

Naches-Selah Irrigation District

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

VOLUME 35

What's
New:

WATER SEASON
START UP

LATERAL NO. 3
PROJECT
WRAP UP

INVESTMENT
FOR
AG

April 1

Water Start Date

We open our gate at the Naches River on April 1, 2023, the first day of our water right. It can take a few days to fill the system and flush out debris. Full priming of laterals can take about two weeks.

We have rotating patrolmen on duty every day during the water season. Our office is open 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call us if you have any issues and we will dispatch the patrolman assigned to your route that day.

Why do I need to call the office when I turn water on or off?

The District's system is gravity-flow, and knowing what water is coming on or off helps us regulate flow. Although we do have some automated gates, there are sections of the system that could flood the neighbors or burn out pumps if adjustments are made without notice to our office. That said, we recommend float valves or shut-off valves to protect your own system.

We are accepting irrigation pre-orders now! (509) 697-4177

2023 Irrigation Assessments

No Change in Rates for 3rd Year

Irrigation assessment rates remain at \$580 per Miner's Inch for the fourth year in a row. With the completion of the six million dollar improvement last year to the No. 3 Lateral, the District will begin repaying the bond approved by water users for that project. We have a few capital improvement projects planned this year, but were able to keep them within the existing budget.



View of the Naches River diversion looking west, upstream.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Tom Allan, President
Rod Matson, Director
Craig Sundquist, Director

INFO@N-SID.ORG
104 W. NACHES AVE., STE. H.
SELAH, WA 98942
(509) 697-4177

Low Pressure, Leaks and Repairs

Low pressure is often due to clogged screens or airlocks.

Before you call us, please give these a try:

- Make sure your valve is on all the way.
- Open and close the valve a few times to clear dirt in the valve.
- Clean any screens.
- Avoid airlocks by filling your pipes with water before turning on your pump. Throttle the discharge valve down and open slowly.

If you own a "tenant" parcel within a water agreement, please contact your Watermaster with water issues. They are your liaison with the District.

The District provides irrigation water to the delivery point at the legal levels. Private pipes, waterboxes and valves beyond the delivery is personal responsibility between neighbors.

Leaks and breaks can be a messy problem. We recommend users install private shut-off valves so that during your repairs, your neighbors are not also without water.

When we need to shut down a delivery or section for emergency repairs on District lines, our office will attempt to let you know - *if we have your phone number or email*. If you're not sure that we have emergency contact numbers for you, please call the District office at (509) 697-4177.

Boundary Line Adjustments

When considering a boundary line adjustment or short plat at your property, examining how it affects your irrigation water is an important step in the planning. Water allotments are divided amongst the parcels, but if a parcel is smaller than 2.5 acres and/or would have less than 1.0 Miner's Inch, a Water Agreement and Covenant will need to be executed and recorded with the Yakima County Auditor's office. We are here to help you with this process.

Aquatic Weed & Herbicide Application

Legal Notice

The Naches-Selah Irrigation District will be applying aquatic weed herbicides to its irrigation canals and laterals between April 1, 2023, and October 31, 2023, in accordance with Washington Department of Ecology pesticide laws, rules and general permit. The purpose of the herbicide applications is to control aquatic weeds within the irrigation delivery system. The herbicides in use include copper sulphate. (Pesticide EPA label and WSDA are also followed as applicable.)

Treatments will be made to the irrigation facilities within the boundaries of the Naches-Selah Irrigation District located in Yakima County. Applications are generally made every two weeks starting in May ending in October as needed. Weather and other conditions determine the application schedule on an as needed basis.

Waters within the District are intended for agricultural purposes only and are not for human consumption or primary contact such as swimming or aquaculture. Irrigation facilities can be dangerous, and are intended for District operation and maintenance personnel only. District facilities are not for public use and are not to be trespassed upon. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of licensed District personnel.

Naches-Selah Irrigation District
(509) 697-4177

Washington Department of Ecology
Central Office (509) 575-2800

Moss & Algae Control

Chemicals we use to control moss and algae growth are not harmful to livestock or pets, but treated water may hurt fish and aquatic wildlife in ponds. **If you would like to be notified** before we apply chemicals, please call our office to be placed on the notification list.

