

FISH ON THE RUN 2023 News

# Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!

## YOU ARE KEY!

For the 5th year in a row, the CRWP are asking our customers to participate in our **“Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!”** annual summer watering campaign. This annual campaign is designed to help the Clackamas River by reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering by the beginning of September for the fall Coho and Chinook salmon migration.

## Balancing Water Supply and Demand

The balance between water supply and demand is crucial for ensuring the sustainable management of water resources for both people and fish. In our watershed the biggest factors that influence water supply is precipitation, or the amount of rainfall or snowfall that directly replenishes the Clackamas River. Although we had slightly above normal snowpack this past winter this is now gone and we haven't had significant rainfall for months, and as a result river levels are very low.

As water providers we are required to ensure you have water from your tap 24/7/365 days a year, but we see our communities water use (demand) double and triple during the summer months due to outdoor watering. Therefore, the less water you use, the less water we need to take out of the river.

We have information, technical assistance, conservation rebates, free landscape water audits and other water saving tools that will help you save water both inside and outside of your home. You are the KEY to reducing how much water we take out of the river.

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Whether you use a hose or have an underground irrigation system to water your yard and garden, and you 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.

Visit our campaign web pages today, take **“The Pledge”** and check out our **“Conservation Articles”** page to find out what you can do to reduce your water use and encourage your neighbors and community to join us in our **“Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!”** Campaign.

# 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 is evaluated weekly, and notifies us of current river conditions and how much water we need to conserve.

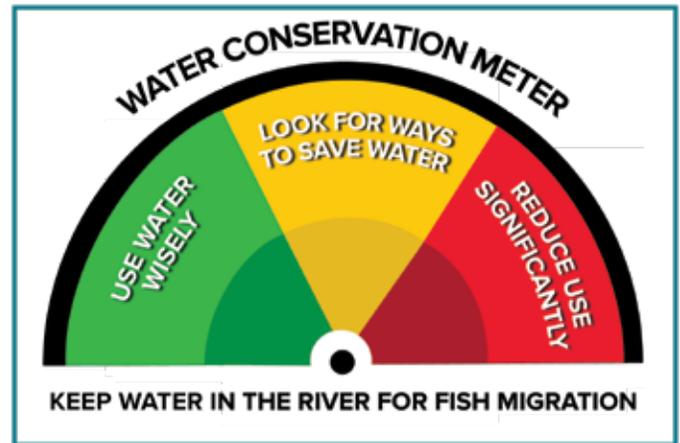
Currently our conservation meter is RED telling us the river levels are significantly low and we all need to “Reduce or turn off outdoor watering to keep water in the in the river for the Coho and Fall Chinook species.” Drought conditions are forecasted to continue over the next month, so until we get 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 [web page](#) to find tools and resources to assist you in making water use reductions and eliminations, inside and outside of your home.

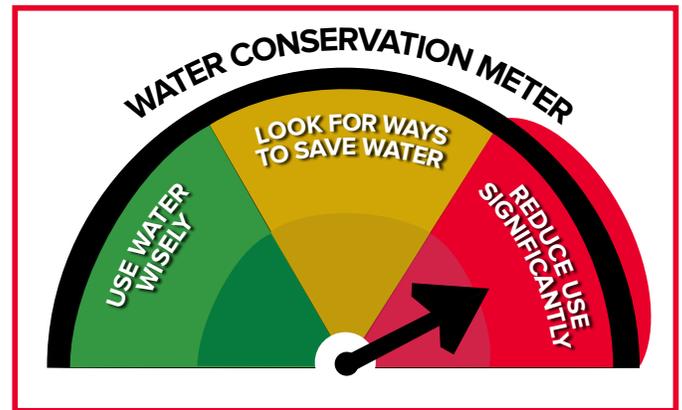
## RED CONSERVATION ACTIONS:

### Reduce Use Significantly

- Shut down all outdoor watering, spot water when needed
- Take your car to a commercial carwash which recycles the water
- Shut off all outdoor water features
- Do not allow water to run off driveways, sidewalks, or down the street

