

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022

**P.O. Box 944
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Dear Westland patrons,

The irrigation season is approaching! The crew has been hard at work making sure the canal is ready to supply water to all the patrons. The snow pack looks decent, but the warm weather over the last month has caused some of the snow to melt. McKay Reservoir is approximately 39% full with a steady flow coming in. You can see the snow pack on the NRCS web page by clicking on this link:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/> You can also view McKay storage on the Bureau Of Reclamation HydroMet webpage: <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/umatilla/umatea.html>

There is still a few months to go and some snow for the mountains is in the forecast.

There was a leak on the discharge of the Cano pumpstation that progressively became worse at the end of the 2021 season. In the off season the crew dug it up and confirmed the discharge manifold and two gate valves need to be replaced due to age. The discharge manifold has been repaired and the pumpstation is ready for the 2022 irrigation season.

On to district news...

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS & WATERSHED PLAN IN THE WORKS

As has been shared in previous newsletters to patrons, Westland is working together with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) to develop strategies and improvements to benefit the district and increase its efficiencies in making water deliveries to patrons. The resulting System Improvement Plan will identify modernization methods and steps to improve operations and maintenance, district infrastructure, and water conveyance methods. The System Improvement Plan is expected to be ready later this fall.

In addition, grant funding has been made available for Westland to work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farmers Conservation Alliance to develop a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment through NRCS' Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566). Irrigation districts that complete Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessments can be eligible to receive up to \$25 million in federal funding to support irrigation modernization projects. The Watershed Plan process typically takes 18 months to two years to complete, with public comment opportunities occurring as the Plan is developed. A Scoping Document is currently being drafted and, when it is in final draft form, will be on the agenda for the first public comment meeting. To learn more about the Watershed Plan process and see examples of Plans being developed for other Oregon irrigation districts, please visit: www.oregonwatershedplans.org

Westland and Umatilla County continue to collaborate in shaping the Ordnance Regional Water Supply and Aquifer Restoration Project (Ordnance Project). This joint effort has the potential to increase the reliability of water supplies to irrigated acres in the district, while also providing a source of water for economic and environmental benefits through construction of a new pipeline from the Columbia River to an area near the east boundary of the former Umatilla Army Ordnance Depot. Funding opportunities from federal, state, and other sources will play a key role in driving this project forward. In addition to the Ordnance Project information found on the district's website, www.westlandirrigation.com, the written materials can be accessed directly here: <https://bit.ly/3zuh7Pj> and a short video on the project can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2XFxBr6>

Westland and Umatilla County have reached an agreement for Westland to hold a capacity in the Ordnance Pipeline of 20cfs. The district has contracted with IRZ to conduct a feasibility study on the A-Line. IRZ is looking at possible pipeline routes on the northern half of the A-Line to conserve water during McKay stored water season. The canal will stay in place and will be used during the live flow season. Westland has incurred expenses over the past two years and will continue to do so until the watershed plan is completed in the fall of 2023. This is the cost of trying to improve the efficiency of the canal and conserve water to extend the irrigation season for all patrons. If you would like more information on the watershed plan and the Ordnance Project Pipeline please don't hesitate to reach out on the district website, call the office, or stop by the office.

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

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