



Volume 24 Issue 3
Fall 2024



NEWSLETTER

North Unit Irrigation District

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Manager's Report by Josh Bailey

This year, only two Oregon Counties received a Governor's Declaration of Drought (Jefferson and Lake) as opposed to twelve last year. Hydrologic conditions are improving yet still remain below average. For example, the live flow (natural runoff) in the Deschutes River on September 12, 2024, was 1,049 CFS. Based on historical data, the normal flows for this time of year should be 1,244 CFS with a max flow of 1,597 CFS and a minimum flow of 762 CFS. The US Drought Monitor has listed Jefferson County as D1 (Moderate Drought). Overall, conditions are trending in a positive direction, but efforts in modernization, efficiency, and conservation need to continue.

The District recently awarded Taylor Northwest the construction contract for Segment 2 of our Lateral 43 Pipeline project. The project involves installing approximately 6 miles of High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe ranging from 63" to 8" in diameter, including 26 new pressurized deliveries. Construction activities started on October 15, 2024, and will include the following laterals: 43-2, 43-3, 43-5, and the Main 43 lateral through Highway 97 and Highland Avenue. For those familiar with the area, construction will stop near the 43-7 lateral downstream of Highland Avenue.

Additional Fall/Winter projects include lin-

ing a section of the District's main canal near Feather Drive in Culver, continued work on the Lake Billy Chinook pumping plant feasibility analysis, NUID main diversion fish screen replacement, Floating Solar Project, Wickiup Dam outlet works automation, 58-11 measurement flume and automation upgrade, and multiple hydroelectric and hydrokinetic projects. For additional information on current and future District projects, please visit the NUID website at <https://www.northunitid.com>

The NUID Board of Directors and staff continue to work hard to minimize the effects of the ongoing drought. Efforts will be made to seek funding and innovative ways to "Deliver water to District patrons by managing and maintaining the system in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible," as stated in our Mission Statement.

We hope you had a successful growing season and look forward to serving you next irrigation season.

Josh Bailey

Board Election Results

This year, Division 4's term was up for Election. One petition was received for Division 4 from Evan Thomas. No other petitions were received. Thomas ran unopposed and was elected to serve another 3-year term starting January 1, 2025. Evan has served on the Board of Directors since January 2022. Please join us in congratulating Evan on his re-election!



2024 Fish Rescue

As the irrigation season ramps down, fish are left stranded in portions of the canal. A few members of NUID staff joined up with Mount Hood Environmental to collect the fish from the canal and relocate them to the Deschutes River.



Bottom left: Cole Simmons, Kody Edmondson, & Gina Maaag-Klobas. Top middle: Ben Briscoe,



Stop by the office for a copy of the latest issue of Hydro Leader!

Town Hall Recap

If you were unable to attend the town hall in person please click on the link below to view the video.

<https://www.northunitid.com/nuid-town-hall-10-10-24>

Holiday Office Closures

-The District Office Will be Closed on Monday November 11, 2024 in Honor of Veterans Day.

-The District office will be closed for Thanksgiving beginning at noon, on November 27 - November 29, 2024.

Canal Easements/Right-of-Ways

Reminder to please keep in mind before you build any structure, fence, put up a haystack, park equipment, plant trees /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.

Ownership, Lease and Billing Changes

Water rights are appurtenant to the land and as such it is important to keep the District informed of any ownership changes. The ownership records determine who is responsible for the charges of the District and also 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 on your property.

This information is used to determine who is allowed to order water on your property and who is allowed to 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.

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:

Non Irrigation Season
Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30
Phone: (541) 475-3625
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Do you have 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 providing beneficial use!

Routine O & M

After the irrigation season draws to an end, please remember that District crews will be out working to remove trees and vegetation from canals and easements as part of routine Operations and Maintenance. To keep things running smoothly please make sure all irrigation and other equipment are removed from the district's easements. 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.



Happy Retirement Curtis & Pam!

May you be proud of the work you have done, the person you are, and the difference you have made!

~Pam

In May of 1990, Pam Watson started working at North Unit Irrigation District. She had four letters of reference from her previous employers – they ALL loved her.

As a single mom, Pam and her sons lived near the NUID office in one of the District's duplex's, today one of her sons is a successful patron of the district.

Pam has been a favorite to her clients since very early in her career at NUID. Many times, folks will call in and ask what day she is working so they can coordinate to see her. Pam helped establish many of the procedures and processes still in use today.

Pam has seen many general managers in her time at the district, Chuck Schonneker, Robert Ringering, Mike Britton, and now Josh Bailey. Josh was often amazed by the depth of Pam's knowledge and, at times, found it faster to ask her for background then look to another source. Pam's devotion to North Unit's farmers and ranchers is only second to her love of family. She's always available to help and gives in many ways.

