

# BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION 2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Black Canyon Irrigation District **Emergency Phone Numbers**  
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Office Hours: 7:00 am – 4:30 pm blackcanyonirrigation.com

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## 2024 DIRECTORS

Chris Clelland District #1  
John Hartman District #2  
Dan Surmeier District #3  
Piet Laan (Vice-Chair) District #4  
Mike Wagner (Chairman) District #5

## BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at the District Office @ 12 Noon.

## 2024 ASSESSMENTS

### Unit #1

Spring \$39.25/acre  
Fall \$35.00/acre  
\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

### Unit #2

Spring \$39.75/acre  
Fall \$35.00/acre  
\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

### Excess water

\$20.00/acre foot

### District Idle Acres

\$70.00/acre plus \$200 Transfer fee

## 2023 WATER SEASON

Our 2023 water year ended with nearly 80,000 AF of storage carryover. A portion of this water savings is largely due to cooperation with Water District 65 on water operations and coordinated metering on the Main Canal, in addition to correcting charges in their water accounting system. There are many variables that determine carryover, we ran a longer season this year than last and still carried over nearly 20,000 AF more. We are very excited about this as it is a significant step in the right direction for the District. This change in water savings and accurate water accounting means additional certainty in our water supply going forward.

## RRA FORMS

If you own and/or lease over 40 irrigable acres in Unit #2 (noted above your account number on your bill) you may be required to file RRA forms. The office has printed your 2024 forms, or you can download the forms on the internet at [usbr.gov/rra](https://usbr.gov/rra). **Please file your RRA forms early to avoid a three working day delay of water delivery. Please keep these things in mind when checking your forms:**

- **Have you bought or sold land?**
- **Has your marital status changed?**
  - **We need your spouse's signature, even if they have no interest in the land!**
- **Has the name on any of your deeds changed?**
  - **This commonly occurs during estate planning (John & Mary Smith change their land to 'The Estate of John & Mary Smith').**
- **You only have 60 days to notify us of most changes during the irrigation season.**

**While we help facilitate the filing of these forms, it is ultimately the landowner's responsibility to ensure they are correct and the landowner is the one that will get fined if they are wrong!!**

## ASSESSMENT DELIQUENCIES

Delinquencies are filed with the counties in July each year your account becomes delinquent. A Tax Deed is taken after the third year of delinquency. Black Canyon Irrigation District begins the Tax Deed process every July, so if you haven't paid your assessment by then it may show as a lien on your property when a Title Search is done.

## BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION PROJECTS - FALL 2023 and SPRING 2024

Each year we install a number of pipelines, rehabilitate failing infrastructure, and implement operational improvements throughout the District, and this year is no exception. We can do some of these projects with money we get through grants received from Water District #65. Along with our normal maintenance projects, we have replaced a pipeline on the D-Line that has been causing the landowner issues each irrigation season. We have removed hundreds of trees and cleaned a drain in Payette County, and removed thousands of yards of sand in the Main Canal below Tunnel 2 in order to facilitate as much water passing through it as possible. Last fall we also sprayed over 36 miles of ditch bank infested with False Indigo with a new product that will hopefully remove it for good.

## 1<sup>st</sup> UNIT

This year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Unit we are focusing on cleaning the Main Canal from the River Siphon down to Wagner Road and cleaning some laterals. We also have some box repairs due to car accidents and a few other smaller projects. We have begun working with ITD on a design for the I-84 Notus Canal crossing as they will be re-placing the box culverts and widening the freeway over the Notus Canal. You may or may not be aware that aside from a minor amount of storage in Lake Lowell the 1<sup>st</sup> Unit primarily relies on drain flow from the Boise Basin. That drain flow has been steadily decreasing over the last decade due to development and changes in irrigation practices. This has caused demand issues primarily in the spring for us and others that rely on it. This has prompted us to utilize the storage water out of Lake Lowell for the first time in decades and begin

conversations with Boise Project Board of Control in order to assess those storage rights for any opportunity to better utilize that water to benefit the 1<sup>st</sup> Unit and secure stability into the future.

