

Marijuana growers face irrigation complexities

Federal facilities, other factors complicate water access

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

As Oregon's marijuana industry emerges from the legal shadows, growers are being confronted with regulatory hurdles regarding irrigation, experts say.

When cultivation of the psychoactive crop was criminal under state law, compliance with water rules was not the top-of-mind worry for growers.

Those who now want to participate in the legal marketplace for recreational marijuana, however, are finding that irrigation can pose an unexpected complication.

To qualify for commercial marijuana-growing licenses, growers will face the same issues with water rights as conventional farmers as well as problems that are unique to the crop, which remains illegal under federal law.

Earlier this year, aspiring hemp and marijuana producer Andrew Anderson of Bend was

notified by his local irrigation district that federal authorities refused to allow their facilities to be used to deliver water for cannabis production.

Anderson said he hopes the matter will be resolved over time, but in the meantime he's drilling an agricultural well to ensure he can irrigate his crop.

"I don't think we'll ever get a chance to be part of an industry that goes from nothing to a giant conglomerate in a lifetime," he said.

Federal enforcement in question

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates some water projects in the West, has said it doesn't intend to become an "enforcer" of federal cannabis prohibitions, but it remains to be seen how marijuana and hemp production is treated by the agency, said April Snell, executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress, which represents irrigation districts.

Each irrigation district in Oregon is likely to have a different perspective on cannabis production, particularly depending on how reliant they are on federal facilities, Snell said at a recent cannabis workshop in Salem.

"They are like snowflakes. From a distance they may look



Courtesy of Natascha Crater
Marijuana clones grow in containers under an indoor grow light. Growers who want to produce the crop indoors or outdoors must contend with water regulations now that recreational marijuana can be legally grown in Oregon.

the same but up close they all have their own characteristics," she said.

Cannabis growers can apply for their own water right to divert surface water for irrigation or use land with an existing water right — just like other farmers, they're subject to shut-offs due to water calls from senior water rights holders, said Doug

Woodcock, administrator of the Oregon Water Resources Department's field services division.

"Know your water rights," Woodcock said, noting that the right is specific as to the place and type of use.

Drilling a well also requires a water rights permit for agriculture in Oregon, though exemptions apply for domestic, indus-

trial and commercial uses.

However, those "exempt" uses do not apply to growing a crop, such as marijuana, for profit, Woodcock said. "Irrigation is not part of the commercial exemption."

Medical marijuana growers often don't face such restrictions on groundwater because they produce the crop for personal use or cultivate it for others

without an intent to profit, he said.

Commercial cannabis growers who want to cultivate the crop inside a warehouse or another property within a city can also buy water from the municipality, he said.

Some cities, counties have opted out

At this point, though, 29 cities and 10 counties in Oregon have decided not to allow marijuana production within their boundaries, while others remain undecided, said state Rep. Ken Helm, D-Beaverton, who is a land use attorney.

People who want to grow marijuana in those undecided areas should become involved in the conversation with their local governments, he said. "The best place to start is the local planning department."

In counties that do allow marijuana production, only "exclusive farm use" zones allow the crop to be grown outright, said Katherine Daniels, farm and forest lands specialist for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Whether the crop can be commercially grown without restriction in industrial, commercial and residential zones will likely vary county-by-county, she said.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Partly cloudy
44°

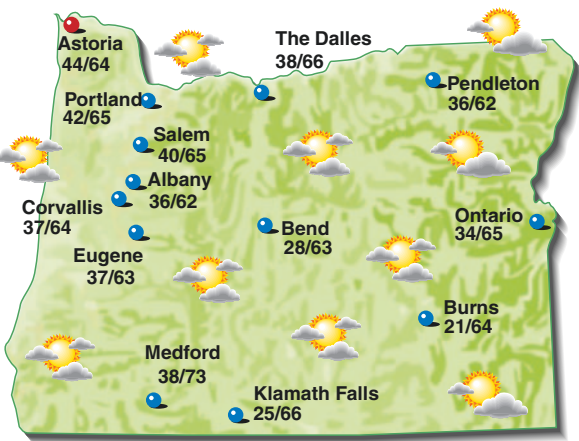
Friday
Periods of clouds and sunshine
64° 46°

Sunday
Chance for a couple of afternoon showers
64° 48°

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
63° 48°

Monday
Times of clouds and sun
65° 48°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

Almanac
Astoria through Wednesday.
Temperatures
High 61°
Low 47°
Normal high 60°
Normal low 44°
Precipitation
Yesterday Trace"
Month to date 2.06"
Normal month to date 3.45"
Year to date 33.30"
Normal year to date 43.69"

Sun and Moon
Sunset tonight 6:17 p.m.
Sunrise Friday 7:43 a.m.
Moonrise today 3:43 p.m.
Moonset today 1:36 a.m.

Full Moon: Oct 27
Last Quarter: Nov 3
New Moon: Nov 11
First Quarter: Nov 18

Regional Cities

City	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	64	23	s	62	26	pc
Bend	62	28	s	63	34	pc
Brookings	67	48	s	64	51	pc
Eugene	65	37	pc	63	39	pc
Ilwaco	60	51	pc	61	50	pc
Klamath Falls	67	25	s	66	30	pc
Medford	72	38	s	73	42	pc
Newport	60	43	pc	61	47	pc
North Bend	63	44	pc	64	46	pc

City	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	60	38	pc	59	38	pc
Pendleton	65	36	s	62	37	pc
Portland	64	42	pc	65	46	pc
Roseburg	66	41	pc	69	44	pc
Salem	64	40	pc	65	42	pc
Seaside	61	49	pc	63	48	pc
Spokane	62	37	s	59	35	pc
Vancouver	62	40	pc	63	43	pc
Yakima	68	34	s	66	35	pc

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: The Great Square of Pegasus is nearly overhead before midnight.

