



Committed to delivering irrigation water and clean hydropower electricity for a greener environment.

Water-out date: Redlands water and power will maintain water delivery through october 10 (tentative).

Drought Operations: Conserve Today to Provide for Tomorrow

We are in unprecedented times. Major sources of the Colorado water system are sitting at historic low levels due to extreme drought conditions, high temperatures, and high demand. The situation we find ourselves in is not new, of course; drought has visited the Western Slope many times over the past millennia. But what is different about this drought is its persistence. Most scientists agree that it might be exacerbated by climate change. Regardless, the situation is one that Redlands Water and Power must be prepared for. We have survived droughts in the past, but this may be the new norm.

Delivering irrigation water under these conditions is challenging. Currently, Redlands Water and Power is receiving 58% of its water rights, or about 500 cfs. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has requested that RWP operate at this level. The reservoirs in the Gunnison Basin are at the lowest levels on record. Blue Mesa is 27% full. Most of the water reserves are used.

Under normal conditions, Redlands Water and Power uses the largest portion of its water rights to generate electricity that powers the first lift pumps. Excess power is sold to Grand Valley Power and the proceeds are added to company revenue. During the off season, Redlands Water and Power sells all the electricity it generates.

But again, these are not normal conditions, and the drought is taking its toll.

What does drought mean for the delivery of irrigation water?

- RWP is supplying water at a slightly reduced flow. This allows the company to run fewer pumps, saving both electricity use and reducing water consumption.
- Under the current conditions, RWP anticipates it will be able to provide irrigation water through the end of the normal irrigation season (tentatively October 10).
- RWP is cooperating with BOR's reduced river flows to assist in the recovery of Blue Mesa Reservoir. Water use today could

have a major impact on the amount of water that will be available next spring for irrigation, and conservation is the right thing to do for the river, lakes, and the environment in drought conditions.

What does drought mean for the generation of hydropower?

- RWP's hydro-electric power plant cannot produce enough power to fully support pump operations, which means that Redlands Water and Power must purchase some power.
- It also means RWP is not producing enough power for resale. The financial impact will hit both expenses and revenue. The Board of Directors is doing everything possible to minimize losses.

Water Availability

Your conservation efforts have helped extend the available water supply. RWP anticipates being able to provide water through the end of the season, tentatively October 10. The Board and RWP team appreciate shareholders' thoughtful irrigation practices and encourage everyone to continue using water carefully.

As you irrigate, consider not only when and how much you water, but what you water. Trees, for example, need regular watering to survive, but established grass is remarkably resilient. It survives severe dry spells by going dormant and turning brown, then begins growing again when water becomes available.

Financial Impacts

One of the greatest impacts of the drought is, unfortunately, financial. Rather than generating all the power required to run the pumps and have some leftover to sell, RWP is buying power.

Redlands Water and Power also had the unexpected cost of repairing major damage to the dike caused by debris flows and flash flooding in July. The repair required 900 truckloads of dirt to fix the damage. The Board had no option but to pull the cost of the repairs from the reserve fund. Thank you to the Redlands Water and Power team and partners for their work to repair the washed-out canal bank and safely restore pump operations in just a few days.

CANAL BREACH



CANAL REPAIR



Even through the drought and challenges of the summer, the Board is planning for necessary infrastructure improvements that will not only modernize more of the aging Redlands Water and Power irrigation system but will improve pumping efficiencies and allow the generator to produce electricity even at lower flows. This list contains about 20 high-priority items.

The cost of maintenance, necessary system improvements and replenishing the reserve fund will shape future assessments. As we plan for these needs, the Board remains focused on thoughtful, creative solutions that balance responsible financial stewardship and the investments necessary to ensure Redlands Water and Power

continues reliably delivering irrigation water and clean hydropower electricity to our shareholders for generations to come.

--RWP Board of Directors



Meet the RWP team

Chuck Garber - Superintendent
Marcy Mandros - Office Administrator & Bookkeeper
Richard Bullen - Project Manager



Marcy Mandros

Board of Directors

Jon Mauch - President
Patti Chamberlain - Vice President
Pete Dickes - Secretary/Treasurer
Chuck Guenther - Director
Chuck Mitisek - Director
Larry Moyer - Director
Dave Traylor - Director



Take Note

Please forward this newsletter to Redlands residents who benefit from the water delivered by our canal system but do not directly own shares in Redlands Water and Power (e.g., HOA members).

Redlands Water and Power **roads and ditches are on private property**. Walking on canals and roadways is considered **trespassing** and poses serious safety risks. We appreciate your cooperation in helping protect both people and infrastructure.



Redlands Water and Power Company | [2216 S. Broadway](#) | [Grand Junction, CO 81507 US](#)