Lateral No. 3 Project - Completed!

Planned additional work was completed on the No. 3 Lateral. Patrolmen did some initial excavations to locate existing pipes and to have them ready for work. Contractor, Tapani, Inc., began work in December just as snow arrived in the area.

Work continued into January 2023 to complete 950 feet total of pipe installed. High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe leftover from 2022 project was utilized for 36, 33 and 22-inch diameters that were installed. Short sections of 54-inch pipe the District had stored from past work, connect the three precast concrete structures that the No. 3 Lateral canal now flows into.



Manhole to 33 and 36-inch pipes crossing Guinan Road



Automated screen from No. 3 Lateral canal to new Guinan Road pipe crossing



33-inch pipe connecting to existing 36-inch pulled through wood stave siphon in 1987

Lateral No. 3 Project: continued

The first precast concrete vault takes the flow from the canal across the new automated belt screen. This will remove debris to limit the amount continuing down the pipes to deliveries on the No. 3 Lateral. Second structure has the new automated gate that works with existing canal automation system to maintain canal levels and flow in the system pipes.



Patrolmen and Tapani, Inc. crews pouring concrete transition from No. 3 Lateral canal

Over 80-year old concrete siphon under Guinan Road was replaced with one of each size 33 and 36-inch pipes to improve the flow capacity going north of Guinan Road. These pipes extend from the new structures that the canal now flows into and run to the existing 36-inch HDPE pipe that was pulled through the Zirkle II wood stave siphon in 1987.

Thank you to Zirkle Fruit for their cooperation on this work across their property!



Precast concrete structures leading from No. 3 Lateral canal

Water Rights

Do I have senior or junior water rights?

This is a pretty common question from our water users, especially if you're already familiar with a different irrigation district. Because each district has unique histories of formation, board policies, and water sources, the answer can be a little complicated.

Naches-Selah Irrigation District holds the State Water Rights that supply all of our water users within our service area. Additionally, our water right is almost entirely a non-proratable water right, so even during a drought year when water is prorated, we are in a good position to meet delivery flows to all users.

District Maintenance back in the "good ol' days"



In the 1930s...

Automatic floats were placed in the canal adjacent to the patrolman's house during the summer months, with an electronic contact to a bell in the houses, to warn the patrolmen of any fluctuations in the canal which required his immediate attention. Requiring the men to live at these locations was deemed essential to the proper operation of the canal system.

Patrolmen scrubbed the walls of a metal flume with wire brushes to keep the algae growth down. It would only last a couple weeks, and the water had to be turned off to allow cleaning.

They hand-mowed the canal banks once or twice a season with the use of a scythe blade. Modernization can be a very good thing!!

Details from NSID Meeting Minutes and an article written by the Manager E. Y. Robinson.

Investment for Agriculture

Our district serves 10,500 irrigated acres, with the majority crop being 8,000 acres of fruit trees.

We have invested \$22 million between 1995-2022 in modernization improvements, resulting in:

- 6,200 acre-feet in annual water savings
- Fully automated canal
- 2 miles of wood flume trestles replaced
- 4 miles of open canal lined
- 30 miles of new pipe installed

Looking to the future, the District has strategic locations in the system for improved safety and delivery, such as replacing wood-stave siphons, lining the remaining 3.5 miles of the canal, establishing a reservoir for flow regulation and replacing old sub-lateral pipe systems.



Water Rental Program

**IF YOU ARE RENTING WATER IN FOR 2023, PAYMENT IS DUE TO OUR OFFICE BY APRIL 30.
IF YOU ARE RENTING WATER OUT FOR 2023, CHECKS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU IN EARLY MAY.**

The District provides an irrigation water rental program for our water users, acting as a broker. This year we are collecting almost \$250,000.00 from landowners renting in additional water. \$117,000.00 of that goes back to other landowners not using their water this year. Leasing water is on an annual basis. We want all the water in our District to be used beneficially!

Want to rent water in? New renters need at least 2.5 acres and lease at least one (1) Miner's Inch for the entire year. Adjacent parcels can apply together to meet the requirements. It costs the regular assessment rate (\$580 this year) plus \$30 processing fee per Miner's Inch. If multiple parcels rent together, a water covenant and agreement will also need to be recorded with the Yakima County Auditor's Office. *We currently have a moratorium on additional water rentals in Lateral No. 3 due to capacity.* Contact us to see what options are available to you for 2024, as there are a few other considerations. Sign up by the end of February 2024 to participate.

