

TFCC Ditch Writer

Twin Falls Canal Company
PO Box 326 Twin Falls, ID 83303-0326
www.twinfallscanal.com

SPRING 2020

**24-Hour
Emergency Number
208-733-6731**

Business Numbers
Twin Falls office-
208-733-6731
Buhl/Castleford office-
208-543-4264

Aquatic Herbicide Notice

TFCC must control aquatic weed growth within its canals and laterals to ensure water delivery and canal safety. As part of its control procedures TFCC applies aquatic herbicides such as Aquatic Weed Killer/Teton/ Cascade/copper sulfate, on a limited basis to certain canals and laterals throughout the irrigation season. If you have questions about an aquatic herbicide application, including the time and location of applications, you may contact Linda Shetler, TFCC dispatcher, at 733-6731. Applications to canals and laterals vary depending upon conditions, including air temperature and weather, and the presence of weed growth in the canal system.



HIGHLINE CANAL LINER PROJECT

In November 2019 Twin Falls Canal Company crews installed $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of High Density Polyethylene Liner in the Highline Canal 8 miles south of Hansen. This is the reach where the Highline runs through the Rock Creek gravel alluvial fan. It has always been known as the leakiest stretch of the TFCC system, and was in fact so bad that in 1917 TFCC lined 3,000 feet of the canal, (see picture below). At that time it was decided to line almost five miles

of the canal, but the cost was so high on that first stretch that the project was abandoned and never attempted again until now. With a \$237,000 Watersmart grant from the Bureau of Reclamation and the constantly increasing value of water, it was the right time to get this done. The installation process (see pictures) is as follows: 1) remove 1.5 feet of gravel from the bottom and sides of the canal, 2) roll the liner sheets across the canal, 3) fuse the sheets together with a welder-like machine, and 4) cover the liner with the 1.5 feet of gravel. The liner we used is 60 mils thick, allows no seepage, and is so durable that we anticipate it will perform well for at least 50 years.

As you know we are also recharging the aquifer at Murtaugh Lake, so some of you might ask “ why does TFCC get paid by the Idaho Water Resource Board to let the



canal leak at Murtaugh , and then get paid to stop leakage from the same canal at Rock Creek? “ The answer is that our 66 mile long canal traverses two different aquifers. At Murtaugh we are recharging the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) that

The broken up concrete from the 1917 project

is interconnected all the way from Ashton, Idaho to Thousand Springs in the Hagerman Area. Then from Hansen Butte all the way to Castleford, our canal system flows over the top of the Twin Falls Aquifer which is almost completely disconnected from the ESPA. In the Rock Creek area the local groundwater table is within 10 feet of the ground surface which is evidenced by the filling of all the adjacent gravel pits within days of charging the Highline Canal each spring. In the early days of our system, seepage settlements were paid to most of the land owners in Rock Creek area because the canal- induced seepage was destroying their cropland.

Careful measurement of the water lost in this reach during the 2019 irrigation season indicates that this liner will save almost 8,000 acre feet per year of for our stockholders. At todays rental price that amounts to roughly \$140,000 per year. But our real motivation is that this water will help insure us against future shortages, improve deliveries to the lower end of our system, and allow us in good water years to carry-over more water in the Upper Snake Reservoirs which is a huge benefit to the entire Snake River System!



The liner being recovered with gravel.

For more pictures and videos on the liner projects go to www.twinfallscanal.com.

WINTER WORK WRAPS UP!

By: Jay Barlogi
Field Supervisor

With the fairly mild winter this year there has been a lot of work done on and around TFCC facilities the year. Not only TFCC crews but Developers, Highway Districts, and Utility companies have been hard at work throughout the project working to finish up projects before the water comes back into the system.



After Completing the ¾ mile lining project on the Highline Canal (*No Small Task*), TFCC crews have replaced nearly 100 diversion structures throughout the project, as well as cleaning miles of laterals, shaping the main canals, Maintaining and installing access roads and easements, and cleaning water quality ponds in preparation for the upcoming season.