### **RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES**

Each year we have patrons who are upset when they find out that the District and/or the Bureau of Reclamation has a Right Of Way for the operation and maintenance of our system and pipelines thru their property. 2023 was no different, so please, before you build anything next to one of our canals, ditches, drains, pipelines, or laterals, contact us first so we can provide you with the right of way information to prevent potentially costly problems.

Another noteworthy challenge the District is facing on an ever increasing basis is development. Any and all modifications to District facilities or Rights of Ways, including residential driveways, must be reviewed and permitted through the Bureau of Reclamation and BCID. BCID has a submittal deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered for construction in that off season. Submittal by November 1<sup>st</sup> in no way guarantees that your project will be approved for construction in time to be completed by the next irrigation season. All construction must be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. BCID has also made some changes to the website by adding a Development Tab to help walk potential developers through the process, and get in contact with District Staff and our new Engineer Don Popoff with RH2.

NOTE: Please be aware that irrigation ditch banks and roads are private property. The irrigation District has an exclusive right of way and ditch roads/banks are not for public use. If you utilize these roads for walking or other recreational purposes and are not the owner of these lands, you **ARE** trespassing. This is a growing problem and we are receiving an increasing number of complaints from landowners regarding trespass on ditch banks.

### **BCID UPDATE**

Throughout BCID's inception, BCID has faced a significant challenge delivering enough water to satisfy demand in the District during our peak season. This has been approached on several different angles since the 1950's. One of those challenges are the deliveries that are made within the Emmett Irrigation District along our Main Canal. In order to address this issue, we have devised a plan to install meters and valves on the existing deliveries in order to be able to regulate and account for the water diverted from the Main Canal. In order to do this, we have put in for multiple grants. We are pleased to announce we have received a grant from the Idaho Department of Water Resources for \$100,000 and are awaiting word from the other Federal and Local Grants. This project will help minimize the amount of time that we are forced to reduce deliveries to 7/10ths and create a more consistent delivery in the peak water season for all of our patrons.

In addition to these efforts, we are currently studying options that will allow us to get more water through Tunnel 2 in Emmett which would help accomplish the same goal as the metering project along the Main Canal. It is our goal that through these capital investments we can reduce or eliminate the need to go to 7/10ths. This is a lofty goal however I believe it is something we can accomplish with time and perseverance.

As most of you know, development in the Treasure Valley has been exploding. BCID has been experiencing this first hand especially in the Middleton area. We currently have around 78 development projects that impact the District! This has been keeping us very busy in addition to our traditional roles. Not to mention the time spent helping to educate our new neighbors about irrigation water and its importance.

Black Canyon Irrigation has continued to pursue a solution in regards to the Refill Issue. In 2022 BCID filed applications with the Department of Water Resources for Refill Rights 1 and 2 in order to help secure historical operations. We have now made it through the application process and the comment period. We are currently waiting on the Department of Water Resources.

Please don't forget about our Facebook Page! @BCIDAGWATER was created to keep our patrons informed on a regular basis about issues going on in the District and to provide a peek into the life of our staff as they work to provide irrigation to this great community.

### **In Conclusion**

As you all know it has been a fairly wet winter here in the valley which makes it difficult to be as productive with maintenance in the District as I would like to see. So as expected I have done my fair share of griping about the weather hoping it would dry up in the valley just enough to help our productivity. Then, almost simultaneously, I have been watching our SNOTEL Sites and the outlook is a little less than ideal. We're currently sitting at 70% and someone recently told me that they were at Brundage and they noticed halfway up the mountain there are still survey stakes sticking out of the snow... which means there was only at most two feet of snow. All this making me worry that the water may not develop as adequately as we would like to see. So when I read the quote by Denzel Washington: "When you pray for rain, you got to deal with the mud too." It made me chuckle and somewhat concerned with how discontented I can be when my own wishes are granted. I recently had someone tell me, "It's hard not be a hypocrite at least once a day.", and suddenly those words rang a little more true.

I hope you all had a warm and happy winter and a joy filled Holiday Season. Here is looking forward to another safe and successful year.

**Irrigation season will soon be here so if you know of anything that needs attention, please contact us.**

**Thank you,  
Carl Hayes  
District Manager**