

Publication Date
May 1, 2025

Eastern Irrigation District

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District Water Supply

Recent snowfall events have helped increase the snowpack for the Bow Basin, bringing some mountain ranges within the average quartile for this time of year.

Click [HERE](https://rivers.alberta.ca/) to view the Snowpack Data (<https://rivers.alberta.ca/>)

As of publication date, major District reservoirs are over 90% full. Diversion began on April 7th, with priority going to refilling reservoirs from winter levels to FSL (Full Supply Level) in anticipation of the upcoming irrigation season. The earliest date for water delivery is May 1st, where available off main trunks of the conveyance system, to May 8th, in all areas. Contact your Water Operator for availability in your area.

Notice of Auction for Irrigated Leases

A live auction will be scheduled this August for 12 short term Irrigated Leases. Read the enclosed preliminary information and watch for follow up advertising and a subsequent newsletter for more details.



IRRIGATION UPDATE

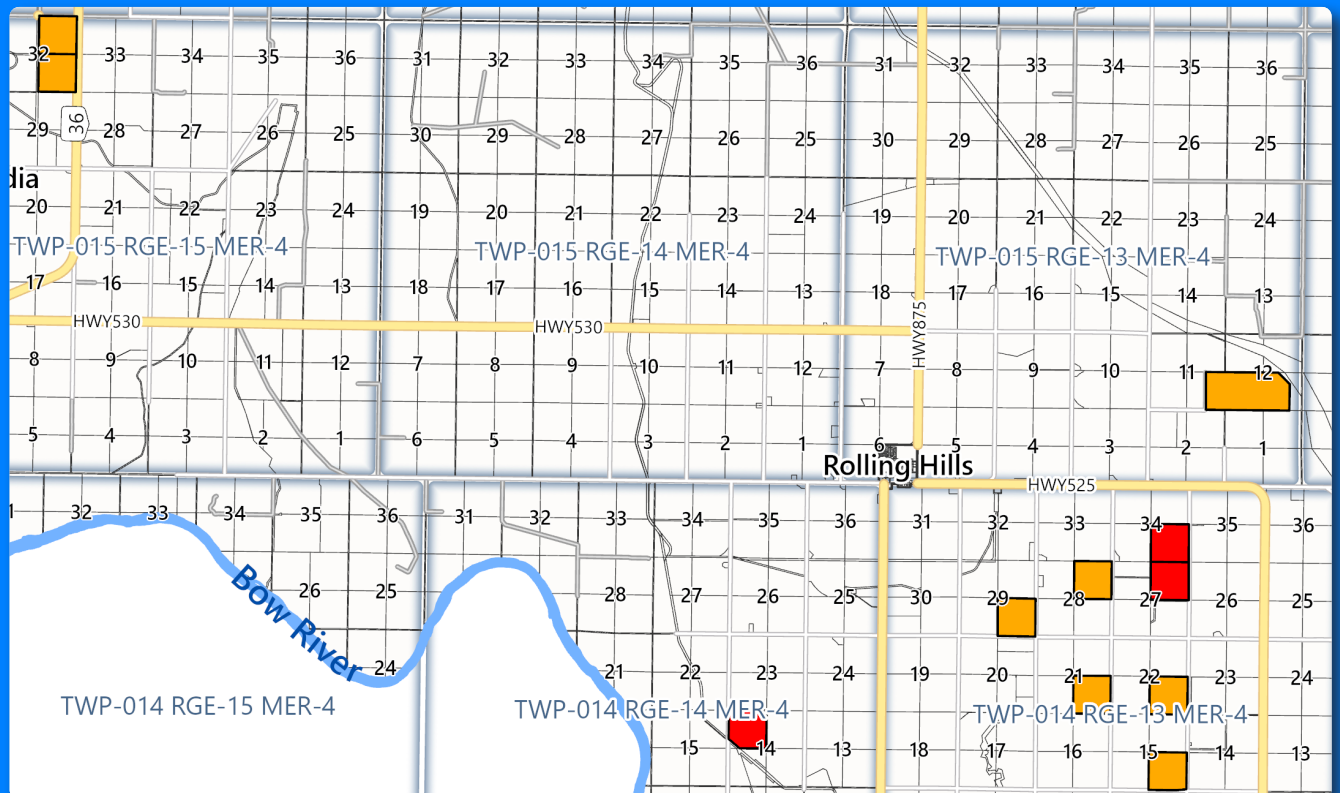
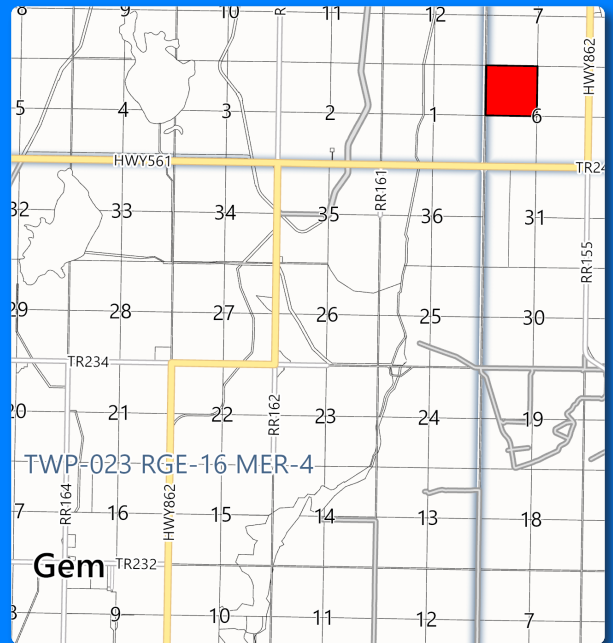
Irrigated Leases

