

Drought

Irrigators unclog outlets to increase water supply

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

PESHASTIN, Wash. — Icicle Irrigation District has switched gears on a drought relief project for Wenatchee Valley pear growers because helicopters were too busy fighting wildfires to the north to help.

In early August, the state Department of Ecology approved a \$41,000 grant to pay half of the project. The district isn't using that but is applying for \$12,500 to pay half of a less ambitious plan, said Tony Jantzer, manager of the Icicle and Peshastin irrigation districts.

The districts serve about 8,000 acres, mostly Wenatchee Valley pear orchards. The Peshastin canal draws from Peshastin Creek and is supplemented by the Icicle system in drought years. The Icicle has rights to 8,070 acre feet of water in five lakes in the Alpine

Wilderness some 2,500 feet above Icicle Creek.

The week of July 20, the Peshastin district reduced water to growers one-third, from 6.75 gallons per minute per acre to 4.5. The Icicle district began drawing on the lakes. In order to get an additional 800 acre feet from Eight Mile Lake, the district planned to have a helicopter fly pumps to the lake for temporary use.

Because it couldn't get a helicopter, district workers are manually digging out partially clogged outlets from Eight Mile and Colchuck lakes which should gain about 250 acre feet of water, Jantzer said. The Icicle district also reduced its growers from 6.75 to 4.5 gallons per minute on Sept. 1 with hopes both districts will have water through Sept. 25, he said. That's still ending the season about a week early.

Growers are in full swing



Peshastin Creek along U.S. Highway 97 at Campbell Road south of Peshastin, Wash., on Aug. 27. Low flow because of drought caused irrigators to get more water out of wilderness lakes.

Dan Wheat/Capital Press

of d' Anjou pear harvest and mostly shut off water during harvest, watering trees again

after harvest, Jantzer said. "Growers seem pretty happy. There's some sun damage

and other issues but I haven't heard anyone say they are damaged from lack of water,"

he said. Pears are a half to one size smaller because of excessive heat, but less water shouldn't affect them that much more, said Jim Koempel, a grower and Peshastin Irrigation District board member.

"We limped through with what water we had. We just had to manage it more tightly," said Randy Smith, a Cashmere grower on the Peshastin district.

There may be more water being than usual after harvest because things are dry, Koempel said.

"We will get through this year, my concern is next year," he said. "We've got to get snow this winter because the lakes won't carry us another whole season."

The 8,070 acre feet will be mostly used up by the end of this season and won't be replenished without a good winter, he said.

California crop yields faring better than expected in drought

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Some sectors of California agriculture are showing surprising resilience in the midst of the most severe drought in nearly 120 years of recorded weather history.

A new analysis of the drought's impacts on agriculture by Pacific Institute shows record-breaking crop revenue and employment but also shows those successes came at the cost of massive and unsustainable groundwater pumping.

Crop revenue continued to grow in 2012 and 2013, the first two years of the drought, posting a record \$34 billion in 2013 and dropping just 1.4 percent in 2014 to its second highest at \$33.4 billion.

Ag employment increased an average of 9,000 jobs a year from 2010 to 2014, although the actual increase in 2014 was less than the other years, reaching a record high 417,000 in 2014.

While the study shows resiliency in the crop sector, it's important to point out it did not analyze impacts on the nursery or livestock sectors, production costs or regional disparities, said Heather Cooley, lead author of the study and water program director at Pacific Institute.

Lack of available data at the time of the study prevented the inclusion of those elements, but they will be assessed and brought into the discussion of response strategies to build a more resilient future for the state, she said.

The Institute has been assessing the impacts of every drought in California over its 28-year history to identify



Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press

Despite dried irrigation canals in California, a new analysis of the drought's impacts on agriculture by Pacific Institute shows record-breaking crop revenue and employment. It also shows those successes came at the cost of massive and unsustainable groundwater pumping.

what strategies are working and what aren't and encourage those that are beneficial, she said.

While there's been a long-term trend toward increased revenues on fewer acres, several factors contributed to agriculture's resiliency during the current drought, including an accelerated shift to higher-value crops, implementation of water-management efficiencies and the sale and transfer of water, Cooley said.

The drought also exacerbated groundwater overdraft to tremendous rate, which is very concerning, she said.

A NASA study released last week showed land subsidence of 13 inches over a period of eight months in some areas of the state, including major agricultural areas, she said.

Those are alarming numbers, but the drought is only highlighting water-management problems that have persisted for decades, she said.

There is compelling evidence that too much water is

being taken from rivers, streams and reservoirs even in a normal year. Communities are struggling with meeting safe drinking water requirements and coastal areas are experiencing sea water intrusion in groundwater, she said.

While drought response strategies have reduced the economic impact to agriculture, continued groundwater overdraft has shifted the burden to others. It will force current and future generations to dig deeper wells, find alternative drinking water sources and repair infrastructure damaged by subsidence, the study found.

