

MIDWAY IRRIGATION COMPANY

QUESTION: What is the current status of Midway Irrigation Company's ("MIC") water sources?

ANSWER: MIC has three primary water sources: the Provo River, Snake Creek, and natural springs within its service area (Mahogany and Epperson). All of these sources are affected by snow fall each winter.

Snowfall last winter was dismal. The thirty-year average for MIC's sources, measured in inches, is normally 24 inches of precipitation by June 15. Year to date we are at 13 inches of precipitation, which is two inches lower than our worst year since 1991. In other words, this is the worst water year in the past 30 years by a considerable margin.

The majority of this precipitation comes through snow. This snow serves two purposes: 1) surface flow (during spring run-off) that provides water in our rivers and fills up our reservoirs; and 2) subsurface recharge of our aquifers (that affects the flow of natural springs and availability of water in our wells).

With low snow fall for several consecutive years most of the snow melted early and went directly into the ground, meaning there was very little spring run-off. The storage in our reservoirs, when normally increasing with spring run-off, has actually been going down for the past several weeks. This will cause a reduction in river flows earlier in the season, meaning that MIC will be cut back (along with all other users on the Provo), on what it is being allowed to divert.

Current numbers are less than encouraging:

There is 0% snowpack left in any of the mountains (normal years we have snow pack through June and sometimes into July).

Storage capacity in Jordanelle and Deer Creek is already at 88% of normal with the season just beginning.

Soil Moisture is already down to 88% of normal (meaning any rain we get will go into the ground and will not equate to run-off for our rivers and reservoirs).

Soil Temperature (due to the recent heat wave) is at 109% of normal (meaning it takes more water to keep it green).

MIC's proprietary sources (Gerber Spring, Mahogany Spring and Snake Creek) are all down approximately 15% to 20% already, with expectations they will go down further.

MIC is normally allowed to divert its full share of its Provo River first class rights through the second and third week of July. Expectations are that MIC will be allowed its full portion of its first class rights through the end of June, with reductions from there. By August MIC could be restricted anywhere from 30% to 50% of its normal flow.

With these cut-backs rationing is now a requirement.

QUESTION: How does this drought effect MIC's capacity to deliver water?

ANSWER: MIC's system is based on pressure that is created from storage ponds strategically located throughout its service area. Each of these storage ponds are filled from different sources. Depending on the source, with lower flows than normal, these ponds cannot refill fast enough to meet the needs of the users in the system. For example, it is not uncommon in good years for some ponds to be drained dry during the night hours when most are watering their lawns.

Lower flows means longer times to fill the ponds so they can pressurize the system. By putting people on turns it allows for the ponds to refill at a rate that will hopefully exceed usage, keeping the system pressurized. With some cooperation and management, we should be able to keep the ponds at levels that maintain service for those within the system until additional cut-backs are imposed by the Provo River Commissioner.

QUESTION: What is MIC's proposal to manage the water in the system?

ANSWER: The Company has six primary areas within its system that are serviced by different sources. The attached map shows the location of each area, and the attached schedule are the limitations on users within each zone.

QUESTION: Are the farmers being asked to restrict as well?

ANSWER: Yes. MIC has put the farmers on turns and are coordinating their use with lawn users in an attempt to keep the ponds at sufficient levels to provide the pressure needed for the system.

QUESTION: What if my system has no pressure? What should I do?

ANSWER: The most likely culprit of low pressure is that users on your system are using the water faster than the ponds can refill. This problem will not be unique to you and will not have a simple fix. If pressure is a problem, try different times within your allotted days, to see if there is a time when fewer users on your system are irrigating, meaning the ponds have had a chance to replenish. Understand that this problem will be universal to all in your area, and that MIC employees will likely not be able to do anything to improve the situation. Be patient and understand that the system is not going to run in a way you are used to. Please voice your words of frustration to the clouds (for failing to deliver needed snow this season) and not MIC employees.

QUESTION: If I have the option of putting in my lawn this summer or next, what should I do?

ANSWER: Given the current water situation, MIC cannot guarantee delivery of sufficient water to keep new landscaping alive. If you have the option, it would be wiser to postpone the installation of new landscaping until next year when the water situation will hopefully improve.

QUESTION: Is "too much development" the cause of the water shortage?

ANSWER: No. It is important to understand the difference between the right to use water and historical fluctuations of water source. For example, each subdivision in Midway was once an open field that required irrigation to maintain crops. The amount of water needed for one acre of alfalfa is approximately the same amount of water needed for one acre of development. So regardless of

whether land is left open and irrigated alfalfa or developed and put in as a subdivision, the water requirements are the same. So the problem is not created due to development because development does not increase or decrease the amount of water rights in the area – it just alters the way the water is being used. A water shortage is caused by historical fluctuations in source, such as a year like the one we are having, where annual precipitation is abnormally low. In this case, all water rights in the area, regardless of whether they are associated with open fields or development, have to share in the loss of source. So rationing becomes a requirement, applied evenly across all users in the system.

QUESTION: What is the worst case scenario for this summer?

ANSWER: MIC is currently proposing a restriction on lawn watering to three days a week. As the summer progresses we may need to restrict further, limiting additional days, and may need to terminate service earlier in the season than normal if water is not available. There may not be enough water to keep your lawns green for the entire season. With that said, we do not foresee a situation wherein you won't be able to water trees, and other sensitive plants sufficiently to allow them to survive the season.

QUESTION: Are the irrigation sources and the culinary sources the same, and if so, is our culinary water at risk?

ANSWER: No. Midway City's culinary system is separate from MIC's irrigation system. The primary sources of culinary water in the City are the Mahogany and Epperson Spring and the Alpenhoff Well. Even though the Mahogany and Gerber Springs are down approximately 20%, the City can make up the difference by pumping from the Alpenhoff Well, meaning there is no concern as of yet that the culinary system will have any problems or shortages. With that said, for the culinary system to run appropriately, it can only provide culinary service to its customers. Property owners cannot hook irrigation sprinklers to their culinary bibs on their homes and water their lawns to get around the restrictions on the irrigation system. It is far more important for homeowners to have drinking water and a way to flush their toilet, than to maintain a green lawn in a drought. In an emergency situation, culinary use will always supersede irrigation use.

QUESTION: If I have other questions, who do I call?

ANSWER: Given the management needs of the system, MIC employees will be occupied during the day managing the system. As such, all questions need to be submitted to mikekohler2009@gmail.com in writing. Mike will do his best to respond to your questions in a timely manner, and as his schedule allows, given the unusual demands of the system this summer.