

Grace Bennett 4/9/14

Beneficial uses of Water   Domestic   Irrigation   Fish and Wildlife

Montague's water supply   Montague Irrigation District.   Lake Shastina, which has a capacity of about 50,000 acre-feet, is currently drawn down to a little over 8,000 acre-feet and more than 3,000 acre-feet of that amount are reserved for environmental purposes. Farmers or ranchers will be receiving very little if any water for irrigation purposes, they are giving their allotted water to the City of Montague. It is predicted that the City of Montague 1,500 people will be without water by July  
There will be no outdoor watering in the City of Montague this year.

Work accomplished on the Shasta and Scott Rivers   Structure of the Shasta Valley is very different being of a volcanic nature.

1. Shasta Valley RCD 1,500 projects
2. Scott River Valley RCD 1,200
3. Siskiyou County Road Dept. 62 Projects
4. Logging practices Changed Very little loggings happening now  
This work ranges from fencing off streams to taking out Weir dams replacing them with pumping stations   replacing culverts with bridges. And much more
5. Working with the University of California Farm Advisors to improve Farming practices to conserve water and still raise valuable crops and cattle
6. Farmers and Ranchers are selling their stock and not planting their usual crops.  
These same farmers and ranchers in times of water needs for fish have voluntary cut their water use and let it go down the streams to help Fish survive.

New work being done

1. Ground water studies
2. Holding ponds in Wilderness areas to benefit the Scott River Summer flows.
3. A study on how Mediterranean climate effects water usage.
4. How timber harvests affects water quantities.
  - a. Example Juniper harvesting on the Hart Ranch in the Shasta Valley   Springs and meadows came back after the removal of many many Juniper trees. It amazes me how much water is drained from the ground to support a living, growing forest.
5. How improving forest health and harvest will release more water for streams.

Siskiyou County supports the Staffs' decision to not propose listing the Scott and Shasta Rivers based on low flows. Flows, including those for fish and wildlife, need to be addressed through the water rights process.

Turnip   you can't get water from a turnip   Siskiyou County is the turnip and there is no more water for any one. God has chosen to send us very little this year and we all have to make do with what we have and use it wisely, Until God and Mother Nature send us more.