Groundwater overdraft needs to be mitigated, Cooley said. Legislation passed last year will move the state to a more sustainable balance but not until 2040, she said.

Impacts of other ag strategies are less clear, including the risks of shifting to higher value crops, such as fruits and nuts, which are permanent and cannot be followed on a year-to-year basis, Cooley said.

Rain washes away 'extreme' drought in Western Washington

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Unusually heavy rains in late August eased drought conditions in Western Washington from "extreme" to "severe," the U.S. Drought Monitor reports.

The reversal may be temporary. The U.S. Climate Prediction Center predicted a cool and wet stretch in late August and early September for Western Washington. The center forecasts a return to above average temperatures and below normal precipitation for Washington — as well as Oregon, Idaho and California — as a strengthening El Nino in the Pacific Ocean reasserts itself.

"By no means is the drought over," Washington Assistant State Climatologist Karin Bumbaco said. "What we had at the end of

August was a bit of an anomaly."

The percentage of Washington in extreme drought dropped to 68 percent from 85 percent between Aug. 25 and Sept. 1. Roughly, the eastern two-thirds of the state is in extreme drought, while the western one-third is in severe drought, the next lowest classification.

Western Washington received 200 to 800 percent more rain than normal between Aug. 26 and Sept. 1, according to the state climatologist office. Eastern Washington, with the exception of a small portion of Stevens County, received below average rainfall.

The rain caused stream flows west of the Cascades to jump dramatically. In some cases, rivers went from record lows to above normal flows for late August, according to U.S.

Geological Survey gauges.

Some 93 irrigators in the Chehalis River basin in southwest Washington were able to irrigate for the first time since having their water rights curtailed in late July, according to the state Department of Ecology.

Oregon, California and Idaho have seen only minor fluctuations this summer in drought conditions as classified by the drought monitor, a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Washington, however, has seen big week-to-week changes, with large chunks of the state rapidly slipping into "severe" and then "extreme" conditions. Thursday was the first week this year that drought conditions improved in Washington.

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TRACTORS



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- Case IH STX325, 9642 hrs, 325hp, 4WD, PS trans, 3pt, 1000 PTO, 520/85R-46 duals... **\$65,000** McMinnville #97509
- Case IH STX325, 5813 hrs 325hp, 4WD, PS trans, 3pt, 4 remotes, 14.9R-46 duals... **\$96,000** Tekoa, #107500
- Case IH STX450, 7627 hrs, 450hp, 4WD, PS trans, front & rear weights, 800/70R-38 duals... **\$99,500** Tekoa, #100728
- NH 9680, 7512 hrs, 4WD, 12spd Synchro trans, 4 remotes, 710/70R-38 duals... **\$40,000** McMinnville #102884
- JD 9560RT, 88 hrs, 36" Tracks, 5 Remotes, 1000 PTO, HID Lights... **\$425,000** Fall River Mills, #902075
- JD 8285R, 820 hrs, ILS Axle, PS Trans, 4 Remotes, 800/70-38 Duals... ~~\$231,300~~ **\$218,000** McMinnville, #72817
- JD 4120, 2201 hrs, MFWD, ROPS, Reverser Trans... ~~\$18,900~~ **\$12,000** Hillsboro, #810273
- NH TN95FA, 6584 hrs, 36" Tracks, narrow, Super Steer, 2 rear remotes... ~~\$12,500~~ **\$12,500** Salem, #89699
- Kubota M9960, 150 hrs, Open Station, ROPS, MFWD, LA1353 Loader... **\$45,900** Roseburg #54397
- JD 9630, 2138 hrs, 4WD, PS trans, Auto Track ready, 800/70R-38 duals, HID lights... ~~\$289,900~~ **\$199,000** Tekoa #18545
- JD 9320, 5247 hrs, 4WD, PS trans, 710/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, Bareback... **\$125,000** Colfax #31662
- JD 9620, 4435 hrs, 4WD, PS trans, 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, fresh engine... **\$180,000** Moscow, #30510
- JD 8260R, 993 hrs, MFWD, PS Trans, 4 Remotes, 620/70-46 Duals... ~~\$180,000~~ **\$180,000** Donald, #70811
- JD 9300, 7119 hrs, 4WD, PS Trans, 3pt, 1000 PTO, 620/42 Duals, 5 Remotes... **\$109,900** Salem, #30202
- JD 8630R, 759 hrs, ILS Axle, IVT Trans, 4 Remotes, 710/70R-42 Duals... **\$289,000** Harrisburg, #72619A
- JD 5075E, 34 hrs, Open Station, MFWD, R1 Ties, 540 PTO, Joystick... **\$30,000** Donald #10185
- JD 7280R, 256 hrs, Cab, IVT Trans, TLS Front Axle, Set up for loader... **\$230,500** Madras #13029
- JD 8770, 14,749 hrs, 4WD, 3 remotes, bare back, 24 spd. Power Quad Trans, duals ~~\$35,000~~ **\$33,000** Tekoa #3214
- JD 9200, 7379 hrs, 4WD, 4 Remotes, 20.8-42 Duals, Quad Range Trans... **\$79,900** Tekoa #30476
- JD 8770, 7675 hrs, 4WD, Quad Range Trans, 20.8-42 Duals, 3 Remotes... **\$50,000** Walla Walla #4681
- JD 9400, 7644 hrs, 4WD, PS Trans, 1000 PTO, 710-42 Duals, 4 Remotes... **\$105,900** Tangent, #41372
- NH TN95FA, 5553 hrs, 36" Tracks, narrow, Super Steer, 2 remotes... ~~\$12,000~~ **\$12,000** Salem #39208
- JD 9560R, 222 hrs, 4WD, Dual 800/70R-38, PS Trans, Auto Track Ready... **\$374,000** Walla Walla #7998
- JD 9300, 9631 hrs, 4WD, 24 spd Trans, 3 PT, No PTO, 4 Remotes... **\$61,500** McMinnville, #40643

