

# Kittitas Reclamation District

Winter/Spring 2024



North Branch Canal lining project, Winter 2023

## Updates on the KRD

Urban Eberhart , Secretary Manager

Winter 2024 has work continuing on the North Branch Canal moving from Stevens Rd to Vantage Hwy, with a geomembrane and cement lining project. Simultaneously, the KRD was awarded funding to continue the South Branch Canal piping projects including piping the South Branch Extension near the Manastash Ridge trail system to increase public safety. KRD continues to make improvements to our canal and lateral system to build infrastructure that will help with climate resiliency for both farms and fish. KRD continues to work together with our Yakima Basin Integrated Plan partners on multi-benefit projects including water conservation, water storage, habitat restoration, and fish preservation. KRD also continues to work to help meet Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements for the Yakima Reclamation Project.

KRD is committed to canal safety. 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!

## OFFICE NOTES

### HOURS:

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

### PAYMENTS:

**Please remit payments to:**  
**KRD**  
**PO Box 276**  
**Ellensburg, WA 98926.**

**Assessment Due Dates:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Half - April 30, 2024,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Half - October 31, 2024**

Check or Cash accepted in-office, there is an after hours drop box on the front door. Credit card payments can be made in person or over the phone (3% service fee applies).

Currently there is no online payment option.

Note: Delinquent payments incur interest at a rate of 1% per month as required by Washington State RCW. Please call the office for updated interest amounts if applicable.

If you need to update your contact information, please email: [krd.tina@fairpoint.net](mailto:krd.tina@fairpoint.net)

**2024 Water Authorization Form is now available on the website.**

## 2024 Assessments

- Approximately two thirds of all the irrigated acres in Kittitas County, almost 60,000 acres, are serviced by the KRD's 330 miles of canals and laterals.
- KRD is the 6th largest irrigation district in Washington State.
- Thirty siphons, the longest is 3325 feet in length, and eleven tunnels help the canal keep as much elevation as possible.
- From its start at Lake Easton Dam to its terminus on the Turbine Lateral where it spills to the Yakima River the canal only loses 310 feet in those 78 miles.
- The KRD has a pro-ratable water right. In a drought year, when there is less water than it takes to fulfill all of the non-prorated water rights in the Yakima River basin, the KRD will receive less than its full entitlement. The last major shortfalls were in 2001, 2005, 2015, 2019, and 2023.
- The KRD budget is funded by landowner assessments. The rates of assessment, as well as all KRD policies, are determined by a Board of Directors who are elected from landowners within the District. Board meetings are open to the public and are usually held the first Tuesday of every month at the KRD office.



South Branch Canal piping project, January 2024



## 2024 Assessments

The KRD Board has set the 2024 assessment rates between a minimum \$59.55 (Upper County) and maximum \$82.00 (Lower County) per acre. The assessment payment goes directly to the operation of the canal infrastructure. A portion is also applied to the cost of the original Construction Debt Retirement (CDR), as well as a major portion of the assessment 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.

## How to order your KRD irrigation water.

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 delivered, 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."

### NOTE:

**A 2024 Water Authorization Form is required if anyone other than the legal landowner is ordering/using your water allotment.**

### Ditch Riders:

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

