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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



## A LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

RRVID's crew and staff are working hard to prepare our district for the upcoming water season. Both the main canal and all of the laterals have been cleaned and are ready to run water for the 2024 season. We have decent snowpack this year, which I am hoping equates to more water in the reservoirs. We are still in a low water state in the reservoirs as far as storage, but we are ahead of where we were last year at this time. I believe that we will have stream flow this year that I can take advantage of early in the season, and I won't have to rely so heavily on the water that we have in storage quite so early in the season, like we have had to do the last several years. I am hoping that we will be able to pull off a "close to normal" irrigation season for 2024. I won't go so far as to say we will get all the way to October, but I believe that I can get us close. As far as starting water this year, I am expecting to start putting water in the canal during the week of April 15th, depending on weather and it may be the following week or later, before you will see the water in the ditch. Please stay in contact with the district for updates on our start date. I encourage you to check the homepage of our website or call our office between 8 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

That is the good news. Now for the not so good news.

RRVID has discovered that we have a failing 48" pipe that runs underneath the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. RRVID is in the process of obtaining the permits required by the railroad, in order for us to enter their property, which will allow us to do this repair. We are hoping to complete this work before we turn on water for the 2024 water season. *If the repair cannot be completed by the start of water season*, then once the permit is issued, our plan would be to shut down the west side of the district, on a Saturday morning. Repair the pipe, turn the water back on for normal deliveries late Saturday or early Sunday morning. The district will do our best to notify affected users. We apologize for the inconvenience.

### Update on Fourmile Reservoir

RRVID is still very active in trying to protect our water within the Fourmile Reservoir. We will continue to fight this fight because of the impact it will have on the districts water supply, as well as the possible impacts it will have on the biological opinion that we fought so hard for and resulted in our non-jeopardy opinion. We have begun to have conversations with the Klamath Tribes regarding our concern about the call on Fourmile water. Again, the Klamath Tribes do have the senior water right to ours, but that does not mean that it is a good or a valid call and that is where we will continue to make our case.

Many of the issues that we will be raising fall under "Attorney Client Privilege" and therefore I am not at liberty to discuss this in depth at this time. I am more than happy to talk with you about it, but please understand ahead of time, that if you call me, I am limited in what I can discuss and what questions I can answer.

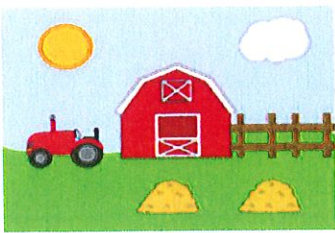
How this affects us, will depend on when the Klamath Tribes make a call. If the tribes make a year-round call, we may never see stored water in Fourmile again. If Klamath Lake fills, then the water call is not good and we go back to enjoying the storage that accumulates that year or we come up with a legal solution that allows us to use the water even if the tribes make a call and Klamath Lake is not full.

Please be assured that myself, as well as the RRVID Board of Directors, M I D and T I D and along with our legal team . . . we are doing everything we can to protect the water that the Rogue Valley Irrigators have enjoyed for well over 100 years.

In closing, my hope is that we all have a very successful 2024 water season and we continue to get snow in the mountains and rain in the valley.

Sincerely,

Brian Hampson  
District Manager



### HELPFUL OFFICE INFORMATION

Our office is open Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We are sometimes closed during the lunch hour from 12 to 1. Please call us to make sure we are open if you are planning to come in during the lunch hour. To speak with your Ditch Rider please call our District office at 541-773-6127 and we will get a message to him.

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET US KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE:

- ◆ Sold your property
- ◆ Have a name change for your account that matches Jackson County
- ◆ Have a new mailing address
- ◆ Have a new phone number
- ◆ Have a new email address or want to add one to your account
- ◆ Have not received your bill for the year

**Its easy to keep us informed! You can email [pam@rrvid.org](mailto:pam@rrvid.org) or call our office**



### CANAL SAFETY!!

Waters in the canal are non-potable and for irrigation purposes only. Do not drink, swim, bathe or otherwise contact the water. It is not recommended for pet and livestock drinking. The water is fast-moving and treacherous for humans and animals. For this reason, stay away from the canal and ALWAYS keep children, pets and farm animals away. If you see an animal in the canal, contact the District right away. Please do not attempt to remove any animal on your own.

