



# WESTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## INFORMATION UPDATE

Subject: Current Irrigation Updates and Plans

Attention: All Western Irrigation District Users.

We hope this letter finds you well.

Further to the previous letter sent out to you June 12<sup>th</sup>, we felt it necessary to update you on our current water situation.

As previously noted, the mountain snowpack (our vital source of water that supplies flow to the Bow River and to the WID for our irrigation use), melted 5 weeks earlier than the average year. We did receive some reprieve shortly after we sent our last update, with substantial rain, which helped us get through the month of June and early July, as we were able to replenish our reservoir and canal volumes. However, as per the information below you can see just how hot and dry it has continued to be.

- During June 2023, Weather Stations in the District reported, on average, a **2.46 Celsius hotter daily temperature** than the long-term average.
- During June 2023, Weather Stations in the District reported, on average, **72% of days (22 days in June) during the month** were hotter than the long-term average.
- During June 2023, Weather Stations in the District reported, on average, **27mm less accumulated precipitation** than the long-term average.
- During June 2023, Weather Stations in the District reported, on average, **83% of days (25 days in June) of less precipitation** than the long-term average.

**Weather Stations in District Boundaries Provided by: Government of Alberta**

**Charted by: Western Irrigation District [Link: Current and Historical Alberta Weather Station Data Viewer](#)**

These conditions, combined with the low river flows, have prompted the Western Irrigation District to continue to responsibly manage our valuable resource. We are actively working to ensure that all irrigation acres in the District receive water according to their contractual obligation.

- The WID is currently diverting 400 cfs - our full licensed volume allowed under our senior licenses.
- Our current demand is greater than 1600 cfs
- We are having to draw down on our reservoirs and will continue to draw down on both Langdon and Chestermere.
- We are trying to maintain a ratio of running 1 for every 3 pivots to allow each pivot to operate 3 out of every 10 days.
- Irrigators with more than 1 system can manage their own water but our Water Supervisors have been instructed to provide enough water for 1 of every 3 pivots to run.



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We will continue to prioritize water distribution, as per our last communication, in the following order:

1. Human needs (municipal raw water supply)
2. Livestock - livestock operations with storage of 2 weeks supply will be refilled as per normal operations.
3. Permanent irrigation acre contracts
4. Terminable irrigation acre contracts
5. Annual irrigation acre contracts (includes annual off-creek agreements)
6. All yards and garden contracts
7. Municipal, golf courses, and other non-essential water use

In discussions with our users, our team members, and Board, the common message is to use the water now, while it is needed, and not hold back. So that is the direction we will be moving forward with, including using all the water, in both Langdon and Chestermere Reservoirs, as required, to support our irrigators. It has also been communicated that many of our cereal producer's water needs may be reduced over the coming week, which will help mitigate a further shortage.

We understand that these water usage restrictions may present challenges for your water needs. However, as a shared resource we are asking for everyone to cooperate to manage the current water demands and ensure the availability of water for all users.

We can assure you that we will do our very best to make sure everyone gets the water they need, with the least impact, to help sustain their livelihood and business. Thank you for your cooperation and for being mindful of our shared responsibility in preserving our precious water resources.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this strict water management or the implemented restrictions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 403-934-3542 or [inquiry@wid.net](mailto:inquiry@wid.net).

Best Regards,

Troy Tangedal  
General Manager