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SPRING NEWSLETTER
 If you would prefer receiving newsletters via email, please send us a message to: newsletter@brid.ca

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BRID WEBSITE

Visit our website for more information on the BRID at: <https://brid.ca>



As of March 27, it was slightly below average in the Highwood and Elbow River basins, which are southern tributaries to the Bow River that provide about 30% of the Bow River’s flow, but further north the snowpack is about 30% below average for this date. The mountain snowpack normally peaks in early May, so there is still time for improvement, but the trend has been for low mountain snowfall this winter.

The good news is that our reservoirs are in good shape, so we do not anticipate any water shortages this year. The current total storage in the headworks reservoirs is 324,000 acre feet, which is normal winter storage, and our internal reservoirs are at normal levels. However, it is important that we operate as efficiently as possible to ensure that reservoirs are full for the following year. One of the most important things every irrigator can do to improve our efficiency is to follow our water ordering rules, as outlined in the next section. If everyone consistently followed these rules we could spill less water, making more available for irrigation. Last year’s return flow was over 44,600 acre feet, which was the lowest in the last ten years, but it is still a lot of wasted water. Our return flow for the last ten years is shown below.

NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Board of Directors and Irrigators of the Bow River Irrigation District will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 1:30 PM in the Enchant Community Hall.

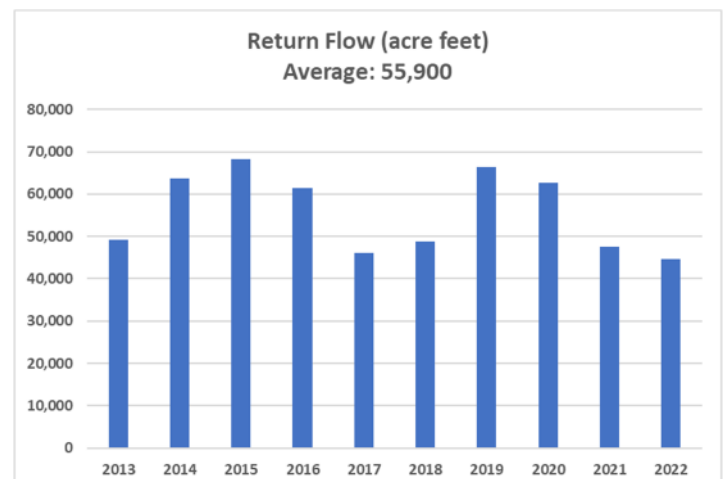
WATER TURN-ON DATE

Water will be released from Little Bow Reservoir on April 28th this year, which should allow all pipelines to be filled no later than May 3, unless unusually cold weather forces us to delay filling pipelines to avoid freezing valves. Water will not be available sooner than those dates, so plan your seeding accordingly.

The starting date for diversion at the Carseland Weir into the headworks canal has not been determined, but it should be in mid-April.

WATER SUPPLY

Most years approximately 80% of the annual flow of the Bow River comes from melting snow in the mountains, with most of the remainder from rain, and less than 2% from melting glaciers. The mountain snowpack is therefore a good indicator of how much flow to expect, and this year the snowpack in the Bow River headwaters is below average at most locations.



WATER ORDERS AND ORDERING

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, but all irrigators must order water 24 hours in advance of the time that they wish to commence irrigation. Though it may take up to 24 hours to deliver water to any specific parcel, ditchriders will attempt to deliver water as soon as it is reasonably possible. Irrigators are also reminded that they are required to give 24 hours’ notice of shutoffs.

Irrigators should be able to contact their ditchriders and receive a response between the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and 7:00 A.M. to noon on Saturdays. They are not expected to make deliveries on Sundays.

Messages, whether by phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders are not expected to respond before 7 A.M or after 7 P.M. Contacting your ditchrider by texting is encouraged as the preferred method of communication. This method ensures that a record of communication exists between both parties.

Pipelines may seem to always contain water, but it takes time for water to flow to the inlets from the reservoirs and canals. When too many irrigators take water without ordering it causes shortages downstream.

The Board and Management will also look at enforcing further penalties on those who ignore the BRID’s policies and bylaws concerning water ordering.

WATER LIMIT

The limit for sprinkler irrigation methods (pivots, wheel lines) remains at 20” per acre, with the ability to purchase up to an additional 4” per acre for \$4.00. The limit for flood irrigation remains at 24” per acre, also with the ability to purchase up to an additional 4” per acre for \$4.00. The ability to pool your total allotment has not changed.

CROP REPORTS

In 2023, crop information for most ditchrider areas will be gathered by the office. Unless your ditchrider asks you for that information, irrigators will be receiving requests for crop information by email or telephone early in the irrigation season.