We'll miss Pam's calm demeanor in the office and her fun laugh, we know she'll take this into retirement with Gordon and enjoy all the Saturdays of summer finally!

"The recent retirement of Pam Watson from her long-time position of Water Clerk III in the NUID office will leave a huge void for the new NUID employees to fill; similar to the previous retirements of Sue Light and Vicki McKelvy.

We patrons miss those familiar voices and faces, and it will be the same with Pam. The only difference being is the long-term family history that the Watson family has had in the district from when the water arrived till the present day. We've walked in the office and referred to

farms by original water users' last name Pam knew exactly where we were referring to and likely all the owners to date.

Also, all those pesky Bureau of Reclamation forms that have to be filled out....Pam would see us coming and have all the information we needed at hand so we could get them completed in one go! Of course others will learn how to handle the problems but Pam seemed to be ahead of the curve as she saw us coming!

We will miss Pam and her vast knowledge of the working of NUID, her bright smile or remembrance of local history. We wish you a "Happy Retirement, Pam!"
~From a NUID long term patron

"Five stars for Pam! It is rare to have a devoted and loyal employee whose concern is for the best of North Unit Irrigation. Pam, thanks for keeping my yearly ownership records current. Your friendliness, joy and smile will be missed."

~Another long-term patron.



Bottom left across: Pam Watson-Tolman, Chuck Schonneker, Diana Macy,
Top left across: Vicki McKelvy, Sue Light

NUID Board of Directors note to Curtis & Pam

The North Unit Board of Directors would like to thank Pam Watson and Curtis Wood for their many years of service to the irrigation district. Pam Watson has played an important role in North Unit's administrative department for over three decades. Her dedication, positive attitude, organization, wealth of knowledge, and overall passion for the district will be sorely missed. Curtis Wood has been with North Unit for 38 years, 12 of those serving as the dam tender at Wickiup reservoir. Working many miles away from the NUID headquarters on a daily basis requires dedication and self-motivation. Curtis kept the Wickiup facilities operating smoothly. His hard work will be missed. We wish Pam and Curtis the best in retirement!

Sincerely,

The North Unit Board of Directors



Happy Retirement Curtis & Pam!

~Curtis

In the Summer of June 1986, Curtis Wood was hired at North Unit Irrigation District as a member of the maintenance crew.

Curtis grew up in Madras and graduated from Madras high school in 1976. He met his wife Gail at Charlie's Pizza and they have been happily married for 44 years. They raised their daughters here and they both graduated from Madras high school. One of the daughters lives here locally and the other lives in Arizona. Between them there are seven grandchildren that Curtis and Gail are very fond of.

By 1994 Curtis became a heavy equipment operator and he stayed in that position until August 2012, when he took the position of Dam Tender at Wickiup Reservoir where he has been for the past 12 years.

During the irrigation season, Curtis was busy with ramping up/ramping down for the season, adjusting flow levels, record keeping, and operations and maintenance among other things. During winter, he was responsible for plowing the roads that lead to Wickiup and other routine maintenance.

It's a little isolated there, with the occasional NUID maintenance crew member, or a patron visiting to enjoy the cabin. It's an hour to the closest town, Lapine for groceries. Gail did not care for the winters there, but she and Curtis made it work and they enjoyed their time there.

When driving around with Curtis, he knew a lot about the area, not only NUID equipment knowledge, but history of the area itself. He was a great resource on everything reservoir related and I enjoyed the information he shared.

~NUID Employee

I would talk to Curtis most every morning on the phone when he would call in his Wickiup numbers for the day. We would chit chat occasionally and talk about the weather, not having enough coffee that morning, or he would share a bit of history about the District. He would also send us pictures of what he saw at Wickiup—a heard of elk just outside his window, or a picture of a Steller's jay perched up in a tree. They were brief but pleasant conversations' and I will miss them. I hope Curtis enjoys retirement and being close to family and friends!

~Another NUID Employee



Curtis Wood Repairing a hole in the Willow Creek Siphon circa ~1990's

Staff Changes

Your probably wondering who will be taking the place of Curtis & Pam?

Caleb Cody has been hired as the new Dam Tender. He has worked at NUID for just over three years as a member of the maintenance crew. He has been up to Wickiup many times to assist and learn from Curtis the operations and maintenance of the dam.

Julia Turek will be stepping into Pam's position. You have probably seen her working at the front desk or talked to her on the phone. She has worked at NUID for two years and has been training with Pam to learn the in's and outs' of the position.

Please help us in congratulating Caleb & Julia in their new positions!

