

# VALE OREGON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### SPRINKLING ROADWAYS

Oregon Law requires that no one irrigate lands without a water right. This includes: County Roads, highways, driveways, service roads, ditch banks, drains, laterals or any other lands without a water right certificate. Irrigation of roadways will be subject to a fine via Malheur County Road Dept. and Malheur County Court.

ORS 537.110, 130(2), 990(2) person who willfully diverts or uses water to the detriment of others without compliance with law shall be punished.

### 2017 ASSEMENTS

O&M	\$37.90
Construction Charges	\$2.58
Account Fee	\$90.00

Accounts must be paid by April 10, 2017

### \*\*\*New Info\*\*\* LEASED PROPERTIES \*\*\*New Info\*\*\*

If you are planning on leasing property or leasing out your own property during the 2017 irrigation season; and you desire to transfer water allotment between the properties, a Temporary Water Allotment Transfer Agreement between landowner and lessee must be completed. The form must be submitted to the Vale Irrigation District Office no later than June 15, 2017. The form must have all parties signatures. This form will allow us to move water between the two properties without delays to the irrigator. (Temporary Water Allotment Transfer Agreement is enclosed.)

### RRA FORMS

Landowners owning or leasing more than 240 acres of land, your RRA Forms are due before you receive ANY irrigation water. Please come into the office to review and sign your form.

### WATER OUTLOOK

Snotel data reports within the Malheur Basin indicate there is 116% of average in snow water equivalency in the following individual locations: Lake Creek (Logan Valley– the drainage into Warm Springs) has 40 inches of snow with 14.7 inches of water content; Blue Mountain Springs (Summit Prairie – the drainage into both Beulah and Warm Springs) has 53 inches of snow with 15.9 inches of water content; Rock Springs (Warm Springs drainage) has 26 inches of snow with 8.3 inches of water content. Individual reservoir storage levels are Beulah 26,111 a.f. / 44% full; Warm Springs 38,767 a.f. / 23% full; and Bullycreek 14,600 a.f. / 62% full. For those who have internet access, the following sites will provide current reservoir storage information and snow data reports: [www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/realtime.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/realtime.html) follow the links to obtain reservoir storage information. [www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow) follow the links to obtain snow data reports.

### BUDGET

The Board of Directors recently approved the 2017 budget. The operation and maintenance (O&M) fee will be \$90.00 per account and \$37.90 per acre, same as in 2016 & 2015. The money collected on the O&M assessments is used to operate the district. The construction charges will be \$2.58 per acre. The money collected for the construction charges are used to meet the annual payments to the Bureau of Reclamation on the outstanding contracts for the construction of the project.

In keeping with prior year billing policy, the O&M fee and one half of the construction charge will be due on or before April 10<sup>th</sup>. The second half of the construction charge will also be billed at the same time, but will not be due until December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is to aid those water users who like to pay their entire account at the first billing period. If payment is not received by the due dates, the account will become delinquent and subject to an interest penalty of 12% per annum.

## RECLAMATION REFORM ACT (RRA)

The RRA and implementing regulations place limitations on the amount of owned and/or leased lands that may be irrigated with water from Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) projects. The RRA law requires every individual or entity that owns and/or leases over 240 acres of irrigation land within Reclamation projects, to annually report their landholdings and other information on Reclamation certification forms. A landholding in one district added to a land holding in another district may total more than 240 acres and would require the filing of RRA forms. Forms requirements apply to individuals; married couples and their dependents; legal entities such as partnerships, corporations, trusts, lending institutions; joint tenancies, tenancies-in-common, etc; religious and charitable organizations and governmental agencies. Those who meet this acreage limitation must complete RRA forms before the district is permitted by federal law to deliver water to the farm. [If ownership has changed from last year, such as the establishment of a trust or estate, please contact the office for further instructions.](#) It is imperative that these forms are completed correctly, to avoid any penalties which the Bureau may assess during their audit of district records. Additional information can be found at the BOR website: [www.usbr.gov/rra](http://www.usbr.gov/rra).

## FIVE YEARS NON-USE

Whenever land within the legal boundaries of an Irrigation district is no longer irrigated or capable of being irrigated, the district may apply the certificated water to which such land is entitled, to other irrigable lands within the legal boundaries of the district. For example, if a water user has not made beneficial use of the water to which the user is entitled for a period of four successive years, the district shall advise the user and/or security holder that if the user does not use the water for a fifth successive year, the district may petition the Water Resources Commission for a transfer of the water right under ORS 540.574.

## WEED BURNING CREW

The District maintenance and weed burning crews will soon begin their spring work. As stated in the By-Laws, the District will not be responsible for the damage or loss of gated pipe, equipment or any other material located on District rights-of-ways. Please take time to inspect this area now and remove anything you may have stored there.

## PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Approximately 92.3 miles of pipe have been buried since 1991. This has resulted in increased water efficiencies and more projects are planned for this fall. The Board is committed to continue to upgrade the project by implementing water conservation measures.

## OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Current office hours are 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday, closed from 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm for lunch. Our telephone number is 541-473-3243, if no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible. Our e-mail address is: [void@fmtc.com](mailto:void@fmtc.com) and the website address is [valeid.com](http://valeid.com), where you can find district information and useful links.

## DITCHRIDERS AND CREW

Our current ditchriders are: Ride 1 - Bryan Schwabauer; Ride 2 – Alan Dixon; Ride 3 - Brady Wolfe; Ride 4 - Jack Falls. If you have any questions about your ride, feel free to call the office. The crew includes: Mike Barlow, Roki Bishop, Danny Giacomo, Rob Micheli, Dan Skerjanec, Paul Zinie and Assistant Manager Ty King.

Sincerely,



Warren Chamberlain  
Board Chairman

## OFFICE STAFF

Dan Fulwyler - Manager  
Jessi Hansen - Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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