

News Release

Pathfinder Irrigation District Announces that an allocation is expected from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Mitchell, Nebraska, June 15, 2021: The Bureau of Reclamation's June water supply forecast was reduced for the second month in a row, due to lower-than-expected inflows into the system. Reclamation is now forecasting a supply just less than what is considered a full supply and they have informed us that an allocation is expected. So far in June, inflows into the system continue to lag behind and the volume of water forecasted to still enter the system (about 230,000 acre-feet) will most likely fall short of projections. An official allocation will occur when Reclamation releases the first storage water to meet irrigation demand. The initial allocation will be based on what water is available as of that date and include any water diverted prior to the allocation. **Based on information provided by Reclamation today, the District will set the initial allocation at 1.5 acre-feet per acre of assessed lands. A person with a unit that has 80 acres of assessed lands will have (80x1.5) 120 acre-feet available for that unit. If drawing 1 foot (1 cfs) they are using 2 acre-feet per day.** Reclamation will release updates to the allocation weekly after the initial allocation and distribute the gains for that week to each district. The District will adjust the allocation to the farm as the supply allows.

All water used by irrigators prior to allocation will count against that irrigators' available supply to use. Orders for water will need to be placed 48 hours in advance of delivery. If an irrigator fails to take his water ordered, the water will be charged against his account until it is removed from the system.

Irrigators using center pivot systems utilizing District water will need to have functional overflows that do not back in or spill back into the district's system. Irrigators who turn on or off without notifying District staff will have their gates locked.

Information concerning water operations and allocation updates can be found on the District's website at www.pathfinderirrigation.com . The district will also provide text messaging updates to users. If you are not currently receiving the district's text messages, please call the office and provide your name and cell phone number and we will add you to the list. Irrigators are encouraged to work with the District to manage and conserve as much water as possible.

The Main Canal will be started on June 15th, with deliveries expected around June 18-19. The Low Line Canal will start on June 16th, with deliveries expected around June 18-19. The High Line and Supply Canals will start on June 17th with deliveries expected as water reaches the lower end of the canals. Irrigators should contact their ditch-rider to place orders 48 hours in advance.