



## FISH ON THE RUN 2024 News

# Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!

This has been a very different summer from last year. This spring was the coolest and wettest we have had in a long time and was a welcomed change from the dryer and hotter springs we have had over the last few years. The cooler weather and rain also kept things greener much longer.



And then just like that we had 100-degree days, and we saw water use shoot up. This huge increase in summer water use also means our drinking water treatment plants are running much more frequently and longer using more resources such as electricity, treatment supplies, and causing wear and tear on the facilities. And although Clackamas County is not currently experiencing drought conditions there is little precipitation forecasted in the near future to supplement river flows, so **YOU ARE KEY** to ensuring there is enough water in the river as fish start migrating up the Clackamas River.

### What's Inside:

Fish on the Run	P1
Conservation Meter	P2
Take the Pledge	P2
Ways to Conserve	P3
Conservation Articles	P3
Resident Fish	P4
Weekly Watering	P4
NIDIS- Stay Connected!	P5

For the 6th year in a row, the CRWP are asking our customers to participate in our **“Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!”** annual summer watering campaign. This annual campaign is designed to help the Clackamas River by reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering by the beginning of September for the fall Coho and Chinook salmon migration.

### Balancing Water Supply and Demand

The balance between water supply and demand is crucial for ensuring the sustainable management of water resources for both people and fish. In our watershed the biggest factors that influence water supply is precipitation, or the amount of rainfall or snowfall that directly replenishes the Clackamas River.

As water providers we are required to ensure you have water from your tap 24/7/365 days a year, but we see our communities water use (demand) double and triple during the summer months primarily due to outdoor watering. Therefore, the less water you use, the less water we need to take out of the river.

We have information, technical assistance, conservation rebates, free landscape water audits and other water saving tools that will help you save water both inside and outside the home, but you are the **KEY**.

Whether you use a hose or have an underground irrigation system to water your yard and garden, and you care about protecting our river water for people and wildlife, here’s your chance to be part of our annual **“Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!”** campaign. The more water we can conserve the easier this journey will be for these threatened and endangered salmon species.

Visit our campaign web pages today, take **“The Pledge”** and check out our **“Conservation Articles”** page to find out what you can do to reduce your water use and encourage your neighbors and community to join us in our **“Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!”** campaign.

CHRISTINE HOLLENBECK, Public Education and Conservation Program Coordinator, (503) 723-3511 • [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org)  
 KIM SWAN, Water Resource Manager, (503) 723-3510 • [kims@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:kims@clackamasproviders.org)

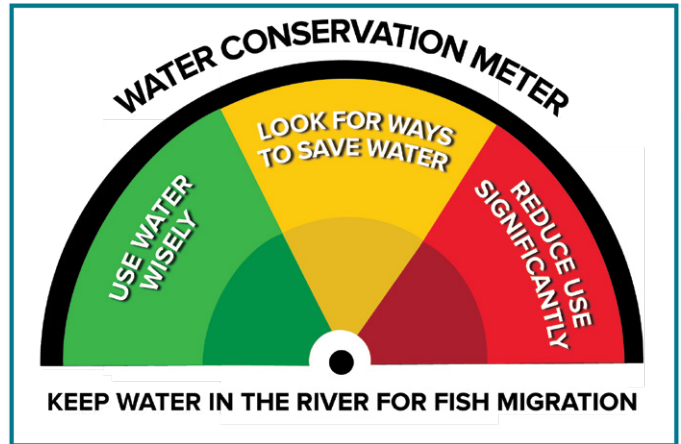
# Water Conservation Meter

To help encourage our customers to do their best in conserving their drinking water we have developed a water conservation meter which is evaluated weekly, and notifies us of current river conditions and how much water we need to conserve.

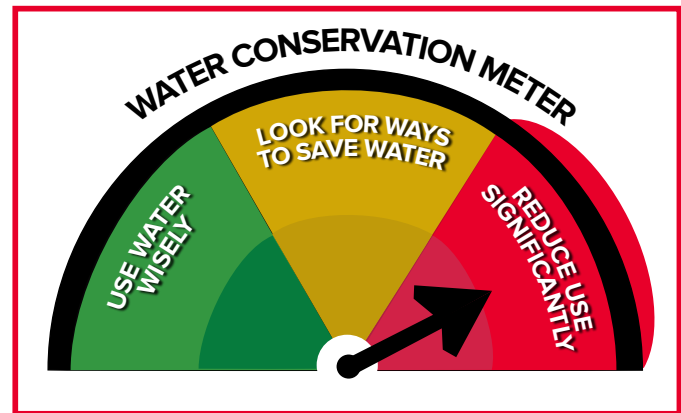
Currently our conservation meter is RED telling us the river levels are significantly low and we all need to “Reduce or turn off outdoor watering to keep water in the river for the Coho and Fall Chinook species.”