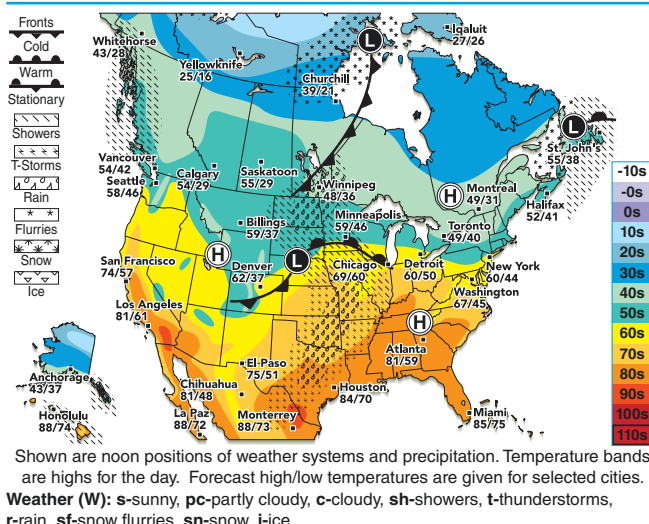
Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High	Low
Time	10:42 a.m.	7.8 ft.	4:13 a.m.
Time	10:45 p.m.	7.7 ft.	4:51 p.m.
Time			1.5 ft.

National Cities

City	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	80	57	s	81	59	s
Boston	71	45	pc	53	39	s
Chicago	63	49	s	69	60	pc
Denver	53	39	r	62	37	pc
Des Moines	69	58	pc	69	52	r
Detroit	66	43	s	60	50	s
El Paso	71	50	pc	75	51	s
Fairbanks	32	22	c	35	21	s
Honolulu	90	75	pc	88	74	s
Indianapolis	77	54	pc	76	60	pc
Kansas City	77	60	pc	73	51	r
Las Vegas	78	59	s	79	59	s
Los Angeles	79	59	pc	81	61	pc
Memphis	84	64	s	83	68	pc
Miami	85	75	sh	85	75	sh
Nashville	81	52	s	82	62	s
New Orleans	82	68	pc	83	69	pc
New York	77	52	s	60	44	s
Oklahoma City	75	65	t	78	57	c
Philadelphia	78	52	s	62	42	s
St. Louis	83	62	s	73	62	r
Salt Lake City	64	45	pc	63	42	pc
San Francisco	73	57	s	74	57	pc
Seattle	58	45	pc	58	46	pc
Washington, DC	77	55	s	67	45	s

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. **Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

New rules in place as goose hunting season opens

The Daily Astorian

New rules for hunting Canada geese in northwest Oregon will be in effect when the northwest permit goose zone opens to hunting on Saturday.

Gone are the requirements to check in geese at a check station, which was inconvenient for hunters. The check-in requirement was to screen for dusky Canada geese, a subspecies of Canada goose with a small population size.

Now, the dusky Canada goose season is simply closed. It is a wildlife violation to shoot one.

Legal shooting hours have also been changed to 15 minutes after sunrise to 15 minutes before sunset.

"It is more important than ever for hunters to hold their fire unless they are sure the target is not a dusky Canada goose," Brandon Reishus, of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said in a state-



Photo by Keith Kohl/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
New rules have been imposed on hunting geese.

ment. "Hunters are advised to focus efforts on cackling Canada geese, which are very abundant and easy to identify."

Goose hunters are still required to pass the Northwest Oregon Goose Identification Test (<http://bit.ly/100pOsG>) to hunt. Also, the northwest permit and northwest general goose zones are combined and now the northwest permit

zone includes all of Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill counties.

The northwest permit zone goose season will be open Saturday — Nov. 1, Nov. 21 — Jan. 12 and Feb. 6 — March 10. See page 22 of the Oregon Game Bird Regulations at <http://bit.ly/1ODGTad> for details.

Lotteries

OREGON	WASHINGTON
Wednesday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 6-9-6-6 4 p.m.: 4-4-8-9 7 p.m.: 7-7-1-8 10 p.m.: 5-2-0-1	30-32-42-56-57, Powerball: 11 Estimated jackpot: \$100 million.
Wednesday's Mega-bucks: 8-10-12-14-28-35 Estimated jackpot: \$5.7 million.	Washington's Daily Game: 0-3-4 Wednesday's Hit 5: 05-06-26-28-33 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000.
Wednesday's Powerball:	Wednesday's Lotto: 01-06-07-11-20-21-27-29-32-33-36-39-42-48-55-56-60-61-65-76 Wednesday's Lotto: 25-28-32-33-40-44 Estimated jackpot: \$5.7 million. Wednesday's Match 4: 03-14-16-19

Deaths

Oct. 20, 2015 KIRK, Ronald D., 51, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.	Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.
Oct. 21, 2015 LEWIS, Lois Jean, 82, of Astoria, died in	Oct. 22, 2015 SCHOESSLER, Melvin Richard, 92, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Public meetings

THURSDAY Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., Astoria Transit Center Conference Room, 900 Marine Drive. Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6	p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
MONDAY Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway.	

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