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Arnold Irrigation District (AID)
Patron Communication
August 5, 2024

Dear Patrons: The good news for this irrigation season is that AID is delivering nearly full allocations of water while diverting roughly 10-12 cubic feet per second (CFS) less from the river than we did last year at this time

As AID management and the board consider the outlook for the rest of the irrigation season, and try to forecast how long AID will be able to deliver water, there are several factors that impact water availability:

1. **Natural flow in the Deschutes River:** With regard to Deschutes River flows, this year more of the snowpack seems to have reached the river, so flows have been more normal than some of the previous drought years. River flows have been sufficient to provide most of AID's water. That said, flows are beginning to decline and may have a negative effect on water availability.
2. **The weather:** The weather was favorable with a cool spring that preserved some of the snowpack for later melt-off. Our recent hot weather is rapidly reducing any remaining snowpack which means less runoff for the river.
3. **Water use by other irrigation districts:** Thus far this summer, the other Central Oregon irrigation districts have withdrawn water from the river in amounts which has allowed AID to use natural flow, rather than reservoir storage, to provide water to our patrons.
4. **Use of AID's 5,000 acre feet of storage in Craine Prairie/Wickup reservoirs:** As available natural flow decreases, water is released from reservoir storage to meet AID's needs. If AID were to run 100% off of storage, 5,000 AF would last about 30 days. In non-drought years a combination of natural flow augmented with reservoir water has usually been enough to last to the end of the season. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) monitors the use of stored irrigation water and issues a report every two weeks. The next report will be issued in early August and will let AID management know how much of AID's storage has been used through the end of July.

As AID management and the board consider these four factors it seems likely that AID will have irrigation water available until the later part of August. If the interplay of the above factors is

favorable, water may be available until mid-September. AID will be able to provide more definitive guidance in early August when OWRD issues the next report showing how much stored water AID has used.

Construction on the next phase of the main canal piping project will begin when we shut off water at the end of the season. While the board has not made a final decision, if water is still available, *AID may stop distributing water on September 15th* to allow more time to complete construction of the main canal project prior to the next irrigation season. The district will notify patrons after the board makes a final decision at its Tuesday August 13th meeting.

We remain grateful for your patience at the beginning of the water season and with issues, such as keeping turnouts clear of debris, that have arisen as we have learned about how the main canal pipeline operates. Please contact the office or the board member for your district if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Colin Wills
District Manager