



## **WATER START- UP**

Main Canal—March 18

Boardman—March 20

Irrigon System- April 1

Please have your systems ready to go.

Water start-up always depends on wind and rain, but here is our plan for 2016. The main canal will be watered up March 18 & 19. Water would come in to flush the upper canal on Friday, March 18, then be decreased briefly for checkboards to be placed. We would take the water into Boardman a few days later.

**CANAL IRRIGATORS:** Please have all your headgate and screen work complete by Friday morning, March 18.

**IRRIGON PRESSURIZED WATER:** Plan for start-up Friday, April 1. Watch reader board at AC Houghton as date gets closer, Please close any open valves by March 30.



# **WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT 2016 NEWSLETTER**

## **100th Anniversary—Irrigation Delivery for West Extension Irrigation District (WEID)**

*Water is the true wealth in a dry land – Wallace Stegner*

This irrigation season marks 100 years of water delivery for the West End of the Umatilla Basin project. Investigations by the Reclamation Service began in 1903 to assess the feasibility of a large-scale irrigation system in the Umatilla Basin. The East and West Divisions (what are now Hermiston and West Extension Irrigation Districts) were authorized by the Secretary of the Interior on December 4, 1903. Cold Springs Reservoir and delivery system was constructed 1906-1908 and the first water delivery of the project began in March 1908. In 1911, Reclamation completed its study of the West End (now WEID) and proceeded to purchase the assets of the defunct Oregon Land and Water Company (OLWC). The OLWC delivered water in Umatilla and Irrigon. Three Mile Falls Diversion Dam was completed in 1914 and the West Extension Main Canal was completed in 1916. The first irrigation delivery began that year, all the way from Three Mile Dam to Boardman.

## **Boardman Lateral 7 to be Piped Rippe Road Project**

The pipe has arrived and is waiting to be installed for the open lateral along Rippee Road. If you get a chance, drive north or south on Rippee and you will see all the pipe that is stored there—6000 feet. This is the first major lateral that the District will enclose. It's a start of implementation of its Boardman Master Plan and represents the work planned with last season's \$5 per acre rate increase. All laterals will be enclosed and flood irrigation eliminated as we move forward with this major conservation effort.

We will have a small celebration when the pipeline is completed to honor the 100th year—likely in early May. Be sure to check our website for more information: [www.westextension.com](http://www.westextension.com).

**FLOOD IRRIGATORS NEEDING TO CONVERT TO SPRINKLER:** We are working with Morrow County NRCS to find assistance for conversion. We will be doing a lateral at a time with 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17 coming up over the next few years. Please start talking to Bev at the office now to make plans.



## **AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION OFFICIAL NOTICE**

West Extension Irrigation District uses the aquatic herbicides ACROLIN (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 these 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 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.

**1st half payment due April 1.**

**2nd half payment due July 1.**

**Accounts must be current in order to take water.**

## **HOW TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT:**

WEBSITE: [www.westextension.com](http://www.westextension.com)

DISTRICT OFFICE: 541-922-3814

WATER ORDER LINE: 541-922-9372 (call or text)

EMERGENCY & WEEKEND DITCHRIDER PHONE:  
541-314-0005

Water Orders: Landowners with 20 acre or more are required to use the call-in number to order water. Calls must reach the office by 2 p.m. the day before making the change. Water adjustments are made to the main canal at 8 am and 3 pm and it takes 18 hours for the water to make it to the end.

Flood Irrigators: As in the past, you need to call in prior to taking water for the season and anytime you will not be taking water after your initial start-up. We will be on the same schedule as last year with the A schedule starting the week of March 28. Let the office know if you need a new headgate tag.

**BREAKING NEWS:** Typically, we don't share local issues in our newsletter, but this is too good not to share:

### **JAVA JUNKIES IS COMING TO IRRIGON!!**

A drive-thru coffee trailer that is Java Junkies will open in early – mid March located at Division and Highway 730. We can't wait!!

## **Your Delivery System - Your Responsibility**

At this time of the year, we are all thinking about water and anticipating its startup. In getting ready, don't forget to clean your headgate area, your screens, filters, boxes, etc. It's also the time to think of replacing broken or wornout valves and nozzles. Don't forget that the District depends upon your help with the cleaning of open ditches along and through your property. We noticed that landowners with fences along our canal and laterals need to do some work to remove weeds and overgrowth into the canal prism.

