

THE BLACK CANYON NEWS Fall 2020

Black Canyon Irrigation Dist. Emergency Phone Numbers

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Office Hours

7:00 am – 4:30 pm

www.blackcanyonirrigation.com

2020 DIRECTORS

Adam Blank (Chair)	District #1
John Hartman (V. Chair)	District #2
Dan Surmeier	District #3
Dennis Lamme	District #4
Mike Wagner	District #5

BOARD MEETINGS

Our regular Board Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of every month at the District office in Notus at 1:00 p.m.

2020 ASSESSMENTS

Unit #1

Spring \$31.00/acre

Fall \$26.75/acre

\$45.00/assessment charge per billing

Unit #2

Spring \$31.50/acre

Fall \$26.75/acre

\$45.00/assessment charge per billing

Excess water

\$20.00/acre feet

District Idle Acres

\$70.00/acre plus \$200.00 Transfer fee

2020 WATER SEASON

This water season was as smooth as you could ask for with the exception of April thru September. All joking aside, we started off on the wrong foot with an earthquake and a pandemic. We had record winds and rains and complications with aging infrastructure just to name a few of the challenges we faced this year. All in all we had a challenging but successful year and in regard to storage we should finish the year in good standing, and expect to carry over approximately 50,000 acre feet of storage to 2021.

2020 ELECTION

Adam Blank in District #1 was re-elected by Reason of Petition (Idaho Code 43-201A).

~DELIVERY POINTS~

If you see an issue with the number of acres on your delivery points, please contact the office. We can only fix these while water is NOT running so you need to take care of these problems during the off season.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION/BONNEVILLE POWER

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has big plans for projects that will potentially impact the District financially in a big way. They intend to replace the trash rack at Black Canyon Dam on the hydro-generators and install an all new trash rake. Preliminary numbers are estimated to be \$7.2 million but that will likely change by the time of construction. BCID's portion of that has yet to be determined by the BOR.

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION PROJECTS - FALL 2020 and SPRING 2021

For many years the District has focused on piping laterals in order to improve the project, however, we are shifting our focus toward existing infrastructure maintenance. Therefore, we are going to put more effort into the maintenance of the District, including replacing existing pipelines that are causing water delivery issues and replacing existing liner in the main canal that is beginning to fail. Most of the concrete infrastructure in the District is around 84 years old. It has served us well but it is time to begin rebuilding our project so it can continue to serve our patrons for another 80+ years.

MOSS / ALGAE ISSUES

Aquatic plants continue to be an ever changing and unpredictable battle. This season the 2nd Unit was hit much harder than anticipated and the 1st Unit was less of a challenge than we expected, meaning

they completely reversed their previous roles. 2nd Unit water temperatures were warmer than usual, causing increased aquatic growth. Please call the District and get on our list to be notified of treatment dates if you do not want treated water on your lands.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

Each and every year we have right of way issues. Last year was no different with the placing of fences, plants, material, equipment, and even survey markers (please make sure that surveyors do a set back off the right of way when placing pins so they don't get destroyed). Underground pipelines also have an O&M right of way that requires that nothing is placed within them in order to allow repairs and maintenance. Please, if you are planning on doing 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 from the BOR to prevent potential problems.

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 those 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.

NOTICE TO PATRONS WITH PUMPS/MOTORS

Each year someone within the District has motor or pump damage due to water flow issues that are normally out of our control, therefore, as in the past, we continue to **strongly** encourage any Patrons with Pumps / Motors to install low water shutoff protection to prevent possible damage due to low water conditions. We normally experience power outages each and every year so please be prepared. In addition, if you install a pump irrigation system, please design them to function at minimum flows. We have had multiple Patrons design their systems to operate at 1" to the acre or more. The district cannot always deliver a full inch to the acre as it was designed to delivery only three quarters of an inch to the acre. When this happens you may not be able to irrigate if your system is not designed appropriately.

WATER ISSUES

The ongoing issue with the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources in regard to how water that is released for flood control is accounted continues to be a top priority for us. We look forward to a resolution in the near future and we will keep you posted when more information is available.

Paul Arrington, Executive Director & General Counsel of the IWUA, has been and will continue to make changes to improve and update the operation of our Association. He has continued to work with our people in Washington D.C. to address a number of issues including the Columbia River Treaty which seems to be at the top of the list for now. IWUA, BCID, and other Irrigation Districts in Idaho have partnered with Mark Limbaugh of the Ferguson Group in Washington D.C. in order to address aging infrastructure across the state with Congress. It is our goal to find funding resolutions in order to lessen the burden on our patrons facing low commodity prices and rising irrigation taxes due to aging infrastructure replacement.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

As the holiday season approaches, our office will be observing the following changes to our normal hours of operation:

Thanksgiving:	November 25 th :	7 a.m. – 12 p.m.
	November 26 th & 27 th :	Closed
Christmas:	December 21 st :	7 – 4:30 – Last day to pay fall bill before
		interest
		is applied
	December 22 nd – 30 th :	Closed
	December 31 st :	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
	January 1 st :	Closed
	January 4 th :	First day to rent water for 2021

I hope the changing of the seasons finds you all healthy and safe in these unusual times. We are all looking forward to 2021 with hopes for a peaceful and prosperous year. I thought it appropriate to quote one of the greatest broadcasters our country has ever known as the closing line in this newsletter. "In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these." – Paul Harvey

Thank You
Carl Hayes
District Manager