

Understanding Total Allocation vs. Delivery Allocation

There are two important concepts to understand when talking about irrigation water: **total allocation** and **delivery allocation (or delivery limit)**.

Total Allocation

When the district announces an initial allocation based on Bureau forecasts, this refers to the *total amount of water a user is allowed per acre for the entire season that has been forecasted*.

- In a normal year with no restrictions, the allocation is typically **3 acre-feet per acre** or **36 inches of moisture**.
- However, most users don't actually apply that much. On average, a user in an unrestricted year applies around **1.8 acre-feet per acre** or 20 inches of moisture.

This year, due to severe drought, the forecasted allocation for PID is **0.60 acre-feet per acre** or 7.2 inches of moisture.

To calculate your total water for the season:

- Multiply the allocation by your irrigated acres.
- Example:
 - $80 \text{ acres} \times 0.60 = \mathbf{48 \text{ acre-feet total allocation}}$

Water Use at the Weir (Flow Rate)

Water delivered over a weir is measured in **cubic feet per second (CFS)**, typically calculated in **12-hour increments**.

- 1 CFS for 12 hours = 1 acre-foot
- So, 1 CFS running continuously for 24 hours (two 12-hour periods) = **2 acre-feet per day**

Using the same 80-acre example:

- Example 1:
 - Total allocation = 48 acre-feet
 - Daily use at 1 CFS = 2 acre-feet per day
 - $48 \div 2 = \mathbf{24 \text{ days of water}}$
- Example 2:
 - Total allocation = 48 acre feet
 - Daily use at .90 CFS = 1.8 acre-feet per day
 - $48 \div 1.8 = \mathbf{26.7 \text{ Days of water}}$

The flow rate the user chooses will determine how many days of water he or she will have.

Delivery Allocation (Delivery Limit)

Delivery allocation is *not* the total amount of water you get. Instead, it's the **rate at which you are allowed to take water during delivery**.

- In a normal year, the delivery limit is usually **1 CFS per 80 acres**.
- In drier years, the district may reduce this rate—for example, to **0.90 CFS per 80 acres**—to stretch the water supply and deliver water over a longer period.

This should not be confused with total allocation:

- **Total allocation** = how much water you get for the entire season
- **Delivery allocation (limit)** = how fast you can take that water at any given time

This Year's Expectation

Due to drought conditions, the district will likely begin with a delivery limit of **0.90 CFS per 80 acres**, aiming to maintain that level and avoid further reductions if possible.

FORECASTED ALLOCATION

— 3.0 — Normal year
3 acre ft per acre

— 1.8 — Average use
1.8 acre ft per acre

— 0.60 — 2026 ALLOCATION
0.60 acre ft per acre

ALLOCATION
LIMIT
(DELIVERY LIMIT)

IRRIGATION
THE LIFE BLOOD
OF THE PANHANDLE



YOUR USE DETERMINES YOUR DAYS

The **rate** at which you use your water will determine how many **days** you have before you use up your allocated amount.



USE LESS
WATER
= **MORE DAYS**



USE MORE
WATER
= **FEWER DAYS**

.90 CFS
per 80 acres

