

# River

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“Conditions have improved but we are still looking at irrigation water running out in early September.”

Ochoco Irrigation District provides water to 898 patrons on 20,062 acres, mostly north and east of the Crooked River.

Bridget Moran, the Bend field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, said her agency is working with Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan permittees and federal partners to “adaptively manage” the limited water supply in the Deschutes Basin. The permittees include eight irrigation districts in Central Oregon and the city of Prineville.

Adaptive management allows the agency and irrigation districts to temporarily reduce reservoir outflows as needed in times of drought.

“We are collaborating with the Bureau of Reclamation and our HCP permittees to come up with a solution that has the maximum benefit of all parties involved,” said Moran. “To provide the best conservation use of the limited water supply in the Crooked River this year, 10 cfs minimum flow is anticipated in September and October.”

The winter — November to April — level of 50 cfs is a requirement of the Habitat Conservation Plan, which was finalized in 2020 after 12 years of development. During the rest of the year, the outflows from Bowman Dam are typically much higher due to irrigation needs. Due to drought this year there simply isn’t enough water to maintain higher levels.

Prior to the conservation plan, there was a minimum release of 10 cfs from Bowman Dam.

The flow of 10 cfs “is a requirement under the original federal legislation,” said Kyle Gorman, region manager for Oregon Water Resources Department. “It dates back to the 1950s when Congress was approving the authorization and legislation for building the Crooked River Project that is now known as Prineville Reservoir and Bowman Dam.”

Moran says the winter flow of 50 cfs and spring pulse flows, created by snowmelt, will aid in the out-migration of anadromous smolts.

“With a very limited water supply, (USFWS) are attempting to maximize benefits for those covered species with the water that is available,” said Garnett, the Bureau of Reclamation field officer.

The intensity of drought in Oregon has waned in recent months thanks to a wet and cool spring, but many areas of the state remain bone dry. All of Crook County remains in extreme or exceptional drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The Crooked River runs for 155 miles and the basin drains nearly 4,300 square miles. The river and its tributaries were once major spawning grounds for migratory fish,



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

**The Crooked River flows slowly along Meadow Lakes Golf Course in Prineville.**

including spring chinook salmon, steelhead trout and Pacific lamprey. Redband trout and bull trout were also widespread.

Dams and irrigation in the Crooked River basin built during the 20th century cut off access to spawning and rearing grounds, causing most of these species to dwindle in number from the river.

Today, redband trout and mountain whitefish are found in the river, along with migrating and spawning adult spring chinook salmon. Bull trout have been seen using the fish ladder at Opal Springs and are using the lower Crooked River.

Jerry George, a fish biologist with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said his agency is closely tracking reservoir levels, low stream flows, and warm water temperatures. Prineville and Ochoco reservoirs and the Chimney Rock Wild and Scenic section of the Crooked River downstream of Bowman Dam are of particular concern.

“The situation is unprecedented; we have not experienced low flows in the tailwater reach below Bowman Dam during the irrigation season before,” said George. “This reach typically has an adequate volume of flow through the end of the irrigation season and cool water that is drawn from the bottom of Prineville reservoir. At this point, the scope of the impacts are unknown and difficult to predict.”

A series of three canal piping proj-

ects costing \$32 million could help Ochoco Irrigation District conserve water, leaving more water in the river for fish. These projects are planned for completion by March 2024 and will save the district 16.2 cubic feet of water per second, or about 7,271 gallons of water per minute.

But some experts worry that the low flows combined with high summer temperatures could kill large numbers of fish before the conservation projects are completed. Salmonids like native redband trout are cold water species that need water temperatures generally below 68F.

Amy Stuart, a retired fish biologist previously with ODFW, said redband evolved with occasional exposure to high water temperatures, but sustained high temperatures can cause chronic and acute distress leading to death.

“Low flows can concentrate fish in pools and deplete oxygen,” said Stuart. “Fish in low warm flows are also much more vulnerable to predation and disease.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledged the reality of the situation as it relates to steelhead and bull trout, two species of fish that use the Crooked River and are also covered by the Endangered Species Act.

“During a period of severe drought, as we are experiencing now, water is limited,” said Moran. “This will provide the maximum benefit possible to the covered species with this limited water supply.”

# Smith

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investigations were being conducted to develop evidence in the assault case, he was “convinced” that some of the efforts in the investigation were intended to prove that Smith left his children unaccompanied.

Bunch wrote that he was “particularly disturbed” that the sheriff’s office became aware that Smith’s accuser was tracking him and continued to receive information from her.

“While the court does not believe law enforcement encouraged (Smith’s accuser) to track the defendant,” Bunch wrote, “law enforcement became complicit once the knowledge was obtained.”

Finally, the document containing Smith’s “Garrity” warning, which Palmer used to conduct an administrative interview regarding the charges of child neglect, stated specifically that the interview would not be used as part of a criminal investigation. Palmer, during the evidentiary hearing on the motion to dismiss the charges against Smith, testified that he shared portions of that interview with Gretchen Ladd-Dobler, Wheeler County’s district attorney and one of the special prosecutors in Smith’s case.

“Sheriff Palmer’s informing the prosecutor of the defendant’s story regarding his absences is clearly violative of this provision and is disturbing,” Bunch wrote. “Consequently, the court orders that the child neglect charge be dismissed in the interest of justice.”

## How we got here

Smith maintains that the criminal charges against him were part of a plan by former Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer, Undersheriff Zach Mobley, Mobley’s wife, Abigail, and Grant County Sheriff’s Sgt. Danny Komning, Abigail Mobley’s older brother, to have him removed from the sheriff’s office and get him arrested.