### NO DUMPING!!

DUMPING LAWN CLIPPINGS, BRANCHES, GARBAGE, FUELS, GARDEN PESTICIDES, DEBRIS IN THE CANAL IS PROHIBITED. These are harmful, plug up downstream irrigators and cause damage to pumps. Violators will be subject to law enforcement and trespass. We ask patrons to help our crew control this problem and report violations to the office. By working together, we can stop this practice and keep our canal cleaner.

### 2024 RATE INCREASE

The District has made a small increase to the per-acre charge, from \$75.69 to \$78.51, All other fees will remain the same for 2024. We accept credit & debit card by phone and in the office, for your convenience! The fee is based on your payment amount. It is .016 for debit and .026 for credit.

### RRVID WEBSITE

Please remember to go to our website! Our website is always updated with important information about District news, letters from our manager, Tea-cup Diagram (water levels in real time), water season start and end date, photos, projects etc To view our website go to [rrvid.org](http://rrvid.org)

### RECLAMATION REFORM ACT (RRA)

ANY LAND OWNER WHO OWNS AND/OR LEASES IRRIGATED LAND TALLING 40.1 ACRES OR MORE MUST ANNUALLY (OR MORE OFTEN) FILE RRA FORMS WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE PRIOR TO RECEIVING IRRIGATION WATER.

**Please contact Laurie at our District Office before March 1st to request the appropriate form(s).**

The Bureau of Reclamation requires that RRA forms be on file prior to any water being delivered to the property of owners who own and/or lease irrigated land totaling 40.1 acres or more. **If your landholdings change in any way during the irrigation season, which includes moving your property into a trust or the passing of one or more of the property owners, it is imperative that you contact the District office to update your RRA forms.**

The District makes every effort to help landowners comply with the RRA regulations, but it is absolutely the land owner's responsibility to understand the law and make sure that the correct forms are filled out and on file. Please remember when you make any changes in your landholdings that put you at 40.1 acres or more owned and/or leased, to contact the District office for the necessary RRA forms. **If a landowner changes their ownership in any way, during the irrigation season and receives water without a new form on file, the landowner will be fined by the Bureau of Reclamation.**

**For any questions or information regarding RRA's, please contact Laurie at our District office.**



### **DROUGHT RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) provides technical assistance and sometimes financial assistance for water conservation and adaptation, both in ag and residential spaces.

To find their website go to > <https://www.jswcd.org/>  
For Drought information go to > <https://www.jswcd.org/drought>  
For technical and financial assistance info go to > <https://www.jswcd.org/services>  
Or  
<https://www.jswcd.org/water-conservation-and-adaptation>



### **2024 MAINTENANCE SEASON**

Canal, road and right-of-way maintenance is underway at RRVID. Please remember to remove all debris, obstacles, pipeline, bridges, walk boards etc, in anticipation of our equipment coming your way. Each Fall after water has been shut off, the silt and vegetation needs to be removed from the canal. RRVID typically puts this material back across the canal road or uses it to level the road from damages caused by human and animal traffic during the Spring. RRVID's Easements and right-of-way's are for District access, operation and maintenance only. The Easements are not for public right-of-way. Entering these areas may constitute trespassing on the underlying landowners property. RRVID does the mowing of the canal banks during Fall and Spring. RRVID uses flail mowers that mount onto out tractor to mow blackberries and brush. We request that our water users please limit the use of canal ditch roads during off season which can cause damage to the roads and make more work for our maintenance crew.