Want to rent water out? If you're not planning to use some or all of your irrigation allotment, you can get money back! You need to rent out at least one (1) Miner's Inch and be current on your assessments. Payments are the current assessment rate minus a \$20 processing fee per parcel.

What's a Miner's Inch?

11.25 gallons a minute, considered adequate to irrigate 2.5 acres.

"A river is time in water: as it came, still so it flows, yet never is the same."

-Barten Holyday

New Automated Gate and Screen

District water is brought in from the Naches River, above the confluence of the Naches and Tieton Rivers. When the river is muddy, filled with leaves and twigs from a storm, or darkened by falling ash from nearby forest fires, you may notice some changes to the water delivered to your property.









We are always looking for opportunities for better screening, so this winter we installed the new automated gate and screen above Lateral No. 3. (see article on pg. 3-4)

Know what's below Call before you dig



- **NOTIFY** Call 8-1-1 or make a request online 2-3 days before you start
- **WAIT** Wait for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.
- **CONFIRM** Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.
- **RESPECT** Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.
- **DIG CAREFULLY** If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18 inches on all sides), consider moving your project.

UNIFORM COLOR CODE for marking underground utility lines

	Proposed Excavation		Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
	Temporary Survey		Potable Water
	Electric Power Lines, Cables or Conduit		Reclaimed Water, IRRIGATION and Slurry Lines
	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials		Sewer and Drain Lines



Don't swim in canals - ever! Canals can hide dangerous debris and the sides can be slippery, making it difficult to get out. Every year in the US there are an estimated 4,000 fatal unintentional drownings. (cdc.gov)

District Updates

Director Position #1 and 2023 President

Tom Allan was re-elected as Director, Pos. No. 1 in November. This will be his 16th year serving as a Director.

In January, Tom Allan was also nominated and elected the 2023 President of the Board.



Tom Allan
President of the Board

Previously, Rod Matson served as President for 26 years. This will be Rod's 30th year serving as Director, Pos. 3, from 1993-2023..

This will be Craig Sunduist's 23rd year serving as Director, Pos. No. 2.

They have all waived compensation for their time and efforts. Thank you for your many years of service to the District!

2023 Small Works Roster

The Naches-Selah Irrigation District is soliciting names of interested businesses for our 2023 Small Works Roster.

Categories include heavy equipment contractors, building contractors, general contractors, consultants and engineers, irrigation materials and miscellaneous. Contractors must be licensed, bonded and have WA L&I Prevailing Wage Training. Annual renewal is required to remain on our roster.

From the Manager



Justin Harter
District Manager

Winter made itself known throughout the basin. Cold, wet weather makes us look forward to spring and the warmer summer months.

Fall and winter is the time that annual maintenance and improvements can be done without interrupting irrigation delivery flows. District crews and contractors work through the snow and ice to complete the work prior to April.

Mountain snowpack and weather patterns are trending slightly below normal with early water supply forecast at 92% for the basin. What happens in April and May will determine the total water available.

Wishing everyone a good year in 2023.



2023 Assessments

NSID assessments remain at \$580/miner's inch. Your irrigation assessments are included in your property taxes and are paid to the Yakima County Treasurer's office. View and pay your property tax at:
<https://yes.co.yakima.wa.us/ascend>

2023 Board Meetings

- April 10
- May 10
- June 9
- July 10
- August 10
- September 11
- October 10
- November 9
- December 11

NSID board meetings are held in the District office at 9:00 a.m. and are open to the public.

