

PRESS RELEASE

August 16, 2023

Lincoln County, Oregon



Drought Emergency Declared by Lincoln County

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners declared a drought emergency on August 2, 2023, and will be asking Governor Tina Kotek to do the same, which would make more tools and resources available to those affected by drought conditions.

Low streamflows and hot, dry conditions were the ultimate drivers of the declaration. These conditions are likely to have significant economic impacts on the farm, forest, recreation, and natural resources sectors. They also put stress on our drinking water supplies and increase the potential for wildfires.

Because of this, the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium (Mid-Coast Water) encourages the Lincoln County community to take action to reduce water waste:

- Sign up and set up alerts in the Seal Rock Water District My Water Usage Customer Portal (see back). The Customer Portal will notify you of water leaks or abnormal water usage when you set up alerts. Please contact us at the Seal Rock Water District to help you in setting up alerts at 541-563-3529.
- Restrict irrigation to the evening hours or early mornings.
- Minimize or avoid washing cars and boats.
- Minimize or avoid washing outdoor surfaces such as pavement, decks, fences, and buildings.
- Position your sprinklers so that they water your plants, not pavement.
- Cut back lawn watering to once a week, if at all.
- Delay draining/filling pools and hot tubs.
- Fix indoor leaks.
- Check with your water provider about the availability of free water conservation items.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads only.
- Minimize your shower time.

Some water providers may need to implement their water curtailment plans in response to drought conditions to reduce demand on their stressed water supplies. Businesses and residents should pay attention to messages from their water providers in the event that water curtailment is necessary.



Visit <u>www.midcoastwater.org</u> for more drought information and water conservation tips or visit <u>www.srwd.org</u>.



Mid-Coast Water is a group of water providers on the Mid-Coast working together to promote water conservation to improve resiliency to droughts and water supply emergencies and to increase coordination among water providers on the Mid-Coast. For more information about Mid-Coast Water, contact Suzanne de Szoeke at 541-257-9006 or sde-suzann

For more information regarding the Seal Rock Water District My Water Usage Customer Portal call the Seal Rock Water District at 541-563-3529.

Make Saving Water Your New Habit

Good water-saving habits can help decrease demand on the system that provides water for our community and local ecosystems. Here are some simple, straight-forward water-saving habits to start practicing today:



Clean your outdoor spaces with a broom instead of a hose.



Add organic matter and mulch to help your soil retain water longer.



Setting your mower blades higher helps to promote deeper roots so that your lawn can survive with less water.



Turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth, lathering your hands, or shaving, and take short showers.



Regularly check all water fixtures for leaks and take action quickly to fix them.



Water-efficient showerheads, faucet aerators, toilets, and appliances can help you save water without even thinking about it.



Sign up for our My Water Usage Customer Portal. Be sure to sign up for Alerts so that you will be notified if you have abnormal usage or a leak.

- Monitor your water usage by creating an account through our customer portal at
 https:/bit.ly/mywaterusage or go to our website www.srwd.org and click on the Be In The
 Know Monitor Your H2O My Water Usage Customer Portal logo.
- To sign up all you need is your account number and your service address <u>exactly</u> as it appears on your paper bill or on your Xpress Bill Pay account.
- If you already have a My Water Usage Customer Portal account make sure you have a daily usage alert set up. This will help you as a customer conserve water & also help catch leaks.
- Give us a call and we will be happy to assist you in signing up and setting up alerts.