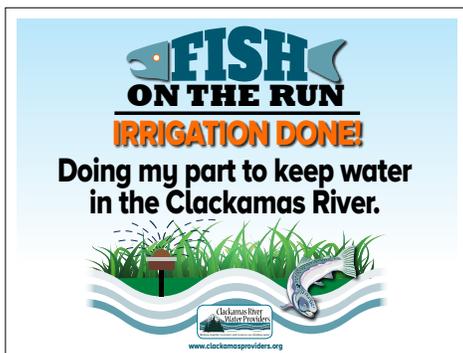


**CURRENTLY, OUR CONSERVATION METER IS RED:**



## 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 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](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org), call **503 723 3511**, or visit our website at [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://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 [here](#) 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 of articles and technical information on how to save water while using your irrigation system, and in maintaining your lawn and gardens. Visit our campaign [Conservation Articles & Technical Information](#) webpage to learn more about how you can apply these strategies to your home and yard.

### [How to Check Your Sprinkler System](#)

One of the most important things you can do throughout the summer is to ensure your irrigation system continues to operate efficiently. . By taking the time to check, repair, and adjust the sprinklers at the beginning of the watering season and making periodic checks throughout the summer you can be sure your plants are being watered properly, without wasting water.

### [Let Your Turf Grass Go Dormant](#)

Many of today's regionally adapted turfgrasses can handle a period of drought and heat. If you choose to let your turfgrass go dormant, follow the tips in this article to help it thrive when better conditions prevail. Dormancy is simply a state of reduced water usage where the turfgrass plant focuses

resources on the roots. Summer dormancy is a normal response to the stress of heat and drought for at least 3 to 4 weeks without the grass dying. The length of dormancy depends on the genetics of the species and the overall health of the plant.

### [WaterSense Irrigation Controllers](#)

Residential outdoor water use in our area can triple during the summer months mainly because of landscape irrigation. Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. The CRWP offers up to \$100 rebate when you purchase and install a EPA WaterSense, "Smart" irrigation control technology system that can save you water, time, and money.

# 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).

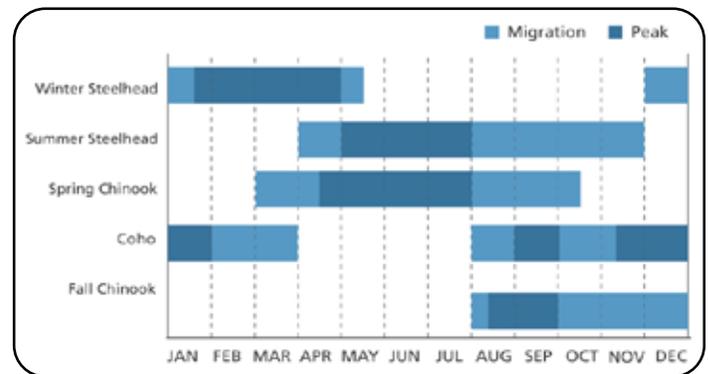
Today the Clackamas River and other area streams still support regionally significant fish runs. However, fish populations in the area have declined from historical levels, with some fish runs diminished to the point of being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Fish populations have 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 [HERE](#), or check out PGE's information on Clackamas River fish counts at [HERE](#).



## 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!



## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Clackamas Oregon is currently Abnormally Dry (D0), and drought conditions are likely to develop (and continue) over the next month.

**STAY CONNECTED** - Subscribe to NIDIS emails (below) for the latest regional drought updates, webinars, and news. Or, sign up to receive drought alerts when the U.S. Drought Monitor or U.S. Drought Outlook updates for your city/zip code by going here <https://www.drought.gov/drought-alerts/signup>

### Current Drought Numbers in Clackamas County:

- 314,100 people in Clackamas County are affected by drought.  
**Increase of 20.5% since last month.**
- 83.5% of people in Clackamas County are affected by drought.  
**Increase of 14% since last month.**
- This past May was the 6th driest May on record, over the past 129 years.  
**Decrease of 3.032 inches of rain from normal.**
- January-May 2023 were the 21st driest year to date over the past 129 years.  
**Decrease of 8.4849 inches of rain from normal.**

