



Drought Update by Josh Bailey

As the summer season approaches, we wanted to update you on current drought conditions and share some exciting developments happening at NUID.

Drought Conditions Easing:

We are pleased to announce that recent late-season snowpack in the upper elevations has had a significant impact on drought conditions in the Deschutes and Crooked River Basins. Prineville Reservoir, which stores 10,000 Acre-Feet of irrigation water for NUID, has seen a remarkable improvement. In early March, the reservoir had set records for low water levels, but by May 15, it had gained approximately 118,000 Acre-Feet of water. Prineville Reservoir is currently full and flows are returning to normal.

Improvements in the Deschutes Basin:

In the Deschutes Basin, where NUID stores and receives the majority of its irrigation water, stream flows were at historic lows until late

April. Since then, we have seen a positive change, with flows beginning to increase. This has resulted in NUID being less reliant on stored water out of Wickiup Reservoir during the first two months of the 2023 Irrigation Season. Wickiup Reservoir is approximately 54% full, showing significant improvement compared to 37% at this time last year.

Ongoing Drought Challenges:

Despite these developments, we want to emphasize that we are still facing drought challenges. Jefferson County remains in D2 or severe drought conditions, and reservoir inflows are beginning to taper off to the drought conditions, observed in recent years. Your continued cooperation and water conservation efforts are crucial in mitigating the impact of the ongoing drought.

Manager’s Message by Josh Bailey

During the NUID Board of Directors meetings in March and May, several key decisions were made. On March 29, an allotment of .70 for Deschutes River and .35 for Crooked River water rights was set. An additional increase of .10 for Deschutes and .05 for Crooked River during the May meeting. District staff will continue to monitor water conditions and make recommendations to the NUID Board of Directors accordingly.

The proposed Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Plant Appraisal study is nearing completion and is expected to be available in early Fall 2023. This study is an important step in securing Federal funding for the construction of a public water transportation facility. Additionally, we have partnered with various organizations, including Jefferson County, Oregon State University, Deschutes River Conservancy, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and EcoNorthWest to conduct an economic study of the agricultural output of Jefferson County, focusing on the effects of the multi-year drought. This study will aid in the Feasibility study for the proposed Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Facility. NUID staff are working diligently to secure the funding for the Feasibility study and expect it to commence in early 2024.

Once the irrigation season concludes, we have several construction projects lined up. These projects include lining a 1.5-mile section of the Main Canal near Feather Drive to prevent seepage. We will be installing 6,000 feet of 66" HDPE pipe on the head end of Lateral 43 and installing 1,100 feet of 24" HDPE pipe on Lateral 45-2. These projects have been made possible through grants obtained from collaborative efforts with Federal, State, Tribal, and non-profit agencies such as the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC), Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). More information on these projects will be provided as we get closer to the irrigation season’s end.

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Maintaining Water Rights

Maintaining irrigation water rights on your property is important 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.

Regional News

As canola blooms so does debate

https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/as-canola-blooms-so-does-debate/article_7d0d2c30-f764-11ed-b0dc-6359be8c66cb.html

County commissioner reverses support for irrigation piping project

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/county-commissioner-reverses-support-for-irrigation-piping-project/article_ae17ba17-fcc6-550d-827c-6bd519d9cfb0.html

Melting snow is rapidly replenishing Oregon’s tapped reservoirs

<https://www.koin.com/news/oregon/melting-snow-is-rapidly-replenishing-oregons-tapped-reservoirs/>

A wetter spring in Oregon has forecasters worried about an extended fire season

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/05/29/forecasters-worried-about-extended-oregon-fire-season/>

Fighter Aircraft Recovered from Kingsley Irrigation Canal 26, 2K

<https://kobi5.com/news/fighter-aircraft-recovered-from-irrigation-canal-at-kingsley-field-209003/>

Field days offer crop information, networking

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/grains/field-days-offer-crop-information-networking/article_0ae11b5b-54e3-55fd-b687-80178e66db30.html

Easterday to pay \$1 million for civil violations in ghost-cattle scheme

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/easterday-to-pay-1-million-for-civil-violations-in-ghost-cattle-scheme/article_09bbef66-fbe5-11ed-9435-533503c35492.html

Organic cost share proposal upsets Oregon farm groups

https://www.capitalpress.com/state/oregon/organic-cost-share-proposal-upsets-oregon-farm-groups/article_eca51102-fc0f-11ed-a9c8-ef5899b7e235.html

Oregon bills hang in balance as Senate GOP walkout continues

<https://www.kptv.com/2023/05/26/oregon-bills-hang-balance-senate-gop-walkout-continues/>

Dig Safely



The district and other utilities, has numerous underground facilities throughout the project. Please call the district before digging or excavating. For free underground utility marking call **811** or **(800) 332-2344** two working days before you plan to dig. Or visit www.digsafelyoregon.com to enter your information online.

