



North Unit Irrigation District

Managers Report by Josh Bailey

Dear NUID Patrons,

As we approach the end of another year, it is important to take stock of the challenges we have faced and the progress we have made. One of the most pressing challenges that we have faced over the past four years has been the continued drought conditions and low natural river flow in the Deschutes River, which has translated into lower patron allotments. Despite these challenges, we have remained committed to our mission of providing reliable irrigation water throughout the irrigation season and maximizing the distribution of available water.

Water Update:

The NUID Board of Directors has set Friday, October 13, 2023, as the last day of the irrigation season. The last day to order water will be Thursday, October 12, 2023. If you order water for Friday, you must be able to take the water until the canal system drains out. This will take multiple days, so please plan accordingly. Ditch Riders will not be available to adjust flows. Wickiup Reservoir is 17% full, and the natural river flow in the Deschutes River is near recorded historic lows. The patron allotment was increased .05 on September 16, 2023, to .85 Deschutes and .43 Crooked. There is a possibility of additional water being available on October 2, 2023. District staff will make recommendations to the NUID Board accordingly and will notify district patrons as soon as possible.

Projects:

NUID staff are working hard to implement many water conservation projects this Fall/Winter. These projects include beginning Segment 1 of the Lateral 43 Pipeline Project, which consists of constructing a concrete intake structure that will house screens to remove debris out of the pipeline and install approximately 6,000 feet of 66 inch pipe. The district will also be installing approximately 1.5 miles of liner material in a section of the NUID Main Canal near Feather

Drive. In addition, the district will be installing 1,100 feet of 24 inch pipe on the 45-2 lateral while completing normal maintenance on the project.

In addition to the noted water conservation projects, NUID staff and consultants continue work on two hydroelectric/photovoltaic projects on NUID's man canal in the Redmond area. If constructed, these two projects will conserve water and produce an additional revenue stream to help offset district operating costs. More information on these projects will be made available on the NUID website and in future patron correspondence.

The Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Facility Appraisal Study is nearing completion. The district expects the study to be complete by the end of the year. A full feasibility study is the next phase of this project, assuming the appraisal study recommends a feasibility study, and District staff are working hard to secure the necessary funding for a feasibility study should the study be recommended. An Ag Economic Study is also being worked on in parallel to the Appraisal Study. The Ag Econ study will help justify the need for the LBC pumping plant as it relates to ag production in Jefferson County.

The district has successfully obtained grant funding for a myriad of projects we are working on. So far, efforts to secure funding to offset patron assessments have not been successful, but the district will continue pursuing every option available.

In conclusion, I encourage you to frequent NUID's new website as District staff will continue to update the website with pertinent information and updates. I hope you enjoy the remainder of the year, and as always, Pray for Rain!

Josh Bailey

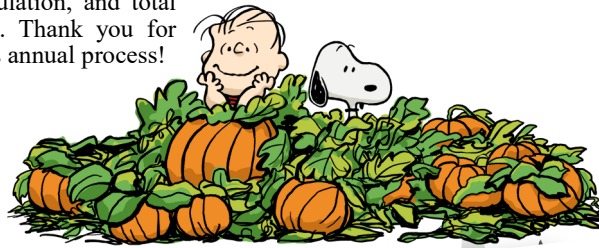


Inside This Issue

Crop Reports	2	Office Hours	3
Office Manager & HR Generalist Hired	2	Online Portal	3
Upcoming Town Hall	2	Canal Right-of-Ways	3
Hydro Power in Canals	2	Maintenance Season	4
Board of Directors Election	2	Ownership, Lease and Billing Changes	4
Weed Management in Fallowed Fields	3	Regional News	4

Crop Reports

Its that time of year again and Ditchriders will be collecting annual crop information from patrons. Requests will include information about the types of crops grown, number of acres, population, and total acres irrigated by sprinkler or drip. Thank you for your time and cooperation during this annual process!



Upcoming Town Hall, Mark Your Calendars!

