

Shasta View irrigators near Malin get no surface water

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LUKE ROBISON, district manager Shasta View Irrigation District

Sixty-two landowners in the Shasta View Irrigation District near Malin will have to do without Upper Klamath Lake surface water this year. The 4,636-acre district is voluntarily participating in a land idling program that will pay some landowners up to \$220 per acre.

District manager Luke Robison said many fields and farmlands are going dry as a result.

“Lands that do not have access to groundwater will have basically no production this year,” he said.

A similar scenario unfolded in the district during the 2001 drought, but some surface water was diverted to the area. This year likely will be worse, Robison said, and he expects 2010 to be among the driest growing seasons on record.

“With basically no surface water to deliver to any of our landowners, a lot of crops will not receive surface irrigation,” he said.

In a normal season, the district would be entering its third month of irrigation. Instead, there is no water, and the impact of the shortage is apparent.

“The un-irrigated crops are not doing well,” Robison said.

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