

Central Oregon looking forward to a parched 1992

BEND (AP) — The dreary 1991 irrigation season is coming to an end in central Oregon, where the major reservoirs are at an all-time low and prospects for next year are bleak.

The five major reservoirs in the region — Wickiup, Prineville, Ochoco, Crescent and Crane Prairie — have a combined capacity of more than 540,000 acre-feet of water.

As of Tuesday, they held a little more than 80,000 acre feet, 15 percent of their capacity.

"We've hit a new low," said Bob Main, central Oregon watermaster. "Some of those reservoirs have been lower than they are today, but we've never had them all down to this level together."

Bend recorded no measurable precipitation in September for only the third time in recorded history, dating back to 1902, so there is little reason to expect any immediate improvement.

Irrigation districts throughout the region are beginning to shut down their delivery systems this week.

Clint Jacks, a Jefferson County extension agent, said 33 to 35 percent fewer acreage was farmed in the county this year because of the shortage of water.

Chuck Schonkeker, manager of the North Unit Irrigation District, said valuable mint crops in Jefferson County survived the summer, but yields of mint oil were down significantly because farmers could not apply enough water.

Gov. Barbara Roberts toured drought-stricken Central Oregon in April. The state later declared the region a drought emergency area.

The water crisis faded from the news as more precipitation than normal fell in June and early July.

But Main's warning in March that Ochoco Reservoir would go dry and other key storage reservoirs fell to record lows has come to pass.

The unusually hot, dry autumn is making water managers pessimistic about next year's water supply.

Deschutes River reservoirs will not fill this winter, even if the region receives a higher than normal amount of rain and snow this winter.

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Jeff S.

Happy 20th birthday, Rivers. I love you more than ever.
Sarah

SIGMA KAPPA AMY S.
Bid day was a blast. Too bad it didn't last. We had lots of fun, talking about the warm California sun.
Dove Love, Y.B.S.

EMERALD CLASSIFIEDS
A gem of a deal!
EK Alexandra Z EK
I'll give you a clue, my eyes are blue. Saturday will be fun for you!
Love, YBS

EK Summer S. EK
I know you, but you don't know me. I hope you didn't get a cavity? I'm looking forward to Saturday.
Love, Y.B.S.

THANKS EK
for a wonderful bid day-night.
Much love, Kappas

105 PERSONALS

ΔZ
Robin, thanks for a wild Saturday. We're glad to know national consultants can keep up with us. Go G.Y.S. in Kentucky. Everyone will miss you.
Love, Nina and Jana

CONGRATS KKI!
FALL '91 PLEDGES:
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Colette L. Tauni S.
Taj B. Brette P.
Rebecca T. Natalie B.
Lisa P. Cathelyne V.
Bev C. Laura P.
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