



# GM Newsletter

June 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

*Water For Life*

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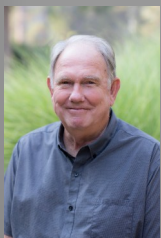
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## Message from the General Manager

The summer irrigation season is just beginning, yet treated water use through May was about nine percent above our long-term average. That trend is concerning.

Fortunately, water supplies remain strong thanks to another good water year. But healthy reservoirs should not be mistaken for a reason to abandon conservation.

Every gallon that is pumped, treated, and delivered requires infrastructure, energy, and investment. Using water efficiently helps control costs, reduces strain on our system during peak demand, and preserves flexibility for whatever conditions the future may bring.

As temperatures climb, NID encourages all customers to take a fresh look at their outdoor watering habits.

Simple steps such as watering during cooler hours, checking irrigation systems for leaks, and applying mulch can significantly reduce water use without sacrificing healthy landscapes.

Conservation is not just a drought response. It is good stewardship of a resource that benefits our entire community. Together, we can ensure water is used wisely throughout the summer and beyond.

### Fire restrictions begin at NID foothill campgrounds

To keep campgrounds safe during hot, dry conditions, fire restrictions will go into effect Monday, June 22.

Wood and charcoal fires, including in fire rings and BBQ grills, will not be allowed in Rollins and Scotts Flat campgrounds.

Propane devices will still be permitted.

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# Water conservation still matters, even in a good water year



Summer temperatures are arriving, and outdoor watering is already driving water use higher across the NID service area.

Through May, treated water use was approximately nine percent above the District's 12-year average as customers increased landscape irrigation with the warmer weather.

While NID's water supplies remain strong, with reservoirs at 98 percent of capacity and 108 percent of the 12-year average as of June 10, the District is encouraging customers to make efficient water use part of their summer routine.

Even in years with healthy water supplies, conservation remains important.

Efficient water use helps stretch available supplies, reduces pressure on treatment and delivery systems, and ensures water is available when demand peaks during the hottest days of summer. Small actions taken by thousands of customers can make a significant difference.

NID encourages customers to water landscapes during the cooler morning or evening hours, check irrigation systems for leaks, install water-efficient fixtures, and consider replacing high-water-use lawns with water-wise land-

scaping. Applying mulch around plants and trees can also help reduce evaporation and keep soil moist longer.

Conservation is important every year, not just during droughts. As temperatures continue to rise, NID asks customers to use water wisely and help ensure every drop counts throughout the summer season.

## Mulch rebate helps customers save water and protect landscapes

As summer temperatures arrive, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) customers can improve the health of their landscapes while reducing water use by applying mulch.

Mulch acts as a protective layer over soil. It helps retain moisture, reduce evaporation, suppress weeds, and protect plant roots from extreme heat. By keeping water in the ground longer, mulch allows gardeners to water less frequently while helping plants stay healthy during the hottest months of the year.

June is an ideal time to apply mulch. A 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch helps lock in moisture before peak summer heat, shields soil from direct sunlight, and keeps root zones cooler during heat waves.

To encourage water-efficient landscaping, NID offers a Mulch Rebate Program providing customers up to \$50 toward the purchase of mulch from the vendor of their choice. The rebate is credited directly to the customer's water account.

The program is one of several conservation incentives available through NID, including rebates for high-efficiency toilets, raw water storage tanks, and turf-removal projects that replace traditional lawns with water-wise landscaping.

For more information about the Mulch Rebate Program, including voucher availability, contact Water Efficiency Technician Kaycee Margherita at 530-273-6185 ext. 1244 or [margheritak@nidwater.com](mailto:margheritak@nidwater.com).



## Pack it in; pack it out: keep Bowman clean and safe



**Bowman Reservoir**

A recent discovery at Bowman Reservoir serves as a reminder that enjoying the outdoors comes with responsibilities.

Visitors at a dispersed camping area stuffed bags of household garbage into a vault toilet, rendering the facility nearly unusable and creating an unpleasant cleanup for NID recreation personnel.