Although Clackamas County is not currently experiencing drought conditions, until we get fall rains to help replenish the river, we all need to look at how to reduce our water use.

Visit our campaign web page to find tools and resources to assist you in making water use reductions and eliminations, inside and outside the home.



**CURRENTLY, OUR CONSERVATION METER IS RED:**



## RED CONSERVATION ACTIONS:

### Reduce Use Significantly

- Shut down all outdoor watering, spot water when needed
- Take your car to a commercial carwash which recycles the water
- Shut off all outdoor water features
- Do not allow water to run off driveways, sidewalks, or down the street

## Take the Pledge

### DO YOUR PART



Yard Sign

Take part in our “*Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!*” pledge; and get a FREE yard sign letting neighbors know you are doing your part to keep water in the Clackamas River for fish.

### I PLEDGE TO DO MY PART:

- Use the “Weekly Watering Number” to make sure my lawn and yard are getting the right amount of water but no more
- Let my lawn go dormant during the summer, which saves water, reduces run-off, and requires less mowing
- Take my car to a carwash that recycles and reuses the water
- Only water outside before 8am and after 8pm
- Make sure I stop outdoor watering by September

Visit our [website](#) to take the pledge and receive your free yard sign.



# Ways to Help You Conserve

The Clackamas River Water Providers offer conservation rebates and free landscape water audits to the following member's service areas: City of Estacada, Clackamas River Water, Sunrise Water Authority (City of Happy Valley and Damascus), City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services, and South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn). For more information on how to participate in these programs contact Christine at [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org), call **503-723-3511**, or visit our website at [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org)

## CONSERVATION REBATES

We offer eight water use rebates worth up to \$510 in combined value. This includes a number of ways to save water outdoors:

- A rebate for up to \$100 for an EPA WaterSense Labeled Irrigation Controller, go [here](#) for a list of qualifying Water Sense labeled controllers
- Up to \$60 (or 20 nozzles at \$3 dollars each) if you change your old irrigation spray nozzles to new, more water efficient multi-stream rotating nozzles
- Up to \$25 each for hose bib timers and/or an irrigation rain switch
- Smart Home Water Monitoring Device at \$100 maximum
- Hose End Water Meter: Up to \$25 rebate.

## LANDSCAPE WATER AUDITS

A landscape water audit is a way to get your irrigation system and landscape on track and running right. Our Landscape auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system and more. Once the audit is complete you will receive a list of recommendations on how to better manage your outdoor water use. Go [here](#) for more information.



# Conservation Articles and Technical Info

There is a lot of good information out there to help you save water. We have collected a number of articles and technical information on how to save water while using your irrigation system, and in maintaining your lawn and gardens. Visit our campaign [Conservation Articles & Technical Information](#) web page to learn more about how you can apply these strategies to your home and yard.



### Low – Volume Irrigation Solutions

Low-Volume irrigation is a great way to water your plants efficiently while saving water. With a little planning the benefits to your plants, the environment, and your water bill can be substantial.

### Hugelkultur, Building the Ultimate Raised Bed

What is 'Hügelkultur', anyway? Is it a new kind of yogurt, but, no—it's a type of raised garden bed! Hügelkultur can be translated as "mound culture"—in which plants or crops are grown on raised beds with a mounded shape and form. Many swear that this method takes raised beds to the next level. Find out why ...

### Swimming Pools, Beat the Leak

Pools can leak constantly or may only leak when the pool equipment is running – which can lead to water waste and a high-water bill. Since pools are one of the greatest users outdoors, it's important to make sure they are being operated as efficiently as possible.



# Native/Resident Fish Species of the Clackamas River



Historically, the Clackamas River and the other Portland metropolitan region tributaries supported some of the most diverse and productive fish populations in the Columbia River Basin. In 1877 Livingston Stone, employed by the

US Commission of Fisheries to explore potential fish hatchery sites throughout the Columbia River Basin, declared about the Clackamas River: Probably no tributary of the Columbia has abounded so profusely with salmon in past years as this river (the Clackamas). (US Commission of Fish and Fisheries 1877, reported in Taylor 1999).