In continuance of the District's mandate to maintain and promote irrigated agriculture, 4 new parcels of District owned lands were approved for development as short term Irrigated Leases for 2026 (parcels indicated in red). Equipment and infrastructure components have been ordered; necessary construction work on the parcels will be completed during the summer of 2025; and it is anticipated that lessees will have access to the parcels in the fall of 2025 to break the land.

As well, 8 parcels that were previously leased long term and are expiring December 31, 2025, are now being converted to short term Irrigated Leases for 2026 (parcels indicated in orange).

It is planned to hold the lease auction in August 2025. Lease and auction particulars will be more closely defined in a separate newsletter to be published this summer; however, the following will apply:

- 5 year term with no minimum bid requirement
- 640 acre maximum limitation per lessee of all current irrigated leases
- no lessee residency requirement, but the lessee must own irrigated acres within the EID
- subletting will be permitted, but no option to transfer and no automatic renewal
- crop management plan for specialty crops (seed canola, sugar beets, potatoes, beans)



Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Snake Lake Reservoir expansion project has been completed. 22 individual sections have been written to evaluate the existing conditions and to define the environmental impacts of building the reservoir. All sections have been reviewed and finalized by third party engineers, consultants, and the EID. Technical documents have also been developed to assist in the design of the reservoir and include detailed investigations of the ground conditions under the proposed dam, the ground conditions within the reservoir where the borrow material will be excavated, the impacts of major storm events on the expanded reservoir, the impacts of a dam breach on the downstream lands and infrastructure, a preliminary investigation into a new outlet structure with increased capacity, and investigations into riprap and filter sand supply and transport to site. The EIA was submitted to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) on April 2nd. Following submission to AEPA, the document will be reviewed for completeness and to ensure it meets the Final Terms of Reference. The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) will also review the submission. AEPA will also require approval under the Alberta Water Act prior to construction. It is expected that approvals will take a minimum of 1 year.

