



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT **TO FILL CANALS BEGINNING APRIL 5**

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Water managers with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district will open Boise River headgates at 3 a.m. April 5th to officially launch the Treasure Valley irrigation season, the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

But whether or not it will be a normal water year for the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation District depends largely on the weather through mid-June, according to District Water Superintendent, John Anderson.

"A really hot spring will mean the snowpack runoff will go quickly and that will force us to start tapping our storage water supplies much earlier than usual. But a cool spring means the runoff will go slowly and delays the need to go on storage water," Anderson said.

The District presently has about 30,000 acre feet of carry over water left in Boise river reservoirs from the 2009 irrigation season. NMID will use that carry over water first when it has to begin to supplement natural flows. Typically, the NMID canals carry water until about the first week of October.

Water will be turned in to fill more than 500 miles of canals in the District's system, including the historic Ridenbaugh Canal, at the District's Boise River diversion near Barber Park. As the Ridenbaugh Canal fills, smaller lateral canals will also begin to flow with water. It will take several days before the District's canals are completely full of water, especially in the furthest reaches of the system.

NMID officials also issued strong safety warnings about the danger of canals. "Canals are inherently deadly for children and young people. The water is deep and cold and it flows at a fast rate of speed and are almost impossible to get out of if you fall in," Anderson said. District officials also caution that canals are private property so playing in a canal or along its banks is considered trespassing under Idaho law.

NMID delivers irrigation water to 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley land including pressurized irrigation to approximately 15,000 residential and commercial lots including 335 residential subdivisions. For information about the District call 466-7861. Information is also available on its Internet website: www.nmid.org.

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