

2010 Financial Snapshot

By: Priscilla Ross, Business Manager

Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) operations for 2009 ended with a loss of \$121,072. These results were favorable to forecast by approximately \$180,000 and were accomplished through a very controlled and limited spending program.

The approved 2010 forecast shows operational spending exceeding assessment and other revenue by \$287,009. This deficit is budgeted to be covered by \$303,105 earnings in excess of costs of the District's Siphon Power Plant (SPP) during 2009 that were allocated to Operations.

Through March 31st, COID operations gross income is unfavorable to forecast by \$24,246. This unfavorable variance is a result of unbudgeted, but necessary, spending needed to repair the large sinkhole that appeared in the Central Oregon Canal in January. The total cost of that repair was in excess of \$26,000.

This unbudgeted, but significant, expense is an example of the financial challenges COID faces. Those challenges include:

- » Aging Infrastructure. The District's canal system is over 100 years old. Maintenance costs both increase and become more unpredictable with age.
- » Medical Insurance. As of June 1st, 2010 the District's medical insurance costs will increase 12.4%; dental insurance will go up 9.9%. The Health Care Reform Act will not have any favorable impact on these increases.
- » PERS. Contributions COID must make into PERS for employees' retirement benefits will increase approximately 4% to 6% in 2011.
- » Impact of El Nino. COID has relied on "excess" SPP earnings to cover operational deficits during six out of the last eight years. Given the less than average snowfall during the winter of 2009 / 2010, no "excess" SPP earnings are expected during 2011 as river flows will be lower. If that occurs, the reduced funding will have a material impact on COID 2012 Operations.

It will be the responsibility of COID staff and the Board to determine how to manage and absorb these increasing costs while keeping the District operating effectively and efficiently.



The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District provides conservation assistance to landowners in Deschutes County including water quality, irrigation water management, weeds, wildlife, wildfire, pasture management and assistance with grant opportunities. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Spring Olson at 541-647-9604 or springalaska@hotmail.com to arrange a free consultation on your property.

"Good Neighbor" Attitude Critical

By Barbara Fehl, Customer Service Representative
Cary Penhollow, Watermaster

The Central Oregon Irrigation District currently has approximately 320 rotation schedules that allow patrons to utilize all the water allocated to a delivery for a specific time, as shown on the rotation schedule.

"The schedules work well only if patrons adhere to their times and are diligent in keeping the water on their property and not allowing flooding of any adjoining lands. This causes property damage and neighborhood disputes," states Cary Penhollow, Watermaster. "Communication is key to maintaining the smooth workings of the irrigation season. Neighbors need to communicate with each other, working together to keep ditches and delivery systems clean and free of obstructions."

All patrons are responsible for going to the water source and taking the water at their scheduled time. Patrons have the lawful right of way to go to this water source and pick up their water without obstructions or interference from others, which could include fences, gates, and dogs.

The District is only responsible for the operations of the delivery systems to the Point of Delivery, according to Penhollow, which is usually the high point of the original 40 acres of the contracted land. After this point, the individual landowners are responsible for the delivery systems. Patrons need to be courteous, take only their allotted water, and remember that downstream patrons are entitled to their fair share of the water.

In Memoriam – Jed Barrett (1972-2010)

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a manner that when you die the world cries and you rejoice. ~Native American Saying

On Friday, April 23, 2010, the Central Oregon Irrigation District family sadly lost one of its own. Jed Barrett, COID Water Rights Specialist, was killed in a motorcycle accident near Mitchell, OR while out riding with a group of friends. He was 38.

Jed joined the COID family in 2003, first as a GIS technical specialist, eventually becoming a Water Rights Specialist. Among his duties were tending the district's telemetry monitoring system, meeting with patrons for transfer and beneficial use mapping, and performing water flow and volume monitoring. He also worked with management, staff, and patrons on other water rights and delivery concerns.

Jed was a well-loved and respected colleague and friend of all of us at COID. He brought more than just his solid work ethic to the job. He was fun and funny, caring and considerate, and always willing to lend a hand to anyone needing it. He will be missed by all of us.

Jed is survived by his children, daughter Jamie (13 yrs) and son Jack (8 yrs), his parents, sister and brother.



