



KLAMATH IRRIGATION DISTRICT

6640 K.I.D. LANE

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15 April 2022

SUBJECT: Klamath Irrigation District Water Distribution Policy for 2022 as of **14 April 2022**

Situation: The Klamath Basin is nearly 20 inches BELOW normal precipitation since October 2019. This lack of precipitation combined with poor political policies has resulted in a limited amount of water available for beneficial use. The District began applying water to select portions of the system on 1 March 2022 to address concerns relating to the health and welfare of people in our communities.

Reclamation's 2022 Operations Plan states there is no water available for its "B" and "C" contractors. Reclamation's plan allows its "A" contractors to manage available water in Upper Klamath Lake based upon the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion for minimum lake levels. **Current calculations indicate available water for "A" contracts in 2022 is just over 0.25 acre-feet per acre.**

The situation requires immediate changes to Klamath Irrigation District delivery policies. Therefore, the following rules and regulations are established pursuant to ORS 545.221.

Klamath Irrigation District is again forced to change from a demand-based delivery system to a supply-based ordering system; thus as supply becomes available, deliveries will be made. Therefore, **the District must limit patrons to 1 irrigation, not to exceed 0.25 acre-feet per acre.** The District will adaptively manage the deliveries and will assess if a second irrigation can be delivered once a majority of the 1st irrigations are complete.

The District staff anticipates **the system will be prepared for deliveries beginning 1 May 2022.** Water orders as per District policy can be placed with your ditch rider up to 72 hours in advance of requested delivery. We anticipate a very high demand; water may not be initially available based upon the priorities set below; waiting lists will be established.

Canals will be limited to a set flow rate as allowed by our infrastructure constraints. Ditch riders have been given a daily allotment from these canals to fulfill orders. **Ditch riders have been instructed to place orders on a waiting list** and will inform patrons when they anticipate they will have water available to fulfill the order. No later than 12 hours prior to delivery, the ditch rider will make verbal confirmation of the scheduled delivery.

Priority Water Rights:

Van Brimmer Ditch Company has the senior Project water right. Ride 5 will provide up to 50 cfs (and no more) to Van Brimmer Ditch Company each 24-hour period (including water pulled directly from the Lost River) as supply allows.

Klamath Irrigation District patrons will be prioritized in the following manner:

a) **Henley-Ankeny** ground, as adjudicated with Oregon Water Resources Department is the next senior water right holder up to 49 cfs within a 24 hour period. Rides 1, 3, and 5 will prioritize

these deliveries over other Klamath Irrigation District patrons up to 49 cfs calculated across all turnouts.

b) **Supplemental Groundwater Permits:** With a signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) with K.I.D. management, groundwater may be pumped into the infrastructure as outlined in an Oregon Water Resource Department issued permit(s). Ditch riders will prioritize these deliveries up to the rate of the groundwater entering the system over a 24-hour period (well owners should work with their ditch rider to calculate for losses in delivery due to seepage and evaporation). Any groundwater placed into the system which is not utilized will become available for other deliveries. Close coordination with the ditch rider(s) is essential as loss due to unnecessary spill could occur which reduces the remaining available water. An MOA and water orders are **REQUIRED** for these transfers, ditch riders **MUST** confirm water entering the system is equal to or less than (accounting for evaporation and seepage) water being delivered.

c) **The “suburbs”** on Ride 1 will receive water into the system for **up to one week, beginning 23 May 2022**, as the supply of 0.25 acre feet per acre in the suburbs allows. A reassessment of this decision will be made in June.

d) **Participants in the Drought Response Agency Program** choosing not to irrigate 5 acres or more: When confirmed by Klamath Irrigation District Management, a land owner who places lands into this program will receive preference in the waiting list priority.

e) Remaining Klamath Irrigation District patrons: **First call = first delivery.**

f) **Klamath Basin Improvement District and other Warren Act contractors: Water is not currently available** for delivery. Unique transfers of an “A” contract water right to a “B” contract ground must be approved by the Bureau of Reclamation as per Reclamation’s 2022 Operations Plan; the District Manager will assist in applying for these transfers as time and schedule allows.

Rules:

Patrons may call up to 3 days in advance to place a water order for a set rate not to exceed 0.25AF/acre, and **not to exceed 144 hours** (6 days). This process does not guarantee the water will be available at the requested time; however, it is an attempt to prevent abuses in the system.

When water becomes available, ditch riders will call those patrons which have entered the supply window the evening prior to the delivery to confirm the patron can take receipt. The patron will have 1 hour from the time of the ditch rider’s call to confirm the delivery. If the patron is unable to confirm receipt, the ditch rider will move to the next order on the waiting list. The patron which is passed over will return to the waiting list for the next available delivery.

Patrons are encouraged to measure their deliveries using the “Water Use Worksheet” found on our website. Ditch riders will measure the delivery as the official record.

Violations:


Calling water orders on and off as per Klamath Irrigation District Policy is always required. This year it is critical; every drop that passes by a turnout when patrons don't take their water order is charged to the patrons account, reducing the productiveness of their crop and availability of supply for others.

Taking water without calling on will be addressed as per the Klamath Irrigation District Policy with the following addition: turnouts will be locked with a non-standard lock on the first violation with a \$200 fee. Water orders will be curtailed for the remainder of the year, physical modifications to the turnout or pump may occur, with a \$1000 fee on the second violation. The Board of Directors may vote additional repercussions which could impact the 2023 irrigation season for repeat offenders (regardless of a single property or multiple properties).

Taking of water without a rate, either a "B" contract or the max allotment has been reached (to include any over-delivery of ground water), will result in pursuit of enforcement to the extent allowed by Oregon State Law.

Issues:

Address all issues concerning this policy with the Klamath Irrigation District Manager.
Address complaints of water allocation to Tom Byler at Oregon Water Resources Department.
Appeals will be processed as per Section 4 of the Klamath ID Patron Water Management and Delivery Policy dated 11 April 2019.


Gene Souza
District Manager