

SPRING  
2022

# WATER FRONT

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT



## TID WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

## STATE OF THE DISTRICT & WATER OUTLOOK

Tumalo will be experiencing the effects of this long-term historic drought again this year. The 2022 water year is shaping up to be a rough year. The deteriorating snowpack is now below 86% of average and winter water flows in the Deschutes River and tributary streams are at record lows. We are now in a third consecutive year of drought and anticipate the conditions for the 2022 irrigation season to be no better, and likely worse, than last year.

While we still have time before the irrigation season begins, we will need significant snowfall in the mountains to catch up to an average year. As of February 23, Crescent Lake, is just 9% full at 7,670 acre-feet. Based on forecast predictions, the Lake is only expected to fill to a level of 10,000 to 15,000- acre-feet of water.

We need enough snow and rain to store 25,000-acre-feet of water in Crescent Lake to perform the same 7-days on/7-days off rotation we had in 2021. Anything less, and we will need to make significant changes to water delivery from July through September. We will only be able to run a 7-day on/7-day off rotation until mid-August, at the latest.

As you know, Tumalo has no control of the overall water supply from mother nature; however, the District is working on several fronts to prepare for the upcoming season to manage the available water as efficiently as possible.

Additionally, we are continuing to coordinate with US Fish and Wildlife on reservoir storage and releases to best utilize the adaptive management provisions of the Habitat Conservation Program (HCP) to enhance the water supply available for irrigation.

As we prepare for the worst-case scenario, please evaluate your planned expenditures with the likelihood of a limited irrigation season where we may not have reliable water past the beginning of August. Please plan plantings, fertilizing, and restarting fields early in the irrigation season.

Patrons are asked to contact the District office if they wish to reduce their number of irrigated acres, or do not wish to use their irrigation water at all this season.

This newsletter includes a postcard survey with two options the board is considering for the upcoming irrigation season. We appreciate you providing your feedback and returning the survey.

We are continuing to repair, maintain and improve our water infrastructure.

- ✓ **Installing check structures in the canal and laterals to better manage deliveries when there are lower flows in the system.**
- ✓ **Cleaning out laterals to enhance water flow, which reduces water seepage loss.**
- ✓ **Installing and repairing weirs to ensure continued accurate water measurement and repairing sinkholes.**



# PREPARE YOUR LAND FOR DROUGHT

Irrigation efficiency becomes even more critical in times of drought. The USDA recently released a report which outlines industry best practices for keeping farms and crops safe in extremely dry conditions.

## LAND MANAGEMENT TIPS



- + Carefully monitor levels of moisture in your property's soil.
- + Take care to reduce runoff, and carefully direct water to your soil.
- + Understand and prepare for the specific forage needs for all of your animals so that you can obtain enough feed material to see them through dry periods.

## WATER MANAGEMENT TIPS



- + Operate an irrigation system that will allow you to use minimal amounts of water.
- + Develop strategies for making your irrigation system more efficient and less wasteful.
- + Utilize an on-site water storage facility to hold reserves of water.
- + Keep track of your water use by implementing water measurement devices.





Animecity

## OREGON DROUGHT MONITOR

These are indeed challenging times, the Board and District management will keep you informed of water conditions and their impact on your irrigation supply as we all navigate these unprecedented conditions.

The U.S. Drought Monitor is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country.



To view Deschutes County drought conditions, visit [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov).

157,733

people in Deschutes County are affected by drought

No change since last week

No change since last month

100%

of people in Deschutes County are affected by drought

No change since last week

No change since last month

46th

driest January on record, over the past 128 years

↓ 1.01

inches from normal

46th

driest year to date over the past 128 years (January 2022)

↓ 1.01

inches from normal

Sources: U.S. Drought Monitor

## STOCK RUNS

Stock runs are dependent on water levels in Tumalo Creek, which fluctuate based on the weather.

### PLANNED STOCK RUNS March 28-April 1

*Please note, you must call the office to schedule the delivery of stock water.*

Stock run information will be posted to [www.Tumalo.org](http://www.Tumalo.org) and sent via the District text message program. To sign up for text messages, text "TUMALO" to 541-253-4321.

## WATER START

The water start date has been scheduled for

**MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022**





## TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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### SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS



**Don't miss out  
on important  
district updates!**

Sign up today by texting  
"TUMALO" to 541-253-4321



## SPRING FIRE FREE EVENT!

Are you ready for the next wildfire season?  
Recycle your needles, leaves, branches and brush for free!  
**Visit [www.firefree.org](http://www.firefree.org) for dates and times.**



Accepting grass clippings, brush, plant prunings, pine needles, pinecones, weeds, trimmings and branches, stumps or trees no larger than 12" diameter.



Not accepting sod, dirt, rocks, lumber, metal, trash or plastics of any kind, including plastic bags, and any stumps or trees larger than 12" diameter.