Today the Clackamas River and other area streams still support regionally significant fish runs. However, fish populations in the area have declined from historical levels, with some fish runs diminished to the point of being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Fish populations have declined, not only in the Clackamas River Basin and other local watersheds but throughout the Pacific Northwest.

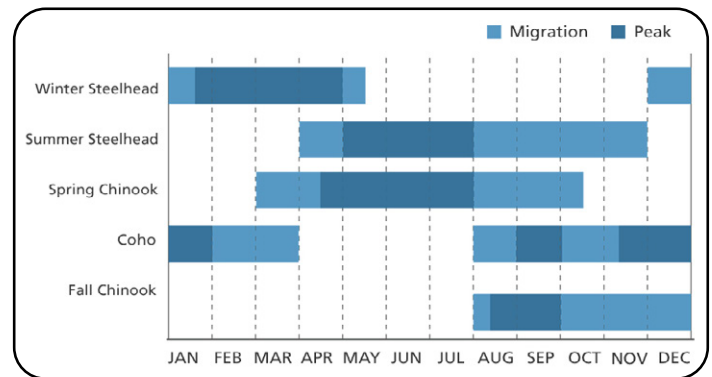
Despite the region's dramatic growth and development, the Portland metropolitan region still supports a rich diversity of fish and wildlife habitats. Tributaries and streams within the Clackamas River watershed support some of the healthiest salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey and bull trout populations in the region.

The Clackamas River Basin has the last wild late-winter coho salmon population in Columbia Basin. The Clackamas spring Chinook

salmon and winter steelhead populations are trending in a positive direction. While these trends are positive, substantially more habitat restoration is needed to recover and sustain the environment that supports native fish and wildlife populations. The Clackamas salmon and steelhead populations are one of nine Oregon Lower Columbia independent populations.



**Want to know more about what fish are in the river and when?** Check out PGE's chart on the trends and timing of fish migration on the Clackamas River [HERE](#), or check out PGE's information on Clackamas River fish counts at [HERE](#).



## Get Your Weekly Watering Number

Landscapes can be maintained with far less water than you think. Want to know exactly how much you should be watering each week? By using the weekly watering number, you can do just that.

The weekly watering number is based on historical data (evapotranspiration, rain fall, and other data points) from the previous week, but it is used to determine how much to water lawns and gardens during the current week. As the weather changes throughout the watering season so does the Weekly Watering Number, this allows you to give your lawn and other plants exactly what they need and not waste water.

Visit our [website](#) for more information about the Weekly Watering Number and start receiving your zip code specific watering number every Thursday of each week and start watering smart today!

**Weekly Watering Number**

Aug 4-10, 2022

Enter your zip code to get your number!

▶

[Sign up at regionalH2O.org](http://regionalH2O.org)

# Stay Connected!

Subscribe to NIDIS (*National Integrated Drought Information System*) emails for the latest regional drought updates, webinars, and news. Or [SIGN-UP HERE](#) to receive drought alerts when the U.S. Drought Monitor or U.S. Drought Outlook updates for your city/zip code.

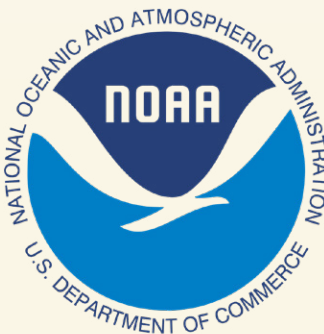
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Clackamas, Oregon is currently Abnormally Dry (D0), and predicts that drought conditions are not likely to develop over the next month.

