

# BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION NEWS SPRING 2023

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Black Canyon Irrigation District  
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## 2023 DIRECTORS

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

## BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month, except November when it is held on the first Tuesday, at the District office in Notus @ 12:00 P.M.

## 2023 ASSESSMENTS

### Unit #1

Spring \$34.75/acre  
Fall \$30.50/acre  
\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

### Unit #2

Spring \$35.25/acre  
Fall \$30.50/acre  
\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

### Excess water

\$20.00/acre foot

### District Idle Acres

\$70.00/acre plus Transfer fee

## 2022 WATER SEASON

Our 2022 water year ended with approximately 60,000 AF of storage carryover, even after running a full week into October. This was a great relief to us all as we were expecting another short year with minimal run off and winter precipitation, but the late spring early summer rains helped top off the reservoirs and carried us through for a full season.

## RRA FORMS

This past year we underwent a very successful audit from the Bureau of Reclamation on your 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 2023 forms, or you can download the forms on the internet at [usbr.gov/rra](http://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!!**

## ASSESEMENT DELIQUENCIES

Delinquencies are filed with the counties in June 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 June, 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 2022 and SPRING 2023

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 done a significant amount of pipeline repair on aging original pipelines, small syphons, and are working on replacing a stretch of concrete floor in the Main Canal lining near Emmett. We have been working on regaining easements, replacing head gates, and cleaning our Main Canals, specifically the C-West and C-East Canals.

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

This year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Unit we found that the time spent reshaping the laterals and Main Canal last winter paid off and as a result we have had less cleaning necessary this winter. This has allowed us to start a trial utilizing aquatic pre-emergence on the tail end of the Notus Canal. **We will be applying the aquatic pre-emergence again for another year as we had good success on a majority of the test area, and we suspect that continued use will only increase efficacy.**

## 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. 2022 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 amount of complaints from landowners regarding trespass on ditch banks.

### **BCID UPDATE**

BCID held a Director election in November and Mike Wagner was re-elected, and Dan Surmeier was reappointed as he was un-opposed.

On another note, as most of you are probably aware, BCID staff discovered some financial improprieties in July last year. Soon after our discovery the District worked quickly to begin the process to regain the losses. I am proud to say that through much consternation and difficulty the District has regained the principal of the balance taken. The accused is currently awaiting Federal Trial in March, and while it will be some time before this is all over, we have some comfort in the fact that the District has overcome the insurmountable odds of recovery. BCID hired a Forensic Auditing company to review the books in order to ensure there were no other losses that we weren't aware of, and they found none. BCID has also implemented additional controls in regards to our financial activities to help in preventing this from happening again.

Also, BCID has a new Secretary/Treasurer, Heather Grubaugh. Heather has been with the District for over a decade and has always provided patrons with a pleasant and courteous experience. She also was instrumental in working through the aforementioned issues over the last several months.

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.

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. The applications have been accepted by the IDWR and we expect to begin the comment portion of this process soon.

### **Point of Interest**

John F. Kennedy once said, "The family farm should remain the backbone of American agriculture... [and] the decline in agricultural income is the number one domestic problem in the United States." I found this interesting when I read the most recent statistics from the USDA listed below.

- Average age of an American Farmer in 2022 is nearly 60 years old
- Farmers under 45 only represent 10% of producers
- In 2021 the United States lost 1.3 Million acres of Farmland
- The average farm size in the U.S. only marginally increased from 440 acres in 1975 to 445 acres in 2021
- 199,000 farms have been lost since 2007
- Despite the loss in land, total farm output has nearly tripled between 1948 and 2019
- Farms classed as small (less than \$350,000 GFCI) make up 89.1% of farms in the U.S.
- GFCI is annual gross cash farm income before expenses
- Despite being the majority, most farms classed as "small" showed their largest source of income was as a result of off farm labor. Meaning most small farmers work additional jobs to subsidize their farm.

In spite of the land losses listed above American farmers have continued to help feed the world with increased production. They are producing a lot more, with a lot less, on shrinking margins and increasing input costs, and many are still farming even though they've had to work another job to help pay for it. I say all of that, to say this:

If you are a Farmer, thank you.

If you are not a Farmer, take a moment and thank one.

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

**Carl Hayes**  
District Manager

