



WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

WATER START-UP

We are cleaning the canal and laterals now, replacing panels and have a lot of repairs in front of us. The week of March 5, we plan to start burning and preparing the canal for its start-up.

Please close your valves and have your system ready by March 12.

Our target dates for water start-up this year are:

March 15—Upper canal
March 22—Boardman

If weather turns cold or very rainy, start-up may be delayed.

Irrigon System & Pump Stations: Plan for start-up on or about April 3. If things are wet, we'll delay until April 10.

Please close your valves by April 1.



2018 IRRIGATION SEASON OUTLOOK

Manager Bev Bridgewater

Things are looking pretty dry as I write this in mid-January. We are planning for our normal start-up, which we initiate on or about March 15 in the main canal and April 1 for the pressurized systems.

During the season, the crews don't just run water, but need to maintain the system including rights-of-way. We had a lot of weed problems along our rights-of-way and inside the canal prism during the 2017 irrigation season. We are prepared to get ahead of the weeds for 2018. We'll start our spray program in February. It will continue throughout the season. You will see increased activity from previous years regarding spraying in all areas of the District.

Along the main canal and Boardman laterals, many of you have built fences that limit District access. It is your job to maintain the right-of-way along your property in these cases. We have all gotten lax about this. For 2018, let's get back on track.. We will spray what we can and expect encroaching landowners to do their share. If you do not want spray along your property, you should put up a sign and take care of the weed situation yourself.

In Irrigon and on pump systems, please keep our pipelines free so we can mow and maintain them. There are several area in Irrigon where obstacles are placed over the District line. Please remove these.

Our crew is starting their second season of working together. It was tough on all of us last year while they learned the who, what, when, where of irrigation. Fortunately, our landowners were very patient and everyone survived.

Here are the main assignments for 2018

Ben de los Santos	Field Supervisor & Watermaster
Alan Svatonsky	Main canal ditchrider & weed control
Frank Villegas	Irrigon DR & system maintenance
Kasey Kroske	Boardman ditchrider & relief DR
Adam Tompkins	Shop, maintenance, relief ditchrider

To report a problem or ask questions of the ditchriders, call:

541-922-3814 (weekdays)
541-314-0005 (after hours and on weekends)
541-922-9375 (water order line)

AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION OFFICIAL NOTICE

West Extension Irrigation District uses the aquatic herbicides ACROLIEN (Magnicide-H), COPPER SULFATE and ENDOTHALL in its main canal to treat pond weed and algae. The District has a NPDES permit from Oregon DEQ that allows it to apply the products.

Each product is applied two to five times during the season, starting in mid-May and continuing to mid-September. A notice of treatment will be posted on the door of the District office and on the WEID website 48 hours prior to each treatment.

If you have dairy animals or are delivering to a public site (schools, parks, mobile home park), you are required to close your delivery point during the treatment times. If you have livestock and are using irrigation water as stock water, you may want to close your delivery during treatment times.

If you would like further information on this notice or the aquatic herbicide products, please contact the District office.

If you would like to be directly notified prior to any application, please contact the District in writing providing a telephone number with an answering machine or an e-mail address. We will contact you 24 hours prior to the canal aquatic herbicide application.

PAYMENTS

Last years payments are now past due.

First half payment due April 1.

Second half payment due July 1.

Account must be current in order to take water. Make sure that your 2017 power bill has been paid.

WEID CONTACTS

OFFICE: 541-922-3814

EMERGENCY:& WEEKENDS:

541-314-0005

E-MAIL: info@westextension.com

WATER ORDER: 541-922-9372

DISTRICT PAYMENT PLANS

The annual bills are in the mail. Many landowners are taking advantage of the payment plans offered by the District. They need to be made with the office and must be in writing prior to **end of March**. If you start later than that, you 'll need to catch up the March payment. Here are the payment plans:

1. **SIX MONTH PLAN:** Six (6) monthly payments, March - August. If your account also has a power bill charged in December, this can be added on to the payment arrangements., if completed by March 31.
2. **TWELVE MONTH PLAN:** Twelve (12) monthly payments, to include annual charges and an estimate of the annual power bill if applicable, available to landowners on a fixed income.

Interest does not accrue on these plans, if payment arrangements are kept.

**PAY YOUR BILL ON TIME OR SIGN UP FOR A PAYMENT PLAN
TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CHARGES!!!**

RRA FORMS NOW DUE

West Extension Irrigation District was built with the assistance of the federal government. The district is under contract to the Bureau of Reclamation for the operation of the irrigation project, and is required to follow federal rules. One of these rules is an annual form that some landowners must file with the District office prior to receiving water. These are called ***RRA Forms***, for Reclamation Reform Act. The Act was passed by Congress to keep track of who is receiving water using their federal facilities.

If you meet any of the criteria listed below, you **MUST** file an RRA form with West Extension Irrigation District and with every district that is a federal project in which you have (OWN, LEASE, RENT, OPERATE, ETC.) land with water rights. Contact the WEID office to get the form. The filing threshold (lowest number of owned water rights) differs for each district, so if you hold land in more than one district you should contact each one individually. Also, if your status changes during the season (you sell, buy, lease or operate additional land), you must notify the District and file a new form within 30 days.

Here is the disclaimer that the District is required to state, "Improperly filed forms or forms not filed can lead to administrative fees charged to the landowner by the Bureau of Reclamation."

In West Extension Irrigation District, the thresholds for RRA in year 2018 are:

Qualified Recipient

Individuals	240 acres
Entities with 25 or less natural persons	240 acres

Limited Recipient

Entities with 26 or more natural persons	40 acres
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Public Entities

40 acres

Landowners who lease from a Public Entity must report the leased land as if it is owned. Leased land is added into your total acres for determination of filing status.

Trusts / Estates

Benefiting 25 or less natural persons	240 acres
Benefiting 26 or more natural persons	40 acres

All trusts must be approved by Reclamation, regardless of the size of their landholding. Please contact the office if your property is held in a trust and you have not already submitted a copy of your trust documents.

Farm Operators

960 acres

If you feel you are in this category, or if you are a landowner who contracts with someone who might be considered a Farm Operator, please check with the office to verify the status of the forms requirements.

Indirect Landholders (partners / stockholders / part-owners in entities)

Your filing status is dependent on several things. Please contact the office.

For any questions, please contact Lisa at WEID office .

541-922-3814 or lisa@westextension.com