TILLAGE

- Wilrich V957DDR Disk Ripper, 14' Wilrich disk ripper, 9 shanks... **\$26,500** Merrill #457580
- Case IH ET530 Disk Ripper, 12' Disk... **\$24,275** Madras #1161

- JD 637 Disk, 33' JD Tandem folding disk... ~~\$55,000~~ **SOLD** Moscow #745202
- Frontier TMS124 Disk, Frontier Tandem folding disk... **\$53,000** McMinnville #101
- JD 2625 Disk, 31' JD Tandem folding disk... **\$64,500** Colfax #750111
- Kellogg TSW225 Disk, 20' Tandem folding disk... ~~\$28,000~~ **SOLD** Donald #EH9221

COMBINES



- JD 98660ST5, 2727 hrs, Rahco 35% Leveler, 30' 630R Platform, Stoess Cart... ~~\$255,900~~ **\$249,000** Colfax, #710739
- JD 1670, 1169 hrs, Small Grain, BPU, Rasp Bar Cylinder, straw chopper... **\$197,500** Salem #84492
- JD 1670, 1216 hrs, Small grain, BPU, Rasp Bar Cylinder, straw chopper... **\$197,500** Donald #84498
- JD 1670, 1127 hrs, Small grain, BPU, Rasp Bar Cylinder, straw chopper... **\$197,500** Salem #85401
- JD 9860 2794 hrs, Hillco Leveler, Duals, 4WD... **\$200,000** Moscow #710792
- Case IH 7010, 1120 hrs, Level Land, 2016 BPU platform... **\$140,000** Tangent #202887
- JD 9650ST5, 3343 hrs, Small Grain, 914P BPU Platform, straw chopper... **\$87,000** Tangent, #685747
- Case IH 2588, 1809 hrs, small grain, hillside, 30' cutting platform... **\$210,000** Walla Walla #303583
- JD 9650ST5, 2241 hrs, Small Grain, 914P BPU Platform, straw chopper... **\$92,500** Salem, #685945
- JD 9650ST5, 3456 hrs, Small Grain, 914P BPU Platform, straw chopper... **\$80,000** Tangent, #686102
- JD 9650ST5, 3557 hrs, Small Grain, straw chopper... **\$99,950** Harrisburg, #686910
- JD 5680, 695 hrs, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F Platform, Stoess Cart... ~~\$436,300~~ **\$436,300** Tekoa, #755668
- JD 5680, 1246 hrs, Rahco Leveler, 4WD, 635F Platform & Cart... ~~\$504,700~~ **\$486,525** Tekoa, #746303
- JD 5690, 1246 hrs, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F Platform, Stoess Cart... **\$583,200** Colfax, #745738
- JD 9750ST5, 2500 hrs, Hillco Leveler, Small Grain, Button Tread Duals... **\$131,000** Colfax, #686502
- JD 9750ST5, 3230 hrs, Rahco Leveler, 4WD, 930R Platform and Cart... **\$130,000** Colfax, #691057
- JD 9770ST5, 1462 hrs, Rahco 35% Leveler, 30' 630R Platform, Stoess Cart... **\$295,000** Colfax, #730456
- JD 9860ST5, 2727 hrs, Rahco 35% Leveler, 30' 630R Platform, Stoess Cart... ~~\$256,000~~ **\$249,000** Colfax, #710739

HAY EQUIPMENT

- John Deere 568 Round Baler, mega tooth, silage wrap, pushbar... ~~\$18,000~~ **SOLD** Pomeroy #356329
- JD 568 Round Baler, 4x4, Manual Controls, 6' Mega Pickup, Push Bar... **\$27,000** Hillsboro #355442
- NH BB960S, 3x4 Large Square Bales, Hyd. Pickup, Tandem Axles, 1000 PTO... **\$39,000** Merrill, #274350017
- JD 348, 540 PTO, Hydraulic Pickup, Gauge Wheels... **\$6,500** Four Lakes, #8X919328
- Steffen 850, Small Bale Stacker. **\$14,950** Ponderay, #1525



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