

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2019

**P.O. Box 944
Hermiston, OR 97838**

**Phone (541) 667-2030
Fax (541) 667-2031**

Dear Westland patrons,

The unexpectedly long winter has broken several previous records for snowfall and below normal temperatures in eastern Oregon, with snow still on the ground as this March newsletter is being prepared. Not surprisingly, the water outlook for irrigation water supplies from the Umatilla River and McKay Reservoir is very good. The March 1 Oregon Water Supply Outlook Report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service confirms the snowpack in the Blue Mountains is currently well above average for this time of year; the March 1 report can be found at this url: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/> As long as a rapid warm-up in temperatures can be avoided, this should be a very good irrigation water year.

On to District news...

LITIGATION – ELH LLC et al vs. WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Summary Judgment Granted: Following the August 30 ruling by Judge Gregory Baxter granting the District's motion for Summary Judgment in full and denying all motions and claims made by Plaintiffs, Judge Baxter signed the *Order On Motions For Summary Judgment*. In signing the Order, Judge Baxter again agreed with the District's legal counsel on the proposed language and form of the Order while objections raised by counsel for Plaintiffs' were excluded. The complete *Order On Motions For Summary Judgment* can be found by entering the following into your favorite web browser: <https://bit.ly/2Uph2Zv>

Since the Court's ruling in favor of the District, efforts have been ongoing to bring this costly and time-consuming litigation to an end without further Court proceedings. The Westland Board has approved a \$5.00 per acre special assessment to begin to restore funds taken from the District's reserve accounts for litigation expenses.

If you have questions or concerns about this litigation, please contact the District office at 541-667-2030 or info@westlandirrigation.com.

DISTRICT TO PARTNER WITH FARMERS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE & ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON

The Westland Board of Directors has approved entering into agreements with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) and Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) to develop irrigation modernization strategies to benefit the District. The FCA's Irrigation Modernization Program involves working through four phases over approximately one year, with a resulting System Improvement Plan tailored to the District plus strategies for implementing priority improvements. More information on the Irrigation Modernization Program can be found on the FCA website: <https://irrigationmodernization.fcasolutions.org/process/>

ANNUAL MEETING

The Westland Irrigation District Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m., Room #4 at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395 in Hermiston. You are invited to attend to learn more about your District, ask questions, and meet your neighbors!

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office (physical address): 77096 Highway 207, Echo, OR 97826

Office (mailing address): P.O. Box 944, Hermiston, OR 97838

Telephone: 541-667-2030; Fax: 541-667-2031

Office Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

PERSONNEL

District Manager, Mike Wick	541-571-1200
Office Manager, Tami Sherer	541-667-2030
Field Supervisor, Bobby Bailey	541-571-1202
Maintenance, Steven Cleveland	541-571-1203
Ditch Rider telephone number	541-571-1201

DIRECTORS

Jack Bellinger, Chair	Division 4
Hoss Hodges, Vice Chair	Division 5
Jordan Bennett	Division 2
Patricia Horn	Division 1
Andy Johnston	Division 3