Quite a few of you have shared delivery lines. Easements often weren't given for the pipelines that were privately installed. As they deteriorate, we hear concerns about whose responsibility it is for repair. The landowner through which the shared delivery line is running is responsible to maintain and repair the line on their property unless a written agreement is in place. Replacement of a line is typically a group effort of those benefitting from the line. We encourage you to get agreements in writing for these private lines.

## Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) FORMS

West Extension Irrigation District is a federal District and falls under the discretionary provisions of the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA). Patrons taking water from the Umatilla River (main canal and laterals) need to abide by the RRA provisions. If you meet any of the criteria listed below, you are required to file an RRA form with the District office prior to taking water each year. Your total acres would include any federal projects lands such as within another federal irrigation district. This law covers you if you own, lease, rent or operate a farm with district water rights.

The filing threshold (lowest number of farmed water rights) differs for each irrigation district, so if you hold land in more than one district you should contact each one.

### 2016 Filing Thresholds

*Qualified Recipient:* 240 acres. This is individuals, families, entities which benefit 25 or less persons.

*Limited Recipient:* Land which benefits 26 persons or more.

*Public Entity:* Land holdings of 40 acres or more.

*Trusts* (25 persons or less) 240 acres. (26 persons or more) 40 acres.

Lisa Baum, our Office Manager, is our RRA specialist so address any questions to her. She can assist you with preparing your RRA forms, if you need help. Remember that if your ownership increases during the irrigation season, you have 0-30 days to file the proper RRA forms. New filers have to file before receiving water. Those who have filed for the season have 30 days to amend their current form. The government audits our books every three years for compliance.



Pictures to left show the pipe waiting to be installed on Lateral 7 along Rippee Road. Above is the 36-inch pipe manifold at the Irrigon Pump Station being replaced.

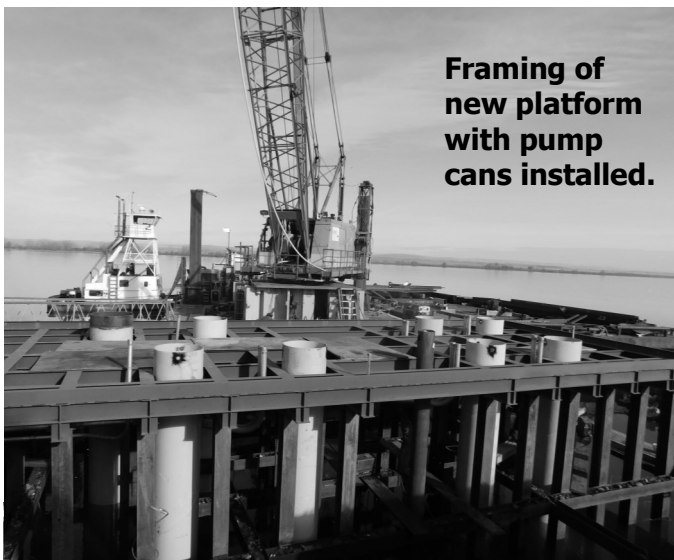
## WEID Updates from Manager Bridgewater:

We are having ditchrider turnovers and that will affect our water start-up and service as we go into the 2016 irrigation season. Walt Steagall retired on January 1. In addition, Ray Akers has taken a job as a Union Rep, which is great for him, but not for the District. This means that all field personnel will be new to the District for the 2016 irrigation season. Needless to say, it will be a very challenging year with the new field staff, so please be patient and communicate your issues early to the office.

During the 2015 irrigation season, the crew spent quite a bit of time working on conservation and educating the irrigators. We were very successful in managing water and had a full water year. This is when other irrigations districts were cutting theirs short. The downside of that is much of the maintenance such as weeding, mowing, right-of-way work, was put on hold. Thus, we are facing a lot of catching up for the 2016 season. Please be patient as we try to get caught up.

## NEW FISH SCREENS AND EXPANDED PUMP STATION FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER PUMP STATION IN IRRIGON

The District's Columbia River Pump Station in Irrigon (commonly called Irrigon Pump Station) is a joint effort with a private landowner. Our partner was Dennis Logan for many years and now is the Stanfield Stahl Brethren. A major renovation to that station is being completed which will move the station about 30 feet to the north, install new fish screens that are NOAA compliant, new manifold and new delivery line. Our cost is approximately \$550,000. It is on task to be completed in plenty of time for April 1 start-up. See the pictures below to get an idea of the work being done at the site.



Left, planning meeting on-site.

Right, construction crew standing in front of pipe to be installed in the river.