DO NOT OPEN PIPELINE VALVES EARLY

The ditchriders check and close all pipeline valves in fall and spring prior to the next irrigation season. They do not normally check valves again immediately prior to the water turn-on. When they start priming the pipelines, in some cases it is discovered that some valves have been opened and left open. This may cause flooding of a portion of the irrigator’s land, and we are not aware of it until notified by the landowner. All irrigators are requested to leave the valves closed until water is ordered. It is evident that some irrigators are opening domestic delivery valves to check if water is in the pipeline yet and leaving the valve open.

Not tampering with the valves is appreciated by the ditchriders as they will have better luck with priming the pipelines and will not have to respond to any flooding issues. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTICE: WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The Bow River Irrigation District will be applying herbicides to control vegetation within 30 horizontal meters of open bodies of water owned by the district.

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-05-00 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires February 15, 2030. Applications for broadleaf control will begin in May and continue until the end of September. For aquatic weed and algae control, treatments will begin May 19, 2023, and continue until the second week of September. Please check our website <https://brid.ca> for a list of locations and application dates. The weed control program is administered by licensed applicators.

<u>Herbicide Used</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Magnacide H PCP # 10948	Control of submerged aquatic vegetation and algae.
2, 4-D Amine 600 Oracle (Dicamba) VP480 (Glyphosate) Estoprop XT	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush, poplar.
VP480 (Glyphosate)	Control of cattail and reed canary grass.

If you have any questions regarding this activity, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation District office at (403) 654-2111.

The BRID does not avoid spraying adjacent to organic crops. It is the landowner’s responsibility to maintain a buffer zone on their own lands between their crops and the sprayed area.

2023 MAGNACIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

The Bow River Irrigation District will apply Magnacide H to control aquatic vegetation and algae at the following locations:

Sundial/Enchant/Deadhorse Area - Main Canal - TWP 13, 14, 15 – RG 17, 18, 19, 20
-Applications on Fridays June 2; June 23.

Deadhorse/Vauxhall/Hays Area - Main Canal – TWP 13, 14 – RG 14, 15, 16, 17
-Applications on Saturdays June 3, June 24, and Friday August 4.

Travers/Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral - TWP 15, 16 - RGE 19
- Applications on Tuesdays May 23, June 6, June 27, July 18.

Badger/Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral -TWP 17 - RGE 17, 18
-Applications on Wednesdays June 14, July 12, August 16.

Travers/Lomond Area–Lateral D – TWP 15 RGE19
-Applications on Tuesdays May 30, June 20, July 11, August 1.

Badger Lake Area - Lateral G & G-3 - TWP 17 – RGE 18

-Applications on Mondays June 26, July 24.

Badger Lake/Enchant Area – Lateral H - TWP 15, 16 - RGE 18 - Applications on Wednesdays May 24, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, August 9, August 30.**Travers/Lomond Area-Drain F - TWP 16 - RGE 18, 19**

-Applications on Tuesdays May 30, June 20, July 11, August 1.

Vauxhall/Retlaw Area - Lateral A - TWP 13 -RGE 16, 17

-Applications on Fridays May 26, June 16, July 7, July 28, August 18.

Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral B - TWP 14, 15 - RGE 16, 17

- Applications on Thursdays June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, August 3, August 24.

Vauxhall Area – Lateral C - TWP 13, 14 – RGE 16

-Applications on Fridays May 26, June 16, July 7, July 28, August 18.

Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral K – 10 – TWP 14 – RGE 16, 17

-Applications on Friday July 14.

Circle Hill/Stone Hill Area-Lateral K-11-TWP 14, 15 – RGE 16, 17

-Applications on Friday June 9 and Monday July 10.

Hays Area- Lateral R below Scope Reservoir-TWP 12, 13 – RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Friday May 19, Mondays June 5, June 19, Tuesday July 4, Mondays July 17, July 31, August 14.

Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir- TWP 13 – RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Thursday May 25, June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 10.

During the application, no water is permitted to enter municipal waterworks systems, water systems used to supply water for household purposes, dugouts or ponds used for livestock watering, dugouts or ponds containing stocked fish. Please ensure that water you divert on these dates does not apply to any of these categories.

We ask that you review the information package available from your ditchrider for more information about Magnacide H. Organic growers irrigating should inform their ditchrider to be aware of any application which could affect organic crop certification. Please check the application schedule on our website at <http://www.brid.ca/pages/pesticide.html>. If you have any questions regarding Magnacide application, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation office (403) 654-2111.

BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS

Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month. To ensure that requests or concerns are received in time to be included on the agenda of the upcoming board meeting, and to allow staff and directors sufficient time to complete any research on the issues, submissions must be received at the office no later than 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the board meeting. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the agenda of the next month's meeting.

Submissions to the office should be addressed to either the board of directors, Richard Phillips - General Manager, or Jessica Robbins – Assistant General Manager- Finance & HR. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to richard.phillips@brid.ca or jessica.robbins@brid.ca.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual board election results were as follows: John Kolk (electoral division 2) joined the board after winning the election. John DeVries (electoral division 4) returned to the board by acclamation.