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Water Ways

Central Oregon Irrigation District Confiscated Water Rights Lottery

Submitted by Leslie Clark, Water Rights Transfer Specialist and Laura Wollam, Beneficial Use Specialist

Over the last several years COID has been forced to confiscate a number of acres of water rights from patrons due to the water rights not being beneficially used at least one year out of every five as required by Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) under ORS 540.610. When water rights are confiscated by an irrigation district, it is required that the water be transferred to other lands within the district's boundaries to be beneficially used at a new location. Historically, COID has transferred this water to lands owned by the District. In 2009, COID did not have irrigable land available to transfer the confiscated water. As a solution, COID's Board of Directors implemented a water lottery to allow current District patrons in good standing an opportunity to receive some of the confiscated water.

The Way it Works:

Any water rights that have had 4 consecutive years of non-use are closely monitored for beneficial use during the 5th year. If beneficial use has not been achieved, the District must confiscate the unused water right in order to not lose it permanently from the District's certificate. In the fall of each year, COID will review COID owned land for availability to transfer confiscated water. If it is determined COID does not have sufficient lands to transfer the water, the Board will initiate the water lottery.

Eligibility for Water Lottery:

1. Be current on your assessments
2. Have full beneficial use of all existing water rights on your property
3. Make a transfer request with the District by the last working day of August
4. Be approved by District staff to receive additional water
5. Commit to irrigating the proposed mapped areas by May 15th of the following irrigation season
6. Sign an irrigation contract upon award of any portion of confiscated water rights
7. Pay the current transfer fee to the District (currently \$400)

Once you have been pre-approved to receive additional water, your name will be entered into the drawing. The drawing will be held during the November board meeting. All names will be drawn and recorded in the order they are drawn with the number of acres desired. Patrons will be contacted in the order drawn until all confiscated water right acres have been allocated. The patrons awarded confiscated water rights will then be required to complete the transfer process by November 25th in order to submit the transfer application to the OWRD before the last working day of December, as required under ORS 540.610.

If not beneficially used in the next irrigation season, the water right will be cancelled and the patron will be responsible for paying a cancellation fee due to the loss of the water right on the District's certificate and loss of assessment for the water.

There is no guarantee that there will be any water rights confiscated at the end of any given irrigation season and no guarantee of any minimum or maximum number of acres available for the lottery.

If you are interested in being considered for the lottery, please contact Leslie Clark at 541-504-7576 or email to lesliec@coid.org or Laura Wollam at 541-504-7577 or email to lauraw@coid.org.

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"Good Neighbor"
Attitude Critical

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Manager's Corner

By: Steve Johnson

Juniper Ridge Hydroelectric Project Update

The Juniper Ridge Hydroelectric Project has completed the piping portion of the construction and water is flowing in the Pilot Butte Canal and will continue through the irrigation season. Construction continues on the powerhouse and is scheduled for completion in early September, with full commissioning and generation expected in late September or early October, before the irrigation season finishes. Work continues on schedule and on budget.

10j Rule

The entire Oregon Delegation in Washington, DC on behalf of the irrigation districts in Central Oregon and the City of Prineville signed a letter to Jane Lubchenco, the head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), expressing their support for NOAA to issue a draft 10j rule. Ms. Lubchenco responded back to the Delegation confirming a July 2010 submittal for the Federal Register. The 10j rule, if finalized, would designate the reintroduced steelhead above Lake Billy Chinook as "experimental, non-essential" and provide a release from full ESA enforcement for a period of time for the Basin. The 10j designation would provide the Basin some needed time for additional water conservation projects for instream flow restoration and enable most entities to plan and change any practices that may threaten or harm the species.

Habitat Conservation Plan

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), along with the Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the City of Prineville, recently received news that a grant for \$407,000 was awarded to them. Work on the HCP will continue for another 15 months.

Board of Director Elections

The Board of Directors for Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) consists of five individuals representing each of the geographical divisions within the District: Division 1 (Terrebonne), Division 2 (Redmond), Division 3 (Bend), Division 4 (Alfalfa), and Division 5 (Powell Butte). Each Board member serves a three (3) year term. Those terms expire on a rotational basis.

The current terms for each Division are as follows:

Division 1	2009 - 2011
Division 2	2008 - 2010
Division 3	2008 - 2010
Division 4	2010 - 2012
Division 5	2009 - 2011

COID will be accepting nominations for the Division 2 (Redmond) and Division 3 (Bend) Board position for a three (3) year term from 2011 – 2013. Qualifications for this position are as follows: must be 18 years of age; must be an Oregon resident; and must be an owner, or a shareholder of a corporate owner, of land within the division they are nominated in. A qualified individual, if interested, must obtain a nomination petition from the District office and obtain a minimum of ten (10) signatures from other patrons within the Division they are applying in. The signature must be from the recorded property owner and there may be only one (1) signature per household. The petitions can be picked

up on or after August 26, 2010. The signed petition must be returned to the District office no later than 4:00 PM October 5, 2010. If more than one valid petition is received, an election by mail will be held and the results tallied on November 9, 2010. Please contact the office with any questions.

