

Marsh Creek Water District 45-F
Water Master's Annual Report 2025

WATERMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

From: March 15, 20²⁴ To: March 14, 20²⁰²⁵

Water District No. 45-F

Water District Name: Marsh Creek Irrigation District

Name of Watermaster: Alan Lloyd

Mailing Address: 939 S Parke Ln.; Albion, ID 83311

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

AFFIDAVIT OF WATERMASTER

As the appointed watermaster of water district no. 45-F, I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.


Watermaster signature

2/25/25

Date

Pursuant to Section 42-606 Idaho Code, this Watermaster's Annual Report shall be filed prior to the end of the watermaster's appointment for the current year, and kept in the office of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). The Watermaster's Daily Diversion Records should be attached to this report if those records are not submitted electronically to IDWR.

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The 2024 irrigation season was very good, both in overall water availability and length of irrigation season. Deliveries were once again higher than the previous years and the days of availability were extended for the majority of users. These observations were less prevalent on Marsh creek than the valley's other streams, but deliveries were higher despite a later-than-average start to the season, similar to 2023.

In March many laterals were still drifted with snow and ice such that water calls were again delayed. Most areas started off with high soil moisture and good Spring precipitation. Like 2023, streamflows began to rapidly decline during early July but senior users enjoyed a much more gradual reduction of flow after that time and more late season irrigation than the previous several years.

For the previous four years we have carried forward the same budget amount and neither David nor myself have requested any increase in compensation. For 2025 I have requested approximately 4% increase in overall compensation or about \$80 per month. Inflation in almost all sectors, especially tires and fuel are my main rationale.

Despite significantly higher deliveries in in 2023 and 2024, the very low 2021 and 2022 season totals continue to affect the five-year average such that this year's apportioning factor is still higher than last year, at about \$6.17 per 24-hr second foot.

Unlike 2024, snow pack thus far looks to be lower for the irrigation season ahead, but the next couple months could change this outlook significantly. Our cold-dry January gave way to a warmer, wet February. Recent rain-on-snow events and high winds have hopefully increased stored moisture in the snowpack, and the amount of snow blown into draws and canyons. Because February has been marked by early run-off, and while it is too early to make any meaningful predictions about the season ahead, it is not likely to be nearly as good as the last two years.

2024 was reasonably quiet with respect to conflicts or maintenance issues, but a problem at 1050E where Land Creek crosses under the roadway has developed in the last year. I have contacted Albion Highway District and requested they mitigate the problem where armoring rocks have sloughed into the diversion and will likely to continue if not addressed. This will impact the function of the diversion as well as compromise the shoulder of the road. I sent a formal request to AHD in early February, and they have promised to take action before this irrigation season. Otherwise, to the best of my knowledge, most water users continue to work together as needed to maintain laterals and diversions. Disturbance by cattle remains a challenge on the Vaughn Ditch, and stream bank erosion elsewhere in the district is of concern.

I was contacted by the Cassia Sheriff's Office in late February regarding flooding concerns in and around Albion. I reported that College Creek as well as Marsh and

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Land Creeks through town were the primary concerns, but that roads and borrow ditches were likely to have damage too. They asked if there was a way to spread water out on the land, but after discussing the idea with several people, and surveying the conditions, I decided not to kick water out. This was based mostly on the fact that most laterals in the upper southwest portion of the valley were drifted full of snow and ice which would likely flood over, damaging those ditches and accelerating melt of the already saturated and snow-covered pastures. Culverts throughout the area were overwhelmed and roads suffered more than usual damage last week.

As Table 1, "Five Year Totals and Averages" illustrates, 2024 billable water deliveries were roughly 32 % higher (1533 24 Hr sf) than the previous year. Deliveries are expressed in 24-hour second feet (1 cubic foot per second over a twenty-four hour period), equal to 1.9835 acre feet. The proposed budget less carryover and yearly fixed assessments, divided by the five-year-average yields an apportionment factor of \$6.169

Five Year Totals and Averages								
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Five Year Total	Five Year Avg	2025 Budget
Totals	5271	2574	3877	4730	6263	22714	4543	28,024.71
								Cost Per 24Hr sf
								\$6.169

Table 1.