



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

1503 First Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651
Tel: (208) 466-7861 -- Fax: (208) 463-0092
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NMID IRRIGATION CANAL FLOWS TO END OCTOBER 6

For Immediate Release

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For Media Information Contact:

Greg Curtis - (208) 466-0663

The Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district will shut down flows in its 500 miles of canals on October 6 marking the end of an irrigation season that began by appearing water short, but ended up being a relatively normal water year thanks to heavy early spring precipitation and late season thunderstorms packed with rain, water managers with the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

The canal water cutoff means residential water users using pressurized urban irrigation systems managed by the District will need to switch to another water source such as a municipal system if they want to continue to irrigate lawns and landscaping.

The Nampa & Meridian Board of Directors made the decision at its last regular board meeting. Last year severe water shortages forced the shutdown of the NMID system on September 5.

District employees will close the headgates on the Boise River in early morning of October 6th to let the system slowly bleed down. It could take four to five days for the canal system to empty completely in its furthest reaches, according to Greg Curtis, NMID Water Superintendent.

"The 2014 season ran very smoothly. I had lots of calls in early September inquiring about how long the season would last and everyone was quite pleased when I told them they should expect a full season. Thank goodness for the spring storms we had and for the late summer thunderstorms over our basin that helped keep the natural flow up in the Boise River this year. This helped ease the demand on our storage water in the reservoirs," Curtis noted.

Extensive progress made by the District in canal lining and tiling appeared to be paying off by helping to conserve water normally lost to seepage. The result is that NMID will have some carry-over water from the reservoirs for next year. The exact amount will not be determined until the season is over and the final numbers come in.

Currently the district is reviewing and planning for a very busy schedule of construction projects in the upcoming off-irrigation season. Several more lining and tiling projects are being proposed which Curtis says will help make the Districts 80 canals and laterals operate even more efficiently.

The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District is a water storage, conveyance and distribution system founded in 1904. The District supplies irrigation water to some 69,000 acres of farmland, residential and commercial lands, including pressurized irrigation for nearly 16,000 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties.



The Ridenbaugh Canal headgate on the Boise River near Barber Park. (NMID Photo)

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