Weeds and Irrigation Canals

Submitted by Larry Roofener, Operations Manager

The spreading of noxious (also called invasive) and nuisance weeds is a justifiable and growing concern in Central Oregon. Noxious weeds are non-native plants with no natural predators that invade ecosystems, including private properties and irrigation canal easements. They compete with and overrun native vegetation, croplands and pastures, and rob desired plants of water, nutrients and light. Invasive weeds can be potentially toxic to humans and livestock, and can result in lost agricultural dollars. They impact wildlife habitat, provide shelter for undesirable insects, increase soil erosion, and pose potential fire hazards.

Oregon weed law (ORS 569.350-495 and 569.990) was developed to address the threat of the noxious weed invasion. It gives local governing agencies the authority for noxious weed enforcement and compliance. County programs are the primary level of enforcement for the state weed law. In addition, Deschutes and Crook Counties have weed ordinances which allow for weed control enforcement and fines. The Counties weed lists are prioritized as "A", "B", or "C" depending on the level of threat or concern that the weeds pose.

Irrigation district canals and easements receive attention from the patrons and from the general public because weeds are attracted to and establish themselves in areas near canals. As the weeds become established, canals serve as a conveyance system for the further spread of weeds. It is important to remember that weed infestations came to the canal systems from other locations (i.e. adjacent and nearby properties, the Deschutes River, etc.) and were not necessarily the origin of the weed problem. Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID or District) has about 470 miles of canals (main canals, laterals, and sub-laterals) to maintain, and this presents a huge challenge to COID when it comes to controlling noxious and nuisance weeds.

COID primarily uses herbicides to treat weeds within its canal easements. Where access allows, some mowing is implemented to assist with weed control. Last year, the District also did some experimental and successful weed eradication at select locations using goats to eat weeds. Government approved biological control (using insects as natural weed predators) works only for specific weed species and has not been implemented by agencies on a scale that covers a broad spectrum. Over the last five years, COID budget and other agency grants have allowed the District to contract with Deschutes County Vegetation Management, Crook County Weed Management, and the City of Redmond for herbicide weed treatment. The Crooked River Weed Management Area has also contributed grant funds for treatment of some select invasive weed species. Most herbicide treatment occurs in March and April preceding irrigation season, and again in October and early November following the season. Current priority is giving focus to the main canal easements. As progress is made, the District will expand its eradication efforts to include the laterals and sub-laterals.

Currently, the targeted noxious weeds COID is treating along the canals are Knapweed (Spotted and Diffuse), Yellow Toadflax, and Yellow Flag Iris. Many other nuisance weeds affected by COID's treatment are Tumbleweed, Tumble Mustard, Thistle (Scotch and Canada), and numerous other species.

Several Central Oregon agencies within the COID service area provide public educational programs addressing invasive weeds, individual landowner consultations, information about available financial weed assistance, and weed eradication events. These agencies include:

Deschutes County Weed Control District (541) 322-1735

Crook County Weed Management (541) 447-7958

Deschutes Soil & Water Cons. District (541) 923-2204

Crook County Soil & Water Cons. District (541) 447-3548

Crooked River Weed Management Area (541) 447-6228

OSU Extension Service: Deschutes Co. (541) 548-6088

OSU Extension Service: Crook Co. (541) 447-6228

There are also many qualified contractors available to assist landowners with weed treatment in Central Oregon. The above agencies and also the local seed companies can provide landowners with contractor contact information.

Beneficial Use, Instream Leasing and Transfers

By Laura Wollam, Water Use Specialist & Leslie Clark, Transfer Specialist

Beneficial Use

The 2010 irrigation season is underway and annual beneficial use reviews are being done. If you did not beneficially use your water rights previous to 2009 and do not use them in 2010, you will be receiving a letter from COID this winter. If you are a new property owner, please contact Laura Wollam to check the status of the beneficial use of your water rights.

Beneficial use requirements of the State say that a water right must be beneficially used at least one year out of every five consecutive years. Beneficial use history stays with the land and water rights, not property ownership. The hard and fast definition of beneficial use is that you must irrigate land

as mapped (or the amount of land equal to the amount of water right if not mapped) to grow non-native plants/grasses that benefit from additional water. You cannot irrigate native vegetation or use the water for dust abatement.

