



Manager's Report

by Josh Bailey

Greetings to all our Valued Patrons!

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are pleased to report that the district's primary storage reservoir (Wickiup) is 78% full, and drought conditions are improving. The district will also receive a full 10,000-acre-foot allotment of stored Prineville Reservoir water. However, we must also acknowledge that this is the sixth year of reduced patron allotments, as the basin is still recovering from a sustained drought. As a result of the continued drought conditions, district staff have submitted a letter to Governor Tina Kotek for financial assistance for Jefferson County Farmers and Ranchers, and the Jefferson County Commissioners have also requested Governor Kotek to declare another year of drought emergency. You can view the District letter [here](#).

We are also entering the fourth year of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Eight Central Oregon Irrigation Districts and the City of Prineville coordinate in real-time water management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on both the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers. Due to cooler and wetter spring conditions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended adaptive management for the start of the 2024 irrigation season. This means that on April 1, 2024, the flow out of Wickup Reservoir will be 400 CFS instead of the HCP-required 600 CFS.

Over the winter maintenance season, our team completed several crucial projects: Segment 1

of the Lateral 43 Pipeline Project; the Lateral 45-2 Pipeline Project; and many routine maintenance projects. We are proud to report that these projects were completed on time and within budget.

District staff are steadily working on many other projects, such as the engineering of the Segment 2 Lateral 43 pipeline project, the Bend fish screen replacement project, the main canal lining project near Feather Drive, the Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Facility Appraisal/ Feasibility study, the Haystack Operation study with the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Redmond Hydroelectric Resiliency Project.

The US Bureau of Reclamation recently awarded NUID \$5.88 million to replace the district's Bend Fish Screens. In addition, the district has received \$750 thousand from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Additional funding is still required for the approximate \$10 million project, and district staff are working on obtaining those funds through upcoming grant solicitations.

We are grateful for your continued support and understanding throughout these challenging times. While under drought conditions, we are committed to ensuring that our patrons have access to the maximum amount of available water they need to sustain their operations.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. We look forward to serving you in the coming months.

Josh Bailey

2024 Water Allotment

On March 29, 2024, the district Board of Directors set an allotment of **1.00 acre-foot per acre for Deschutes and .50 acre-foot per acre for Crooked River water rights. Water will be available for delivery on April 15, 2024. Please order online before April 12, 2024 or call the district office to order your water.** Our staff will continue to monitor conditions and recommend additional allocations if water becomes available.

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.



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Office Now Closed on Sundays

This year the district office will no longer be open on Sundays. However, you may still call the office on Sunday, and your call will be forwarded to the on-duty water manager. You can also call in your order on Saturday, the office is open from 8:00 AM– 4:00 PM. If you have not joined the online water ordering system (Customer Portal), we strongly encourage you to do so. You can place water orders through your smartphone, track water usage and land usage, etc. You will need a unique key code to set up your account. Please call the NUID office at (541) 475-3625 and staff will be happy to assist you. To get started, click [here](#).

Ditchrider 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

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 Magnicide H with the active ingredient Acrolein. 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.

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.**

Irrigation Season Preparation

In preparation for the 2024 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.**

Management:

Josh Bailey, District Manager

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Mike Britton, Executive Manager

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Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager

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Dennis Krueger, Watermaster

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Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager

lmaynard@northunitid.com

Office Staff:

Michelle Camphouse

mcamphouse@northunitid.com

Collin Cowsill, Water Operations

ccowsill@northunitid.com

Julia Turek

jturek@northunitid.com

Pam Watson-Tolman

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

Phone: (541) 475-3625

Fax: (541) 475-3905

Email: nuid@northunitid.com

Website: www.northunitid.com



Maintaining Water Rights

Maintaining irrigation water rights on your property is important to you as a landowner. In short, state law has mandated that if your land has irrigation water rights, you must use those rights in a beneficial manner. For landowners with water rights “beneficial use” is a phrase that should be familiar, but can be confusing even for the most experienced water users. To fully use your water rights, the law requires that the total water right be used on the land, as mapped, at least one year in every five years in a “beneficial” way with any crop, lawns, or pasture (no sagebrush or scrub grass).

Failure to comply with the provision makes all or part of your water rights subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610. Under this law the Oregon Water Resources Department considers these rights abandoned and can cancel them, which means that the water resource is lost forever to the district and the water user for irrigation purposes.

To prove the water right has been used beneficially landowners can provide one or more affidavits from persons who can attest from personal knowledge or professional expertise, that the right was exercised at the authorized location and for the authorized purpose. The affidavits must also include supporting documentation like crop receipts or expenditures, various agency records or dated photos. In a limited number of instances a user can provide documentation that the presumption of forfeiture would be rebutted under ORS 540.610(2).

The landowner can avoid losing all or a portion of their water right by:

1. Using the water beneficially at the current location and be able to provide proof.
2. Permanent or temporary transfer of the water to a new location.
3. Leasing the water right instream.

Maintaining water rights is also important to the district to provide the most efficient and cost effective delivery of water for the benefit of all water users within the district. Landowners who would like a copy of their water right map can contact the district office. Knowing where your water rights are located on your property is the first step to protecting them.

Delinquent Accounts & Lien Process

As a reminder, the district sends delinquent letters to all unpaid accounts as of **May 15th each year**. A notice of intent to lien will be sent to delinquent accounts on July 15th, 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 15th 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, Master-card, American Express, Discover and E-Check. The payment is processed through Point & Pay, a third party processing center that charges a convenience fee. Click [here](#) to make a payment online.

Paying For Water

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 utilize for the irrigation season. Most years, water users who are not going to use all of their allotment can assign their allotment, or a portion thereof, to another water user. Please contact the district office to obtain the forms necessary to make such an assignment.

There has been a great deal of commentary recently regarding “why am I having to pay my full assessment for so little water”. The answer is that your annual assessment isn’t a payment for water, but for the utilization of the water that’s available and the costs associated with that utilization. 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.



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.

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.

Otto the Otter's Message

As the season starts to ramp up and the weather starts to get warm, we would like to remind **everyone** that canals are not for play; canals are dangerous! NUID and Otto Otter want you to know that the best way to stay safe from canals is to stay away!

Remember Otto Otters 6 Rules to Live by:

1. Stay away from canals because of moss, weeds, sharp objects & chemicals
2. Don't play near water by yourself
3. Learn to swim really well like an otter
4. If someone falls in the water get help fast from an adult, don't try to rescue them yourself.
5. Do your swimming in a safe area like a swimming pool with a lifeguard.
6. Say **NO** to swimming in canals and ditches.



Regional News

Irrigation districts host joint town hall

[Read more](#)

As Oregon proposes new groundwater rules, some agricultural groups push back

[Read more](#)

Idaho approves money for quagga mussel effort

[Read more](#)

Oregon ag director tells state FFA convention she's confident in next generation

[Read more](#)

Energy Trust/Oregon Department of Energy: 'Powerful' savings

[Read more](#)

Water has long presented challenges, and solutions in Central Oregon

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