

Winter/Spring 2023

# KITTITAS RECLAMATION DISTRICT



## Updates on the KRD

From Urban Eberhart, Secretary Manager

In Winter/Spring of 2022, KRD's construction projects included both lining and piping on the South Branch Canal. This Winter 2023, N.A. Degerstrom began work on the North Branch Canal from Johnson Siphon (I-90) to Stevens Rd, with a geomembrane and cement lining project. We are working with one of our Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) partners, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, to incorporate Elk Fencing into the canal safety fencing as we move from I-90 to the north in the coming years. KRD continues to make improvements to our canal and lateral system to build climate resilient infrastructure that is beneficial to both farms and fish.

KRD is unique in its operations. Our goal is to be able to save water and make water deliveries to landowners more consistent and efficient. We've found that working with a variety of tribal, federal, state, and non-government organizations to achieve our goals as a district, the KRD continues to be successful in obtaining funding for our water conservation projects. By widening the scope of our projects, the KRD is helping to accomplish multi-benefits that include returning salmon to upper Yakima Basin tributaries, Bull Trout Research Facility in Easton, WA, and habitat restoration on various tributaries and at the same time increasing the certainty of water deliveries to landowners. We continue to work to help meet Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements. KRD's uniqueness has taken us across the world to speak on the success of collaborative governance and how working together is the only way to move forward and build a more climate resilient ecosystem and economy.

## Notes from the Office Staff!

Included in this 2023 mailing:

- Assessment
- Newsletter
- Authorization/Info Update

KRD accepts Cash, Check or Card (3% service fee applies). There is an afterhours drop box on the front door. Mail any payments to:

**PO BOX 276  
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

Currently, KRD does not accept online payments.

We are updating KRD communications and can now send emergency text message alerts. Make sure to update your cell phone number and carrier with the office staff. Standard text messaging rate apply.

## CONTACT US

### OFFICE HOURS

7:00am-5:00pm  
Monday - Friday

### PHONE

509-925-6158

### MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 276  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

### WEBSITE

[www.kittitasreclamationdistrict.org](http://www.kittitasreclamationdistrict.org)

# Canal Safety & Trespassing

## Stay out of Canals, Ditches, Laterals and Siphons

**(especially when there is water!):** Irrigation water facilities are not built or maintained for recreational activities. They are NOT:

- Swimming Facilities
- Lazy Rivers

They are intended for the delivery of water from Kittitas Valley's rivers and reservoirs to farmers, ranchers, and other water users throughout the valley.

## Don't go into a canal, ditch, lateral or siphon to retrieve anything:

This includes toys, clothing, pets, or anything else. Contact your local ditch rider or the KRD office to seek help to safely retrieve items that end up in one of these bodies of water.

## Watch children AT ALL TIMES when they are near a canal, ditch, lateral or siphon:

Children may not understand that these canals and ditches are not safe for swimming or playing. Do not leave your children unattended around canals.

## Canals, ditches, laterals, and drains are not for public use.

These irrigation facilities are held by the USBR and intended for KRD/USBR maintenance use only. If you enter a ditch bank road, canal, ditch, lateral, siphon or other KRD/USBR operational facilities, you are trespassing.

## Keep a safe distance from the edges of the canals:

The sides of canals are extremely slick, making it difficult for people or pets to get out of the water.

**Never swim in a canal:** Water in a canal can be extremely cold, even on a hot day. This may lead to hypothermia.

**Canals can be full of hidden dangers:** Under the smooth water, canals may have unseen debris, swift undercurrents, vegetation, and irrigation structures. These hidden dangers may trap you and prevent you from getting out of the canal.

**KRD is committed to canal safety awareness. Please stay off the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) roads throughout the district. Not only is it considered trespassing, but you are putting yourself and others in unnecessary danger.**



## Stay Out, Stay Alive!

Link to downloadable coloring book on canal safety:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/about/otto/graphics/coloringbook.pdf>

## 2023 Assessments

The KRD Board has set the 2023 assessment rates between a minimum \$57.30 and maximum \$79.00 per acre. The assessment payment goes directly to the operation of the distribution system that gets water to your property. It also goes toward the cost of the original Construction Debt Retirement (CDR), as well as a major portion of it is paying for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs of the five (5) Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Reservoirs in the Yakima River Basin. The costs that KRD is required to pay for the reservoirs are continuing to rise. In addition to O&M, a portion is going to the Kachess Safety of Dams repair project. It is estimated that KRD's obligation for repayment will be \$1,084,437 over the next five (5) years for the Kachess Dam repairs.

## Message from the Ditch Riders

On a normal water year KRD's water season runs from early to mid-April to October 15. We receive our seasonal water allotment from the Bureau of Reclamation. The quantity of water KRD will receive is based upon levels of precipitation, snowpack, and water storage. Since KRD measures all water that leaves the system, landowners intending to use KRD to irrigate must call to "order" water from our Ditch Riders, Monday-Friday, between 7:00am and 7:45am. Please call 509-925-6158 to order water 24-48hrs in advance of when you plan on irrigating. Private systems with multiple landowners will have a "Water Master." This individual should be the only one to call for the "neighborhood."

Ditch Riders:

- Ride 1: (Manastash) - Nick Newton
- Ride 2: (HWY 97 to Naneum Rd) - Doug Webster
- Ride 4: (Naneum Rd to Busch Rd) - Austin Gordon
- Ride 5: (Badger Pocket) - Steve Gordon
- Ride 6: (Upper County) - Jacob Heyen
- Ride 7: (Pumping Plant) - David Mayer

