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Pioneer Irrigation District

December 2011 E-Newsletter

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! In addition to receiving the newsletter in your e-mail box quarterly, we will be posting these on our website archive at www.pioneerirrigation.com/newsletter.html. You may click this link (or copy and paste it into your browser if you are having trouble reading this version). As this is our first e-mailing, we do expect to have some problems arise, so if you have trouble reading the message or something like that, please call us so that we can get those issues ironed out.

It is our goal to provide useful information for our patrons on a more timely basis than once per year. However, if you ever decide you want to stop receiving e-mails from Pioneer, simply click the unsubscribe link at the bottom. If you know of patrons who would be interested in receiving this information, please have them visit www.pioneerirrigation.com/communication.html and sign up. You can forward this newsletter by clicking the "Forward to a Friend" link at the bottom of the page.



Delivery Questions & Owner Maintenance

Now is the time! While water is out of the system, if you have questions like "Where does my water come from?" and "How do I access it?", now is the time to ask. Additionally, now is the time for property owners to perform maintenance on the private portions of the system and clean their ditches/pipes. If you have



Lawsuit Update

On November 30, 2011, the Idaho Supreme Court heard the City of Caldwell's appeal on the District Court's ruling on Idaho Code section 42-1209. It is expected the Supreme Court will issue their decision within the next 60-120 days. We will post news on our website as we have it available.

questions about where your water comes from, please call Pioneer's office at 459-3617.



Maintenance Information

During the off season (that will run to approx. April 15, 2012), Pioneer's maintenance crews will be performing maintenance and repairs on District facilities. This includes things like cutting trees, digging sediment out of canals, re-sloping canal banks, repairing headgates, etc. Please remember that in general, ditch/canal roads are protected by easements for the exclusive use of the District. Our crews use these roads to access areas that need maintenance, and work is hampered if they have to contend with cars, people or other encroachments onto the easement (fences, buildings, etc.).

Please stay off the easements to enable our crews to get as much maintenance done as possible during the off season. This helps us keep patrons safe and the water flowing where it belongs during the season. If you have questions on easements, please call Pioneer's office.



Payment Reminder

Pioneer mailed 2011 bills in October. If you have not received your bill yet, please call the office at 459-3617 so that we can make sure it gets to you.

You have two payments options:

1. Pay the entire balance by December 20, 2011, -OR-
2. Pay half of the 2011 balance (plus any delinquent balances) by December 20, 2011 and then you may wait to pay the remaining half of 2011 by June 20, 2012.

The coupons on the bottom of your bill tell you how much to pay depending upon which option you choose.

Remember that if we do not have at least half the 2011 balance (plus any delinquent balances) by December 20, 2011, your account will be assessed a 2% penalty and 1% interest per month until paid per Idaho State Law. If you have questions regarding your bill, please call Pioneer's office at 459-3617 and have your account number handy.



Pending Tax Deeds

This is a reminder that if your account is delinquent 3 years, it is a pending tax deed. Per Idaho Code, Pioneer must take a tax deed against properties 3 years delinquent. We have been notifying property owners since March 2011, if they are 3 years delinquent. The deadline for paying an account and preventing a tax deed from being taken is 5:00 p.m., December 30, 2011.

A tax deed gives Pioneer ownership interest in the property and the right to sell the property to recoup the unpaid taxes - just like counties can do with unpaid property taxes. Taking a tax deed is mandated by State Code; however, Pioneer would rather avoid taking a tax deed if possible. The only way it can really be avoided is if the account is paid current.

Tax deeds will be filed at the Canyon County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. Once tax deeds are taken, they can still be redeemed before sale by paying the balance in full. If you have questions on your account or think you might be in the pending tax deed category, please call the office to discuss your account immediately.



Definitions - Delivery Point

We often find that we use terms patrons don't understand, so to help de-mystify the jargon, we will periodically provide definitions of words you may hear in talking with District personnel.

Delivery Point: You may have heard the statement "It's Pioneer's responsibility to bring the water to a 'delivery point' for your property." **In a nutshell, the delivery point is technically the farthest point to which the District is required to bring water before private property owners take over.** Every property in the District has a delivery point, although it is not necessarily right at each property. Your delivery point might be up the street, around the corner or next door.

The way the District was originally formed is that it is Pioneer's responsibility to bring water to the delivery point. So, Pioneer brings the water from our diversions on the Boise River (near Eagle Island and at the mouth of the Highline canal) to the delivery points. Getting the water from the delivery point to individual property is, and has always been, the property owner's responsibility.

In the early days of the District, this was



District Info

Pioneer Irrigation District was formed in 1901 to bring water to farmers in Canyon and Ada Counties by creating a system of canals and ditches. We currently serve 34,000+ acres in those counties. Some of Pioneer's water rights from the Boise River date back to the late 1800's. We also have storage rights in the Arrowrock, Anderson Ranch and Lucky Peak Reservoirs. For over a century, Pioneer Irrigation District has played a vital role in the economy of the Treasure Valley.

If you have questions, please feel free to call us during business hours. Our office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our telephone number is 208-459-3617. Visit our website at www.pioneerirrigation.com for regular updates.

not a problem; however, as communities have grown up around a century old system, some properties have been cut off from their delivery point by homes, neighborhoods, streets, etc. We often hear "Why did you let them cut us off?" Unfortunately, with the delivery point being the end of our system, Pioneer doesn't have any say in what happens between the delivery point and individual properties. That is why we always suggest people stay involved with planning and zoning in their area and stay abreast of what's being built around your property. You have a say in ensuring your water access isn't interrupted - past the delivery point, Pioneer does not. Stay informed to help protect your irrigation water access.

In addition, this means that individual property owners are responsible for maintenance of the pipes and ditches running from the delivery points to the individual properties. This is not something people usually like to hear, but that is how the District (and many others in the valley) functions. The users of ditches and pipes that run from delivery points to individual properties are responsible for upkeep and maintenance, as they are private property.

If you need to know where your delivery point, please call Pioneer's office at 459-3617.

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Our mailing address is:

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(208) 459-3617

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