



Modernizing Idaho's Water Infrastructure

An Ongoing Story Series on the Idaho Water Resource Board's Aging Infrastructure Grant Program **ISSUE NO. 18**

Teton Irrigation Canal Co. Water Efficiency Project

Overview: The Teton Irrigation Canal Company was formed in 1884 to build a canal and deliver water from the Teton River to the Teton City area moving south into the Moody area, east of the cities of Sugar City and Rexburg. The canal was built starting in 1884 and filed water rights on the Teton River that same year to establish one of the earliest rights on the Teton River.

Teton Irrigation Canal Co. holds the rights to 159 cubic feet per second (cfs) of natural flow on the Teton River and 1,557-acre feet of storage water through Fremont-Madison Irrigation District.

Teton Irrigation Canal Co. operates approximately nine miles of canal laterals. Farmers served by the canal raise primarily potatoes and grain as well as some alfalfa hay.

The Challenge: The 3000 North Lateral ditch is situated at the end of the Teton Irrigation Canal system. The ditch has heavy seepage losses of 50 percent or more.

"The 3000 North Lateral Ditch is a major problem for the canal company," said Dan Nedrow, Project Manager. "The beginning of the canal section makes a 90-degree turn. This corner continually causes significant erosion. The corner has been rip-rapped several times but requires annual maintenance to rebuild the bank and place the rip-rap."



New irrigation pipeline for Teton Irrigation Canal Co. is ready for the 2025 irrigation season (photo courtesy Dan Nedrow).

- **Type of project:** Water efficiency project
- **Location:** Madison County, Idaho
- **Total project cost:** \$175,780
- **Idaho Water Resource Board Aging Infrastructure Grant:** \$58,007
- **Start:** December 2024
- **Finish:** April 2025

"This lateral also sits on a basalt shelf, causing lateral seepage that floods out a potato storage facility across the road to the north. It's just an unsightly mess. The Teton Irrigation Canal Co. has been unable to fix the issue and believes the only way to prevent this from happening is to convert the lateral ditch to a pipeline."

The Solution: Teton Irrigation Canal Company (TICC) proposes to install 2,480 feet of 24-inch PVC pipeline to convert the 3000 North Lateral from an open, earthen canal to an



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Teton Irrigation Canal Co. Water Efficiency Project (cont.)

enclosed pipeline.

Project benefits: The primary benefits of this project would be eliminating bank erosion and seepage loss in the 3000 N Lateral, Nedrow said. This addresses the two most significant issues we face on an annual basis - bank erosion and flooding out one of our shareholder's potato storage facilities. Eliminating the seepage loss will also prove beneficial from a water management standpoint.

This lateral provides water to the Woodmancee-Johnson Canal. "In tight water years in 2021 and 2022, we were not able to deliver the desired flows to this lateral because of reduced natural flow availability and storage water allocations. We think this pipeline will go a long way to resolving these issues," Nedrow said.

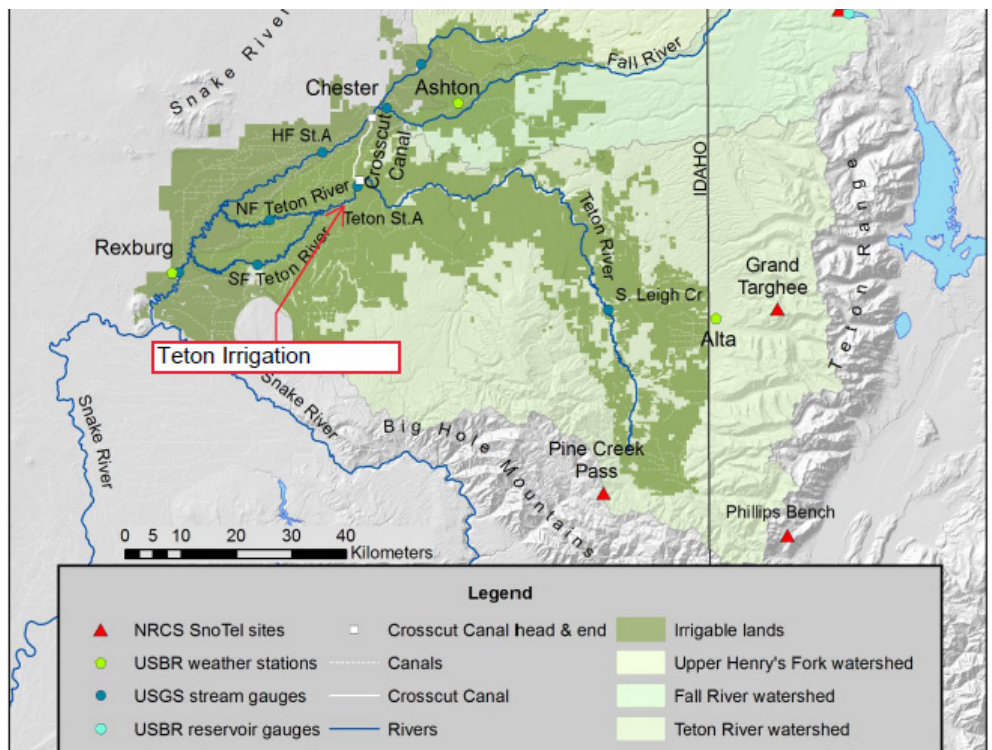
"This project will increase the water reliability for an irrigated agriculture economy that averages over \$150 million in crop sales per year in Madison County, Idaho. In addition, by reducing diversions during the irrigation season our water supply will become more sustainable locally in the Henrys Fork Watershed and will benefit the entire Upper Snake system."

The project will maintain higher water levels in the reservoirs upstream, benefitting fish, wildlife, boating, fishing, camping and recreation in the Henrys Fork watershed.

For more information, contact Dan Nedrow with Teton Irrigation Canal Company, dnedrow@dcdi.net, 208-390-4530.



Above: New pipeline was installed by Golden West Irrigation Co. in Rexburg. Below, locator map of the Teton Irrigation Canal project. (Images courtesy Teton Irrigation Canal Co.)



For more information go to idwr.idaho.gov