Office Closures

Our office will be closed for the following holidays:



- May 29 - Memorial Day
- July 4 - Independence Day

NSID Processing Fees

Short Plats & Boundary Line Adjustments \$100

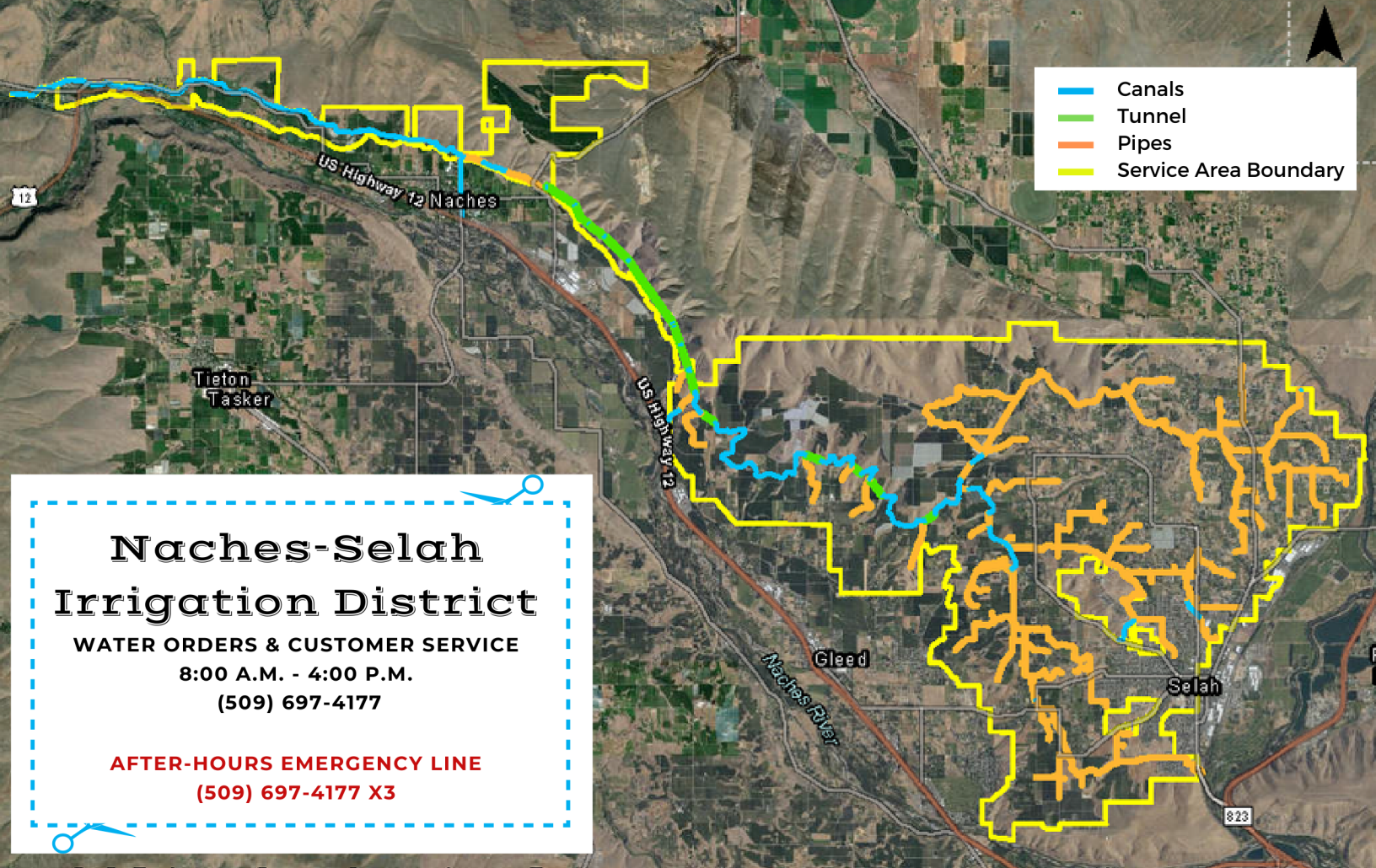
Long Plats \$100 + \$20/parcel
 + Water agreement \$25
 + Additional drafts *labor rate*

Water Sales/Transfers

Single owner \$25/parcel
 Multiple owners \$50/parcel

Rental Water

Lessor (water out) \$20/annually
 Lessee (water in) \$30/miner's inch



- Canals
- Tunnel
- Pipes
- Service Area Boundary

Naches-Selah
Irrigation District
 WATER ORDERS & CUSTOMER SERVICE
 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
 (509) 697-4177

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY LINE
(509) 697-4177 X3

SPRING & SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Naches-Selah Irrigation District
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 Selah, WA 98942