



## Manager's Message

For those that have and have not been closely following the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (DBHCP) the last 12 years, December 31, 2020 will mark the end of the DBHCP development process with the signing of the Incidental Take Permits (ITP) and the beginning of the 30-year implementation phase. ITP's are permits issued under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) to private non-federal entities undertaking lawful activities that might result in the "take" of an endangered or threatened species. In short, the permits allow NUID to continue to operate its otherwise legal activities and protect itself from civil suits should ESA protected species (frogs/fish) get harmed or killed during those activities. The DBHCP has been a long and difficult process with the district having to face many tough and difficult decisions throughout the process.

Over the next 30 years there will be obligations the irrigation districts of Central Oregon must meet as part of the DBHCP to improve river flows, modify reservoir operations, and financial commitments to ensure the HCP is functioning and operating as intended. As ominous as all that might sound, NUID has already begun efforts to obtain water from Central Oregon irrigation districts. NUID in collaboration with Central Oregon Irrigation District, has been able to take advantage of federal funding secured by Senator Merkley to pipe the open canal systems in Central Oregon and free up water otherwise lost to seepage and operational inefficiencies. To date \$110 million has been directed to Central Oregon projects with construction having begun on several projects. In

addition, \$10 million in state funding has been secured for the Deschutes Basin and is included in the Governor's 2021-23 budget. These funding opportunities are key to the success of the DBHCP and sustainability of agriculture in our region. Lastly, I want to thank the NUID board for their commitment to the DBHCP process and the difficult decisions that were placed upon board members throughout the DBHCP process. With regard to drought, we know that periods of drought occur regularly in Central Oregon. In general, records of the last 100 years show a drought cycle occurring about every 10 years in the Deschutes Basin. The impacts of these drought cycles are wide ranging and can affect water users in Central Oregon in different ways. The Districts water supplies have been greatly impacted by recent dry and drought years compounded by regulation related to endangered species. Point being made is that there are many factors impacting the Districts water supplies and right now drought is the biggest factor. It will take several good winters to get back to "normal" supplies and the district believes the other factors effecting District supplies are manageable under "normal" conditions. The District will be developing a briefing paper to share with district patrons explaining elements of the DBHCP, drought and impacts, and conservation work both locally and regionally – stay tuned.

## District Right-of-Ways/Easements

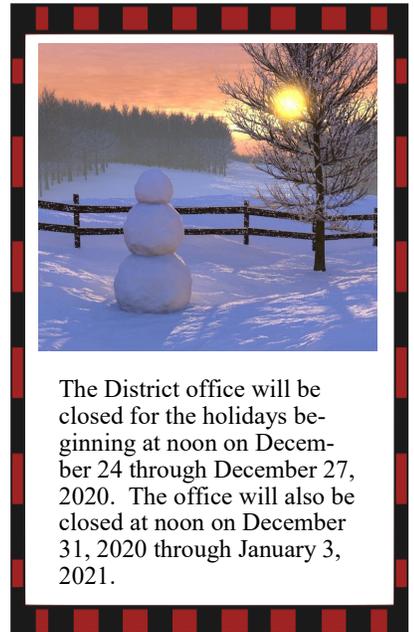
Tis the season for maintenance and general upkeep of the irrigation project. District canals, laterals, service roads and control devices are within specified Right-of-Ways (RoW) established by the Bureau of Reclamation when the irrigation project was constructed. The RoW were established to allow the District to operate, maintain and repair the irrigation

project works. Landowners and waterusers may not encroach or prevent the District from accessing these lands. Please keep these RoW areas clear of buildings, fences, equipment, etc. in order to prevent delays and damage in performing district maintenance operations. Maps of RoW widths are available at the District office. Please call in advance to re-

### Bee the Change:

#### Plotting for Pollinators

This year, a NUID student intern developed a Plotting for Pollinator Program in partnership with Coalition for the Deschutes, the OSU Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Oregon Bee Project, Honey Bee Lab, and the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council. Working together, the partnership was able to plant 11.5 acres of native pollinator habitat along hybrid carrot fields, irrigation ponds and accorded crops. The plots successfully provided for native and commercial pollinators without detracting from the surrounding crops. Please contact the district if you have an interest in participating in the program in 2021. Stay tuned as this successful program continues to grows!