The development community has been busy as well with the development of several different residential subdivisions.

Meadow West Subdivision: This development on the west side of Twin Falls, required the piping of approx. 1400 feet of lateral #38 with the installation of 42-inch, heavy wall PVC pipe. The project included several cleanout boxes and 2 new head gates.

Perrine Point Estates Subdivision: This development, also on the west side of Twin Falls, required the piping of approx. 2400 feet of lateral #38 with 48-inch pipe. The project included several cleanout boxes, 3 new head gates, and will also be the location of one of the largest pressurized irrigation stations for the city of Twin Falls.

Grandview Estates Subdivision: This development, just north of the hospital in Twin Falls, is a phased development, and this year the final phase of the development required the piping of the last 1400 feet of lateral #49 with an 18 inch, heavy wall PVC pipe, as well as approx. 200 feet

of the Perrine #3 Coulee with a 48 inch, heavy wall PVC pipe. The project also included several cleanout boxes and 2 new head gates.

Parkside Estates Subdivision: This development on the east side if Kimberly required the relocation of approx. 500 feet of lateral #17 and the piping of approx. 1400 feet of Lateral #17B with a 30-inch Class 3 concrete pipe. The project also included several cleanout boxes, a large diversion structure, and 2 new head gates.



All work on these developments was done at the expense of the developers, under agreement with the Twin Falls Canal Company. Terms of that agreement also required third-party plan review and construction oversight by a third-party engineering firm.

Manager's Byline

: Brian Olmstead

TFCC General Manager

For the first time ever, I am writing this Manager's report from the broom closet at the TFCC office, where I am hiding from the Coronavirus! Actually, we do have the office closed to all but essential staff, but rest assured our TFCC crews and ditch riders are all out on the ditches and performing their usual spring duties while self-isolating in their excavators and pickups. The canals and ditches are all in top shape and we have had an excellent season for burning, and charging the entire system. In short, for the 116th time we are ready to deliver you the vital irrigation water that your thirsty crops are waiting for.

I might sound like a stuck record, but we have another 115% snow pack, full reservoirs, and water is again spilling over Shoshone Falls. All indications are that we will be delivering you full ¾ inch water per share for the entire season and we should end up with good carryover storage in the reservoirs this fall. Because of the very good water supply the Idaho Water Resource Board is again going full speed ahead with recharge on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Recharge water has been flowing most of the winter in the Milner Gooding Canal, North Side Canal, Southwest Irrigation District pipeline, and TFCC at Murtaugh Lake. Beginning in March numerous Canal Companies in Eastern Idaho began recharging and will continue to do so until their irrigation season begins. Looks like we will surpass 400,000 acre feet in total recharge for the 2nd straight year, and that is very good news for the spring flows and reach gains that are an essential part of our TFCC water supply!

Our O&M crews spent the winter installing headgates, cleaning ditches, removing Russian olives, cleaning ponds, and all the other duties that get the system ready for this irrigation season. We are very proud of our hard-working, very talented TFCC employees!!

Now get out there and grow another abundant crop to fuel the economy of the Magic Valley and all of Idaho! And as always, remember to communicate with your ditch rider, conserve water when you can, and please keep your soil on your own farm. Happy Irrigating!

Here's to an irrigation season with fewer mosquitoes!



Technician applying BTi to a pond for mosquito control.

Moving hand lines or wheel lines with bug nets is not the easiest thing to do. While some of those bugs that keep pestering you might be black flies (or buffalo gnats), it is likely that at dawn and dusk, you will have mosquitoes trying to take a bite at you.

A female mosquito can lay up to 200 eggs after a blood meal. In week those 200 eggs will have hatched and be in search of their own blood meals. Within three weeks from the initial single mosquito, it is possible to have more than 20,000 mosquitoes, all from one source of water!