Unfortunately, the incident is part of a growing problem. NID staff regularly encounter litter, abandoned campfires, and other impacts from irresponsible recreation throughout the Bowman Reservoir area.

Unlike developed campgrounds, dispersed camping areas near Bowman, Sawmill, and Faucherie reservoirs do not have campground hosts, janitorial services, or trash collection. Visitors are responsible for taking home everything they bring with them.

"Dispersed camping comes with added responsibility," said Monica Reyes, NID Director of Recreation. "When trash is left behind or dumped in toilets, it doesn't disappear. Someone has to clean it up, and it affects the experience of future visitors."

Trash can also attract bears and other wildlife, increasing the risk of dangerous encounters. Another concern is abandoned campfires. Even a small ember left behind can spark a wildfire in the dry Sierra forests. As summer recreation season continues, NID reminds visitors to do their part: pack out trash, respect wildlife, fully extinguish campfires, and leave campsites better than they found them.

The rule is simple: Pack it in. Pack it out.

## Be fire smart: campground restrictions begin June 22

As summer temperatures rise and more people head outdoors, NID reminds visitors that campfire safety is critical throughout the recreation season.

To keep campgrounds safe during hot, dry conditions, fire restrictions will go into effect **Monday, June 22**. Wood and charcoal fires will no longer be allowed in NID campgrounds, including in fire rings and BBQ grills.

Propane devices will still be permitted; however, visitors are asked to keep flames low and always use caution.

Increased recreation combined with dry conditions means even a small spark can lead to dangerous wildfire conditions. Visitors should remain alert, follow all posted restrictions, and never leave any flame unattended.

Before leaving any site, ensure all permitted fire devices are fully extinguished and cooled. One careless decision can have lasting consequences for forests, wildlife, water supplies, and surrounding communities. Please be safe, be responsible, and help protect our watershed.

Campgrounds affected:

- \* Scotts Flat Campground (near Nevada City)
- \* Orchard Springs Campground (Rollins Lake)
- \* Long Ravine Campground (Rollins Lake)
- \* Peninsula Campground (Rollins Lake)
- \* Greenhorn Campground (Rollins Lake)



# 105 Year Forward: the story continues

Nevada Irrigation District's 105 Years Forward campaign is bringing local history to life one story at a time.

Since launching this spring, the campaign has featured Gold Rush dreamers, dam builders, snow survey pioneers, and the employees who keep water flowing today. Through historic photos, videos, employee profiles, and Myth vs. Fact features, customers are discovering how a century-old vision grew into the water system that serves our communities today.

But this isn't just a look back.

The campaign's theme, *Built on History. Focused on the Future.*, highlights NID's ongoing work to maintain infrastructure, protect watersheds, generate clean hydropower, and deliver reliable water for generations to come.

New stories are released every week throughout the summer, with more history, behind-the-scenes insights, and fascinating characters.

After 105 years, the story isn't over; it's still being written. [Check out the website hub](#)



## What do a Gold Rush dream, a "Mad Russian," and your tap water have in common?

They're all part of NID's 105 Years Forward story.

Visit the campaign hub to explore historic photos, watch videos, meet employees, uncover surprising water facts, and discover the people and projects behind the water you rely on every day.

[Dive into 105 years of history and see what's next.](#)



Constructed in 1854 to serve Gold Rush communities, the South Yuba Canal remains NID's primary water delivery conduit today, connecting the region's past to its future.

