

West Extension Irrigation District

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April 12, 2023

2023 FLOOD INFORMATION

The crews are working on some repairs and plan to start the various pump stations late this week. They will flush the laterals next week. The 2023 flood irrigation schedule is enclosed. If your ditch is not open when you are ready to take water, you may clean it yourself and call when it is complete so the ditchrider can unlock your gate. Or reschedule your water. 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.” This is especially helpful to those early in the season as you are starting to get on your rotation. 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 and will have the water there for you. Please order the water off if you have a conflict during the season when you cannot take the water. Notifying the District in advance of a schedule change allows us to conserve the water and better manage the canal plus gives you the opportunity to schedule a make-up day if needed.

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. You may use a temporary tag (homemade) 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 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.

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: District crews have cleaned the ditches for the start of the season and we will burn the tumbleweeds soon.. The ditchrider cleans the screens at Wilson and Kunze once per day on his/her rounds. This helps, but a ditchrider may be held up or reassigned. Please remember it is your responsibility to check the ditch and screens before you take water and during the time you have or the water. You should walk the entire ditch to be sure it is clear of weeds and debris before you turn the water into the ditch and keep checking during your irrigation time.

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 should shut the water off, notify the office and you will be rescheduled later.

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 canal/ditch open for the downstream irrigators. If you put it in, you are responsible to take it out. Failure to do so will be at your fault and liability for damage. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT DURING WINDY SITUATIONS. IF ANY PROPERTY, INCLUDING YOURS, IS DAMAGED CAUSED BY A CHECK, TARP AND OR OBSTACLE LEFT IN THE DITCH OR CANAL BY YOU, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY.**

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 clear
- 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.
- 2) Allowing flood water onto the county roads. This is a trespass and the County doesn't like it.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Letting the water run for too long and building up tailwater.
- 5) Letting weeds grow in your ditch or not maintaining your ditch.
- 6) 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 the problem is solved or issues can be worked out before the water will be turned back on.

WATER ORDER NUMBER - 541-922-9372
EMERGENCY NUMBER - 541-314-0005
OFFICE NUMBER - 541-922-3814
WEBSITE: Westextension.com