That plan, Smith asserts, was in retaliation for allegations Smith made to the Oregon Department of Justice on July 31, 2019, that Abigail Mobley had used illegal drugs and had a sexual relationship with an inmate incarcerated for drug crimes while she was a jail deputy with the Grant County Sheriff’s Office.

Smith also argues that his accuser was a close friend of the Mobleys and Komning.

After a 21-month investigation found that Abigail Mobley committed eight violations of the department’s code of conduct, ranging from abuse of her position to conduct unbecoming an officer and neglect of duty, she resigned from the sheriff’s office on Dec. 26, 2021, following a 30-day suspension.

Abigail Mobley, who was on paid leave throughout the investigation, was not found to have used illegal drugs.

## What’s next

Smith’s trial on the assault, attempted rape and attempted sex abuse charges is scheduled to begin on Oct. 24 in Grant County Circuit Court.

The 12-person jury trial is expected to last 14 days, according to court documents.

# NAPA

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“I admire him for sticking with his wife and wanting to make the marriage work and follow her to support her career,” Lundbom said. “It’s all good.”

Stefan Lundbom currently resides in Prineville.

The store in John Day is the first of several NAPA locations Snair is looking to purchase, according to Lundbom. The store has already coordinated with Burns, Redmond, Bend and Prineville to use their inventory.

The changes Snair is making are going to be good for the community and good for NAPA, according to Lundbom: “He’s got the capital to enhance what we’ve got going.”

Lundbom declined to reveal what the sale price of the business was, saying only that the deal was fair.

“I’m not going to disclose (the purchase price),” he said. “I got what it’s worth, that’s basically it. ... I got a fair price. He’s happy with everything.”

As a condition of the sale, the

name of the store will change from John Day Auto Parts to John Day NAPA.

Snair is eager to get started and already has a house in the city, according to Lundbom.

“We’ve hired two new guys and we have a full staff, and we’re training them to fill in the slack when I leave,” he said.

Lundbom said he was ready to transition into retirement following 46 years of working at the John Day NAPA store.

“I’ve been getting up and going to work at a quarter after 6 every day for as long as I can remember,” he said. “The longest we’d ever take off, we might leave on a Friday early and be gone until Sunday and come back to work. Never drew unemployment and never had any longer than that off.”

Lundbom will be working at the store until the end of the month in an effort to help provide a smooth transition of ownership. The 68-year-old Lundbom, who also serves as mayor of John Day, said he is looking forward to doing more golfing, camping and hiking following his last day with the company.



**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12						
13	14		15	16		17	18	
19		20	21	22				
23			24					
25	26							
27	28	29		30		31	32	33
34						35		
36		37	38	39	40	41	42	43
44						45		
46						47		
48	49					50		51
52						53		
54						55		
56						57	58	59
60						61		62
63						64		65

- CLUES ACROSS**
- America’s WW2 President
  - Move earth
  - Insecticide
  - Naturally occurring solid material
  - State of fuss
  - Bhutanese wine
  - Greek island
  - Taxi
  - Tanzanian ethnic group
  - Metrical foot
  - Boasted
  - Eel-like vertebrate
  - Small freshwater lakes
  - Morally base
  - Not odd
  - Where you live
  - Fixed in place
  - A very large body of water
  - Moved quickly
  - Winged horse
  - Small waterfall
  - Hoopster
  - Gasol
  - One who mimics
  - Tropical plant
  - Used of walls
  - A citizen of Iran
  - Christian hermit
  - She marries the groom
  - American patriotic society
  - Wine grape
  - Small waterfall
  - School of Buddhism

- A team’s best pitcher
- Consumed
- Time zone
- Part of a company name
- Type of bulb
- Marine protozoan
- You use it for your eyes
- Set aside for a later time
- Metrical foot
- Famed journalist Tarbell
- Consumes quickly
- Rewards in a civil suit
- Ballroom dance
- Chum
- Comedienne
- Gasteyer
- A room to relax
- Commercials
- Six (Spanish)
- Wild party
- Small European viper
- Baseballer
- Gordon
- Eccentric person
- A way to save for your future
- Young boy
- Midway between northeast and east
- Changed
- Prominent
- Genus of seabirds
- Event regarded as wrong
- Skipped in a lively way
- Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- A country in W. Africa
- Burn a corpse
- Women’s \_\_\_ movement
- NHL great Bobby
- Coarse, green material
- Treated with calcium oxide
- When you hope to get there
- “Partridge” actress Susan
- What thespians do

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to irrigation.

**SMSYTES**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CRYPTO FUN**

Solve the code to discover words related to irrigation. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = R)

**A. 23 3 16 11 10 1**  
Clue: Living organisms

**B. 25 4 22 20**  
Clue: Get larger

**C. 20 16 10 26 4**  
Clue: Hydrogen and oxygen

**D. 7 22 1 26**  
Clue: Flexible tube

**SUDOKU**

								3
7	6		1					
4		5					2	
		2	7					
			1	4			7	
		3		9				
8		1	7		3	9		8
			2	8		4	1	

Level: Intermediate

**Guess Who?**

I am an actor born in Massachusetts on July 25, 1967. I worked as a model before getting into acting. I was one of a group of friends who starred in one of the biggest television hits of the 1990s.

**IRRIGATION WORD SEARCH**

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS**  
BASIN  
BERN  
BORDER  
CHEMIGATION  
CONFINEMENT  
CROPS  
DISTRIBUTION  
DRIPPER  
EFFICIENCY  
EMITTER  
FIELD  
FLOOD  
FLOW  
HOSES  
MANAGEMENT  
PIVOT  
PRESSURE  
PUMP  
SELF-PROPELLED  
SPRINKLERS  
SURFACE  
SYSTEM  
WATER

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