

The Water Dispute Program can help

Irrigation districts in Central Oregon historically delivered water to farmers who irrigated large acreages.

Today, many of those farmlands are now divided into smaller acreages where irrigation districts deliver to a single head gate. Multiple water users, now on the same ditch, can find working together to be complicated.

Disputes can arise over a variety of issues. Issues include, but are not limited to:

- Property boundaries
- Water distributions and maintenance responsibilities
- Weeds
- Right-of-way issues



The Oregon Department of Agriculture cooperates with irrigation districts and other organizations to help resolve disputes over shared private irrigation ditches.

Supporting organizations

- ✓ Arnold Irrigation District
- ✓ Central Oregon Irrigation District
- ✓ Deschutes River Conservancy
- ✓ Middle Deschutes Watershed Councils
- ✓ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ✓ North Unit Irrigation District
- ✓ Ochoco Irrigation District
- ✓ Oregon Department of Agriculture
- ✓ Oregon Department of Water Resources
- ✓ Oregon Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- ✓ Oregon State University Extension service
- ✓ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- ✓ Swalley Irrigation District
- ✓ Three Sisters Irrigation District
- ✓ Wy'East Resource and Conservation Development District



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Farm Mediation Program
503-986-4558
www.oregon.gov/ODA
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If you have a water issue...

Resolving water disputes is a better way to get your water.

Help is available

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) offers a dispute resolution program for farmers, ranchers and rural landowners.

Working with a mediator, property owners may be able to resolve disagreements, manage water rotation schedules, facilitate coordination with irrigation districts, and address weed problems and property access issues.

The dispute resolution program is a useful tool to address difficult conflicts.

Working together

A mediator can:

- Facilitate discussion
- Reduce tension among neighbors
- Create a shared understanding of rules and water distribution agreements
- Negotiate a solution

“Resolved disputes may result in a more equitable sharing of irrigation water and other beneficial outcomes.”

Help is attainable

In most cases, the cost to each party is \$30 per hour for time spent with the professional mediator.

Mediation can take two to four hours depending on the number of parties and complexity of issues.



Steps to a resolution

1

All parties agree that they want to resolve an issue.

Learn more online:

<http://1.usa.gov/1BLPyAr>

2

Each party downloads a copy of the mediation application:

<http://1.usa.gov/1ECOHyW>

3

Completed applications are returned to:

Kathryn Walker

Email: kwalker@oda.state.or.us

4

Case is assigned to a professional mediator.

If you have questions about mediation:

Contact Kathryn Walker

Email: kwalker@oda.state.or.us

Phone: 503-986-4558