

To: All Water Users in District 67A & Little Weiser Irrigation District
From: 67A Advisory Committee, Little Weiser Irrigation District Board, & Watermaster
Date: December 13, 2021
Re: Preparing for 2022 Irrigation Season

You know 2021 was a hot, dry year. Statewide, it was the driest spring since 1924. Just how abnormal was weather in the Little Weiser basin? David Hoekema, hydrologist with Idaho Department of Water Resources, shared these local statistics from WestWide Drought Tracker:*

Washington County:

- Summer Temperature: Hottest (tied with 2015), 62.86°F or 2.88°F above average.
- June & July Temperatures: Hottest, 73.73°F or 7.97°F above average.
- Water-Year Precipitation: 15th driest 18.88 inches or 76.25% of average.
- Spring Precipitation: 2nd driest at 3.44 inches or 40.83% of average.

Adams County:

- Summer Temperature: 3rd hottest, 58.03°F or 2.86°F above average.
- June & July Temperatures: Hottest, 68.49°F or 7.81°F above average.
- Water-Year Precipitation: 13th driest 25.24 inches or 75.25% of average.
- Spring Precipitation: 2nd driest at 4.83 inches or 41.08% of average.

*Temperature refers to the daily average temperature, including both daytime and nighttime temperatures to get the average over the 24-hour day. Summer temperature refers to the temperatures from April to September. Spring precipitation includes precipitation in March, April, May, and June.

By mid-summer, the drought conditions necessitated reducing delivery from Ben Ross Reservoir, and there was only enough natural flow in the Little Weiser to serve users with priority dates of 1882 and older.

Grinding through that low-water year reminds us how essential it is to be as efficient as possible with water use and delivery. That requires maintaining your irrigation infrastructure in optimal condition, including properly functioning weirs and headgates and clean ditches.

In 1979, Idaho Department of Water Resources issued an order requiring lockable headgates and measuring devices for all diversions from the Little Weiser River and its tributaries. Designs for these devices must be approved by IDWR. The bylaws of the Little Weiser Irrigation District also require that such controlling works be in place.

Since these requirements were reiterated in 2000, water users in 67A and LWID have made good strides in bringing controlling works up to standard. However, repairs and improvements need to be made before water delivery begins for the 2022 irrigation season.

The following is a list of deficiencies observed by the watermaster over the summer of 2021:

Location	Issue to Be Corrected
May/Coates/Butler Diversion	No measuring device or lockable headgate
Richardson Ditch	Headgate bent; doesn't close properly
Ben Ross Reservoir Outlet	No measuring device; PivoTrac sensor needs to be rated & calibrated
Diversions directly fr. Upper & Lower Canal	No measuring devices or lockable headgates
Westside Ditch	Undersized weir; livestock tromp around structure, water flows around weir
Grays Creek Ditch	Submerged weir; inaccurate measurement
Moritz Ditch	HG mucked in, doesn't close properly
North Westside Ditch (Yantis property south of Mundy Gulch Rd)	Water flows around weir; undersized culvert in return ditch
South Ogle Ditch	No measuring device; livestock trompling
North Ogle Ditch	Undersized HG; water flows over structure
Allison Ditch	HG bent; doesn't close properly; submerged weir, inaccurate measurement; livestock trompling
All pumps in the Little Weiser	Must have flow meters
All HG and weirs	Maintain clear access for watermaster

You may be aware of other issues on your ditches that need to be addressed. These problems must be corrected before water is diverted for the upcoming irrigation season.

Not only is it the water users' responsibility to maintain irrigation infrastructure, but it's in your best interest. Properly functioning weirs and headgates and clean, unobstructed ditches improve the system's capacity to deliver water. Properly functioning weirs are necessary for the watermaster to measure and regulate the flow to ensure delivery of the appropriate volume to all water users by right.

You can find the Minimum Acceptable Standards and Requirements for Measuring Devices on the IDWR website: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/water-measurement/Measuring-Devices-Minimum-Acceptable-Standards.pdf>.

For those who need assistance designing water works, IDWR provided a list of engineering firms you may want to contact:

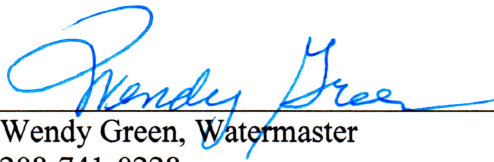
Idaho Water Engineering
 2918 N. El Rancho Place
 Boise, ID. 83704
 Office: 208.378.1513
hal@idahowaterengineering.com

Mountain Waterworks
PO Box 9906
Boise, ID 83707
phone: 208-780-3990
email office@mountainwtr.com

SPF Water Engineering
300 E. Mallard Dr. Suite 350
Boise, ID 83706
208-383-4140

If you have questions about how to bring your infrastructure up to par, please contact the watermaster or any member of the advisory committee or LWID board.

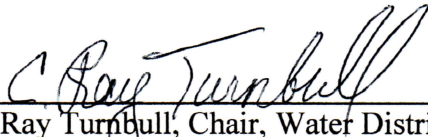
Thank you for your cooperation.



Wendy Green, Watermaster
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Dale McKee, LWID Board Chair
208-739-7108



Ray Turnbull, Chair, Water District 67A
208-257-3558