The best way to reduce mosquitoes is by controlling their habitat, which is standing water. Irrigation ponds that have clean (vegetation free) and steep edges (1 to 2 feet steep) are not suitable habitats for mosquitoes.

When it comes to flood irrigation on pastures or fields, a typical rule of thumb is 7 days + water = mosquitoes. By adjusting watering schedules so that low spots in pastures can dry down will eliminate many mosquito problems before they have a chance to start, as well as reducing plant root injury due to lack of oxygen in the soil.

Some species of mosquitoes that we have here in the Magic Valley are determined biters, and even a new pair of denim jeans isn't enough to stop them from biting. This particular species, *Aedes vexans*, are known as flood water mosquitoes because their eggs can lay dormant in the soil for years until adequate water and conditions will cause thousands to hatch and begin the search of a blood meal.

Sometimes, water blowouts are inevitable. By the time the issue is fixed, it is clear that there will be standing water for at least a week or more. At times like these, please contact the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District. Our district is equipped to treat potential mosquito habitat sites with a natural soil bacterial known as BTi to control mosquito larva. This soil bacteria does not harm crops or animals (unless you are raising a pet mosquito). By treating the larva, we can break the mosquito's cycle of exponential growth and make the summer a little more enjoyable as well as help prevent West Nile Virus.

More information on mosquito control and prevention can be found at tfcpad.org



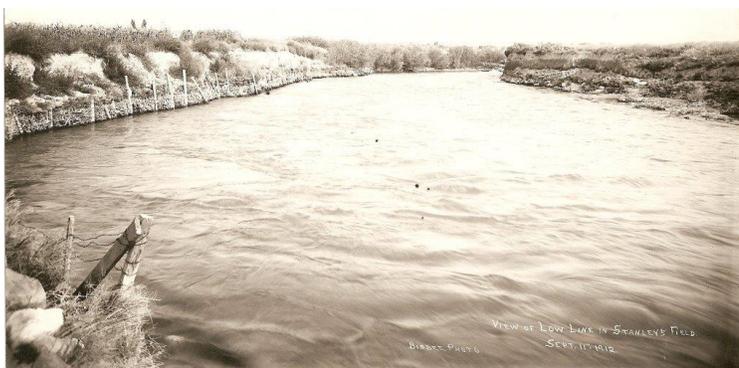
Flooded Ditch

HISTORY NOTE

From the first day TFCC diverted water in the canal system in March 1905, preventing erosion and sluffing of the canal banks has been a constant battle. Today, of course we use large equipment and place blasted lava rock. In the old days it took a huge amount of hand labor. Here is an excerpt from the 1934 TFCC Manager J.W. Iron's report to the Annual Stockholder's Meeting: *We rip-rapped about 3 miles of canal bank this year. This rip-rapping is all done with sagebrush held down with woven wire and anchored with steel rods and stakes. Three hundred and sixty acres of sage brush has been grubbed for this purpose and 650 loads of brush was laid in place. There has also been considerable rip-rapping done with rock which is more permanent, but it is much more expensive than sagebrush and wire.* TFCC O&M crews today still occasionally dig up old sagebrush trunks and rebar in the canal banks that have been imbedded there for 75 or more years. The pictures below show some of the rebar that still sticks out of the banks in many places from the sagebrush rip-rap anchoring.

Rebar sticking out of the canal bank that was used many years ago to hole sagebrush for erosion control.

View of Sage brush/woven wire in Low Line - Sept. 11, 1912



Business Hours – Phone Numbers

Twin Falls Office

208-733-6731

Buhl/Castleford Office/Yard

208-543-4264

Twin Falls Yard

208-733-6436

24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER -208-733-6731

www.twinfallscanal.com

Ditch Rider Phone Numbers

All orders for water deliveries MUST be given to YOUR DITCHRIDER 48 hours in advance.

