



2022 Water Supply Outlook

by Josh Bailey

North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) held a special board meeting on March 29, 2022, to set a tentative irrigation season start date and allotment. Water will begin being delivered on Friday, April 15. Water users above Haystack Reservoir (South of Haystack) may order through the online customer portal by 5:00 pm April 14, or by contacting their ditchrider by phone on the morning of April 15 between 6:30am and 7:30am. Water users below Haystack Reservoir (North of Haystack) can order through the online customer portal or call the NUID office before 5:00 pm April 14.

We are starting with approximately 10,000 af less stored water this season and anticipate up to 15% less live flow (excess water in the river that does not have a water right) in the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers. That means that NUID will be using stored water almost exclusively, whereas in “normal” years, NUID picks up a significant amount of live flow to offset the demand for stored water. With that being said, the NUID Board of Directors hopes to not place a cap on water orders and plans to provide water to at least September 15 or longer, based on demand and conditions.

The district has received multiple federal grants that will enable us to install 4000+ feet of pipe and 16 new automated headgates on our main canal this fall. We are excited about these grants as it will help NUID to continue leading the way in efficient water delivery to Central Oregon.



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Water Allotment

On March 29, 2022, the NUID board of directors set the 2022 irrigation season allotments at .45 acre-foot per acre for Deschutes River and 0.23 acre-foot per acre for Crooked River due to continued extreme drought conditions. NUID will continue to assess the situation and provide weekly updates to the Board of Directors, who will evaluate and adjust accordingly.

By setting the allotment lower, the NUID Board hopes to avoid water order caps and increase the allotment if conditions permit.

Minimum Water Orders

Please note, all water orders shall be a minimum of 0.10 cfs with the only exception being those with orifice deliveries. Any water order for less than 0.10 cfs shall be recorded as an order of 0.10 cfs and charged accordingly. Please refer to NUID Resolution No. 2020-6 for further information.

Customer Water Portal

Don't forget you can track your water usage and place **water orders**, all online!

For those who have yet to sign up, please visit the NUID website at <http://www.northunitid.com/customer-portal>, for instructions on how to sign up.

You will need a unique key code to set up your account. Please call the district office at (541) 475-3625 and staff will be happy to assist you.

Once your account is set up, you can track your water usage in **real time!** Accounts are updated daily. In addition to placing and managing your water orders, you can also review many of your land-use records.

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Delinquent Accounts & Lien Process

As a reminder, the district sends delinquent letters to all unpaid accounts as of May 15 each year. A notice of intent to lien will be sent to delinquent accounts on July 15, or the first business day thereafter, each year. If payment is not received within 30 days, a notice of claim of lien will be filed on August 15 of each year with the recording officer of the county in which the land is located, pursuant to ORS 545.494. The district's lien process includes assessing fees for placing and removing liens as well as other related administrative fees. The administrative fee is set at \$150 per

account. Pursuant to ORS 545.496 the district will withhold delivery of water from any tract of land until all charges are paid in full including interest, lien fees, collection costs, and administrative fees.

For your convenience the district accepts payments via Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover and E-Check. The payment is processed through Point & Pay, a third party processing center that charges a convenience fee. Visit NUID website at www.northunitid.com to pay online or contact the District office at (541) 475-3625 to process a payment.

Canal Safety

Each year NUID presents a canal safety program promoting the awareness of hidden dangers in and around canals. Second graders from Madras, Metolius, and Culver schools are provided a slide show of the hidden dangers within the district and a video of Otto the Otter's Scary Rescue. Students are provided a coloring book and prizes at the end of the presentation.

Due to COVID restrictions, the district was unable to provide this valuable information to area schools. The coloring book and additional canal safety information is available on the district's website at www.northunitid.com.

Stay safe - do not swim in the canals!!! Please help us in spreading the word!!

Communication Survey

Our patron communication survey was distributed to determine how NUID patrons stay informed. Out of 300+ distributions, we received 96 responses.

The most common mediums used are the District newsletter, email announcements, website, and local newspaper respectively. The survey also found a lack of traffic to our website, with the majority of patrons only visiting a few times. However, those who did visit found the content useful. All of the Dis-

trict's announcements/updates/alerts are posted to our website.

Most respondents agreed that the newsletter is a great resource, and the majority prefer to continue receiving it via email.

Social media (Facebook and YouTube) are utilized by our patrons, but most do not follow NUID. The overwhelming majority of respondents were impartial on whether NUID should have a social media presence.

Notice of Intent to Use Herbicide

Application of aquatic herbicides to District irrigation canals can begin as early as April and continue periodically through October of any given year. The aquatic herbicides used may include: Copper Sulfate, Cascade and Magnacide H with the active ingredient Acrolien. The herbicide applications are intended to control aquatic weeds and algae growth within canals, ditches, and laterals.

Please call the district office at (541) 475-3625 to obtain more information or to request notification of scheduled treatments.

Management:

Josh Bailey, District Manager
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Mike Britton, Executive Manager
mbrifton@northunitid.com
Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager
gcalhoun@northunitid.com
Jackie Looney, Finance Manager
jlooney@northunitid.com
Dennis Krueger, Watermaster
dkrueger@northunitid.com

Office Staff:

Collin Cowsill, Water Operations Spec
ccowsill@northunitid.com
Pam Watson
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Sue Light
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Michelle Camphouse
mcamphouse@northunitid.com

Board of Directors:

Division 1: Ryan Boyle
Division 2: Mike Kirsch
Vice Chair
Division 3: Martin Richards
Chair
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

Weed Control

In preparation for the 2022 irrigation season, district employees have been performing controlled burns in ditches and along the main canal. In order to ensure burns are carried out efficiently, remove all wheel-lines, hand-lines, equipment, livestock fences, and any other items from canal easements. You can check the location of an easement on your property by stopping by the district office.

