

# THE BLACK CANYON NEWS SPRING 2021

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Black Canyon Irrigation District Emergency Phone Numbers  
P.O. Box 226 Carl Hayes (208)941-8026  
Notus, ID 83656  
(208) 459-4141 Tyler Chamberlain (208)880-8280  
Fax (208) 459-3428  
Office Hours  
7:00 am – 5:00 pm  
www.blackcanyonirrigation.com

## 2021 DIRECTORS

Adam Blank (Chair)	District #1
John Hartman (V-Chair)	District #2
Dan Surmeier	District #3
Piet Laan	District #4
Mike Wagner	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 @ 1:00 P.M.

## 2021 ASSESSMENTS

### Unit #1

Spring \$31.75/acre  
Fall \$27.50/acre  
\$45.00/assessment charge per billing

### Unit #2

Spring \$32.25/acre  
Fall \$27.50/acre  
\$45.00/assessment charge per billing

### Excess water

\$20.00/acre foot

### District Idle Acres

\$70.00/acre plus Transfer fee

## 2021 WATER SEASON

Our 2020 water year ended with approximately 60,000 AF of storage carryover after the District's usage and water leases. The leases generate money which is earmarked for our projects' rehabilitation (replacement of old structures, pipelines, head gates, etc.).

## RRA FORMS

This year we are due for our audit from the Bureau of Reclamation on your RRA forms. If you have found or find an error on your forms, it is in your best interest to take the time to get these fixed this year as the Bureau **may issue a fine for errors.**

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 2021 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.**

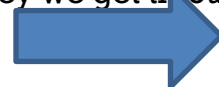
**While we help facilitate the filing of these forms, it is ultimately the landowner's responsibility to ensure they are correct!!**

## ASSESSMENT DELIQUENCIES

Delinquencies are filed with the counties 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.

## BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION PROJECTS - FALL 2020 and SPRING 2021

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 are able to do some of these projects with money generated from leasing water to the BOR, together 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 replaced approximately 600' of 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-East Canal.

Black Canyon is working with the IWUA to secure irrigation infrastructure funding from the Federal level as it is an issue important to irrigation districts across the country.

It is with regret that I announce that Dennis Lammey, long-time Director with Black Canyon Irrigation District, is retiring from the Board after 40 years of service. Dennis has dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort to the District and for this we will forever be indebted to him. He has assured me that he will remain available for questions as he is an encyclopedia of irrigation information. Thank you Dennis for all that you have done for the patrons of the Black Canyon Irrigation District.

We are pleased to announce the Piet Laan will be assuming the role of Director and we look forward to working with him.

### **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. If this trial is successful it will eliminate or significantly reduce the need for in season aquatic plant treatments. Also, the District has been working with developers in Caldwell to completely replace and improve the Main Diversion Structure at the head end of the Notus Canal.

### **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. 2020 was no different so please, before you build anything next to one of our canals, ditches, drains, pipelines, or lateral's, 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 now 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>.

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.

### **WATER ISSUES**

Recently, there have been several articles popping up in local and national papers advocating Dam removal and/or drastic changes to the operation of those dams and the management of the subsequent water they store. Black Canyon Irrigation has been increasing our efforts to participate in those conversations in an effort to educate the general public on the purpose of these facilities and their importance. These Dams and Reservoirs provide irrigation, flood control, recreation, habitat for innumerable birds, fish and other species, and hydro-electric power generation (which is a renewable energy source), just to name a few of the benefits.

Our communities and the lives we live across the West are made possible by the water that is stored by these facilities. That water irrigates the crops that feed not only our country but a significant portion of the world. Dam removal is being touted as the only option in order to save salmon, while the issues that would arise from this idea are innumerable and very likely equally, if not more, devastating. The economic impact of widespread dam removal would be felt around the world and would likely be insurmountable for the West, if not our country as a whole.

Without irrigation the West would return to the dry arid desert that it once was, without flood control the cities along the rivers and streams would be flooded out, without recreation towns like Cascade would be devoid of the recreational economy that supports them, without reservoirs, fisheries and habitats that are now world renowned in those areas would cease to exist. It is exceedingly

important to consider the consequences of any 'solution'. We will continue in our efforts to protect these resources and certainly appreciate any and all input our patrons can lend.

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and looking forward to a successful year with optimism. As President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Farming looks might easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

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

**Carl Hayes**  
**District Manager**