

# Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!

Unlike the last couple of years, this spring and early summer were unseasonably cool and wet. Currently the future conditions for Clackamas County show that the County will not be experiencing drought conditions this summer. Having said that, the rain has stopped, temperatures have gone up and we all are watering outdoors.

For the 4th year, the CRWP are asking our customers to participate in our "Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!" annual summer watering campaign. This helps the Clackamas River by reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering by the beginning of September for the fall Coho and Chinook salmon migration.

Through this campaign we hope to provide you with the tools and resources you need to make water use reductions in your yard and garden. By visiting the <u>campaign page</u> on our website, you will find information on:

- CRWP Water Conservation Rebates
- Free Landscape Water Audits
- "Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!" Pledge
- Listen to our Audio Tips by renowned storyteller Will Hornyak
- Check out our library of conservation articles and technical information
- Find out how to sign-up for the "Weekly Watering Number"



You can also find out more information about the salmon species who share the river, as well as how our "Water Conservation Meter" works.

Whether you use a hose or have an underground irrigation system to water your yard and garden, and care about protecting our river water for people and wildlife, here's your chance to be part of our annual "Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!" campaign.

The more water we can conserve the easier this journey will be for these threatened and endangered salmon species.

For more information contact Christine Hollenbeck at (**503**)**723-3511** or via email at <u>christine@clackamasproviders.org.</u>

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#### **FISH ON THE RUN 2022 News**

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# **Water Conservation Meter**

To help encourage our customers to do their best in conserving their drinking water we have developed a water conservation meter which will be evaluated weekly, and notifies us of the severity of the river conditions and how much we should be conserving.

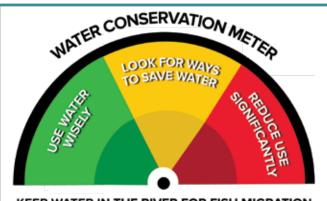
Currently our conservation meter is **YELLOW** telling us the river levels are moderately low and we all need to "reduce outdoor watering and reduce all other water use".

The forecast for the next week is dry and warm with little signs of rain, so until we get fall rains to help replenish the river, we all need to look at how to reduce our outdoor and indoor water use.

Visit our campaign **webpage** to find tools and resources to assist you in making water use reductions and eliminations inside your home and in your yard and garden.

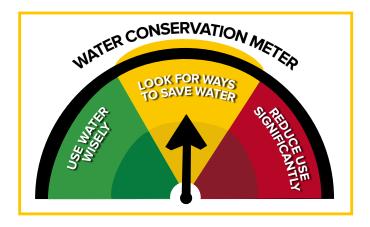
### YELLOW CONSERVATION METER TIPS:

- Fix all indoor and outdoor leaks
- Sweep drive and walkways instead of using a hose
- Wash cars on the lawn and use a shut-off nozzle on the hose
- Deep soak (deep but infrequent watering) lawns and gardens
- Adjust irrigation heads so they are not watering sidewalks and driveways
- Cover pools and hot tubs to prevent evaporation



KEEP WATER IN THE RIVER FOR FISH MIGRATION

#### CURRENTLY, OUR CONSERVATION METER IS YELLOW:



# Take the Pledge do your part



Yard Sign

Take part in our "Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!" pledge; and get a FREE yard sign letting neighbors know you are doing your part to keep water in the Clackamas River for fish.

#### I PLEDGE TO DO MY PART:

- Use the "Weekly Watering Number" to make sure my lawn and yard are getting the right amount of water but no more
- Let my lawn go dormant during the summer, which saves water, reduces run-off, and requires less mowing
- Take my car to a carwash that recycles and reuses the water
- Only water outside before 8am and after 8pm
- Make sure I stop outdoor watering by mid-September

Visit our **website** to take the pledge and receive your free yard sign.



## Ways to Help You Conserve

The Clackamas River Water Providers offer conservation rebates and free landscape water audits to the following member's service areas: City of Estacada, Clackamas River Water, Sunrise Water Authority (City of Happy Valley and Damascus), City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services, and South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn). For more information on how to participate in these programs contact Christine at christine@clackamasproviders.org, call **503 723 3511**, or visit our website at www.clackamasproviders.org

#### **CONSERVATION REBATES**

We offer six water use rebates worth up to \$485 in combined value. This includes a number of ways to save water outdoors:

• A rebate for up to \$100 for an EPA WaterSense Labeled Irrigation Controller, go <u>here</u> for a list of qualifying Water Sense labeled controllers

• Up to \$60 (or 20 nozzles at \$3 dollars each) if you change your old irrigation spray nozzles to new, more water efficient multi-stream rotating nozzles

• Up to\$25 each for hose bib timers and/or an irrigation rain switch

• Smart Home Water Monitoring Device at \$100 maximum

#### LANDSCAPE WATER AUDITS

A landscape water audit is a way to get your irrigation system and landscape on track and running right. Our Landscape auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system and more. Once the audit is complete you will receive a list of recommendations on how to better manage your outdoor water use. Go **here** for more information.



## **Conservation Articles and Technical Info**

There is a lot of good information out there to help you save water. We have collected a number or articles and technical information on how to save water while using your irrigation system, and in maintaining your lawn and gardens. Visit our campaign <u>Conservation Articles & Technical Information</u> webpage to learn more about how you can apply these strategies to your home and yard.