# Bowman Reservoir

NID has been keeping precipitation records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

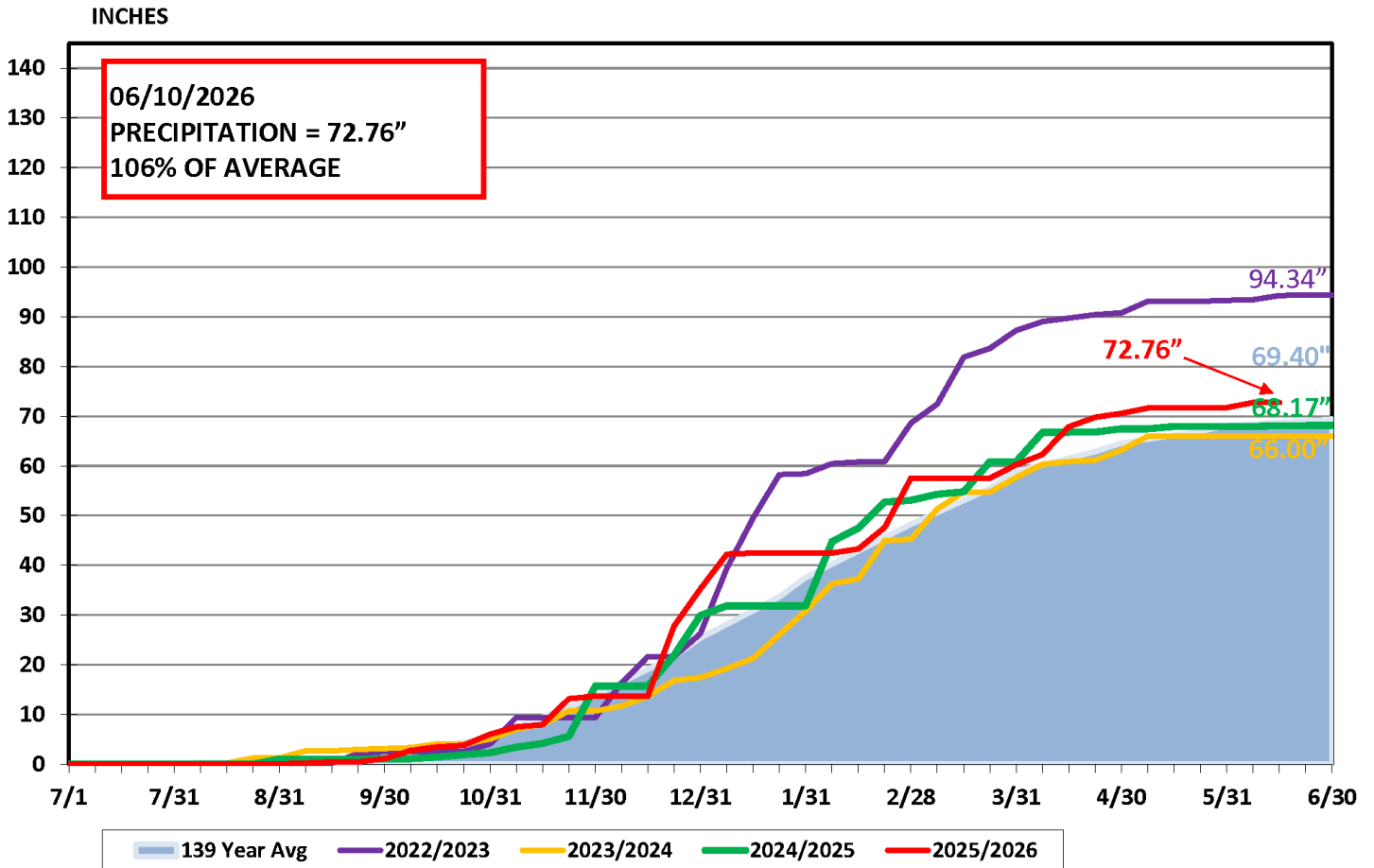
The 69.2-inch annual average of rain and snow at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

As of June 10, the reservoir was at 106 percent of its average precipitation.



Bowman Reservoir

## BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



# NID's total reservoir storage is 98% of capacity

Total NID reservoir storage is 263,500 acre-feet as of June 10, 2026. That is 98 percent of capacity and 108 percent of a 12-year average.

Reservoirs in this measurement include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.

