying For Water

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If the district determines there is a shortage of water for an irrigation season, the board will set an allotment. This is the total amount of per-acre water the water user can use for the irrigation season. Most years, water users who are not going to use all of their allotment can assign their allotment, or portion thereof, to another water user. Please contact the district office to obtain the forms necessary to make such an assignment.

There's been a lot of commentary recently about "why am I having to pay my full assessment for so little water". The answer is that your annual assessment isn't "paying for water" but for the utilization of the water that's available and the costs associated with that utilization (see District Charges above) The only time a water user "pays for water" is when the water user is in excess of contract amounts or usage amounts greater than 2.00 acre-feet of Deschutes water rights or 1.00 acre foot of Crooked River water rights.

The district understands these are difficult times for many and is always mindful of the impacts water shortages can have on district water users, in addition to the associated annual assessments.

As always please feel free to contact the district office with any questions or concerns.

### Irrigation Season Preparation

In preparation for the 2023 irrigation season, district employees have been performing controlled burns in ditches, the main canal, and laterals. In order to ensure burns are carried out efficiently, please remove all wheel-lines, hand-lines, equipment, livestock fences, and any other items from canal easements. You can check the location of an easement on your property by contacting the district office. **The district is not responsible for damaged property left within the district's easements.**

### Non-Potable Water

NUID irrigation water is considered non-potable water and is unsafe for human consumption. Do not use irrigation water for drinking, bathing, showering, dish-washing, cooking or maintaining oral hygiene. Water delivered through the district's canals and delivery systems is for irrigation purposes only.



# Regional News

Fish Return to Haystack

[https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/fish-return-to-haystack/article\\_704f48f4-cf44-11ed-92b1-fb0d5d574e0a.html](https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/fish-return-to-haystack/article_704f48f4-cf44-11ed-92b1-fb0d5d574e0a.html)

Local irrigators press for cloud seeding

[https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/local-irrigators-press-for-cloud-seeding/article\\_4ad82262-c4f4-11ed-8014-cf249f545b90.html](https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/local-irrigators-press-for-cloud-seeding/article_4ad82262-c4f4-11ed-8014-cf249f545b90.html)

Governor declares drought in Crooked, Jefferson counties

[https://www.madraspioneer.com/governor-declares-drought-in-crook-jefferson-counties/article\\_1d856548-b6ff-11ed-b8e1-b38f8ee3c28c.html](https://www.madraspioneer.com/governor-declares-drought-in-crook-jefferson-counties/article_1d856548-b6ff-11ed-b8e1-b38f8ee3c28c.html)

“Its as bad as ever”: Four years of drought taking a toll on weary Central Oregon farmers

[https://www.capitalpress.com/ag\\_sectors/water/its-as-bad-as-ever-four-years-of-drought-taking-a-toll-on-weary-central/article\\_d7d74c4a-1ccf-5faf-ba51-0717dbdd4bbc.html?block\\_id=703134&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=top-stories-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=headline](https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/its-as-bad-as-ever-four-years-of-drought-taking-a-toll-on-weary-central/article_d7d74c4a-1ccf-5faf-ba51-0717dbdd4bbc.html?block_id=703134&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=top-stories-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline)

Drought Declarations Highlight Slow Recovery Despite Snowpack

<https://kbnd.com/kbnd-news/local-news-feed/681815>

Oregon housing bill includes \$5M for on-farm housing improvements

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/politics/2023/03/27/oregon-farmworker-housing-grant-program-housing-homeless-bill-tina-kotek/70046782007/>

Water Contamination in Oregon Could Prompt EPA to Step In

[https://www.capitalpress.com/ag\\_sectors/water/water-contamination-in-oregon-could-prompt-epa-to-step-in/article\\_26cdce59-47e6-5169-9ecd-58a313472e01.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/water-contamination-in-oregon-could-prompt-epa-to-step-in/article_26cdce59-47e6-5169-9ecd-58a313472e01.html)

This Madras Schoolboy Grew Up to Head Oregon's Department of Agriculture

[https://www.madraspioneer.com/business/this-madras-schoolboy-grew-up-to-head-oregons-department-of-agriculture/article\\_6e06e84a-ca80-11ed-888f-b70b6a8bb020.html](https://www.madraspioneer.com/business/this-madras-schoolboy-grew-up-to-head-oregons-department-of-agriculture/article_6e06e84a-ca80-11ed-888f-b70b6a8bb020.html)



## Notice of Intent to Use Herbicide

Application of aquatic herbicides to District irrigation canals can begin as early as April and continue periodically through October of any given year. The aquatic herbicides used may include: Copper Sulfate, Cascade and Magnacide H with the active ingredient Acrolien. The herbicide applications are intended to control aquatic weeds and algae growth within canals, ditches, and laterals.

Please call the district office at (541) 475-3625 to obtain more information or to request notification of scheduled treatments.

## Ditch Rider Cell Phone Numbers

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