

SPRING
2020

WATER FRONT

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

THE RIECK REPORT: STATE OF THE DISTRICT

The year is off to a great start, with no shortage of activity as we wrap up major piping projects and prepare for the irrigation season.

Because seasonal droughts and long-term climate change are producing less snowpack and rainfall, we are tasked with finding the best ways to deliver limited water in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.

TID's goal is to lower demands to a point where we can withstand the normal, periodic, multi-year drought/recovery cycle.

The snow levels in the upper reaches of Crescent Lake drainage (our main supply after Tumalo Creek) are well below average for the third year in a row. The District has enough carryover from the last two years of judicious use to supply water this summer; however, it will leave Crescent Lake at a very low level. Draining Crescent Lake would result in the District running out of storage water.

TID is actively seeking opportunities to conserve water through piping open canals and improve on-farm efficiencies. We began piping in the District in 2000 to avoid losing 40 to 55 percent of water through seepage and evaporation. We recently completed piping the main canals from the points of diversion to Tumalo Reservoir and are focused on piping smaller laterals.

We are committed to working with landowners to implement voluntary conservation measures to conserve water on-farm. On-farm efficiency is defined as anything past the point of delivery. Please assess all areas of your operation for opportunities to conserve water and save energy.

The last item I would like to mention is the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The irrigation districts and their partners have committed the past decade to developing a multi-species HCP. Once approved, hopefully, this fall, the Districts, City of Prineville, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin implementation of the HCP. The HCP will result in long-term benefits to Deschutes River-dependent species, the region's water resources, and the social and economic health of communities, while providing Endangered Species Act-related liability protection to the districts.

Ken Reick, Tumalo Irrigation District Manager

WATER TURN ON

TID is planning to turn water on Monday, April 13.

Please call the office 24 hours in advance to request to have water started so that our ditch riders can open the headgate. Requests for water must be made by phone or in-person.

