



WATER START-UP

At the time of this writing, there is a lot of work to do before start-up. We are giving broad estimated dates. And, as usual, start-up is dependent on weather events as well as workload. Please check the WEID website for up-to-date information on the water start-up.

Westextension.com

MAIN CANAL:

Please close your valves and have your system ready by March 13.

Our target for water start-up on the main canal is between Wednesday, March 16--23. It takes 3 days to flush, check-up and start the upper canal. We will follow into Boardman as soon as we can.

Irrigon System & Pump Stations: We have targeted April 6—13 as the start-up day for the Irrigon system and pump stations throughout the District. It takes 3-4 days to get all the systems started. **Please close your valves by April 3.**

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE
WEBSITE FOR
CURRENT INFO**



WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT NEWS

RATE INCREASE: You all know the current economic situation: costs are rising and basically unknown from month to month. We are all concerned. The District is struggling as well. The Board deliberated at length about costs and rate structure. They cut some labor from the budget, held some planned purchases and trimmed as best they could. With all that, rates were increased 5% for 2022.

BOARDMAN PIPING PROJECTS: The crew will finish Lateral 15 piping & pump station for this season. The Lateral 17 piping project is delayed until the 2023-2024 fall/winter.

METERS: The District has been working towards a fully metered or measured system since 2002. Meters are a good management tool for the landowner, assures irrigation within the parameters of the District/State, and helps detect leaks on the system. All landowners over 20 acres are metered with 15-acre parcels expected to be metered in 2023; all landowners above 5.0 acres in Irrigon are metered; all subdivisions are metered. Metering is required as development or overuse occurs. Over 380 meters have been installed so far. At a recent meeting in Irrigon, landowners were very interested in fully metering the Irrigon system. The District will look for grant funds to assist with the cost of these meters to the landowners. Landowners wishing to purchase and install meters on their own, please call the office for specifics.

READING YOUR METER: Starting with the 2022 irrigation season, those folks having meters are asked to send the meter reading to the office monthly, starting May 1. This will avoid a \$25 monthly cost charged by the District to read the meter. Sometime between the 25th and 10th of each month will be ideal. If you can find a constant time, you will have a good record of your monthly water use.

The reading should be sent exactly how it shows; please include ALL numbers, even fixed ones. You will get a postcard in the mail that can help track your reading. The reading can be called in, texted or e-mailed. Taking a picture of it and sending that in works just great.

Call in to 541-922-3814

Text to 541-314-0005

E-mail to lisa@westextension.com

The District website has more information about meters.

DROUGHT: All indications show that the drought will continue in Eastern Oregon. Reservoirs are at 42% full; streamflow is at 50%; dry conditions continue. All irrigators are asked to use irrigation conservation practices. This site has information on Oregon conditions: https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/wr/wr_drought/current_updates.aspx. Then, click on Bi-Weekly Drought Updates.

AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION OFFICIAL NOTICE

West Extension Irrigation District uses the aquatic herbicides ACROLIEN (Magnicide-H), COPPER SULFATE, ARGOS (Chelated copper) 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 24 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 office 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.

PAYMENT DUE DATES

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 2021 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

METER TEXTS: 541-314-0005

TAKING CARE OF THE PIPELINES AND DITCHES ON YOUR PROPERTY

In many cases throughout the District, there are private pipelines and ditches (laterals) that transect your property. Some are used by you and some are used by others. Some have a written easement and some don't (called prescriptive easement). In all cases, the owner of the property is responsible to take care of these laterals unless there is a written agreement or other arrangement. This means cleaning out the ditch, weeding, spraying as needed, and keeping debris out of ditch. If it is a pipeline, keep an eye for breaks and maintenance issues. If they occur on your property, you are responsible to fix it (other than routine wear). In many instances, it makes sense to protect all parties and write up an agreement that outlines access, repair, and maintenance responsibilities.

If you have a flood ditch on your property, please be sure to clean it and apply herbicides (if that is your choice) before the water season and again during the water season. Obstructions that are placed or blow in should be removed.

If a drainage ditch runs through your property, you also are responsible to keep it clean to allow water to drain through. Drainage law does not allow you to burden others by stopping flow or diverting to another party.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board meets monthly the 3rd Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District office located at 501 E. Columbia Ave, Boardman .

All meetings are open to public.

For any questions, comments, concerns, or information, please feel absolutely free to contact the District office at:

541-922-3814 or
info@westextension.com
www.westextension.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dalarie Philippi, Chairman
Division 5 Director, Boardman W.

Vern Frederickson, Vice Chair
Division 4 Director, Boardman E.

Bob Mueller, Director Div. 1
Umatilla Area, E. of 15th St.

Abe McNamee, Director Div. 2
South Irrigon Area

Whitney Coffman, Director Div. 3
Irrigon Area

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. 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 2022 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 of 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**

BILLINGS: The annual bill comes out in February of each year with 1st half due April 1 and second half due July 1. The power bill (for those on a District pressurized system) comes out in late fall. If a special assessment is needed, it will come out in the fall or with the power bill.

PAYMENT PLAN: Many landowners use one of the payment plans offered by the District. Interest does not accrue on these accounts, if payment arrangements are kept. If your account also has a power bill, it can be added on to the payment arrangements. These plans must be in writing. Contact Lisa at the District office for information.

A. Six (6) monthly payments, March - August.

B. 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.

PAYING YOUR DISTRICT BILL: There are many ways to pay your District bill. Whether you pay all, half, or are paying on a payment plan, here are your options:

- 1) Pay at the office. Cash, check, money order, debit, credit
- 2) Drop payment through the mail slot in front door.
- 3) Pay by mail. Check or money order.
- 4) Pay by phone. Debit, credit, e-check
- 5) Pay on-line. Go to District web-site at westextension.com.

Look for the "PAY" button in the menu bar. You will need your account number (from the billing statement) and the amount you want to pay. To pay multiple accounts in one transaction, put the word "multiple" where the account number goes. The card company charges a 3% fee for using debit or credit. Using an e-check is a \$2 flat fee.

MANUALS: The District's Landowner Manual has been updated and will be mailed to all District patrons soon. It will come in a 5X7 envelope, so please watch for it. The new Development Manual is almost complete. It will help you help us protect water rights and pipelines. If you are planning any upgrades on your property (fencing, shop, etc) or dividing your property, be sure to stop by the office to pick up a copy.

Plant Smart Now to Save Water Later!



Beautiful yards don't need expansive lawns covering the entire property to be attractive. Autumn is the perfect time to replace grass with water saving plants. Drought tolerant natives and perennials are marked down at the end of the season and will come back year after year.

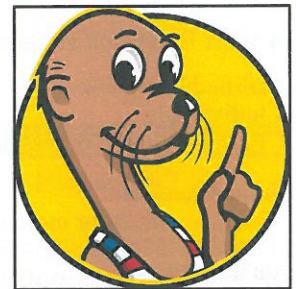
There is a better way...

- Plant something instead of grass
- Utilize drought tolerant and native plants
- Create a rain garden
- Use a rain barrel to catch rain runoff
- Add mulch to conserve moisture and prevent weeds

By converting your lawn to plantings you will:

- Save money on utility bills
- Enjoy more free time by doing less lawn maintenance
- Create a healthy environment for your family and pets
- Encourage a habitat for wildlife
- Protect your community's valuable water resources

Do your part, be **WaterSMART** 



A reminder that irrigation canals can be very dangerous as the water moves quickly and the liner is slick. Canals are not a place for dogs or kids to play, swim or bathe.

**BE SAFE.
KEEP YOUR PETS &
ANIMALS AWAY FROM
THE CANAL**