

We're in for a drought year



Chart Information
Legend for above charts
L = Large amount
M = Medium amount
S = Small, but significant amount

Water conservation should be on everyone's mind as summer approaches. Water tables around the state and particularly in Warm Springs are way below normal.

Warm Springs Water Master Deepak Sehgal says, "We're going to be in for a drought year." And affirming that statement is district conservationist from Madras Jim Cornwell who says, "It looks bleak for the whole state."

Most of the snow packs have already melted, says conservationist Cornwell. The Deschutes snow pack is 44% of normal. Most precipitation this winter came as rain and ran off immediately. Cornwell says, "We won't see run-off at the last of June as we would like."

Water-users in Warm Springs currently get their water from Shitike Creek. This year there will be hardly enough water for the fish, Sehgal says.

"We're going to be in for a drought"

During the winter consumers in Warm Springs use "less than one half million gallons of water per day," Sehgal commented. But during summer months water usage increases to approximately 2 million gallons each day. Sehgal goes on to say, "Our water usage is three times what it is off the reservation. We're careless, it's free. This year we're worse off than in an average year. We must conserve all we can."

Although reservoirs and a water line are currently being constructed, the system will not be complete for some time. "We have the whole summer and winter to face," Sehgal says. The Warm Springs water

board expresses an equal concern about the water supply situation. At a meeting on May 13 the board laid down some water conservation policies. The provisions outlined should be adhered to immediately by all water-users. Sehgal says, "The sooner we can tell people about this the better."

The Deschutes snow pack is 44% of normal

The water board statement reads, "In order to maintain the minimum flow for fish life and the excellent quality of the water in Shitike Creek, the water according to the following policy:

1. Water use permits will not be issued for consumption uses or use which degrade the quality of the water for the period August 1st-October 31st.

2. All other uses of water must be approved by the water control board before any action will be taken, for the same period of time. 3. Petitions for variances to this policy shall be heard by the water control board.

The statement goes on to read, "In case of drought conditions the water control board shall by order declare an emergency to exist for any stream on the reservation."

A priority system will be used to determine water allocation. On Shitike Creek first priority belongs to domestic and community use followed respectively by fishing, wildlife and vegetation, agriculture, range and community, recreation and industrial use.

Those who use the water resource "will curtail their use of water to the minimum while still functioning effectively." Water conservation devices are suggested for use by water-

users and by the utility department. Some such devices are shower heads which use 4.0 gallons per minute, lavatory sink faucets using 4.0 gallons per minute, tank-type flush toilets using 3.5 gallons and flush-ometer toilets using 3.0 gallons.

All users of the water resource will curtail their use of water. This will be done in the following ways. "the utility manager will put the following conservation measures into effect along with any other measures the manager feels would help." a. Set up a leak detection survey. b. Notify public that conservation measures are necessary.

The public notice may include the following provisions. (1.) No unauthorized person is allowed to operate any valve, connect with any water main or fire-hydrant, interfere with any building reservoir, pumping station, treatment plant or structure belonging to the tribes except for emergency purposes.

(2.) No person shall use water supplied for any purpose other than domestic use (cooking, drinking, watering small lawns less 1/2 acre, toilet facilities). In areas where livestock is allowed to be kept and domestic water is used NO WASTE OF WATER is allowed.

First priority belongs to domestic and community use

(3.) No person, except in emergency, shall open or tamper with any fire hydrant.

(4.) No water-user shall see or collect any money for the use of water without express permission from Tribal Council. (5.) Waste of water-user shall see or collect any money for the use of water without express permission

from Tribal Council. (5.) Waste of water is strictly prohibited including any leaks existing between the mainline and place of use.

No Waste of Water is allowed

(6.) Waste of water to be eliminated includes: 1. Community Center to stop using drinking water for cooling purposes. 2. All excess use of water for car washes, truck washing, road washing, etc. are prohibited. Variance to this can be obtained from the utility manager when good reasons for the use is forthcoming. 3. WSFPI to use water solely for domestic purposes. 4. All users to inspect properties to see if any waste of water is occurring and if so have it repaired immediately.

We have a whole summer and winter to face

7. Use of domestic water for sprinkling lawns and irrigation of small less than 1/2 acre gardens is restricted as follows: a. Irrigation season in the Warm Springs Agency shall extend from April 15 to October 15 of each year. b. The utility manager shall fix and determine hours during which domestic water may be used during the irrigation season. The initial water board recommendation is that no watering of lawns or gardens is

to take place from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm during the restricted irrigation season. c. No person shall use a hose for irrigation without having a nozzle or other water spraying devices attached thereto. d. The users whose premises are on the upper campus Miller Heights and Dry Creek in Agency area shall sprinkle on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only. The users on Lower campus, West Hills, Mobile home park and Elliot Heights shall sprinkle on Thursday, Thursdays, and Saturdays only.

Water conservation devices are suggested

Violations of public notice provisions by any person under the jurisdiction of the tribal court shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$360 or by imprisonment in the tribal jail for a period not to exceed six months, or both such fine and imprisonment. Violations by any other person shall be punishable by expulsion from the reservation.

Enforcement of the provisions will be provided by the tribal police department which will routinely patrol the Agency area. Police personnel will endeavor to resolve any infraction by education and verbal recommendations, then by written order. If all else fails, tribal law and order code resources of the police department will be used to enforce these provisions. The aim of the policy set forth by the water control board means the same to everyone—conserve water.