Call us at 541-382-3053

TID BY THE NUMBERS



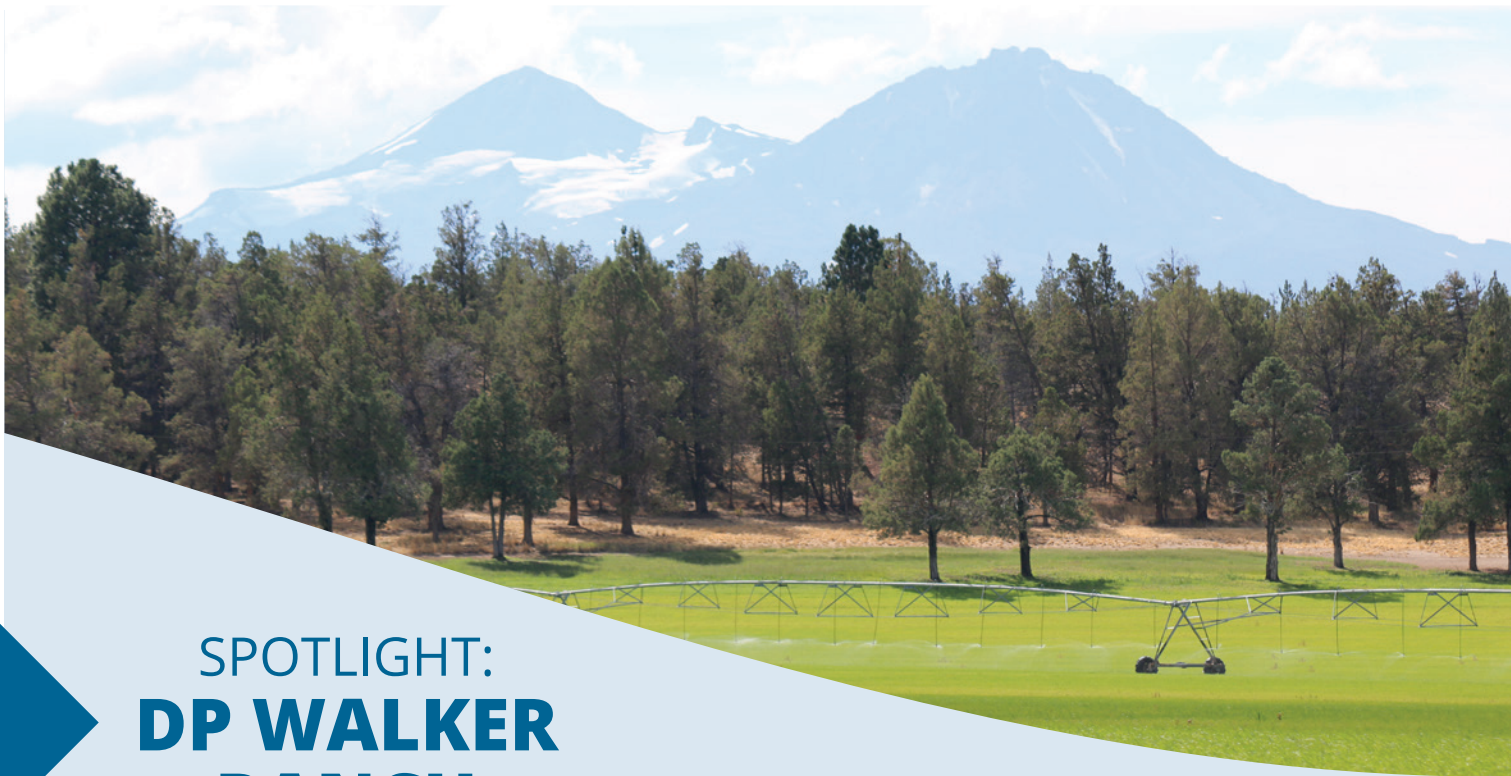
**established
1900**



**patrons
685**



**acres
8,110**



SPOTLIGHT: DP WALKER RANCH

The DP Walker Ranch traces its roots back to 1973 when Don and Marianne Walker purchased acreage on the corner of Tweed Road and Highway 20. They've grown to be one of the largest hay growers in Central Oregon, producing 1,000 ton of orchard grass per year.

In the early 1980's Don, a TID board member, approached the District with the idea to pipe the Highline Lateral. Don saw the opportunity to conserve water and utilize pipe pressurized by gravity to reduce or eliminate the need for on-farm pumping, saving money and energy.

Walker's daughter and son-in-law Karen and Gary Moss moved to the Ranch in 2000. That same year Don passed away.

For their part, the Mosses have made Don's vision come to fruition and implemented numerous water conservation measures.

This winter TID finished piping the Highline Lateral, which will reduce the Ranch's electrical bill by as much as 80%.

The Ranch uses three pivots to efficiently irrigate 200 acres and meet the crop's irrigation needs while using less water.

In addition to being leaders in water conservation, the Walkers and Mosses are known for their generosity in the community.





WATER CONSERVATION: INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

A leading concern facing the future of agricultural production is the availability of water. TID is involved in numerous programs aimed at further improving farm water efficiency and conserving water that could eventually be freed up to benefit the environment while preserving farm economies.

Our goal is to have every irrigation system efficient so that not one drop of precious water is wasted. Irrigators need to be proactive about implementing effective irrigation scheduling and maintenance strategies.

The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District can provide free assistance to help develop or refine your conservation strategy to meet your objectives and goals. Contact the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District at to learn about increasing the efficiency of your irrigation system.

Call 541-923-4358 Ext. 3190



PLAN UPDATE: HABITAT CONSERVATION

The City of Prineville and the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC), made up of eight irrigation districts in Central Oregon, have developed a Deschutes River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The goal of the HCP is to provide sufficient, reliable water for residents and farmers while conserving fish, wildlife, and water resources.

The HCP will result in long-term benefits to Deschutes River-dependent species, the region's water resources, and the social and economic health of communities while providing ESA-related liability protection to the districts.

Once approved, the Districts, City of Prineville, and the USFWS will begin implementation of the HCP.

Learn more about the HCP at www.dbbcirrigation.com



BENEFICIAL USE

Beneficial use is use of irrigation water to produce a crop, grass or landscape areas. This means that the irrigation water must be used on land that is designated for this purpose — irrigable land, not rock piles, driveways, roadways, or under structures.

If the water on your property has not been used in several years, and, if for any reason, you are unable to irrigate your property in 2020 fully, we encourage you to contact us to discuss the options available to protect the water.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the water on your property and beneficial use, please contact our office to schedule an appointment.

Call us at 541-382-3053

TID'S STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS RECOGNIZED AS EXCEPTIONAL

In December 2019, the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) recognized TID for implementing a remarkable water conservation program. With continuous improvements to TID's delivery system, conservation, careful water management, and participation in the Deschutes River Conservancy-facilitated instream water leasing program, the district was able to leave over 18 cubic feet per second (cfs) in Tumalo Creek during the hottest part of the summer.

The water from Tumalo Creek plays a critical role in the health of the Deschutes River. The colder water from Tumalo Creek flowing into the Middle Deschutes below the confluence of Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River makes for better habitat for native fish and other creatures that rely on the river.



TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT PIPING IMPROVEMENTS

As demands for water increase in the Deschutes Basin, TID is working toward a modern, efficient irrigation system that diverts less water and delivers more reliable water to farms.

TID, in partnership with multiple funding agencies, and with the assistance of two qualified contractors, has recently completed two major piping projects. The first project is the completion of the Tumalo Feed Canal and represents the largest piping project to date and the culmination of 20 years of work. The project included the construction of 6,000 feet of a large-diameter pipeline by Latham Excavation. Tapani Construction constructed the second project, which included piping six full laterals. Tapani was able to complete this work a year ahead of schedule.

TID is moving forward on an ambitious plan to pipe its entire network of canals. The remainder of the project will be converting the more than 60 miles of smaller canals to underground pipe, and this is expected to take ten years to complete. Once the District is fully piped, over 48 cubic feet of water per second will be returned to Tumalo Creek and Crescent Creek.

TID's modern irrigation system will improve water reliability, water quality and lower pumping costs for irrigators.



TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

64697 Cook Ave, Bend, OR 97703
541-382-3053 | staff@tumalo.org
www.tumalo.org

Follow us on Facebook