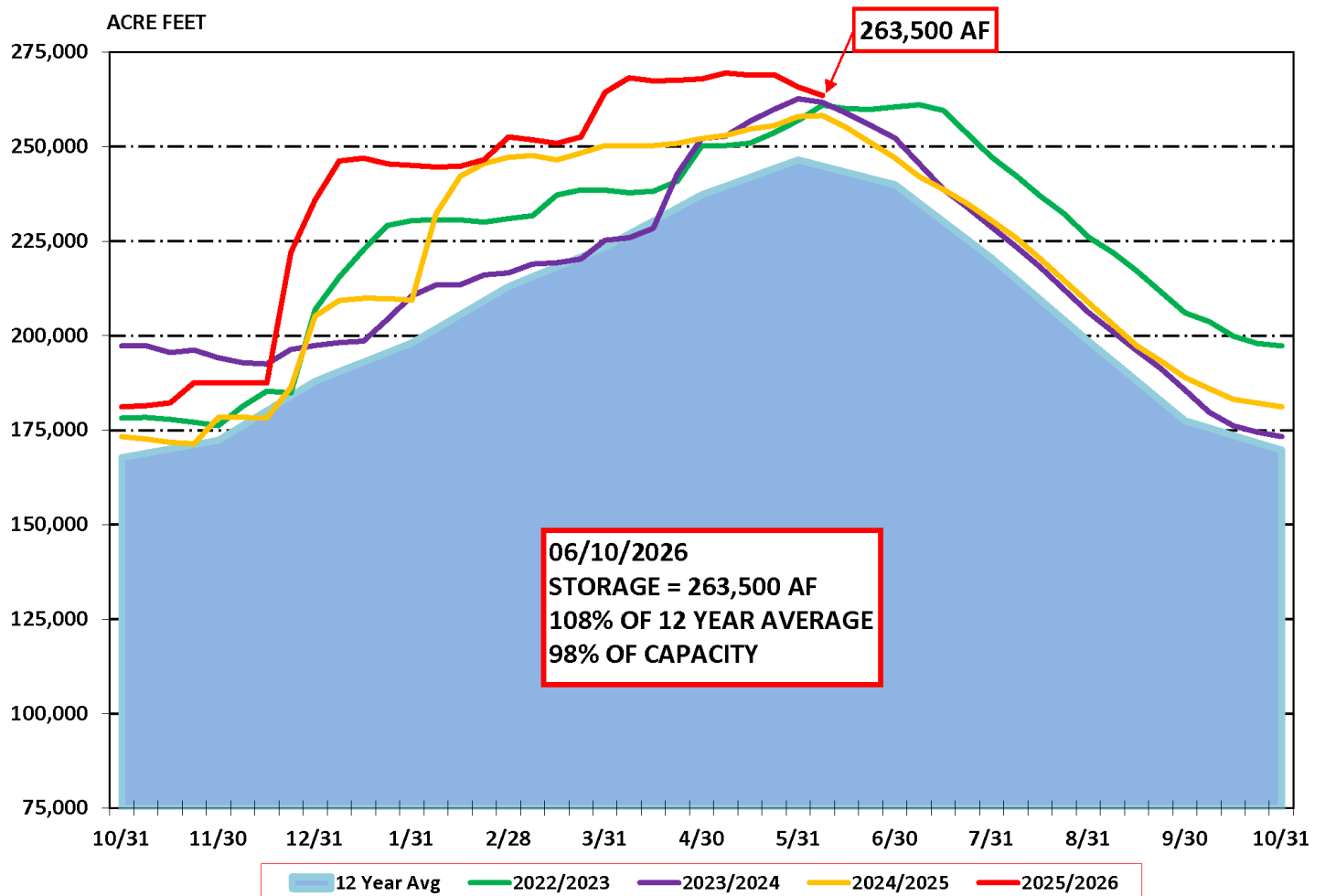


French Lake

NID's water managers regularly post updates of reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

It's all just a click away on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).

## NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



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## Meetings & Events



### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

*\*\* Dates and times subject to change. Please check [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com) for updates*