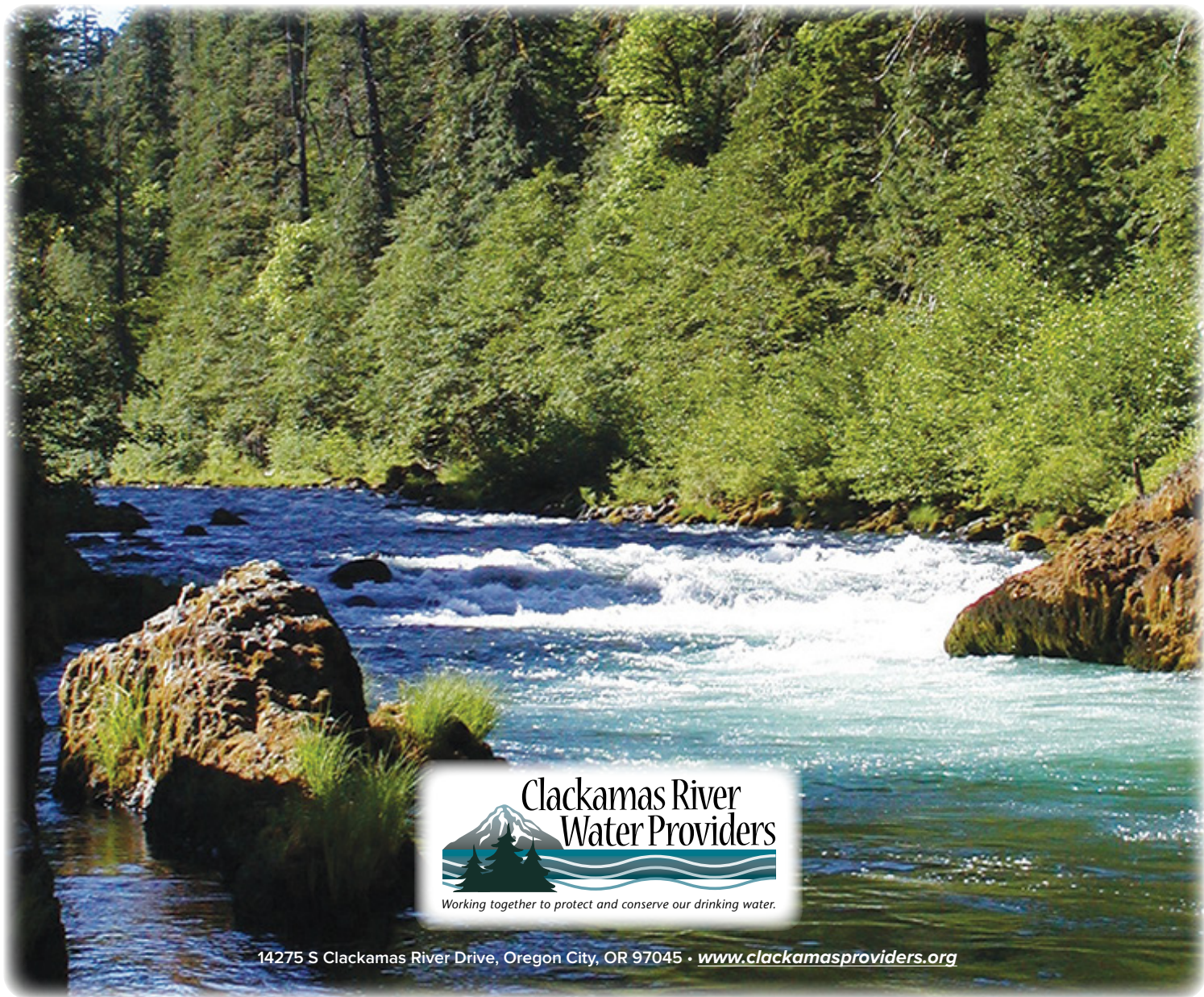

## Current Drought Numbers in Clackamas County:

- 0 people in Clackamas County are currently affected by drought.
- 0% of people in Clackamas County are affected by drought.
- 46th driest July on record, over the past 130 years  
Decrease of 0.63 inches from normal.
- 40th wettest year to date over the past 130 years  
(January – July 2024) increase of 3.97 inches from normal.



NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM



**Clackamas River  
Water Providers**

*Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.*

14275 S Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 • [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org)

**Our Members:**



[www.crwater.com](http://www.crwater.com)



[www.cityofestacada.org](http://www.cityofestacada.org)



[www.ci.gladstone.or.us](http://www.ci.gladstone.or.us)



[www.ci.oswego.or.us](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us)



[www.oaklodgewaterservices.org](http://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org)



[www.sfwb.org](http://www.sfwb.org)



[www.sunrisewater.com](http://www.sunrisewater.com)



[www.tigard-or.gov](http://www.tigard-or.gov)

CHRISTINE HOLLENBECK, Public Education and Conservation Program Coordinator, (503) 723-3511 • [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org)  
 KIM SWAN, Water Resource Manager, (503) 723-3510 • [kims@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:kims@clackamasproviders.org)