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Existing Snake Lake Reservoir

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Water Ordering and Recording

A parcel's total water usage for the irrigation season is calculated using the irrigation system's designated flow rate and the periods of time quantified between ON date & time and OFF date & time water orders. Timely communications with your Water Operator ensure an efficient conveyance system. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the flow rate on any of your irrigation systems, please contact your Water Operator or your Divisional Superintendent so that remeasuring may occur. **The District encourages irrigators to have their pivot or wheel flow rates metered for accuracy prior to the irrigation season if, for example, the equipment has been renozzled.**

Sprinkling of Roadways

Please be reminded that the sprinkling of water on the driving surface of roadways by irrigation equipment is prohibited within the County of Newell under County Bylaw No. 1743-11. Upon receiving notice of a violation, a Community Peace Officer will inspect the area and request the person responsible to remedy the situation immediately. Failure to stop sprinkling the driving surface at the request of the Community Peace Officer may lead to a charge being laid against the person or persons responsible.

The EID also urges irrigators to keep the irrigation water from all infrastructure equipment within the assessed irrigation area and advises that all water used, even unintentional irrigating of ditches, drive banks, and roadways, counts towards the total water allocation and could mean you reach your irrigation cap earlier than expected.

Irrigation Recording and Management App

To support your on-farm tracking of water usage and aid in your irrigation planning, please sign up for IRMA (Irrigation Recording & Management App) by contacting Mark Porter. This tool provides real time water use information on all parcels in your farming operation and is especially useful if nearing a maximum use in water. And for those already signed up, remember to contact the office if you have any parcel updates. [\(click HERE to view IRMA\)](#)

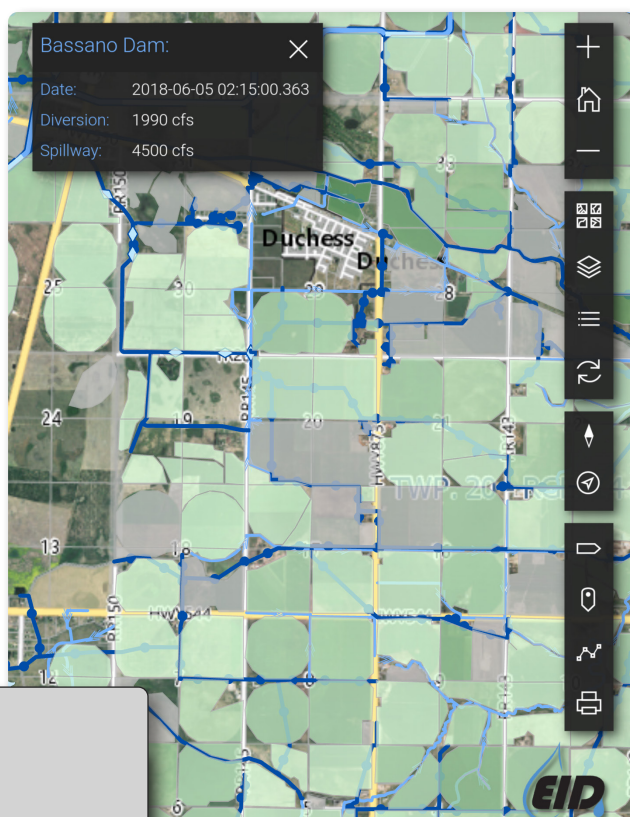
Mark Porter,
Information Services Supervisor
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Irrigated Agriculture

Crop & Irrigation Statistics

40% of food production in the world today is grown on irrigated land. Much more can be grown with irrigation than from precipitation alone. The average annual precipitation within the EID is 30 cm (12 in) with an average of approximately 15 cm (6 in) falling during the growing season. This average is much less than the water requirements to successfully grow most agricultural crops. Of the 45 different types of crops grown in Alberta's irrigation districts, only 10 of those crops could be grown here without irrigation, and with much less yield. The stability of an on-demand water supply from irrigation districts translates into broader food security and a major boost to the local economy, let alone the societal benefits for its residents and the environmental habitat it sustains. Half of the raw product for Alberta's multi-billion-dollar food processing industry comes from irrigated land.

In Alberta, 4.4% of the cultivated land base is irrigated within the 11 irrigation districts, generating 27% of the total primary agricultural sales.