COID has been completing beneficial use reviews of the entire district since 2003. Since that time, the District has been forced to confiscate water rights that have not been used for five consecutive years so that the water rights are not permanently cancelled from the District's water right certificates. Since 2006, a total of 33.39 acres have been confiscated from patrons due to non-use.

Every year, COID tries to work with its patrons that have not used their water, especially those that have not used it for four consecutive years. District staff encourages the patron to lease the unused water instream for one year, transfer the water right, or use it as it should be used. If the patron fails to do one of these options in the fifth year, the District is forced to confiscate, an action that is not taken lightly and staff would prefer to avoid. When water is confiscated, the water must be transferred to other lands within the District boundaries. Please see article on page 1 for further information on this process.

Instream Leasing

This is an option that many patrons use to receive beneficial use credit for their water rights. When you lease your water rights instream, the water is not diverted down the canal system. It stays in the Deschutes River to help benefit the water flows and habitats. Since the water benefits the river, the State considers this beneficial use of your water right, the same as if you used it on the ground. Instream lease requests are taken between November 1 and February 15 for the following irrigation season.

If you have any questions about beneficial use or are interested in the instream leasing program, contact Laura Wollam at 541-504-7577 or lauraw@coid.org for more information.

Transfers

Did you file a water transfer on your property in 2008, 2009 or 2010? Read your Irrigation Contract closely; you must use the water at the new location during the 2010 season. If you recently purchased a property that had an Irrigation Contract recorded on it, please review it. As the new property owner you are fully obligated to comply with the Contract. If you have questions or concerns regarding your transfer, contact Leslie Clark at your earliest convenience at 541-504-7576 or leslicc@coid.org.

Central Electric Coop Promotes Save Water Save Energy Program

Central Electric Coop has teamed with the Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development Council to help agricultural operations and rural small businesses save money on energy costs.

The Save Water Save Energy program, a pilot program sponsored by the Bonneville Power Administration, was developed to help make energy improvements convenient and affordable. End users eligible for the program include irrigators, dairies, wineries, greenhouse nurseries, livestock operations, on-farm processors, golf courses, etc.

Save Water Save Energy can help make energy improvements convenient – and affordable. Potential savings are realized through on-site energy efficiency improvements like irrigation hardware upgrades, irrigation pumping improvements, scientific irrigation scheduling, lighting upgrades, and variable frequency drives.

Incentives, offered through the BPA/CEC partnership, are numerous. And, in addition to BPA/CEC incentives, all eligible state and federal program incentives, credits, and assistance will be tapped.

Pacific Power customers, through the Energy Trust of Oregon, can also receive incentives to help offset the costs of energy-efficiency upgrades to buildings and equipment. More information is available at www.energytrust.org.

More information on Save Water Save Energy can be obtained by contacting Robert Wallace, Energy Efficiency Analyst with Wy'East, at 541.815.5503 or WyEastRobert@gmail.com.

Duty of Water


By: Cary Penhollow, Watermaster

The amount of water we deliver is based upon the amount of water we are allowed to divert from the Deschutes River. We then subtract the ditch loss or the amount of water lost in transmission before reaching the point of delivery. At full flow, this results in a duty of six gallons per minute per acre. As an example, a water right of 40 acres results in a duty of 240 gallons per minute. This is measured over the weir at the point of delivery. Full flow at six gallons per minute is from May 15th to September 15th. From May 1st to May 15th our flow is approximately four gallons per minute. From turn on to May 1st our flow is 1/3 of a full summer run. For those who sprinkle irrigate, this chart provides data to help regulate your system per the duty of water provided during specific flows of the year.

Sprinkler Data

Sprinkler Discharge Rates in Gallons per Minute for Known Nozzle Size and Pressure*

Nozzle	25psi	30psi	35psi	40psi	45psi	50psi	55psi	60psi	65psi	70psi	75psi
3/32"	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3
7/64"	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1
1/8"	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9
9/64"	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0
5/32"	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.1
11/64"	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.4
3/16"	5.1	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.8	7.2	7.6	7.9	8.2	8.5	8.8
13/64"	6.0	6.6	7.1	7.6	8.1	8.5	8.9	9.3	9.7	10.0	10.4
7/32"	7.0	7.6	8.2	8.8	9.3	9.8	10.3	10.8	11.2	11.6	12.1
15/64"	8.0	8.8	9.5	10.1	10.7	11.3	12.4	12.9	12.9	13.4	13.8
1/4"	9.1	10.0	10.8	11.5	12.2	13.0	13.5	14.1	14.7	15.2	15.7



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Water Ways

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