The district is not responsible for damaged property left within the district's easements.

Ownership of Land Within a Reclamation District

North Unit Irrigation District is a Bureau of Reclamation project; as such there are ownership entitlements that must be adhered to in accordance with the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA), of October 12, 1982. This act placed limitations on the amount of land a landholder may own within a Reclamation project located in the 17 western states.

If a landholder is a qualified recipient (individuals, married couples, entities ultimately benefiting 25 or less natural persons), your ownership entitlement is 960 acres. If a landholder is a limited recipient (entities ultimately benefiting more

than 25 natural persons, example: government agencies, large corporations) your ownership entitlement is 640 acres (other restrictions may apply).

If you purchase land with water right acres over and above your ownership entitlement it becomes "Excess Land". Excess lands are not eligible to receive Reclamation irrigation water. In order for excess land to receive Reclamation irrigation water, it must be sold at a price approved by Reclamation; this is a very slow and expensive process.

Under the district's contract with

Reclamation, landowners have the option to do a construction obligation payout, which would allow ownership of land over your entitlement. Payout must take place prior to exceeding your ownership entitlement. Please contact the District office if you have concerns regarding your entitlement, payout questions or rates.



Reclamation Reform Act

The Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) requires anyone who owns and/or leases 240 acres or more in a District under contract to the Bureau of Reclamation is required to submit certification forms before water delivery. This means that even if you own and/or lease less than 240 acres in North Unit Irrigation District but also own and/or lease in another Bureau of Reclamation District with your total acres adding up to 240 or more, you will need to fill out a certification form. The exception is for a public entity to report if they own and/or lease 40 acres or more. If you were previ-

ously required to complete certification forms, you should have received a separate letter, which addresses RRA issues in more detail. If you did not receive a letter and feel you may need to complete certification forms, please contact our office.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ownership and or lease changes during the irrigation season a new RRA form is required. It needs to be completed and on file with the district on or before the effective date of the change.

Paying For Water

If the district determines there is a shortage of water for an irrigation season, the board will set an allotment. This is the total amount of per-acre water the water user can use for the irrigation season. Most years, water users who are not going to use all of their allotment can assign their allotment, or portion thereof, to another water user. Please contact the district office to obtain the forms necessary to make such an assignment.

There's been a lot of commentary recently about "why am I having to pay my full assessment for so little water". The answer is that your annual assessment isn't "paying for water" but for the utilization of the water that's available and the costs associated with that utilization (see district charges on last page of newsletter.) The only time a water user "pays for water" is when the water user is in excess of contract amounts or usage amounts greater than 2.00 acre-feet of Deschutes water rights or 1.00 acre foot of Crooked River water rights.

The district understands these are difficult times for many and is always mindful of the impacts water shortages can have on district water users in addition to the associated annual assessments.

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

Animal Traps

Recently, animal traps have been found in various locations within the district and its easements. It is imperative that animal traps are removed and kept out of district easements and working areas for the safety of NUID employees and others. Unauthorized animal traps will be confiscated if not removed.

Non-Potable Water

NUID irrigation water is considered non-potable water and is unsafe for human consumption. Do not use irrigation water for drinking, bathing, showering, dishwashing, cooking or maintaining oral hygiene. Water delivered through the district's canals and delivery systems is for irrigation purposes only.



Accepting Applications for our Plotting for Pollinators Program!

Plotting for Pollinators kickstarts its third year and is now accepting applications. The program provides growers with a mixture of cover crops, such as phacelia and mustard seed, designed to provide supplemental forage for native and commercial pollinators.

Why join? Diverse forage can provide additional nutrition that helps commercial and native honey bees overwinter.

How it works? Go to our website (below) follow the instructions to apply, get approved, and receive FREE seed to plant, water and enjoy. <https://coalitionfortheschutes.org/plotting-for-pollinators>

We provide the seed. You plant, water and manage. Everyone enjoys.

Who gets seed? It's first come, first serve while supplies lasts. We prioritize fields growing hybrid carrot seed interested in joining an ongoing research study with Oregon State University. We also encourage growers interested in planting along the peripheral edges of their commercial agriculture fields and irrigation ponds.



2021 Drought Relief Package

On March 24, 2022, the district sent out assessment invoices to most district water users reflecting 2021 assessment credits. The invoice includes the application of a credit related to the district receiving drought aid funding from the State. If you recall the district received \$5.5 million for purposes of compensating district patrons for water shortages due to extreme drought and Endangered Species Act obligations, preventing water user accounts from being in arrears, and ensuring NUID remains financially solvent and can continue to deliver water to district patrons. To date, \$4.6 million has been credited to patron accounts.

District Charges

Operation and Maintenance Charge (O&M) - covers costs to operate and maintain the district.

Account Charge - covers administrative costs incurred by the district.

Legal/NEPA/OSF/CR Special Assessment - legal fees, which include NEPA, the Oregon spotted frog matters, Crooked River legislation implementation and communications for these issues.

Construction - repayment to the Bureau or Reclamation for the construction of the project.

Safety of Dams - the modifications on Wickiup Dam completed by the Bureau of Reclamation 2004.

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