



2025

OWYHEE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

welcome to our

Annual Newsletter



WATER OUTLOOK

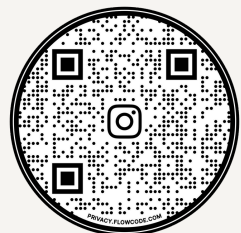
As we review the previous water year it was a full 4AF/acre allotment for the irrigators and a year where we ran the glory hole, that only happens about once every five years! It was however sad to see so much water pass by knowing it couldn't be saved for later when a drought comes.

This year's water season is off to a great start as well with 68% (488,047AF 10% more than this time last year) reservoir storage and good snowpack!

The current weather has halted and with the colder temps we are in danger of losing snow pack to evaporation. Continue to be prayerful that the weather and timing of storms will fill the reservoir once again and if spillage is needed that it will be minimal.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- District Projects
- Annual Meeting
- Farewell to Director Tschida
- 2025 Operation & Maintenance Charges
- Combination Forms
- Gopher Bounty
- Aquatic Chemicals



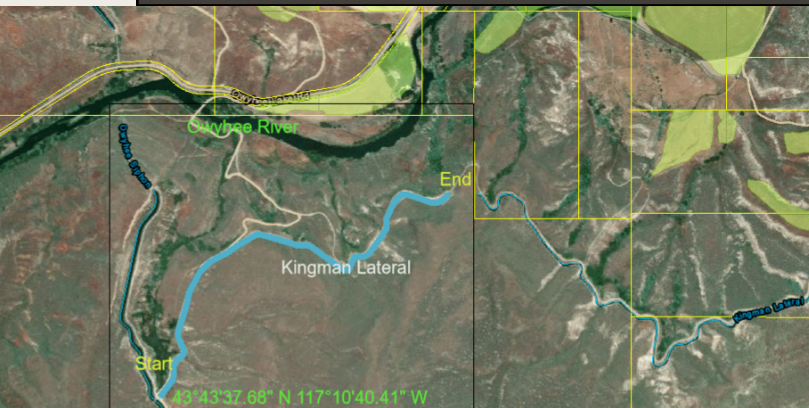
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

District Projects

This year we have started the work on piping the first mile of the Kingman Lateral. This project that is funded by grants from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and OWRD (Oregon Water Resources Department) will provide slope stability and water savings.

We have been working on a large scale planning and future projects process through the Federal Law PL-566, however this project was just put on hold due to an executive order.

We are hopeful that this will proceed after the new administration reviews all the projects that have been stopped. We have various other improvements and maintenance projects on going that will be completed before water starts. District staff and Directors are committed to meeting the challenges of the future to ensure many more decades of productivity of the Owyhee Irrigation Project and the dedicated patrons.



Annual Meeting

The District will hold an annual meeting on the 18th of February at the District office. This meeting will be the first in several years. It will provide greater insight and information regarding water outlook, operation, and district projects. Please attend and learn more about your District.

OWRF Oregon Water Resources Foundation

Three years ago, the OWRC (Oregon Water Resources Congress) launched a scholarship program to encourage Oregon high school graduates to pursue careers in water or agriculture. The foundation secured and distributed scholarships to eight graduates, including five in 2024 totaling \$27,000! One of the 2024 recipient's is local to our community hailing from Ontario! If you would like to make donations to the foundation, go to: www.owrc.org/owrf/



2025 Operations & Maintenance Charges

The Directors are proud to announce that the O&M charges for the 2025 water year are reduced from last year. This reduction comes because the District finished paying back the reserves that it borrowed against to make repairs to the Malheur siphon.

This repayment happened two years earlier than projected! The 2024 assessment was \$76/ac + \$1.50/ac for the Malheur Siphon loan for a total of \$77.50/ac.

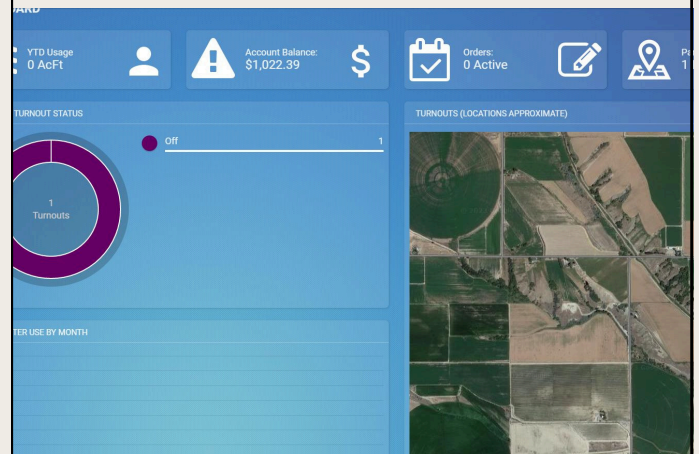
The 2025 assessment sees the elimination of the \$1.50/ac for the siphon and a \$0.50 increase in the general O&M charges for a total of \$76.50/ac, a \$1.00/ac reduction from last year!

Those who own 5 acres of less will be assessed an \$85.00 small acreage fee plus the \$76.50 per acre fee.

Customer Portal

MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE!

- Water Users will receive the access PIN on the 2025 Assessment Summaries mailed out in February. Feel free to contact the office for assistance setting up the portal.
- Water Users will be able to see Year-to-Date water usage on the portal. We will NOT be mailing out the Water Usage Summaries. Water users will need to view water usage details through the Customer Portal or contact the office for assistance.
- RRA Forms—RRAs are not available online, if you need to complete RRA form/s you will continue to come into the office to complete the form/s.
- You can view your current account balance, view account transactions, & make payments with your card or bank account!



Farewell to Director Tschida



The District is mourning the loss of Director Dan Tschida. He served as the Director for Division 4 for 18 years and served on several other boards in the greater community. He was always a conservative voice. He ensured that the patrons in his Division were represented and the District was fiscally responsible. Our condolences and appreciation go out to all those who are feeling the loss of this dedicated public servant.



Combination Form

The District has adopted a program for Land owners & Renters to be able to combine multiple parcels into one water allotment pool. This allows the Land Owner/Renter to utilize the total water allotment how they see fit amongst the combined parcels.

There are certain restrictions & limitation that apply.

More details & instructions on how to apply for a combination is available on the website.

www.oidnh.gov

Gopher Bounty

For the 2025 water year the **LIMIT CONTINUES TO BE 600 TAILS PER PERSON/ORGANIZATION PER MONTH.**

- The District will pay \$1.00 per tail.
- Gophers must be caught within the authority of the Owyhee Irrigation District.
- You must be a Land Owner within the Owyhee Irrigation District to qualify!

Please keep in mind, **ROTTING TAILS AND OTHER PARTS OF ANIMALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Aquatic Chemicals

If you wish to participate, you must complete a Lock & Close Program Request Form located on our website. This must be completed by April 12, 2025, if you do not wish to have these chemicals enter your Headgate. For more information, please contact the district office. This year we will again be using the AlertSense notification system for aquatic herbicide applications made to the canals & laterals. This alert system contacts the user by email, landline, text, or cell phone. This system keeps our patrons better informed and provides documentation for our records.