The District office will be closed for the holidays beginning at noon on December 24 through December 27, 2020. The office will also be closed at noon on December 31, 2020 through January 3, 2021.

quest copies of maps. Keep in mind that tree and woody vegetation removal from canals and easements is also part of routine operations and maintenance.

### District Charges

The 2021 District operating budget was approved and charges were set at the board of directors' meeting on November 16, 2020. The Board unanimously voted not to increase charges from last year. An explanation of the 2021 District charges is enclosed. The approved budget is available for review at the District office.

#### **Inside This Issue**

Water Portal	2	Ownership Changes	2
Equipment Rental	2	Temporary Water Right Transfers	2
Board Member Election Results	2	Newsletter Moving to Paperless	2



## Water Portal

All water users who have signed up for the districts water portal can view their allotment, water, orders and land records in one location online through their customer portal.

The portal has proven to be a valuable tool in helping waterusers monitor and track their water operations particularly in water restricted years. For more information, please go to [www.northunit.com/cutomer-portal/](http://www.northunit.com/cutomer-portal/) For assistance setting up your account, please e-mail or call the office.

## Board Member Election Results

Two nominating petitions were received for 2 board seats during the November 2020 election. One each for Division 1 and Division 2.

Ryan Boyle ran unopposed for Division 1 and will serve a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2021. Division 1 was previously represented by Phil Fine, who made the decision to step down after 19 years

on the board.

Director Mike Kirsch ran unopposed for the Division 2 seat and will serve another 3-year term beginning January 1, 2021 as well. Director Kirsch has served on the Board since January 2012.

We thank each of these men for their service to the district and its patrons.

## Ownership Changes

Ownership changes due to marriage, divorce, death, establishing trusts, LLC's, etc. must be reported to the District once processes are finalized. It is important that the Districts records are kept current and match the ownership documents recorded with the county. These changes

can directly effect those waterusers that are required to complete Reclamation Reform Act certification forms and can delay the delivery of water until records are brought current. Please update the District as these changes occur.

## Temporary Water Right Transfers

For several years now the District has been participating in a pilot project for temporary transfers of water, which allows a landowner to dry up a piece of land and move the water right to another parcel for the water season. If you plan

to participate in a temporary transfer in the future please contact the District office for a list of all requirements, procedures or with any questions.

## Newsletter Moving to Paperless

As 2020 moves to a close, so does the paper version of the Districts newsletter. With rising costs in paper, ink, postage and labor the district has made the decision to create a paperless newsletter beginning with the Spring 2021 edition.

Those who wish to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter can do so via the District website at [nuid@northunitid.com](mailto:nuid@northunitid.com) or by contacting the District office. The newsletter is also made available online at [www.northunitid.com](http://www.northunitid.com).

## COVID Update

As a reminder, the district office remains closed to all walk-in business due to State COVID regulation. Please call the district office to make an appointment for any urgent district business matters. Patrons should also be thinking about the upcom-

ing water year and the potential for the office remain closed and the limited availability of office staff to assist with 2021 District business matters due to COVID.

### Equipment Rental

Remember to schedule your equipment rental jobs before March 1, 2021 in order to allow District staff time to complete your project prior to the 2021 irrigation season. Contact Gary Calhoun for arrangements.

### Management:

- Mike Britton**, Manager  
[mbritton@northunitid.com](mailto:mbritton@northunitid.com)
- Gary Calhoun**, Operations Manager  
[gcalhoun@northunitid.com](mailto:gcalhoun@northunitid.com)
- Josh Bailey**, Watermaster & Construction Supervisor  
[jbailey@northunitid.com](mailto:jbailey@northunitid.com)
- Jackie Looney**, Finance Manager  
[jlooney@northunitid.com](mailto:jlooney@northunitid.com)
- Lisa Windom**, Special Projects Manager  
[lwindom@northunitid.com](mailto:lwindom@northunitid.com)

### Office Staff:

- Pam Watson**  
[pwatson@northunitid.com](mailto:pwatson@northunitid.com)
- Sue Light**  
[slevitt@northunitid.com](mailto:slevitt@northunitid.com)
- Michelle Camphouse**  
[mcamphouse@northunitid.com](mailto:mcamphouse@northunitid.com)

### Board of Directors:

- Division 1: Phil Fine  
Vice Chair
- Division 2: Mike Kirsch
- Division 3: Martin Richards  
Chair
- Division 4: Richard Macy
- 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
- Phone: (541) 475-3625  
(541) 475-3652
- Fax: (541) 475-3905