



# North Unit Irrigation District

## Water Shut off Update

At the September 7, 2020 North Unit Irrigation District Board of Directors Meeting the Board voted to provide an additional 0.10 acre foot to current allotments to be added to both Deschutes and Crooked River acres. The District will begin re-priming the system as necessary beginning the first week of October with deliveries anticipated during the first week of October.

At the September 25, 2020 North Unit Irrigation District Board of Directors Special Board Meeting the board set a tentative irrigation restart and season shutoff of October 3 and 23, 2020, respectively. For the restart, the District anticipates coming back on October 3, 2020. The District will begin taking water orders on October 2, for deliveries beginning on October 3, 2020. For the shutoff, the district's Main Canal diversion in Bend and Haystack Dam will be shut down the morning of Friday, October 23, 2020. The last date that ditchriders will make water adjustments for district water users will be Thursday, October 22, 2020.

The last date that district water users can place an order is before 5:00pm on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 below Haystack or between 6:30am and 7:30am on Thursday, October 22, 2020, for water users above Haystack.

Water will remain running to those water users who have ordered water until the main canal and laterals have drained out.

**Please keep in mind the tentative shut off date could change based on weather and/or irrigation demand.** Please plan your operations accordingly and visit [www.northunitid.com](http://www.northunitid.com) for any updates to the above tentative schedule.

### Lava Island Fall Fish Rescue

With the wind-down of the growing season, river flow is reduced in the Upper Deschutes from Wickiup Reservoir over the winter. This process can cause side channels to dry and disconnect from the main channel of the Deschutes River. Since 2014, the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) has partnered with the Deschutes River Conservancy, the Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Coalition for the Deschutes and dozens of volunteers from the community in a collaborative fish rescue. The effort involves collecting fish stranded in pools along side channels of the Deschutes River near Lava Island Falls and relocating them to the main river channel. Due to drought and an early shutoff by Central Oregon Irrigation District this year, flows in the river will drop sooner, moving the rescue from the end of the irrigation season forward to sometime between September 28 - October 5, 2020. The fish rescue this year is focusing on a collection of professional volunteers to assist in the relocation of fish, in hopes of surpassing historic rescue records and redefining the legacy of this event.

### Crop Reports

True to tradition, district ditchriders will once again be collecting annual crop information from waterusers. The ditchriders will be requesting information about the types of crops grown, numbers of acres, population, and total acres irrigated by sprinkler or drip. Thank you for your cooperation with this annual process.



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# Weed Management in Fallowed Fields

Following your 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 too dry, windy or a tornado is thrown into the mix.

And let us not forget that it's relatively more costly since those fields are not producing a crop, nor have enough water. Regardless, noxious weed management is still a necessary practice. Without a proactive weed management program, weeds can eventually become debris that is blown into canals that can plug off diversions and worse yet cause overtopping or a breach in canals. In addition, cleaning weed build up in the canal system is a strenuous and time consuming effort that can often lead to work related injuries.

North Unit Irrigation District is committed to supporting our patrons, neighbors and our 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 that can 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 the weeds, and to prioritize timing of small weed spraying with systemic herbicides. For more questions, 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. This past August, customer information was sent out to all operator accounts by mail.

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](mailto: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 in 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 from 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 that 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 that contain 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:

**Mike Britton,**  
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**Gary Calhoun,**  
Operations Manager  
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**Lisa Windom,**  
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### Office Staff:

**Pam Watson**  
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**Sue Light**  
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**Michelle Camphouse**  
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### Board of Directors:

Division 1: Phil Fine  
Vice Chairman

Division 2: Mike Kirsch

Division 3: Martin Richards  
Chairman

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

The District office will be closed for Thanksgiving beginning at noon, on November 25– November 29, 2020.



## Tree/Vegetation Removal on District Easements

In the coming months the district will be performing tree and woody vegetation removal from its canals and easements as part of its routine Operations and Maintenance activities. Removing trees and woody vegetation will improve canal integrity and minimize the likelihood of canal failure due to vegetative degradation. The removal of this vegetation are recommendations from canal inspections performed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

## Maintenance Season

When the irrigation season ends, the district's maintenance season begins. To keep things running smoothly please make sure that all irrigation equipment (wheel-lines, pipe, etc.) and any other equipment are removed from the district's easements. Equipment and items left in easements can

interfere with maintenance operations and could cause damage to district equipment as well as equipment left in the easement. As such the district is not responsible for irrigation or other equipment remaining in the easement, that is damaged. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### 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.

## 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 billing 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.

### Email Communication

District patrons can receive newsletters, water delivery information, canal chemical treatment notices, notifications of system problems or 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](mailto:nuid@northunitid.com)

## Board of Directors Election

The North Unit Irrigation District Board of Directors consists of five landowners with water rights within 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 terms for Division 1 & Division 2 will expire on December 31, 2020. The district is now accepting nominations for these positions, being held by Phillip Fine, Division 1 and Michael Kirsch, Division 2. Division 1 covers the northwest area of Agency Plains from Fir Lane north to the Deschutes

River. Division 2 covers the southern portion of Agency Plains starting at Fir Lane and continues south to Dover & Eureka Lanes and west of South Adams Drive.

To determine if you are in one of these divisions, a map can be viewed at the district office or online at the district's website <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 9, 2020. Petitions can be obtained from the district office or online at the district's website.

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 November 10, 2020.

## **NUID's New Automated Calling System**

You may have noticed an increase in automated phone calls coming from our office. We are finding ourselves needing to make more frequent urgent public announcements and want to ensure we connect with you as quickly as possible. Our database is still developing, so only the primary contact for each owner and operator account have been added, soon that will grow. We have started with automated phone calls and emails but want to expand to text message alerts.

## **NUID Communication**

1. To receive emails regarding chemical treatments, operational shutoffs, general announcements and newsletters go to: [www.northunitid.com/news](http://www.northunitid.com/news)
2. If you elect to receive emails, you will no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter. Please contact the district office if you would prefer a paper copy.
3. Follow us on Facebook for events shared at [Facebook.com/northunitid](https://Facebook.com/northunitid)