

West Extension Irrigation District

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2022 FLOOD INFORMATION

The 2022 flood irrigation schedule is enclosed. There is still some burning and cleaning to do on several laterals. We have heard from just a few of you that your flood ditches are clean and ready for inspection, so be sure text or call the office ahead of your first rotation so Ben has time to inspect your ditches. Here are our annual reminders about taking flood water.

GETTING ON SCHEDULE: We can often accommodate you if you need to irrigate “off schedule” in order to get “on schedule.” Not everyone is irrigating right now, so text in your request and we will try to find a day for you to irrigate “off schedule.” Text to 541-922-9372.

WATER ORDERING: You need to order water when you start taking for the season and any time that you will not be taking it on your scheduled day. We assume you will irrigate each week that you are scheduled unless you call us. Just leave the message on the water order line (541-922-9372) for any changes you need.

TAGGING HEADGATES: Be sure to tag the headgate when you are taking water. The tags are important to the ditchrider to know who has the responsibility for the water that day. They have been instructed to turn off headgates that do not have a tag. If you have lost your tag, just call the District office and we will make one up for you. Lisa usually makes them up once a week. A temporary tag (homemade) can be used in the meantime.

WATER CONTROL: Please remember that each irrigator is responsible for the head of water during their time of irrigation. You have the responsibility, and the liability, of the water until you turn it back to the ditch or another person takes the water. You should be sure to notify the irrigators before and after you (or the District) if you have a change of schedule or are releasing the water early.

Controlling the water includes keeping the open lateral clear of debris (see below). Unless you have made arrangements with the person ahead of or behind you, you will need to pick up the water at the canal for your rotation and turn the headgate off when you are done, removing your tag.

WATER ALLOTMENT FOR FLOOD: Flood irrigators are allowed 4.5 cfs of water for their flood time. This is measured at the headgate with the weir. Up to .4 (to 4.9) additional may be taken if you have a long run of water (north of Kunze).

WEEDS & DEBRIS IN DITCHES: The District has cleaned the ditches for the start of the season. The ditchrider may clean the screens at Wilson and Kunze once per day on his rounds. However, we are short employees this year and the ditchrider may get held up or reassigned.

We know that some days are challenging, especially if it's windy. If the ditch has weeds or debris that you can't clear, contact the District (541-922-3814 or 541-314-0005) and we will help you if we can. If not, you can shut off and will be rescheduled for water.

We have had trouble with debris in the past, so we ask you to pay attention to it. Water backing up and flooding another property or roadway is your liability. If damage is caused, the damaged party will look to you for relief. For this reason, we ask you each to pay special attention to your irrigation habits and make sure problems can be quickly identified and remedied.

CHECK BOARDS/TARPS: Be sure to remove any boards or tarps you have placed in the main canal or lateral after your irrigation is complete or in case of a windy situation where weeds might cause a blockage. **It is your job to remove these and keep the ditch open for the next irrigator.** You each need to remove anything you put in the ditch. **Failure to do so will be at your fault and liability for damage.**

You have assumed liability if you leave obstacles (tarps, boards etc) in the ditch and damage is caused to you or a neighbor as a result. This is typically flooding or a washout. You will be billed by the District for its crews needing to clear a ditch or repair damage.

FLOOD IRRIGATION RULES / PROTOCOLS: Here is a reminder of the basic rules and protocols of water and flood irrigation:

- Put your tag on the headgate when you are irrigating
- Take 4.5 cfs at your point of delivery (.45 on most weirs)
- Check your ditch before taking water to make sure it is clean
- Follow the water when you turn it on to assure it gets to you
- Control your water when you irrigate
- Take the correct amount of water for the allotted time
- Watch that weeds and debris do not back up the water
- Set your tarps/structures during your irrigation time: remove when you are done
- Shut down your water and remove the headgate tag and any tarps or boards in the ditch when you are finished with your rotation

Here are some typical problems that can cause trouble during flood irrigation:

- 1) Not checking the ditch or following the water when you take it to your property, resulting in flooding of a neighbor or the county road.
- 2) Not staying with the water on your property. You should assure that someone is home, watching and working the water. If you have to leave during a set, keep the time away at a minimum and make sure the District has your phone number.
- 3) Letting the water run for too long and building up tailwater.
- 4) Letting weeds grow in your ditch or not maintaining your ditch.
- 5) Not removing your tarps or boards from the ditch when you are done.

The ditchriders have been advised to shut the water off if a problem develops and/or they cannot reach the irrigator that has the water. We will then talk to the irrigator to assure a problem is solved or issues can be worked out.

WATER ORDER NUMBER - 541-922-9372

EMERGENCY NUMBER - 541-314-0005

OFFICE NUMBER - 541-922-3814

WEBSITE: Westextension.com