

# **Water 101**

## **Black Canyon Irrigation District**

Welcome to Black Canyon Irrigation District. The following information should help you get started ordering water online, tracking your water, and determining how much water you have to use. We will also introduce you to some common words and phrases that we use when discussing water delivery.

The first item of note is to understand that we track water in acres and not in shares. Due to this, you are required to order your water each time you want to make a change (turn on, turn off, change the flow) and our ditch riders then make that change at the delivery point. Our goal each year is to deliver 5 acre feet of water to every acre of land. Unfortunately, until someone invents a way to produce water, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature when it comes to how much water is available. If the reservoir (Cascade Reservoir) does not fill, you may find that you don't get a full 5 acre feet that year. Before we talk about water delivery in detail, let's talk about our water season.

### **Irrigation Season Basics:**

- While we offer tools to help you track your water usage, the amount of water that you use and tracking that water is entirely your responsibility. Whether the online report is working correctly or not, it is ultimately your responsibility to know what you are using and we will charge you accordingly.
- The water season generally begins in April each year and the exact date is set by the Board of Directors at the March meeting.
- The water season generally ends in October and that date is set by the Board of Directors at the September meeting. Both of these dates are subject to change.
- There are generally two stages to each irrigation season – River Flow and Storage.
- At the beginning of the season the dam operators are releasing water from the reservoir (spilling) to prevent flooding. This part of the season is called River Flow or Natural Flow.
- As long as the orders on the river (from ALL water users that have a water right) are less than the River Flow, we are in the River Flow stage of the season. During this time of the year we will deliver as much water to you as we can fit in the ditch if you order it – making sure that everyone can get their water!
- Once the orders for water exceed the River Flow and we are pulling water out of the reservoir's storage, we are then in the Storage stage of the season. Both stages of the season are charged to the 5 acre feet per acre that you are allowed to use for the year before you run into Excess water charges (more on that later).
- When we go on Storage we set the Allocation for the remainder of the irrigation season. If the reservoir filled, the Allocation will be 2.50 acre feet per acre for each customer. That is what you will have to use for the remainder of that irrigation season. Once you have used your 2.50 acre feet per acre, we will shut your irrigation off.
  - The best way to look at this is to imagine a pie and everyone has been given an equal share of that pie. Once your piece of the pie is gone, if you continue to eat pie you are then eating someone else's share.
- If you want to continue watering and you have used up your Allocation, you will need to find someone to give you water in order to keep watering. We have names and numbers of people that are willing to rent their water out for the season and we can walk you through that process if the time comes.
- You may have noticed that you get 5 acre feet to use for the entire season but once we are on Storage that amount goes down to 2.50 for the remainder of the season. We recommend that you try to use as close to 2.50 acre feet to the acre while we are on River Flow so as to maximize your water benefit.

- If you don't use your entire 2.50 acre feet while on River Flow you DO NOT get to use that while we are on Storage. We do not recommend ordering water if you can't put it to use! If you find that you are continually short on the Storage part of the season and have more than enough on River Flow, you may want to consider some type of storage system so you can order while on River Flow and use during Storage.
- There are three classifications of water in our District:
  - Unit 1 – These water users are in a part of the District that paid off their contract to the Bureau of Reclamation for the infrastructure to deliver water to their lands.
  - Unit 2 - These water users are in a part of the District that have NOT paid off their contract to the Bureau of Reclamation for the infrastructure to deliver water to their lands. Because of this, they are required to file federal forms every year in order for their land to be eligible to receive water.
  - Ground Water – These water users have a secondary water right on their land (well, waste water right, etc.) and there are restrictions on their water right with BCID. They cannot use excess water and they cannot transfer water on or off of the land that has a ground water right.
- We cannot tell you how much water to order or how to irrigate your land.
- Our responsibility ends at the delivery point and anything beyond that is the responsibility of the land owner. If you are having a problem getting water to your land you may want to make sure the ditch is free of weeds and water can flow freely.
- We cannot make your neighbor stop stealing your water. If you cannot work something out with them your only course of action is to call the police as stealing water is a crime.

