



North Unit Irrigation District

Late-Season District Update by Josh Bailey

Irrigation Water Update

Wickiup reservoir is NUID’s primary source of irrigation water. As of September 6th the reservoir is at 10% of capacity, the second-lowest level on record for this time of year and only compared to last year. Live flow on the Deschutes River has diminished to historic low levels, similar to what we saw during last year’s drought conditions. As a result, NUID has primarily relied on stored water for most of the irrigation season. As of July 7, the district has pumped all of its stored allotment water from Prineville Reservoir, and no additional Crooked River supplies are available to pump, for the remainder of the season. NUID continues to closely monitor supply conditions and is working with other basin districts to stretch supplies as the season begins to wind down. As a reminder, Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) has shut down in early October, the past 2 years, to work on a significant piping project. The early shutdown freed up additional supplies for other districts, including NUID, allowing water to be delivered well into October. COID has since completed their piping project and have yet to set a shut off date, which we anticipate will be done at their September 13, board meeting. Likewise, NUID will review current and anticipated supplies for the remainder of the season at its September 13, board meeting and make recommendations based on supply conditions.

Basin Out look

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) published a Weather Seasonal Climate Forecast on July 21, 2022. ODF predicts warmer than average temperatures August through September and colder than average temperatures in October. Precipitation during August and September is expected to remain average and October is expected to be wetter than normal. Please bare in mind, this is typically the driest time of year with little precipitation.

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.



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Volume 22 Issue 3

September 2022



NEWSLETTER

North Unit Irrigation District

Update on District Projects by Mike Britton

NUID has entered into agreements with USBR and is currently working to complete the Lake Billy Chinook (LBC) Pumping Plant Appraisal Study. District staff, BlackRock Consulting, Jacobs Engineering Group, USBR Technical Services, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Regional Support in Boise are working on the study with an estimated completion of September 2023. \$800,000 has been dedicated to the project, with USBR and NUID sharing the expense equally. NUID portion of the cost share was obtained through the State's 2021 Drought Aid Package.

NUID in coordination with OSU, Deschutes River Conservancy, Summit Conservation Strategies, and ECONorthwest are underway with an economic study that will provide an economic analyses of the importance of NUID-related activities to Jefferson County and the Basin, as well as to support decision-making involving water supply investment opportunities. The study is also intended to plug into the LBC Appraisal Study and/or potentially the larger LBC Feasibility Study. OSU has provided \$50,000 to the effort, while NUID and Jefferson County is providing \$200,000. NUID and Jefferson County portions are also funded through the State's 2021 Drought Aid Package.

NUID's continued work with the Oregon delegation has resulted in a 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending appropriations line item in the amount of \$3.45 million for the LBC Feasibility Study. There is still a lot of work to get this to the finish line, but this is a huge first step in securing funding for the LBC Feasibility Study. NUID will be working with state legislators during the 2023 session in an effort to secure additional funding for the study.

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. The Act provides, among other things, "\$4 billion to be available over the next 4 years to mitigate the

impacts of drought in the Western States, with a priority to the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing long-term drought. These funds can be used to provide grants or other agreements with "public entities and tribes" for three specific purposes – 1) compensation in temporary or multi-year voluntary reduction in water use; 2) system conservation projects in the Colorado River Basin; and 3) ecosystem and habitat restoration projects to "address issues directly caused by drought." NUID believes the Lake Billy Chinook Project fits squarely within item 3.

August 10, concluded the public comment period for the NUID Watershed Plan (PL566) that includes piping Laterals 31, 32, 34, and 43. NUID, working with Farmers Conservation Alliance, will respond to the comments received and respond/revise the watershed plan accordingly within the next 60 days. Once complete, the watershed plan gets sent to Washington DC for review/approval. NUID can receive up to \$25 million per watershed plan and this project will use all, if not more than, the \$25 million. NUID received \$2 million in funding from the State's 2021 Drought Aid Package to apply towards the project. NUID anticipates project construction to begin in fall 2023. NUID will again be working with state legislators during the 2023 legislative session to secure additional funding for this and other basin PL566 projects.

NUID acknowledges that drought and water shortages has brought much hardship to district patrons and members of the community. But "In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity." — Albert Einstein. With that in mind, NUID will continue to look for, and take advantage of, every opportunity it can for the betterment of the district, its patrons, and the community during these difficult times. But we need your help! Please reach out and share your experiences with gubernatorial candidates, your Oregon delegation and state legislators. The voice of many is far more powerful than the voice of one!

Resolution No. 2022-08

At the recent Board Meeting held on August 9, the Board passed Resolution No. 2022-08. The policy explains the installation and maintenance of cattle guards and gates within District easements. For more information you can view the Resolution on our website at:

<https://northunitid.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Cattle-Guard-and-Gate-Res-.pdf>



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.

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Division 2: Mike Kirsch
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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
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 23–November 27, 2022.



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 3 and 5 will expire on December 31, 2022. The district is now accepting nominations for these positions, being held by Martin Richards and Vern Bare. Division 3 covers the eastern area of Madras between Gateway and Highland Lane and east of South Adams Drive and

Baldwin Drive. Division 5 covers the southern portion of the project south of Iris and Highland Lane to the Crooked River.

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 4, 2022. 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 8, 2022.