Beehive Safety

Please check with district management before placing beehives near areas frequented by ditch riders for operation and maintenance purposes. Any activity that impedes or interrupts their ability to work in a safe manner must be taken into consideration.



“No Spray” Zone means “You Spray” Zone

Putting up “no spray” signs is not enough to maintain a no-spray zone. Patrons need a no-spray permit from NUID to physically manage the noxious weeds growing within their designated no-spray zone.

Because most canal roads are easements through private property, the district respects landowners’ requests to establish no spray zones throughout their property. As of 2020, we require an application to acquire a no spray permit. Once you complete the application, and its approved by the NUID board, we will respect the boundaries within the zone. Once a no spray zone is established, the responsibility of eradicating weeds within the easement returns to the landowner.

Not managing weeds within your zone, could result in enforcement spraying, fees and property liens.

Help Prevent Meter Damage

The most common and expensive repair on a water flow meter is the replacement of the register. Damage commonly occurs when the water user is charging the irrigation system’s mainline. If the valve that charges the mainline is fully open it will cause the water flow indicator on top of the register (looks like a speedometer) to go beyond its limits, causing internal damage. To help prevent damage, open the mainline charge valve slowly and check the water flow indicator on the top of the register to be sure flows stay within the range for which it was designed.

Drainage

District responsibility for water delivery ends at the district’s point of delivery, measuring weir, or headgate. The water, including tail water and run-off, then becomes the responsibility of the water user or users, on that ditch or drain.

Landowners/water users that drain runoff to private drains and ditches have both a right and a responsibility to work

with their neighbors to maintain these facilities. When problems occur, the district is able to assist, clarify issues, or suggest solutions. However, the responsibility ultimately lies with the landowners/water users along ditches/drains to resolve these matters. In addition, it is the landowners/water users responsibility to ensure these drainage facilities are kept clean and free of debris to

prevent damage to neighboring properties, roads, etc.

The district can provide ditch/drain cleaning services for a fee.

Management:

Josh Bailey, District Manager
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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

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Website: www.northunitid.com

This summer stay cool, but don't use a canal as your pool!



Please remind kids to stay out of the canals



Delivery of Irrigation Water Through Private Ditches

Water users who use private ditches to receive irrigation water must maintain delivery easements and/or facilities for water conveyance beyond the district's headgates. District personnel do not have the right to cross private property the district does not have an easement for and/or access to private facilities without prior landowners approval. It is the water user's responsibility to maintain facilities beyond the district's point of delivery and it is the water users responsibility to coordinate with neighboring water users to ensure they are properly receiving irrigation water.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) offers a dispute resolution program for farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners. The program known as the Central Oregon Water Dispute Program is a special program created to help resolve issues that come about when property owners have disputes arising over property boundaries, water distribution, maintenance responsibilities, weeds or right-of-way. ODA helps bring property owners together to resolve disagreements, manage water rotation schedules, facilitate coordination with irrigation districts, address weed problems, property access issues and help foster other beneficial arrangements mutually developed by irrigators, through mediation. Working together can lead to better irrigation efficiency and water quality as well as reduce tension among neighbors. Contact ODA at (503) 986-4558 for more information or fees for this service visit www.oregon.gov/oda. Mediation is also available from the Oregon USDA Certified Agricultural Mediation Program and is free to the agricultural community on many issues. Please call (888) 628-4101 or visit office@6rivers.org for more details.

Lien Process for Delinquent Accounts

On May 15, 2023, letters of delinquency were sent to all past due accounts. If not paid by the date specified, a Notice of Intent to Lien will be sent to account holders on July 15, 2023, or the first business day thereafter. If payment is not received within 30 days of July 15, a lien will be filed. Fees will be assessed for the filing cost of placing and

removing liens along with an administration fee of \$150. Pursuant to ORS 545.496, the district will withhold delivery of water from a tract of land until the incurred charges for the current year and any prior years are paid in full as well as all interest, lien fees, collection costs and administration fees.

Customers may conveniently pay by credit card or eCheck via a service known as Point & Pay. A processing fee will be charged to you by Point & Pay. Please call or visit the district office for more information.

Road Watering Prohibited

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has seen a steady increase in complaints over sprinkler end guns and wheel lines spraying public roads and creating a hazard, in addition to wasting water. In Jefferson County, the sheriff's

office may respond to the complaints as a violation of ORS 368.256 "Creation of road hazard prohibited". In addition, OWRD's view is that water being applied to roads, including canal service roads, even inadvertently, is considered applying water to a location that does not have

a water right or that is not receiving beneficial use a violation of Oregon water right statute. The district asks water users to minimize or eliminate "road watering" not only to reduce a potential hazard but as responsible stewards of a limited resource.

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