#### **Ordering Water:**

- All water MUST be ordered using our online portal at [www.truecip.blackcanyonirrigation.com](http://www.truecip.blackcanyonirrigation.com).
- A training manual can be found at [www.blackcanyonirrigation.com](http://www.blackcanyonirrigation.com) on the Online Water Ordering tab.
- While we offer tools to help you track your water usage, the amount of water that you use and tracking that water is entirely your responsibility. Whether the online report is working correctly or not, it is ultimately your responsibility to know what you are using and we will charge you accordingly.
- The ditch rider will make the change(s) that you request online.
- Ditch riders DO NOT have the ability to enter an order for you! If you are having a problem ordering water you must call the office at 208-459-4141.
- You can make water changes (Turn On, Turn Off, Flow Changes) for any day EXCEPT Sunday. We do not deliver water or make water changes on Sunday. Yes, we do make those changes on holidays.
- Your water order must be in the system by 2:00 p.m. on the business day before you want the change to take place. For a Monday change the order needs to be in by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- Water is ordered in 5 inch increments (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.).
- We will allow you to order more water than you are allowed as long as we can deliver all the water ordered over that delivery point. (Most customers share a delivery point with other people.)
- If we are cut back (generally when it is really hot and everyone is ordering water at the same time), you may only be allowed to order an inch to the acre or less as most of our system was built to deliver only 75% of the water that we supply at any one time. If you are cut back your ditch rider will let you know.
- **It is up to you to order your water on AND OFF.** We do not take responsibility for the amount of water that you order!!

#### **Tracking Water Usage:**

- On the online portal you will see a menu option titled Water Usage Report. This report keeps track of your consumption and will show you the following:

- Your Customer ID, Name, and the type of water (Unit 1, Unit 2, Ground Water)
  - The Account # - this is pertinent to the land
  - The Location – this is the lateral and tap that your water is delivered to (your Delivery Point)
  - Field # - used internally to identify the land further
  - Last Usage Posted – this is the date that the ditch rider last posted consumption on this Delivery Point
  - Water Status – this will either say Off or show how much water is running
  - Next Order – this will show if you have a future order on this Delivery Point
  - Order Water – you can create a water order on this Delivery Point by clicking this link
- Your consumption is tracked next to the headings titled Storage & Yearly and they work as follows:
    - Allocation = the total number of acre feet the account is eligible to receive
    - Consumption = what the account has consumed as of the Last Usage Posted date
    - Remaining = what you have left to use on that account
    - Storage – This line will not fill with information until we go onto the Storage part of the season and determine what the Allocation is.
    - Yearly – This line represents your 5 acre feet per acre that you have to use for the entire irrigation season
  - There are two different measurements used on this report, CFS (cubic feet per second) and AF (acre feet). Your orders are placed in CFS but we account for the water in AF. To convert CFS to AF simply double the CFS. So **0.50 CFS = 1.00 AF**. This is very important when calculating your water usage!!
  - You can track your own water usage if you prefer but I would recommend checking this report against your numbers on a regular basis.
  - This report only updates after the ditch riders have posted consumption.
    - While we are on River Flow they will post on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of every month. If those dates fall on a weekend they will post on the following Monday.
    - While we are on Storage the ditch riders will post every Wednesday.
  - If you use your entire Yearly Allocation we will present an excess card to you. If you choose to not run anymore water you don't need to sign this card. If you would like to continue watering you must sign this card in order to continue ordering water. In either case, you will be charged for any water that you use over the allowed 5 acre feet per acre.
  - **We cannot stress this enough:** While we offer tools to help you track your water usage, the amount of water that you use and tracking that water is entirely your responsibility. Whether the online report is working correctly or not, it is ultimately your responsibility to know what you are using and we will charge you accordingly.

We communicate with our customers in one of two ways throughout the year. The first is via our newsletter that is sent out with both of the bills you will receive each year. The other method is via email. We will notify you via email when:

- Water is ready to be ordered at the beginning of the season
- We are moving from River Flow to the Storage part of the season
- Turn off dates for each season

Because of this, it is vital that you update your email address on your online account if it changes. We cannot take any responsibility for information that did not reach you due to email errors.

## **Adding an Icon to Your Computer or Phone**

## **1. Saving a website to your computer**

- a. Go to the TrueCIP website
- b. File
- c. Send
- d. Shortcut to Desktop

## **2. Saving a website to your Droid phone**

- a. Go to the TrueCIP website
- b. Enter your username and password but DO NOT log in
- c. Click on the three dots on the upper right side of the screen
  - i. Depending on your setup, you may have the option at this point to choose Add to Home Screen. If that isn't one of the options, go to Step c.
- d. Open in Browser
- e. Choose Chrome
- f. Click on the three dots on the upper right side of the screen
- g. Add to Home Screen

## **3. Saving a website to your I-Phone**

- a. Go to the TrueCIP website
- b. Enter your user name and password but DO NOT log in
- c. Click the Share icon
  - i. This is a box with an arrow pointing up that is on the bottom navigation bar
- d. Click on the Add to Home Screen icon
  - i. This icon is a big plus sign
- e. Click Add in the upper right corner

If this process does not work – go to Safari first and go to the website from there.

**Welcome to Black Canyon Irrigation District and we look forward to working  
with you!!**