

Arnold Irrigation District (AID)
Patron Communication
May 13th, 2026

Dear Patrons,

We started out the season with the fullest Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoir we have seen in quite some time. To start the season, Wickiup USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Services) storage was at 16,748 acre-feet, and both Lone Pine and Arnold began the season with the maximum 6,000 acre-feet. Looking at natural flow levels, we are going to need it.

As forecasted, natural flow was well below normal, and the Little Deschutes averaged a dismal 108 cfs (cubic feet per second) for the month of April and is now running at 76.7 cfs as of May 13. We experienced losses through Benham Falls of 7%, which put us right at the historical average.

The April storage report showed that Arnold Irrigation District did not use any of its storage in Crane Prairie Reservoir; however, evaporation losses left us with a balance of 5,924 acre-feet of storage.

Obviously, the month of May will produce a much different storage report due to the senior districts being allowed to divert more water and natural flow being at near-record low levels. This will likely push NUID (North Unit Irrigation District) to all storage and put AID in the realm of needing storage, if not on storage.

The AID Board met on Tuesday, May 12th, and unanimously agreed to lower delivery rates starting May 18th for the remainder of the season to 4.5 gallons per minute, which is a 20% decrease in flows at patrons' deliveries. We are doing this in effort to extend the delivery as long as possible.

The first storage report of May comes out Monday the 18th and this will give the District a better forecast for the 2026 season end date. The District will continue to communicate as often as we receive information from the state.

If any patrons would like to help by conserving water, please call the office to have your delivery lowered or your water shut off for the remainder of the season. This will allow the District to extend the season as long as possible.

Arnold Irrigation appreciates your patience while we work through this difficult season.

Sincerely,
Management
Arnold Irrigation District