

# Farmers Irrigation District

## Agreement/Disclaimers

### USER INTERVIEW

Project participants in the District may be interviewed to confirm and update water rights, actual use, anticipated use, pump costs (if any), and other information useful to proper planning and water rights management. Special efforts will be made to work directly with agriculture water users to ensure appropriate delivery of water to District farms. District forms requiring signatures may be required.

### SERVICE UNIT (SU) AND MINIMUM SERVICE UNIT (MSU)

User parcels or contiguous parcels of eight or more acres of water right will be entitled to a single turnout. At a minimum, the turnout will consist of a District shut-off, measuring device, drain, and user shut-off. Each user shall furnish a screen or filter, pressure relief valve and, if necessary, pressure reduction valve. Parcels with water rights of less than or equal to eight acres will be designated a MSU. The engineering design shall strive to consolidate users into groups of at least eight acres, for which one turnout will be provided. The practicability, productivity, and efficiency of the overall system will determine the number of users and actual acreage within a MSU.

Users within a MSU must form a user group according to District guidelines. Users within a MSU forming a user group will benefit from one group billing. The user group must be established according to the requirements of Oregon law and must follow the requirements of District Policy. The District is not obligated to provide group billing service to an organization for an irrigation season unless that organization becomes legally established and provides the District with written proof of its establishment at least one month prior to the District's annual billing date.

### SUBDIVISIONS

Subdivisions platted after September 13, 1975, pursuant to ORS 92.010 to 92.190, are automatically excluded from the District at the time that the plat is approved by the appropriate governing body, if the subdivision has three or more tracts on each acre of land within the subdivision. This exclusion shall not apply if the District chooses to supply water to each tract in the subdivision through underground pipe which is installed by the developer and which is shown on the plat approved by the appropriate governing body.

### SERVICE

The District will maintain the DDN to the service shut-off for each service unit. Any pipe and valves constructed beyond this point shall be at the expense of the user. In the event a user or partitioned user fails to properly operate and maintain any pipe or valves that are the user's responsibility, the District shall have the right, but not the obligation, to operate and maintain such pipe and valves or shut off the user. The user shall reimburse the District for the cost of such operation and maintenance.

In consideration for the installation of the system, the users release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District officers and agents for all damages or claims of damages by anybody for any reason, including attorneys fees and court costs arising out of or in any manner connected with the users operation, use, and maintenance of the system on the users property or arising from any failure, neglect, or refusal to comply with the provisions of the District's guidelines, rules, regulations, policies, and by-laws. The user shall be responsible for maintaining his or her system in such a fashion as to prevent damage to his, her, or the District's system due to unforeseen pressure surges, clogged lines, inadequate water during dry years, dirty water, and acts of God. The District reserves the right, but does not have the obligation, to inspect the user's system and shut off the water thereto if the District deems the user's system to be potentially hazardous to the district system or any property because of possible surges, clogs, or any other perturbations in the District system. The District recommends that the user protect his or her system with properly engineered piping, valves, and pressure reduction features. The ability of the District to deliver water is contingent on numerous factors, any one of which may create problems for the user's system and for which the District cannot be held responsible.

### **DELIVERY**

The users within the District have a water right of 1/80th of a cfs per acre of registered irrigable land. The maximum water use per water year is limited to 3.0 acre feet per acre. The District interprets this statement to mean that each user has a proportionate right to the water available within the District. During low water years, users will be notified when the District will not be able to deliver the full measure of water that is held as rights. Other measures of rationing, such as rotational delivery or reduced quota, will be utilized as necessary to fulfill the District delivery obligation. Any theft of water or tampering with District equipment or water supply may result in one or more of the following actions by the District: (1) disconnection; (2) filing of charges with the Hood River County District Attorney's office for prosecution of the offender; and (3) civil action by the District for statutory damages in the sum of \$100, or for actual damages to the District, whichever is greater, for punitive damages, and for the cost of the suit, reasonable attorney fees, and expert witness fees, if any.

### **PRIORITIES**

District staff will maintain a list of priorities, which will provide guidelines for unit development. These priorities should be reviewed at reasonable intervals and updated at the discretion of the Board. General guidelines and District philosophy are described in

the District's Sustainability Plan, which is the primary source document for all District Policy.