Ditchriders are available to receive calls at their listed telephone numbers between 7:00 AM & 7:30 AM Monday through Saturday.

If you are unable to reach your ditchrider the Twin Falls and Buhl offices will take water orders until 11 AM Monday through Friday.

Twin Falls Area

Office and Yard	208-733-6731
Manager- Brian Olmstead	208-420-3224
Field Supervisor- Jay Barlogi	208-326-4714
TF Watermaster- Troy Jones	208-490-2221
TF O&M Supervisor- Clay Robinson	208-308-6251
Engineering Tech- Louis Zamora	208-731-6851

Murtaugh – Milner

Milner Dam- Doug Ping	208-432-5423
Murtaugh Lake- Doug Stanger	208-208-0013

Twin Falls – Kimberly – Hansen

Area Ditchriders	
Hansen- Jon Crane	208-293-6824
N&E of Kimberly- Charlie Sanchez	208-539-0344
Kimberly- Andrew Fracher	801-722-8038
Lowline S of Kimberly- John Garrett	208-731-9926
Highline S of Kimberly- Scott Ross	208-308-4901
Twin Falls City & NW- Colton Webb	208-613-7623
SW of Twin Falls- Mark Makin	208-308-1562
Airport Area- Kelley Collins	208-733-2657
LL- Curry Area- Walt Taylor	208-539-3120

Buhl Area

Buhl/Castleford Office & Yard	208-543-4264
LL Watermaster-Quintin Cammack	208-969-0061
HL Watermaster- Wayne Burgemeister	208-539-1942
O&M Supervisor- Doug Howard	208-308-6334

Filer & Buhl Ditchriders

North of Filer- Heather Goicochea	208-371-8510
Filer & Peavey- Michael Graybeal	208-308-6825
Peavey Area- Janie Stiegemeier	208-543-6769
E of Buhl- Jacob Kaster	208-410-3422
Buhl City Area- Bob Bowman	208-490-1039
SW of Buhl- Jim Ramos	208-308-8478
Lucerne Area- Tim Denton	208-320-3259

Castleford Ditchriders

HL W of HWY 93- April Thorson	208-539-6659
Clover- Mike Ihler	208-734-7930
S of Buhl- Shawn Barrutia	208-969-1427
HL E of Castleford- Jessica Robinson	208-543-5815
SE of Castleford- Cheryl Sample	208-537-6728
S of Castleford- Tracy Vulgamore	208-308-0935
Castleford Area- Connie Cunningham	208-630-4514

Board of Directors

Filer- Roger Blass	208-326-5129
Castleford- Phil Blick	208-537-6724
Murtaugh-Hansen-Kimberly	
Dan Shewmaker	208-423-4507
Twin Falls- Dave Patrick	208-734-7153
Buhl- Rick Pearson	208-731-6233

Twin Falls Canal Company
PO Box 326
Twin Falls, ID 83303-0326

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Reminders

***Keep glyphosate products off Ditch Banks**

With all of the Roundup-Ready crops now grown in this area, it is very tempting to just hang the spray boom over TFCC ditch banks while spraying your crops with Glyphosate products. That will destroy the sod that maintains the integrity of the ditch bank and ultimately lead to a much larger erosive ditch that will only grow obnoxious hard to manage weeds. Grass is really our best friend in maintaining ditch banks both for stability and controlling weeds. Please spray carefully only to the edge of your cropland and avoid spraying the ditch bank. If you have a ditch bank that needs to be re-seeded with grass or you need help controlling weeds on any TFCC ditch, call us at 733-6731 and we will work with you to clean – up and reseed the bank.

*****It is prohibited by Idaho State Code to plant trees or otherwise obstruct a TFCC right of way. *****

Need water now?

You can now pay your assessments over the phone or in the office using a credit/visa card. For any credit/visa card there is a 3% surcharge added. You can also use our online payment process with an electronic check as well at www.twinfallscanal.com just look for the Pay with e-check at Paystation.com link.

