

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION NEWS SPRING 2026

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

2026 DIRECTORS

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

BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month, at the District office in Notus @ 12:00 P.M.

2026 ASSESSMENTS

Unit #1

Spring \$40.50/acre
Fall \$37.00/acre
\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

Unit #2

Spring \$41.75/acre
Fall \$36.25/acre
\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

Excess water

\$20.00/acre foot

District Idle Acres

\$93.60/acre plus Transfer fee

ONLINE PAYMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

UP COMING WATER SEASON

Another irrigation season is coming fast. I wanted to give everyone an update of our current snowpack and where we sit in the reservoirs. As you have probably heard on the news, we have not had a very good winter. Here are some numbers that might help everyone with planning. As I sit here today and write this we are at 8.8" of snow water equivalent in the mountains. Last year we were at 16.6" on the same date. Our historic low in 2001 on this date is 9.0". We are sitting at 76% full in Cascade Lake and 67% full in Deadwood. We still have time in the year to make up some ground on our snowpack, and we are hoping for a very wet next few months.

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 2026 forms, or you can download the forms on the internet at 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!!

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION PROJECTS - FALL 2025 and SPRING 2026

This off season has been a very productive season. The crew at BCID has been working hard on replacing headgates, fixing irrigation structures and many other projects. As this spring approaches we will begin burning ditches. One thing I want to remind everyone is to clear your easements as our crews come

through and burn. Each year we run into encroachments that prevent us from burning or dipping the canals and ditches which can prevent us from getting water to other patrons.

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 through their property. 2025 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 1st in order to be considered for construction in that off season. Submittal by November 1st 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 1st.

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.

IDLE ACRES

We still have Idle acres to rent for the upcoming water season. If you are interested in this please contact the office for all the details. For those of you that are irrigating ground that does not have water rights this is the time to contact us to rent idle acres.

BCID UPDATE

This year we have spent some time upgrading some of our old automation sites to deliver water more efficiently and reliably. Some of these sites were more than 15 years old and very outdated. We also built a new automation dashboard so that our watermaster and ditch riders have better control and oversight of what water is being delivered through the system. One of the things that we did differently on our aquatics program was start treating the canals earlier in the season. We had great success in our main canals controlling moss compared to previous years. As always, we are in the middle of reshaping ditches and cleaning them for the upcoming season. Over the next couple of months, you might see a track hoe or a ditcher in your area.

In Conclusion

We have had a very productive off season and we are looking forward to another water year. This water year may be a challenging one or we could get a ton of snow and be just fine, either way the crew at BCID is dedicated to you the patron and delivering water to your property. I want to thank the wonderful board of directors and my amazing staff that make this all possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out any time and we will do our best to solve your concerns.

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.

Mike Meyers
District Manager