

Spring 2020 Volume 2020, Issue 1

In the Flow

2020 Irrigation Season Update

2020 is shaping up to be the worst year on record for irrigation supply. This year is unprecedented with the potential for long term damage to crops, undermining economic stability, and failure of family farms.

Less than 23% of the historical demand is available for irrigators this year. The initial allocation provided to the Project by Reclamation in April overestimated the available supply. We are now managing the available supply in Upper Klamath Lake to Federal Agency Biological Opinion lake levels vice a predictable supply.

The overestimated forecast has resulted in volatile and unpredictable conditions.

As a result, District irrigators are currently limited to a 0.50 acre foot of water per irrigatable acre for the year. As the conditions change, we will adjust deliveries accordingly.



2020 DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Voting Zone 3 and Zone 4 are due for election in November 2020. Klamath Irrigation District Patrons who wish to vote in the 2020, or future, elections must be registered with the District. The registration is different than being registered for County, State, & Federal elections. The processes can be more complicated as well. For this reason, the District encourages early registration.

For detailed information on the Klamath Irrigation District election process, please take a look at our website: www.klamathirrigation.com.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS 2020

Ty Kliewer (President)	Zone 1			
Jerry Enman (Vice President)	Zone 2			
Grant Knoll (Director)	Zone 3			
Dave Hamel (Director)	Zone 4			
Ryan Hartman (Director)	Zone 5			

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Klamath Irrigation District 6640 KID Lane Klamath Falls, OR 97603 Phone: 541-882-6661

10 JUNE DEADLINE DROUGHT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Klamath Project Drought Response Agency has extended application deadlines for various programs to 10 June 2020.

The **Groundwater Pumping program** may help offset the costs for operating pumps. The more groundwater which is pumped reduces demand from Upper Klamath Lake and facilitates the ability of the District to extend UKL supply availability.

A new Limited Season idle program is now available. Details on these programs is available at www.klamathwaterbank.com.

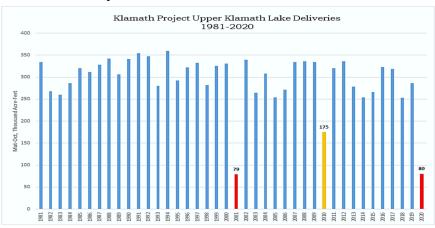
2020 WATER SUPPLY IN PERSPECTIVE

It is extremely unlikely additional water will become available later in the year. Current estimates, with no changes to current operations, indicate senior "A" contracts will have an allocation of around 0.5 acre foot. Reclamation has curtailed "B" contract deliveries as of 5 May 2020.

The District has limited the daily supply to extend the season and maximize the ability to move groundwater. This policy change requires the establishment of waiting lists, limits to rates and durations for deliveries, and may require additional conservation measures. Information will be posted to our website as the situation develops.

We will not have enough water to provide for all demands. We may be required to shut down mid-season.

Klamath Irrigation District encourages participation in various drought programs, specifically groundwater pumping and the non-irrigated land programs. The greater participation in these programs will lower demand, and only then will there be potential to draw-out the delivery of irrigation water to mid-September. Without participation it is certain an early curtailment is imminent.



GROUNDWATER PUMPING AGREEMENTS

Conveyance of groundwater, including groundwater made available through exchange, is subject to Oregon Water Resources Department and Bureau of Reclamation accounting by laws and various policies. Klamath Irrigation District is **urging wellowners to enter into agreements with Klamath Irrigation District** to run water into a canal, down a drain, or participate in an exchange of groundwater.

Accounting of such conveyances, reconciling actual measured diversions is a key component for both the property owner and Klamath Irrigation District.

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Klamath Irrigation District delivers water through our main system to numerous private ditches in the suburban area. Please remember, this land was once part of a larger, flood irrigated field when the system was developed between 1887 and 1917. Often residents call KID with complaints about their inability to receive water due to blockages or poor maintenance of the system; a majority of these complaints are privately owned ditches which are not covered under our maintenance contract.

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SUBURBAN WATER SUPPLY

The limited water supply requires modification to Klamath Irrigation Districts operations. In the majority of the Klamath suburban area, a flow of 15cfs is required for operation of the system. Utilizing calculations of suburban acreages, available supply, and number of days of supply, we initially over calculated less than 45 days of supply water are available. To maximize the effectiveness of this supply, we plan to start water deliveries on 19 May and continue deliveries through a week-on and a week -off schedule which may stretch supply to 13 September. **The black boxes on the calendar indicate planned water available in the suburbs**.