Chemical Treatment of Canals

The EID has seen successful results in implementing a scheduled chemical treatment program for canal reaches prone to aquatic weed issues. Following is the 2025 schedule, subject to weather conditions, for canals in this program:

- **Tilley Main Canal and 17-G Springhill:**
 - May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20
- **North Branch Canal:**
 - May 15-16, May 29-30, June 12-13, June 26-27, July 10-11, July 24-25, August 7-8, August 21-22
- **Rolling Hills Main and Secondary A Canals:**
 - June 5-6, July 4-5, July 30-31
- **Bow Slope and 17 Bow Slope Canals:**
 - June 19, August 15
- **16 Springhill:**
 - June 4, July 3, July 29
- **Antelope Creek Canal:**
 - June 17, August 13
- **H West Bantry and South Bantry Canals:**
 - June 18, August 14

Herbicides used are (Special Use Approval Registration Number 10572-05-01):

- Canals are treated with:
 - Magnacide H (Acrolein) – PCP Act Regulation Number 10948 – for aquatic vegetation and algae.
- Canal banks are treated with:
 - Vanquish (Dicamba) – PCP Act Registration Number 26980 – for broadleaf weeds, brush and willows.
 - Vision Max (Glyphosate) – PCP Act Registration Number 27736 – for Canary grass, Downy Brome, and cattail.

Contact Brent Kroschel if you have any questions regarding this program.

Brent Kroschel,
Operations Manager
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Email: brent.kroschel@eid.ca



Aquatic Weed Abatement

To improve water quality, in addition to treating with chemical, the District has installed screens with mechanical sweepers and gabion walls. Where there is room, it is preferred to install gabion walls as there is little to no future maintenance and the walls are excellent at filtering aquatics from the water. Throughout the construction season, usually 4 – 6 new gabion walls are installed and in some cases they replace mechanical sweepers.

The District also undertakes a clipping program typically in the drainage systems to help increase flow and remove problems associated with aquatic weeds. Drains that are selected are ones that are known to be problematic or are identified by Operations staff.

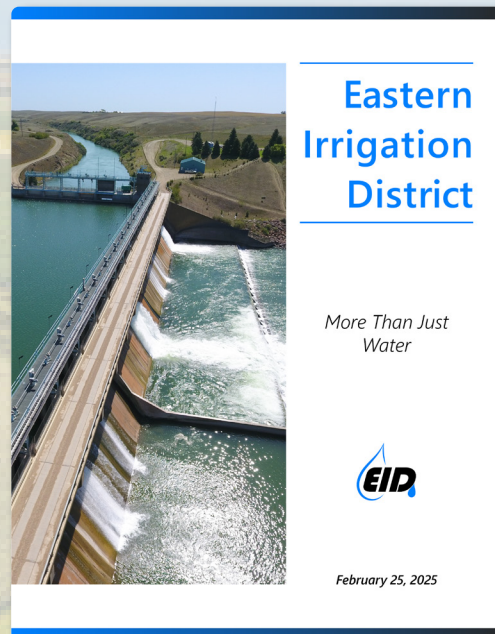
IRRIGATION UPDATE

EID Information Booklet

An updated collection of District information has recently been compiled into booklet form. Encompassing all major aspects of the EID, this handy resource presents a condensed review of the following categories:

- About
- History
- Conveyance System
- Engineering & Construction
- Operations
- Irrigated Agriculture
- Lands & Reservoirs
- Community Investment

Expanded information on each of the above will soon be available on the District's website. This booklet is available digitally [https://www.eid.ca/documents/publications/PR_Booklet_Web.pdf] and in print from the EID Office. You're invited to refresh what you already know about the EID and find out more.