### **TAMPERING**

The District maintains control of the gauging, metering, and monitoring facilities for the District's water resources. Tampering with District diversion boxes is against State law and punishable by fine and imprisonment. In addition, the District may disconnect its services and refuse to furnish water to anyone caught tampering with District flow devices.

### **THEFT**

All theft of District equipment or theft of irrigation water from water rights owned by the District or by users within the District shall lead to disconnection of services to the thief and shall result in a report being filed by the District with the appropriate police and prosecuting authorities. All users are encouraged to call the District in case of problems and not tamper with flow rates.

### **TIMING**

Irrigation season, by State statute, is April 15 to September 30. The District will delay irrigation water delivery until the actual start date for agricultural irrigation as determined by weather, soil moisture values, and crop needs. Spray water is released into the system as early as practicable, if consistent with State law, contingent upon the District's ability to operate the system in light of weather conditions and other factors that might otherwise preclude early- or late- season delivery. Normally, spray water will be available until November 15<sup>th</sup> and then again beginning on February 15.

### **TRANSITION**

During the transition phase to a fully pressurized system, some inconveniences and interruptions may be unavoidable. The District will make every effort to minimize disturbances. When necessary, as much advance notice as possible will be given to impacted users.

### **CANAL MAINTENANCE**

The District has a regular program of maintenance and cleaning of open ditches and canals in the Distribution system. Periodic ditch cleaning, at least once every three years, is maintained with some ditches requiring more frequent cleaning intervals. Personnel walk the open ditches as required to insure the unobstructed flow of water. Ditches are checked for debris, leaks, and other potential problems, which could cause interruptions to flow.

Users are encouraged to help remove unwanted restrictions to proper flow from laterals

and service ditches. Restrictions could be such things as rocks, paper, plastic, and wood, as well as root, grass, and weed growth. Users are further encouraged to report leaks caused by animal burrows, digging, or breakdown of side walls to the District office. District main and lateral metering boxes are inspected and maintained on a schedule during irrigation season. Service unit measuring boxes are not inspected as frequently. Any shifting, leakage, or other deterioration in a user's diversion box should be reported to the District office.

## **GLOSSARY**

**SERVICE UNIT (SU)**: An area or acreage, which has a water right and is provided irrigation water from a controlled point (turnout) located at the high point of the quarter-quarter section or the District-approved alternative point of delivery.

**MINIMUM SERVICE UNIT (MSU)**: An area or acreage, which has a water right or combination of water rights and is less than or equal to eight (8) acres in size. Irrigation water is provided to a single controlled point (turnout) for the combination of water rights within the boundaries of the unit.

**USER**: A person, corporation, partnership, or other entity entitled to its prorata share of irrigation water.

### **MEASUREMENT UNITS:**

1 gallon = 231 cubic inches

1 gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds

1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons

1 cubic foot of water weighs 62.42 pounds

1 acre foot = 43,560 cubic feet

1 pound per square inch = 2.31 feet of elevation head.

1 cubic foot per second (cfs) = 448.83 gallons per minute (gpm)

= 1.983 acre feet per day

= 40 miners inches

1 miners inch = 11.25 gallons per minute (gpm)

= 1/40 cubic feet per second (cfs)

Farmers Irrigation District Water rights are - 1/80 cfs per acre

= 1/2 miners inch

= 5.625 gpm

**TURN-OUT**: The point of service from the District System to the user system.

**DIVERSION**: The point on the primary water source (Hood River or tributary) where water is channeled into the District Collection System.

**USER AGREEMENT**: An agreement among neighbors to operate a system with a single District turn-out.

**DISTRICT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK**: (DDN) The network of delivery pipes, appurtenances, and turn-outs in the distribution portion of the District.

**DISTRICT COLLECTION SYSTEM**: (DCS) The system of canals, ditches and pipelines bringing irrigation water to the District.

PRESSURE REDUCTION VALVE: (PRV) A valve designed to limit and control the downstream pressure (head).

EFFICIENCY: The total amount of water delivered on-farm through the sprinkler heads divided by the total amount of water diverted.

PIPELINE: The pipelines within the DDN, designated as follows:

TRUNK LINE: Primary lines in the DDN and DCS.

MAINS: The primary diversion lines from the trunk line.

LATERALS: Feeder lines to service units from the main lines.

SERVICE LINES: The irrigation lines within service units and minimum service units.

CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD: A group of people selected by the Board to review and make recommendations to the Board on bid and contractor selection. See also the District's Contract Review Board Rules.