

Pathfinder Irrigation District would like to provide its users with an important and urgent update regarding the 2026 water season.

The District is experiencing extremely high water losses throughout the entire canal and lateral system. These losses are significantly greater than anticipated and, in some areas, are among the worst the District has experienced.

Despite the efforts of District employees to improve efficiency and reduce losses, we are using water at a much faster rate than projected. At the current rate of water loss and usage, the District is projected to run out of available water during the first week of August.

We want our users to understand the seriousness of the situation. If conditions do not improve, the 2026 water season will be significantly shorter than originally anticipated.

The District remains hopeful that the upcoming silt run will help seal portions of the canal system and reduce water losses. However, there is no guarantee how much improvement the silt run will provide. We cannot rely on the silt run alone to solve the water loss issues we are currently experiencing.

The Low Line Canal has recently been turned on. Because the Low Line Canal receives its water from Lake Minatare, it will still run the same number of days as the interstate canal ran. Since the Low Line started approximately one week later than the rest of the District's system, its water delivery season will extend beyond the first week of August.

The severe drought conditions throughout the region have created extremely difficult operating conditions for irrigation districts. These dry conditions are causing excessive seepage and water losses throughout canal systems, and many irrigation districts are facing similar challenges.

The District is also struggling to get water to the ends of several laterals. This is a serious concern. Our responsibility is to manage the limited water supply as fairly as possible and ensure that every user has the opportunity to receive the water available to them this season.

If we continue to struggle to reach users at the ends of the laterals, the District may be required to reduce deliveries to 0.80 CFS per 80 acres. This would be necessary to improve our ability to move water throughout the system and provide the fairest possible distribution of the limited water supply.

We strongly encourage all users to use their water as efficiently as possible and to work closely with their ditchriders. Every effort to reduce unnecessary water loss will help the District extend the season and provide water to as many users as possible.

The District's employees will continue working diligently to reduce losses, improve delivery efficiency, and extend the water season for as long as possible. However, we want to be clear with our users: unless water losses improve, the District is currently projected to run out of available water during the first week of August.

This has been an extremely difficult season for our users and our employees. We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to manage these unprecedented conditions.

We will continue to keep our users informed as conditions change and more information becomes available.