

IRRIGATION WATER START-UP

Main Canal—March 13
Boardman—March 16
Irrigon & Pump Stations
April 1—7

CANAL IRRIGATORS:
Please have all your headgate and screen work complete by Friday, March 13.

IRRIGON PRESSURIZED WATER: Watch reader board at AC Houghton as date gets closer. Please close any open valves by March 30.

Start-up is dependent on weather and canal conditions. Listed above is our target date, so you can have your system ready. We will be ready to start that date as well, barring any problems and weather. If we don't start then, we will start as soon as we can after that date.

GENERAL MEETING:
Wednesday, March 11
2:00 pm and 6:30 pm

Irrigon Community Center—Columbia Lane

Q & A time on all district issues including rate increase, conservation efforts, piping laterals, and drought planning.

PLEASE ATTEND!

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT 2015 NEWSLETTER

February 2015

THREE MILE FALLS DAM CELEBRATION—2014

Here are some pictures from the 100th anniversary celebration of the Three Mile Falls Dam last May.



Above is a picture of the hallmark on a corner of the dam. Below from top right, clockwise— Mike Richards, CTUIR, handling one of the salmon returning to the river; Dave Nevin and Lisa Baum standing below the Dam; Guest speaker Steven Jarsky, Bureau of Reclamation; Phil Ward, Water Resources Department Director and Vern Frederickson unveiling the commemorative plaque.

We plan to have an open house this spring, so watch for info on our website or local papers.



RRA FORMS:

Because the West Extension Irrigation District is a federal irrigation project, patrons need to abide by the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA). If you meet any of the criteria listed below, you are required to file an RRA form with West Extension Irrigation District and in every other district that is a federal project in which you have (OWN, LEASE, RENT, OPERATE, ETC.) land with water rights. These filings are done annually and must be completed before you can take water. 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. Please contact Lisa at the West Extension Irrigation District office if you fit the criteria and/or need more information.

2015 Filing Thresholds

Qualified Recipient—240 acres: Individuals, families, entities which benefit 25 persons or less

Limited Recipient - Benefits more than 25 people; 0 acre threshold

Public entities - 40 acres

Trusts (less than 25 persons) - 240 acres ***Trusts (more than 25 persons)*** - 40 acres

First half payment due April 1.

Second half payment due July 1.

Account must be current in order to take water.



Crew: (from left) Ray Akers, Carlos Carranza, Walt Steagall, Derek Harrington

Welcome to our new crew members, Derek Harrington and Carlos Carranza. They just started their career here at WEID and are already digging in and helping to get the canal and Irrigon system ready for water.

Carlos and Derek both live in the District, but it is much different living here than managing water and assisting patrons here. So, they will appreciate your patience as they learn who you are and where you are.

Welcome Derek and Carlos!

Time to Get Your Delivery System Ready...

Water is almost here and we are all anticipating its startup. You have just a few weeks to clean your delivery area and to check your screens, filters, meters, boxes, etc. We plan an early start-up this year, so if the downtime seems shorter, it is.

For those of you who were notified about needing fence gates for the crew to access and read your meter, please be sure that is done or contact the office to let us know when it will be done. SAFETY is important to us. We don't want our crews having to manage your fences, cows, dogs and goats in order to do their job. I am sure you don't want that liability either.



APPLICATION OFFICIAL NOTICE

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

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 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 headgate during the treatment times. If you have livestock and are using irrigation water as stock water, you may want to close your headgate during treatment times.

If you would like further information on this notice or the aquatic herbicide products, please contact the District office at 541-922-3814.

If you would like to be 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 application. Send request to info@WestExtension.com.

**GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2015
2 pm & 6:30 pm**

IRRIGON PIPE PROJECT And more....

This past fall/winter, has been a busy pipe-laying time for District crews. The Irrigon mainline from south of Washington Street to Highway 730 consisted of 2500 feet of 24-inch PVC pipe replacing an old steel line. At a cost of \$195,000, this is the largest pipe project we've done for quite some time. There are now just a few areas on the Irrigon system that have steel pipe. The pictures below show the ditch ready for pipe and the pipe when it arrived.

A couple of laterals had pipe replaced in the Umatilla/Irrigon area—1100 feet of pipe. The Knapp Street project was completed in the fall providing new service for folks that had been on the waiting list for water a very long time. We piped the south 1000 feet of the concrete line (RL1) extending south of 13th St in Irrigon to the Relocation Canal. This last one is a water savings benefit to us.

Our crew was stellar in this work. Big thanks to one of our patrons, Abe McNamee. His helping hands and excavator were critical to getting all this work completed before start-up.



Keeping it Brief

PAYMENT PLANS:

The District offers six month standard payment plans and twelve months for those on a fixed income. The arrangements need to be made with the office prior to March 31. Contact Lisa at the District office for more information—541-922-3814 or Lisa@WestExtension.com.

WATER SCHEDULES:

Schedules will continue as they were at the end of last season. If you have forgotten your irrigation days, or need to make a change, please contact the office to make the request. For flood irrigators, we will start with Schedule A the week of March 23.

HEADGATE TAGS:

Irrigators off the main canal must have a tag on the headgate when they are irrigating. If you have misplaced it or need a new one, contact Lisa at the District office. 922-3814. Remember, that you are asked to place the tag ON whenever you are taking water from the headgate and OFF when you are finished. You will adjust the water in the ditch each time.

WATER ORDERING:

Flood irrigators and landowners with 20 acres or more are required to use the call-in number to order water and to let the District know your schedule. Calls must reach the office by 2 p.m. the day before making the change in order for the ditchrider to make necessary adjustments on the main canal. Providing the office a written schedule of your irrigation will meet the requirement. Flood irrigators need to report when you start for the season and anytime you will not take water. We will assume you will take water on your schedule once you start.

WASTING WATER:

Practices such as letting your water run too long in one place, sprinkling the road or neighbor's property and not maintaining your system (blown risers, leaks) are considered a waste of water. Please pay attention to your system as your neighbors certainly are.

NOZZLE EXCHANGE:

The District's nozzle exchange program is ready for you. We have 1/8-inch nozzles for exchange. Simply bring in your old, worn-out nozzles and take the new ones home with you at not cost. We all conserve water this way.

WEID WEBSITE:

We are still under construction, but plan to have things up by the end of February. Keep checking at www.WestExtension.com. Once up, we will post start-up, outages, newsletters, Board minutes and reports, special events and so forth.

DISTRICT CREW AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WATER ORDER LINE

24 hours per day— 922-9372

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

During the weekday— 922-3814

After hours/weekends—314-0005

GENERAL MEETING—MARCH 11 AT IRRIGON COMMUNITY CENTER—2:00 pm and 6:30 pm.