

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE WATER SEASON

Here is some general information about our irrigation delivery system.

WATER ORDERING—922-9372

1) Irrigators having 20 acres or more use the call-in number to order water for turning ON and OFF. Calls need to reach the office by 7 a.m. the day before making the change for Boardman water users and 2:30 pm the day before for upper canal water users. Providing a schedule of your irrigation will meet this requirement. This is because of the travel time it takes for the water to reach you.

If you use the optimum start times, thus lessening water waste, orders can be taken prior to 6:30 am the day a change is made. These optimum times are:

- 11 am on the canal east of Division St
- 2 pm on the canal west of Division St
- 7 pm in Boardman

2) Flood irrigators will report when you start for the season and anytime you will not take water on your regular schedule. You will be assumed to take water on your schedule once you start for the season. Be sure to call the water order line when you are requesting extra water.

RATE & DUTY OF WATER

The rate of application for most systems in the District is 8.5 gallons per minute (gpm) per acre. The duty is 4.5 acre-feet per acre (4.5 feet of water applied to the land during the season).

Flood irrigators receive their water at 4.5 cubic feet per second (cfs). The length of delivery is based on 24 hours for every 40 acres. They receive water every other week. Based on this, they would receive 20 rotations during the season to reach their 4.5 acre-foot allotment. Variations of this (less acres, more time, more water than 4.5 cfs) result in more acre-feet applied to the property.

Flood irrigators must control their tailwater by keeping it on their properties or in ditches specifically designed to carry tailwater. It is the responsibility of the landowners to keep the ditches on their own properties maintained and able to carry water efficiently.

FINES

The District has fine procedures for wasting water, which includes taking water out of turn or without authorization, leaving water running too long in one area, and not maintaining your system.

HEADGATE TAGS

Boardman irrigators place a tag on the headgate when they are irrigating. Please remove the tag and adjust the headgate when you are done. If you have lost your tag, contact the office to request a new tag. Tags left on the gate when irrigation is finished will be removed by the ditchrider.

WATER SCHEDULES

Schedules will continue as last year. If you have forgotten your irrigation days, or need to make a change, please contact the office early in the irrigation season..

METERS

If you have a flow meter, be sure to check that it is working properly. Look for any condensation or moisture that may make it difficult to read. If you have a battery operated meter, be sure to replace the batteries at the start of the season. For any questions you may have on learning more about your meter or questions about reading or repairing it, contact the office.

WATER CONSERVATION

Everyone is asked to water effectively using conservation measures. Flood irrigators need to be on site to take care of their water. Those with wheel lines and pivots need to fix any leaks and make sure NOT to water roadways and neighbors properties. Landowners using impact sprinklers need to run their water only for the time needed to irrigate efficiently (2—8 hours typically).

CANAL SAFETY

The District is concerned with the safety of the general public and wants to remind everyone of the dangers posed by open irrigation canals. The canals and ditches contain slippery moss, sharp rocks, debris and herbicides. There is the hidden underwater danger of turbulence or suction, strong enough to pull even an adult under in many places.

Kids playing in or around the canals or ditches is extremely dangerous. Please communicate to your friends and family how dangerous ditches and canals can be, and please call the District office immediately if you see a safety concern of any kind.

DO NOT LET CHILDREN OR ANIMALS BATHE OR SWIM IN THE CANAL.

WATER RIGHTS

The water rights that you have on your property are appurtenant to your land; they stay with the property until you transfer or forfeit them. With the rising cost of water, many irrigators are considering whether they can afford to keep all their water rights. They are transferring off the water rights that they don't use, either for cost savings or to protect the water rights from non-use statuses.

Under Oregon water law, the right must be used one year out of every five to avoid forfeiture. With readily available satellite imagery, it is easy for the District, agencies and concerned citizens to see if you have or haven't used your water.

If you are not using all your water, considering giving up a portion of your water rights either on a temporary or permanent basis. If you're not ready for a permanent transfer, consider a temporary transfer. This moves the water for one year only and it returns back to your property. Often, farmers are willing to take that water for a year and pay that portion of your annual bill.

Contact the district by March 1 of each year in order to make a change for that year. If you want additional water rights, contact us so we can put you on the waiting list. District staff is pleased to assist you in understanding and working with your water rights.

PAY YOUR BILL

Sometimes, landowners get behind in their payments to the District. Monthly statements are not sent out and, if times are tough, it is a bill that is easily forgotten. We urge you not to do that. Whether you take water or not during the season, the annual bill, based on your water rights, is still due each year. An unpaid water right can result in a lien against your property and even in legal action up to and including foreclosure.

The bill does not have to be paid all at one time. Contact the office and arrange a payment plan. The District has six and twelve month plans available (you can always pay earlier). Even without a payment plan, the District will take partial payments at any time. The important lesson is to keep the payments fairly regular to avoid additional interest and legal costs.