



BURLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

End of 2025 Irrigation Season Newsletter

Dear Water Users,

As we wrap up the 2025 irrigation season, we want to thank everyone for working with us through what turned out to be one of the most challenging years we've seen in a long time. Your patience and cooperation made a real difference.

A Hot, Dry Season

This year was extremely hot and dry from start to finish. High temperatures and very little moisture pushed demand through the roof. By the end of the season, we had pumped the **second-most water ever recorded** at our First Lift Pump Station.

Keeping that level of water moving took a lot of fuel, maintenance, and long hours. It put a heavy strain on our resources and on the employees who kept the system running day after day. We truly appreciate everyone recognizing the effort it took to stay on top of things during a season like this.

IGWA–SWC Agreement Update

This season also marked the first full year operating under the updated agreement between the **Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA)** and the **Surface Water Coalition (SWC)**. In short, the agreement outlines pumping reductions, mitigation obligations, and management practices intended to stabilize the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer while still meeting the needs of surface water users.

For BID, this meant careful coordination and planning to ensure both compliance and adequate delivery. While the agreement helps protect long-term water security, it also added complexity during a year when conditions were already tight.

Reservoir Outlook

Current Storage:

- 621,254 acre-feet lower than last year
- 576,497 acre-feet below the long-term average

We're starting the new water year in a deep hole. It will likely take **around 130% of average** snowfall and runoff just to climb back to normal storage levels. A strong winter can still change things, but the numbers highlight just how tight the situation is.

Board of Directors

We also want to recognize our BID Board of Directors. This season brought a lot of tough decisions, and the Board has stayed focused on what's best for the District and its water users. They spend a lot of time looking ahead, talking through options, and making sure we're taking the right steps for the long-term benefit of the District. Their care and concern for the people we serve really shows, especially in a year like this.

Power Costs & Water Rate

Power costs continue to rise across the region, putting added pressure on irrigation operations. Thanks in part to our partnerships with **South West Irrigation District** and **Magic Valley Ground Water District**, we're able to keep BID's water rate at **\$65 per acre-foot**, where it will remain for the upcoming year. This collaboration helps ensure water remains affordable while covering operational needs.

Thank You

We know this season was demanding for everyone involved—from our water users to the BID staff working long days in tough conditions. Thank you for your patience, your communication, and your support throughout the year.

We'll keep watching conditions closely.

Burley Irrigation District

Working to serve our water users and protect our shared water resources.