

News Release

Pioneer Irrigation District

3804 Lake Avenue, Caldwell, ID 83605
TEL: (208) 459-3617 -- www.pioneerirrigation.com

Pioneer Irrigation District To Halt Canal Flows

For Immediate Use
Caldwell, Idaho – Oct. 3, 2008

For Media Information Contact:
Jeff Scott – 459-3617

Water managers will shut off Boise River water flows in the Pioneer Irrigation District's canals on October 11, officials said today.

The last day for water deliveries is scheduled for October 10. Pioneer will have provided a full supply of irrigation water to its patrons for the entire irrigation season when the canal head gates are closed, according to Jeff Scott, Pioneer water superintendent.

It will take a couple of days after head gates are closed until water flows in the most distant reaches of the canal system drop to zero. It will take several weeks before the canals are completely dry, Scott added.

Preliminary calculations show Pioneer will end the irrigation season with approximately 18,000 acre feet of carryover water left in the three Boise River reservoirs. An acre foot is enough water to cover one acre of ground one foot deep.

Carryover water is used to make up irrigation storage water shortages in the event of a poor snowpack year. The 18,000 acre feet represents about 22 days of maximum irrigation supply in Pioneer's canals. The Pioneer system carries about 800 acre feet of water per day during peak irrigation periods in the hot summer months.

“The vast majority of our water users have shown an amazing ability to conserve water and that, coupled with a good snowpack last year, is really what has made the carryover possible,” Scott said.

Pioneer managers say they will now move forward with annual maintenance of canals and easements starting around November 1. This will involve removing debris plus tree and shrubbery trimming along canal banks.

Pioneer Irrigation District has provided irrigation and agricultural drainage services in Ada and Canyon Counties for more than a century. The District currently maintains about 7,000 accounts providing irrigation water to approximately 34,000 acres of residential and farmland within the District's boundaries.

-end-