Please join NUID for a Town Hall on Thursday, October 12, 2023 from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in the Maccie/Conroy Building. Topics include 2023 Water Season Recap, Fall/Winter projects, HCP projects within the basin, & general Q&A. Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please Welcome Leslie Maynard

The District is pleased to announce that Leslie Maynard has been hired to fill the position of Office Manager & HR Generalist as of July 17, 2023. Leslie’s extensive experience includes 28 years in accounting and human resources. Please join us in welcoming Leslie to the District.

Hydropower in Canals

Emrgy is a hydropower company who designs unique mobile and modular hydro-kinetic turbines, which can be placed directly into irrigation channels without the need for any permanent construction.

Click below to view the article by the Madras Pioneer https://www.madraspioneer.com/business/hydropower-in-canals-may-earn-money-for-irrigators/article_4eac3432-5338-11ee-a287-7b40c3d213f4.html

Click the link below to view the video (featuring General Manager Josh Bailey) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmqeYdkOw>

Office Closures

-The District Office Will be Closed on Friday, November 10, 2023 in Honor of Veterans Day.

-The District office will be closed for Thanksgiving beginning at noon, on November 22 - November 26, 2023.



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 1 and 2 will expire on December 31, 2023. The district is now accepting nominations for these positions, being held by Michael Kirsch and Ryan Boyle.

Division 1 Covers the southern portion of the Agency Plains starting at Fir Lane and then continues south to Dover and Eureka Lanes and west of South Adams Drive.

Division 2 Covers the northwest area of the Agency Plains from Fir Lane north to the Deschutes River.

To determine if you are in that division, a map can be viewed at the district office or by clicking on the link below.

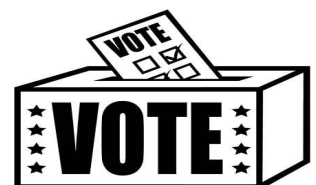
<https://northunitid.com/board-of-directors/>

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 10, 2023. 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 on November 14, 2023.



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.

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
dkrueger@northunitid.com
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
Sunday 9:00 - 5:00

Phone: (541) 475-3625
(541) 475-3652

Fax: (541) 475-3905

Email: nuid@northunitid.com

Website: www.northunitid.com



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.

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.

Regional News

Unique Type of Garlic Gets Its Own Patent

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/smallfarm/unique-type-of-garlic-gets-its-own-patent/article_9a244c2c-53e9-11ee-90ed-8b230acb7165.html

Central Oregon Irrigation Piping Projects Prevail In Court

https://www.capitalpress.com/state/oregon/central-oregon-irrigation-piping-projects-prevail-in-court/article_5cc96222-4773-11ee-88c0-6b5fb40b3464.html

A third of Oregon Counties Now in a Drought Emergency

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/third-of-oregon-counties-now-in-a-drought-emergency/>

Very Strong El Nino to Bring Warmer Weather

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2023/09/06/very-strong-el-nino-to-bring-warmer-winter-with-scorching-ocean-water-for-marine-life/>

Old-Fashioned Farming on Display

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/rurallife/old-fashioned-farming-on-display/article_1751e9ff-77a3-5539-b253-33e21623a384.html

Governor Kotek Visits Jefferson County Farm

https://www.madraspioneer.com/news/oregon-governor-kotek-visits-jefferson-county-farm/article_4d5f7eb4-4207-11ee-a12b-a3f4acc5f1f4.html

Can Researchers Save the Pacific Northwest Mint Industry?

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/research/can-researchers-save-the-pacific-northwest-mint-industry/article_472b5f88-475f-11ee-982e-cb4d358083f4.html



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.

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.**

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

NUID's Automated Calling System

Missed a phone call from us? We are finding it necessary to make more frequent announcements via automated call to notify patrons of water treatments and other information. We want to ensure that we connect with our patrons as quickly as possible. Please call the office and let us know if you would like to be added to the phone notification list.