Classroom Agriculture Program

The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is looking for volunteers to help teach Grade 4 and 5 students across Alberta about the importance of agriculture. This free, hands-on program introduces students to food production and highlights the vital role agriculture plays in our daily lives. Volunteers receive all necessary materials and training to ensure they feel confident and prepared to lead the 1 hour presentations. These fun, interactive presentations run from March to June with flexible scheduling to fit your availability. Several classes in Brooks are already registered, but they need volunteers to deliver presentations. Sign up today at <https://www.classroomagricultureprogram.ca/volunteer-registration>



Digital Correspondence

The EID is endeavouring to improve the timeliness of its communication with irrigators. This past winter’s postal strike has proven that utilizing text and email services to correspond digitally with irrigators is preferable to postal mail. It is intended to limit texting and emailing to the following:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Water Updates (turn-on, shut-down, any operational issues) | [text] |
| • Newsletters | [text with link] |
| • Annual Report Book | [text with link] |
| • Notice of AGM, Information Meetings, Lease Auctions | [text] |
| • Notice of Director Election | [text] |
| • Billing | [text and email] |
| • General Correspondence | [email] |

This change in communication will take time to implement; however, a rollout is being planned for early next year. Paper copies of the above documents will be available in the meantime and upon request going forward.



Please take the time to complete the form below,
snap a photo and text or email it to
403-409-9831 or crystal.lintott@eid.ca

EID DIGITAL CORRESPONDENCE:
Please complete the form below for all landowners in your farm operation

Name

Name

Company Name (if applicable)

Company Name (if applicable)

Email Address

Email Address

Cell

Cell

Land Location (only 1 parcel required)

Land Location (only 1 parcel required)

By filling out this form, you agree to receive correspondence from the EID by email and/or text. Your contact information will not be shared. You may opt out of this at any time by contacting the EID.

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Annual General Meeting Update

As mentioned at the AGM, irrigators are encouraged to reach out to Directors to discuss any matters of interest including the following topics before the Board in 2025:

- Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project
- Irrigation Development Expansion Pace
- Capital Asset Rate
- Water Rate
- Development of New Irrigated Leases
- How can large scale irrigation developments be facilitated?
- What role beyond irrigation development does the District play in the economic development of the area?

Board of Directors Elections

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the irrigators. The Eastern Irrigation District has adopted a practice of staggered elections in which 2 directors are elected in one year, 2 directors are elected the next year, and 3 directors are elected in the following year. This method of elections provides for long term stability in the governance, administration, and operation of the District.

2025 Election Summary

- Division 2 (Rosemary/Duchess):
 - Mr. David Peltzer was elected by acclamation; this is Mr. Peltzer's 3rd term of office.
- Division 4 (Cassils/Brooks):
 - Mr. Jeff Alberts was elected by acclamation; this is Mr. Albert's 1st term of office.
- Division 7 (Rolling Hills):
 - Mr. Tracy Hemsing was elected by acclamation; this is Mr. Hemsing's 3rd term of office.



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

As movement of aquatic invasive species into new areas mainly occurs by travelling watercraft, the EID initiated the AIS Prevention Program in 2018. ALL BOATERS, including users of kayaks, canoes and paddleboards, wishing to access EID reservoirs must follow approved prevention procedures and each year complete a watercraft information form. The District's major reservoirs and downstream canal systems continue to be monitored; no signs of mussels within District infrastructure have been found to date. Additional AIS information and reservoir access rules may be found on the District's website. Help do your part to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels to this area. To enroll in the program or for more information, contact Brandi Doerksen.



Brandi Doerksen,
Land Administrator - Aquatic Invasive Species
Cell: 403-363-9694
Email: brandi.doerksen@eid.ca

Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground

Subject to weather conditions, the Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground will open for the season this year at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025, and close at noon on Sunday, September 7th.

- **Daily Camping** - (110 daily sites) \$40/night, including GST, plus an additional \$5/day for 50 amp sites
403-363-5603
- **Group Camping** - (2 areas, 5 single sites each) \$200/night, minimum of 2 nights, plus \$25 reservation
403-362-1400 fee, including GST



Scholarship Program

The Eastern Irrigation District Scholarship Program has been offered since 2008 and is continuing in 2025. Residents (within the EID) and irrigators (farmers within the EID) may apply, and all career fields are eligible! Scholarships are awarded for trades, diplomas, certificates, or degrees:

- Post-Secondary Education at a recognized North American university - \$2,000
- Diploma or Technical programs (2-3 year programs, and condensed programs) - \$2,000
- Certified Trades (Alberta Certification Trades) - \$1,000



Master's programs or a second trade, diploma, certificate, or degree do not qualify. To obtain an application form and review requirements, download the form from www.eid.ca under the Information tab or visit or call the District Office (403-362-1400).

