



Central Oregon Drought Update by Mike Britton

Persistent dry conditions observed in April, continued into May, across much of Oregon with the entire state now in drought.

Reservoirs are storing volumes below average across Oregon. This is due to continued precipitation deficits resulting in below average precipitation and snowpack as of June 1. The majority of basins have little snowpack after experiencing rapid snowmelt between April and May. These conditions continue to adversely and severely impact the water supply for summer.

Despite modest precipitation in some regions at the end of May, continual dry conditions persist across the state for the third consecutive month. Reservoir storage and stream flow volumes are below average across Oregon as of June 1. This has caused below average water year precipitation and below normal snowpack, with most basins having little to no remaining snowpack. These conditions continue to result in an unfavorable water supply conditions for the summer.

Reservoir conditions had little improvement as of June 1, compared to May 1. Reservoirs are storing volumes below average, especially in southern Oregon where several are storing volumes between 8% - 39% of capacity.

Streamflow deficits continue to increase across much of the state as of June 1. The June volumetric streamflow forecasts call, for lower summer streamflow across the state compared to May 1. The overall outlook is well below average across Oregon. The outlook for southern and central Oregon is well below

average, with water supply conditions for much of Oregon during the summer likely remaining impaired and in some areas, impaired severely.

As of June 1, the Deschutes Basin snowpack was 47% of normal. This is lower than previous months when the snowpack was 63% of normal. As of June 1, all but one snow measurement site in the basin is now snow-free with SNOTEL sites peaking around 85% to 100% of normal peak snowpack.

May precipitation was 54% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1) has been 80% of average.

The June through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 1% to 82% of average. Overall, forecasts decreased slightly from last month's report. Water managers in the basin should prepare for significantly reduced water supplies in the coming months.

To be clear, supply conditions are rapidly changing and frequent reviews of supply conditions by the NUID board will be paramount.

NUID strongly advises district water users to be very mindful of water supplies as we get through the summer months. Please be cognizant of ongoing water supplies, as the irrigation season moves forward.

As always, please feel free to contact the district office with any questions or concerns.

June Water Allotment Reduction by Josh Bailey

As communicated previously, early season reports predicted enough water supply to meet the 1 acre-foot for allotment for Deschutes River water rights, and .50 acre-foot allotment for Crooked River water rights for the 2021 irrigation season. Given outside of historical norms supply conditions, implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan, extreme drought, and above normal heat, the NUID Board of Directors was forced to reduce allotments by .10 acre-foot district wide, effective June 21.

By reducing the allotment, along with remaining NUID storage reserves in Bowman Reservoir, operational water that NUID is receiving from COID, and other sources of water, NUID is projected to extend available water through the middle to end of August. Please understand conditions change rapidly, and this projection may change. NUID staff and Board of Directors are monitoring the situation closely and will update water users as quickly as possible.

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July 2021 Water Allotment Reduction by Josh Bailey

It pains me to write this, as I am fully aware of the extremely difficult situation we find ourselves in. As you know, on June 21, 2021 the NUID Board of Directors was forced to reduce the allotment from 1.0 acre foot per acre (af/pa) down to 0.90 af/pa for Deschutes River water rights and from 0.50 af/pa down to 0.40 for Crooked River water rights. By reducing the overall water allotment, the Board of Directors' goal was to reduce the overall demand on the system and be able to equalize incoming versus outgoing water. Unfortunately, after reducing the allotment, demand actually increased.

At current demand, Haystack Reservoir will reach dead pool (i.e., no storage capacity) in approximately 7 to 8 days. At that point, NUID will not be able to meet current demand and will be forced to limit delivery rates. Going forward, our options are very limited. When you combine the inflow from our diversion in Bend, the small amount of water being made available to us from Central Oregon Irrigation District, the water we are pumping from the Crooked River, and the additional purchased water from the Deschutes Valley Water District, there is simply not enough water to meet demand, or maintain Haystack Reservoir.

With that as background, the NUID Board of Directors held an emergency meeting yesterday (6/30/21) to discuss options going forward. The goal of the meeting was twofold:

1. Reduce the immediate demand on the system.
2. Extend the available water through the end of August.

The Board determined that a further reduction in the allotment by 0.10 af/pa (down to 0.80 af/pa Deschutes River and 0.30 af/pa Crooked River) and a cap of 1.5% order rate (calculated from available water after the allotment reduction) was necessary.

Here is an example of the order cap:

After the additional 0.10 reduction, let's say you have 100 acre feet of your allotment remaining. 1.5% of 100 = 1.50 acre feet for 60 days. 1.50 acre feet divided by 2 = 0.75 CFS max orderable amount for 60 days. This 0.75 CFS can be divided among your turn-outs since the cap is imposed on the operator account.

The changes are scheduled to go into effect Saturday July 3, 2021. We realize that this is far from perfect, but with the limited options, the Board determined it's the best short-term solution that treats everyone equally. Once Haystack is at a more stable level the Board will re-evaluate the situation and possibly remove the order cap.

Drought Relief Resources

For information on the drought, please visit our website or click on the following link: [Drought Relief](#)

Resources include relief and recovery at both the state and federal levels.

Staff Changes

We are please to announce Josh Bailey has accepted the position of District Manager with Mike Britton's approaching retirement. Both will be here until the torch is fully passed early next year.

Dennis Krueger, formerly ditch ride 63, has accepted the position of Watermaster. Marc Chapman, formerly maintenance, will be taking over the duties of ditch ride 63. Also, Caleb Cody and David Ludwig have joined out maintenance team.

Please join us as we wish them all success in their new roles.

DITCHRIDER PHONE NUMBERS

Ride 34	Ryan Garrett	(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	Wayne Jakobsen	(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

Chemical Treatments

The district began adding aquatic herbicides to irrigation canals in May and will continue to apply, conditions allowing, periodically through October 2021. The aquatic herbicides may include: Copper Sulfate, Dipotassium Salt of Endothall (Cascade) or Magnacide H with active ingredient Acrolein. The intended herbicides will control aquatic weeds and algae growth in district canals.

Waters within the district's irrigation de-

livery system are intended for agricultural purposes. Customers are advised not to use treated water for recreation, aquaculture, human or animal consumption. Furthermore, irrigation water, treated or not, is not potable water and not intended for human consumption.

Please visit the district website to obtain more information or to request notification in advance of treatments.

"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 permit, and 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 the flow stays 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 run-off 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 is-

suues, 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, based upon operator and equipment availability.

Management:

Josh Bailey, District Manager
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Division 1: Ryan Boyle
Division 2: Mike Kirsch
Vice Chair
Division 3: Martin Richards
Chair
Division 4: Richard Macy
Division 5: Vern Bare

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Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00
Saturday 8:00 - 4:00
Phone: (541) 475-3625
(541) 475-3652
Fax: (541) 475-3905
Email: nuid@northunitid.com

Beehive Safety

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



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 dig information online.

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.

Lien Process for Delinquent Accounts

On May 15, 2021, 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, 2021, 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. Visit the district website or office for payment processing 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 that water users minimize or eliminate “road watering” not only to reduce a potential hazard but as responsible stewards of a limited resource.

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.