#### **Swimming Pools, How to Beat the Leak**

Pools can leak constantly or may only leak when the pool equipment is running – which can lead to water waste and a high-water bill. Since pools are one of the greatest users outdoors, it's important to make sure they are being operated as efficiently as possible.

#### **Drip Irrigation Basics**

With drought increasingly a constant factor, and water bills out of sight, homeowners are focusing on water use like never before. We needn't turn off the taps completely and go without gardens, but by planting low-water plants and then watering efficiently, we can both comply with the municipal requests to reduce water use and lower those bills!

#### Getting the Most out of your Lawn While Conserving Water

We have a fascination with green grass. The major advantages of a lawn are that it supplies a comfortable and inviting surface for barefoot play and lounging on warm days, it reduces glare near hardscapes and it cools the air around it. A lawn also adds distinctive color, texture, and function to a landscape. On the other hand,

formally maintained, highly manicured areas of turf are the most water – and maintenance – demanding elements of any landscape.



## Native/Resident Fish Species of the Clackamas River



Historically, the Clackamas River and the other Portland metropolitan region tributaries supported some of the most diverse and productive fish populations in the

Columbia River Basin. In 1877 Livingston Stone, employed by the US Commission of Fisheries to explore potential fish hatchery sites throughout the Columbia River Basin, declared about the Clackamas River: Probably no tributary of the Columbia has abounded so profusely with salmon in past years as this river (the Clackamas). (US Commission of Fish and Fisheries 1877, reported in Taylor 1999).

Today the Clackamas River and other area streams still support regionally significant fish runs. However, fish populations in the area have declined from historical levels, with some fish runs diminished to the point of being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Fish populations have declined, not only in the Clackamas River Basin and other local watersheds but throughout the Pacific Northwest.

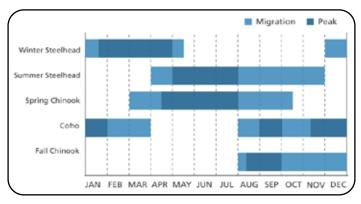
Despite the region's dramatic growth and development, the Portland metropolitan region still supports a rich diversity of fish and wildlife habitats. Tributaries and streams within the Clackamas River watershed support some of the healthiest salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey and bull trout populations in the region. The Clackamas River Basin has the last wild late-winter coho salmon population in Columbia Basin. The Clackamas

spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead populations are trending in a positive direction. While these trends are positive, substantially more habitat restoration is needed to recover and sustain the environment that supports



native fish and wildlife populations. The Clackamas salmon and steelhead populations are one of nine Oregon Lower Columbia independent populations.

Want to know more about what fish are in the river and when? Check out PGE's chart on the trends and timing of fish migration on the Clackamas River <u>HERE</u>, or check out PGE's information on Clackamas River fish counts at <u>HERE</u>.

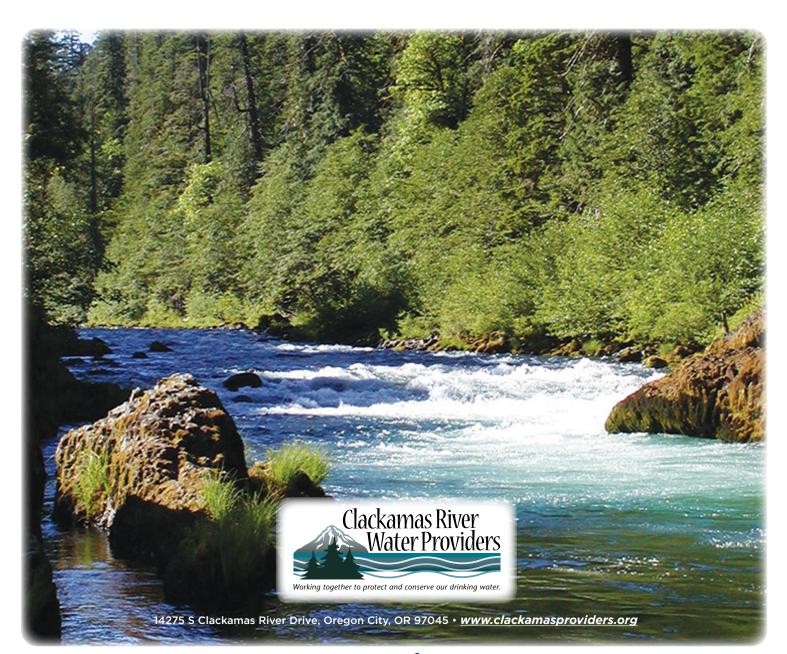


## **Get Your Weekly Watering Number**

Landscapes can be maintained with far less water than you think. Want to know exactly how much you should be watering each week? By using the weekly watering number, you can do just that.

The weekly watering number is based on historical data (evapotranspiration, rain fall, and other data points) from the previous week, but it is used to determine how much to water lawns and gardens during the current week. As the weather changes throughout the watering season so does the Weekly Watering Number, this allows you to give your lawn and other plants exactly what they need and not waste water. Visit our website for more information about the Weekly Watering Number and start receiving your zip code specific watering number every Thursday of each week and start watering smart today!





## **Our Members**:







www.ci.gladstone.or.us www.ci.oswego.or.us







www.sunrisewater.com

www.tigard-or.gov

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