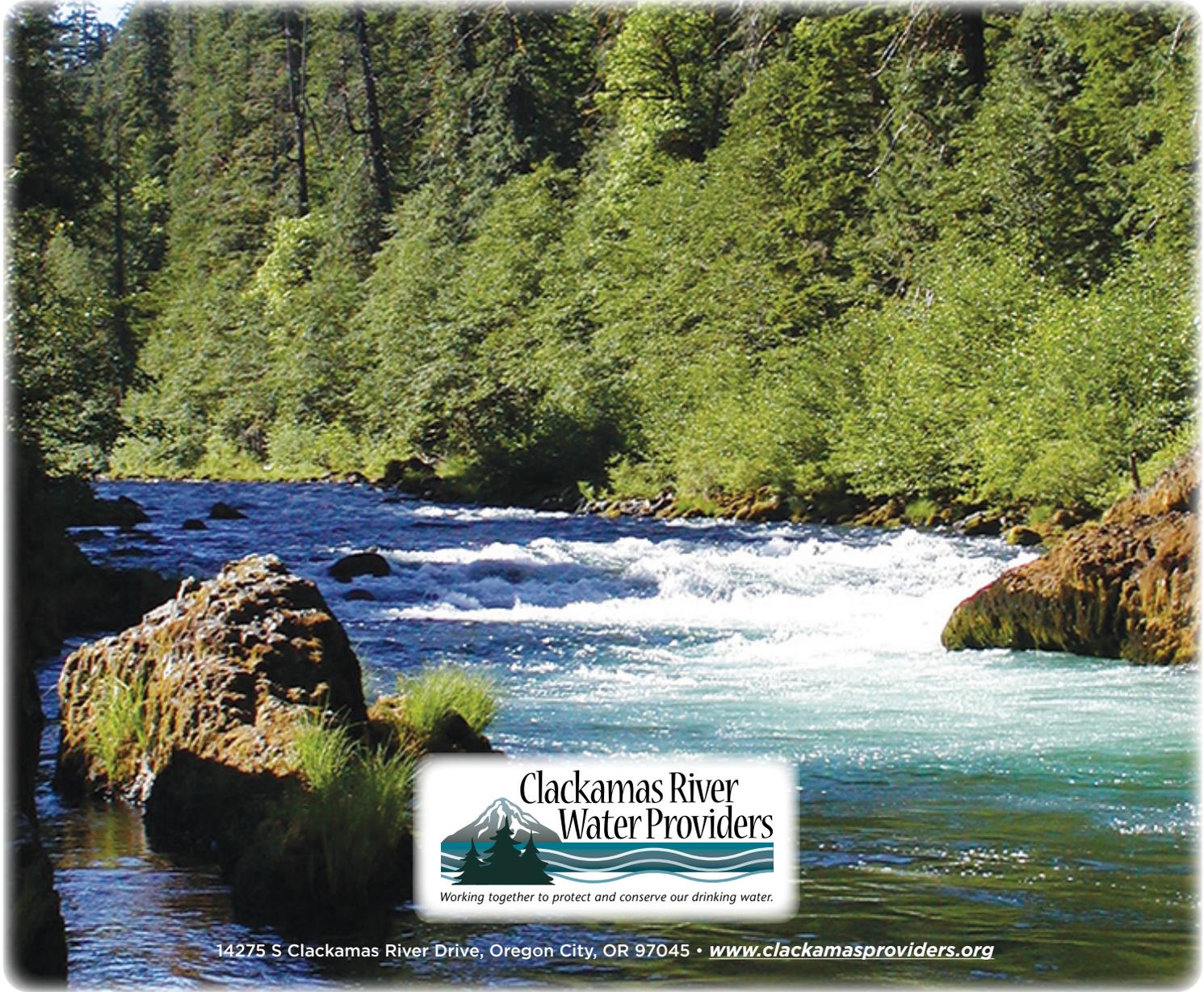


## NIDIS Drought Alerts

### Get Local Drought Conditions and Outlooks in Your Inbox

Get automated email alerts from NIDIS when U.S. Drought Monitor conditions change for your location, or when NOAA's Climate Prediction Center releases a new drought outlook, predicting whether drought will remain, develop, improve, or be removed.

[Sign-Up Here](#)




**Clackamas River  
Water Providers**

*Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.*

14275 S Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 • [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org)

**Our Members:**



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