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:

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

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.


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.

[Signature]
Wendy Green, Watermaster
208-741-0228
ivalley@ctcweb.net

[Signature]
Dale McKee, LWID Board Chair
208-739-7108

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