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Updates on Policies and Bylaws

Bylaws and policies relevant to irrigators may be viewed on the District's website.

[see website for bylaws and policies]

Rate Bylaw #978 (2025)

The 2025 Rate Bylaw was approved with a \$6.00/acre water rate (operating costs in 2024 were \$30.00/assessed irrigation acre), a pressure surcharge rate of \$15.00/acre, an Annual Agreement rate of \$85.00/acre, and a surcharge rate of \$61.00/acre for acres under a terminable agreement which have been identified as being eligible for conversion to irrigation acres but have not been converted at the request of the agreement holder.

The approved bylaw comes with the direction that all revenue generated by sections 4.0, 5.0, and 6.0 not already pledged for repayment of the AIM loan be held in an internally restricted account for the Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project to be used following issuance of the Environmental Impact Assessment approval and at the discretion of the Board.

Fees Bylaw #979 (2025)

The 2025 Fees Bylaw was approved based on the overall calculated cost for the delivery of water (amortization of irrigation works, administration, maintenance, operations, equipment pool, and special projects), this year \$39.43 being the average cost per acre foot of water used. Depending on the type of water conveyance or agreement, the fees are either based on a percentage of cost or will have a flat fee assigned and may include charges for additional water over a typical set amount. Most amounts have been increased by 3%. Added this year under Country Residential Rural Water Use Agreements, is a pasture irrigation fee of \$200/acre-foot or \$311/acre-foot for pressurized systems. This provision for acreage owners will begin to be rolled out this year.



Access Policy for District Owned Lands

Right-of-Ways represent the second largest type of EID lands. The primary purpose of these lands is water storage and conveyance. These lands may be found under, over and adjacent to EID reservoirs, canals, ditches, drains and pipelines. Secondary purposes of these lands may include research, public recreational access, and special event access.

- The ability for adjacent landowners to restrict public access to EID right-of-ways in some situations was removed from the policy.
- The EID controls all access to the lands identified as right-of-ways.
- Contact the EID prior to accessing these lands to ensure they are open to the public.

Partners in Habitat Development

One million seedlings! That's how many tree and shrub seedlings the Partners in Habitat Development (PHD) program has planted across southern Alberta since its inception in 1998.

The program was started by the EID and Pheasants Forever with the intent of restoring upland gamebird habitat in southern Alberta. The current focus of the program is planting shelterbelts in the EID, but other habitat development or enhancement opportunities are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Since 1998, approximately 600,000 of the 1,000,000 seedlings planted by the PHD program have been planted in the EID. Typically, planting sites are pivot corners, field edges, tame pasture, bale yards, etc. Site size may range from a couple of hundred to a couple of thousand seedlings.

For 2025, the PHD program will be planting approximately 8,000 seedlings in 9 new sites in the EID. Currently, applications are being accepted for projects in 2028 and beyond, but the possibility of getting your project planted sooner is always there once you've secured your spot on the list.

For more information about the PHD program you can review the PHD brochure https://www.eid.ca/documents/publications/Brochure_PHD_2025.pdf or contact Daniel Buell.

Daniel Buell,
Land Administrator - Habitat, Wildlife & Access
Cell: 403-363-5618
Email: daniel.buell@eid.ca

Public Access

Fishing season in most of the EID reopens on May 8th. Anyone accessing EID lands is reminded to follow all EID Public Access rules, which can be found at: https://www.eid.ca/public_access.html

The EID is moving towards mandatory written permission for hunting on EID land. Written permission may be obtained on the EID website (later this year), by calling the office, or by emailing Daniel Buell.

All users of EID lands are reminded that dumping waste of any kind, including yard waste, is prohibited and may be punishable by fines and/or being banned from EID land. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping the District's private lands clean.





Please Note:

All Annual Reports and Newsletters
can be read on-line at:

www.eid.ca