Following is a list of the current directors with their 3-year terms noted:

Division #1 – Glenn Logan (2021-2024)

Division #2 – John Kolk (2023-2026)

Division #3 – James Larson (2022–2025)- Vice Chairman

Division #4 – John DeVries (2023-2026)

Division #5 – Vic Van Dyk (2022-2025)

Division #6 – Kerby Redekop (2022-2025)

Division #7 – Walter Unruh (2021-2024)- Chairman

STAFF CHANGES

Glen Andruschak replaced Rob Zalik as an equipment operator.

FIELD DRAINAGE

Landowners are to be reminded that at no time are they to pump or drain low lying areas into District drainage.

Any area or ponded water that appears to have polluted water will not be allowed to drain into a BRID canal unless it can be shown through testing that the water does not contain microorganisms typically found in manure. Testing can be done in Lethbridge for a nominal fee and with a 3 to 5-day turnaround.

DITCHRIDER INFORMATION:

Area 1 - Headworks: **Nicholas May**
(403)-892-9446

Area 2 - Travers/Lomond: **Lonnie Howg**
(403)-485-1392

Area 3 - Badger Reservoir: **Vince Row**
(403)-485-1391 or (403)-654-3042

Area 4 - Enchant: **Kelly Howg**
(403)-654-0361

Area 5 - Vauxhall North: **Bryden Geremia**
(403)-654-8214

Area 6 - Circle Hill: **Conrad Cazemier**
(403)-654-3134

Area 7- Vauxhall South: **Ray Friesen**
(403)-654-0362

Area 9 - Grantham/West Hays: **Adam Locke**
(403)-654-8212

Area 10 - Hays: **Richard Church**
(403)-654-8082

If you have an emergency and cannot contact your ditchrider, please contact the operations supervisor.

Operations Supervisor: Daryl Brouwers
(403)-654-8162

IRRIGATION EXPANSION UPDATE

At the start of the 2019 expansion, 8,000 acres were allocated to intensification. The last of these acres were sold towards the end of 2021. After reviewing the applications still being processed and taking in account the acres reserved for future projects, the district has not reached its limit of 295,000 acres. In January 2022, the Board approved 1,200 additional acres to be available for intensification at a cost of \$3,000/acre. The previous conditions that determined if a parcel was eligible for intensification acres are still in effect. In addition, acres will only be added to areas which are irrigated with efficient systems. As of March 28, 2023, there are 590 acres remaining for intensification.

If you are interested in purchasing intensification acres, the procedure is:

1. Contact the office to determine if the parcel is eligible, and how many acres will be required.
2. Pay a \$100/acre deposit to hold the acres for you.
3. Install your system in the field.
4. Confirm with the office that the system is in place and confirm the number of acres required.
5. Pay the balance of the invoice.

Please contact Evan Blindback at (403) 654-2111, (403) 654-7095 or evan.blindback@brid.ca if you wish to apply for or have questions concerning irrigation acres.

DEADHORSE COULEE RESERVOIR

The Board of Directors has confirmed that we will continue to move forward with construction of a new reservoir on our main canal at Deadhorse Coulee, southeast of Enchant. The project is being funded under the Alberta Irrigation Modernization Program, with an approved budget of \$59.1 million. The Government of Alberta provides a grant for 30% of the costs, and the district pays 20% initially, with a low-interest loan from the Canada Infrastructure Bank to the district for the remaining 50%. Any costs above the approved budget are borne entirely by the district. Our original proposal was to build a reservoir with a capacity of 20,000 acre feet, of which 17,000 acre feet would be useable.

The engineering consultants have completed a significant amount of preliminary design work to evaluate the required elements of the project, and to prepare detailed cost estimates. The estimated construction cost of the project as originally proposed is now over \$81 million. This includes engineering and 20% contingency allowance but does not include land acquisition and other costs. Because this is significantly higher than the budget, we asked them to determine costs for a smaller reservoir. The primary purpose of this reservoir would be to improve efficiency and reduce spill by allowing us to re-regulate flow on the main canal between Little Bow and Scope reservoirs. The additional water storage is a secondary benefit, and relatively minor as the existing headworks and district reservoirs store almost 470,000 acre feet. A reservoir capacity of 13,000 acre feet would be sufficient to achieve the primary purpose while still providing some extra storage. The construction cost including engineering and 20% contingency allowance for a reservoir with this volume is estimated to be approximately \$58 million. A smaller reservoir would flood slightly less land due to relocation of a portion of the north dam, as well as a reduction in depth of up to 1.8 metres. The board has determined that we will proceed with the relocated north dam, with the depth and capacity still under evaluation. The maximum capacity being considered is approximately 16,000 acre feet.

Prior to beginning construction, we still need to obtain regulatory approval, complete land acquisition, and complete the design. The earliest possible date to begin construction would be sometime in 2024, and hopefully no later than 2025. Construction will probably be phased over two years.