**Thank you for our help and consideration in this matter!**

### **KLAMATH ADJUDICATION**

The Klamath Basin Adjudication is still on-going which requires numerous hours of work on behalf of the RBWUC legal counsel to find a resolution to contested water right issues. Now that the Adjudication process is in the court system in Klamath County, it is anticipated that it is going to be a very long and expensive process, considering the numerous parties involved in the resolution process.

If you would like us to have your email address on file, please email Pam and your email will be added to your account. [Pam@rrvid.org](mailto:Pam@rrvid.org)  
We never share your personal information. We will only use your email for district related important information when we cannot reach you by phone or email is your preferred form of contact.



### **RRVID MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Rogue River Valley Irrigation District is to deliver water equitably and efficiently with the least amount of cost to its water users, keeping in mind the need for long range planning and environmental impact.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

The District Board Meetings are usually held at our office at 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month and they are open to the public. Please notify our office in advance if you wish to attend. Remember that meeting dates and times are subject to change. We will post meeting info on our website one week prior to the meeting.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bryan Baumgartner  
President

Larry Martin  
Vice President

Gerald May  
Director

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Orville Eary  
Barry Hoffman  
David Wolff

### **DISTRICT STAFF AND CREW**

Brian Hampson  
District Manager

Laurie  
Office Administrator

Pam  
Administrative Assistant

Jeff  
Head Maintenance

Lee  
Water Operations Supervisor

Chris  
West Side Ditch Rider

Hagen  
East Side Ditch Rider

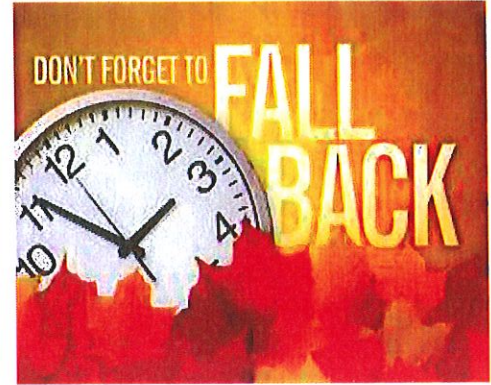
**For 2024 ~ RRVID WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE DATES:**

**Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**CLOSED ON:**

**IN OBSERVANCE OF:**

- ◆ JANUARY 1
  - ◆ FEBRUARY 19
  - ◆ MAY 27
  - ◆ JUNE 19
  - ◆ JULY 4
  - ◆ SEPTEMBER 2
  - ◆ NOVEMBER 11
  - ◆ NOVEMBER 28 & 29
  - ◆ DECEMBER 25
- NEW YEARS DAY
  - PRESIDENTS DAY
  - MEMORIAL DAY
  - JUNETEENTH
  - INDEPENDENCE DAY
  - LABOR DAY
  - VETERANS DAY
  - THANKSGIVING
  - CHRISTMAS



**INFORMATION FROM OUR ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT**



RRVID operates on a calendar year. Assessments are mailed out the 1st week of January. To have uninterrupted water delivery, please pay your bill in a timely manner. We give our patrons an interest free grace period which ends on February 28th. Interest is added to all accounts on March 1st and is retroactive to January 1st. If you wish to set up a payment plan, you must have a signed payment agreement on file in our office for the current year. Please email Pam@rrvid.org or call the office to set up the plan.

- ◆ A \$25.00 late fee will be added on April 1st to all accounts that have not signed a payment agreement or paid their account in full.
- ◆ In July, the District must file a Lien at Jackson County, for all unpaid Irrigation fees, plus interest and the Lien Fee of \$325.00.

To assure water delivery for the 2024 Water Season: 1) your account must be paid in full or 2) you must have a signed payment agreement on file in the District office and be making your monthly payments.

**TEACUP DIAGRAM:** US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific NW Region. Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek Basins. This Diagram is as of 04/03/2024. For more information or to view the most current Teacup Diagram, go to <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/roguetea.html> or visit our website to find the link.

04/07/2024

