



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Wapato Irrigation Project

413 S Camas Avenue

Wapato, WA 98951

**MAR 15 2021**

Dear Wateruser,

Another irrigation season is right around the corner and we would again like to remind you of some operational regulations and guidelines under which the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) operates. While the following is not a complete list, understanding and following these key regulations and guidelines can help ensure we all experience a productive irrigation season. The applicable Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) reference is noted next to the subject title.

Attached to this letter is contact information for the WIP office and the Irrigation System Operators including a map of the Ditchrides. Please refer to the contact list and map for appropriate contact numbers.

#### Water Orders (CFR 171.200)

We would like to remind you that you are required to order water prior to delivery. Do not take water without ordering it first. To place a water order: Call the Wapato Irrigation Project main office at (509)-877-3155.

When ordering water please provide your full legal name, the landowner name (if different), the land Serial number, the time and date you want the service, and how long you want the service. If you do not know your land Serial number(s) please call the main office for assistance. WIP staff will verify receipt of your payment for your Operation and Maintenance Assessment prior to delivery of water.

Please note that you are required to provide us with at least 48-hour notice for all water delivery turn-ons and at least 24-hour notice for all water delivery shut offs. Water deliveries will not be scheduled to start or stop on Saturdays, Sundays, or Federal Holidays.

#### Turnout & Check Structures (CFR 171.300 (a))

All water delivery turnout operations (opening, closing, and adjusting) and all adjustments of check boards shall be done solely by the Irrigation System Operator (ISO or Ditch Rider) or under his or her specific direction. This is one of the most important items of the project operation and it is imperative that everyone follow these rules to help prevent delivery problems throughout the canals and laterals. Manipulating turnouts and check structures on your own can and does have a significant impact on the water delivery system and ultimately to downstream water users.

Water users that are pumping out of WIP drains are also required to order their water through the Wapato Irrigation Project 48 hours in advance of pumping and will be informed by their Ditch Rider when water is available to begin pumping. In addition, they are required to notify the Ditch Rider 24 hours in advance of turning off.

#### Waterway Obstructions and Canal Roads (CFR 171.415)

Obstructions are not permitted upon project rights-of-way. As determined by WIP, an obstruction is anything permanent or temporary that blocks, hinders, impedes, stops or cuts off our facilities or our ability to perform the services we determine necessary to provide service to our customers. If we discover an obstruction, we will notify you in writing to remove it. If you do not remove the obstruction, WIP will remove the obstruction and bill you for our costs. Please note, we may remove any obstruction without notice because of an emergency we have identified. Cattle fences shall be removed from canals prior to running water and gates across canal bank roads must be kept open and unlocked throughout the irrigation season.

### Special Use Permits (CFR 171.405)

You are required to obtain an approved "Special Use Permit" prior to the placement of culverts, overland or buried pipelines/powerlines, fences, gates, cattle guards, drain pumps, and any other structures across irrigation canal/lateral right-of-ways. A Special Use Permit is a written agreement between you and the BIA-WIP. Your Ditch Rider can provide you a permit application upon request or direct you to the Main Office for assistance. Please submit the completed form to the Watermaster or the main office in Wapato.

### Prudent Use of Water & Non-Authorized Use (CFR 171.300 (b), 171.230, and 171.220)

Apply and manage your irrigation water for authorized uses and do not allow it to be wasted. You are responsible for your wastewater. Water running uncontrolled from your field onto neighboring properties or roadways shall be shut off by your Ditch Rider.

It is your responsibility to maintain your own farm ditch.

WIP Project water is for authorized water use only. Only Project land that is assessed or land under an Authorized 1-Year Water Rental Agreement can receive water. Any water being diverted, conveyed, and/or delivered to non-authorized land shall be shut down by BIA WIP. Please be advised that shut off for irrigating unauthorized acreage will occur at the WIP delivery turnout, and will remain shut off until measures acceptable to WIP have been made by the water user to isolate the non-assessed acreage from receiving water.

### 1 – Year Water Rental

As determined by the WIP Project Administrator, surplus water may be made available to non-assessed/non-project lands under a 1- Year Water Rental Agreement. Surplus water is defined as any water available after meeting all existing water right supply demands for assessed Project land and meeting fisheries instream flow requirements. The surplus water must be capable of being diverted from Project facilities to the requested point of delivery without disrupting the delivery system.

These agreements are for 1 year only. Each year, the applicant must reapply and pay any associated payment. These agreements are not a water right. Delivery of water under such agreement may be suspended at any time by the BIA WIP when surplus water is no longer available, as determined by the WIP Project Administrator.

Please contact the WIP main office to inquire about 1 – Year Water Rental Agreements.

### Delinquent Operation and Maintenance (CFR 171.545)

If you have an unpaid Operation and Maintenance bill, water will not be delivered to you until your bill is settled.

### Public Outreach

We are actively trying to start and maintain our own website from which we can disseminate important information. In the meantime (and after establishment of our website) we will also utilize other resources. The following are links the Yakima Reservation Irrigation District and the WIP page on the Yakama Power website. Please use these as tools for locating information regarding the WIP.

<http://yakamareservationirrigationdis.godaddysites.com/>

<https://www.yakamapower.com/wapato-irrigation-project/>

We would like to thank you for your cooperation and look forward to the start of the new irrigation season. If you have any questions, please call the Main Office at (509) 877-3155.

Sincerely,



Peter L. Plant  
WIP Project Administrator