

**Wild Rice Watershed District**  
**District Policy Regarding Haying Requests**

Each year the Wild Rice Watershed District receives several requests from individuals interested in obtaining permission to hay property adjacent to District projects and ditches. In most instances, the Wild Rice Watershed District does not own the property adjacent to the projects and ditches; rather it has purchased maintenance easements from property owners. This easement gives the District, its employees and consultants, the right to access the property for maintenance related issues. It does not give the District the authority to grant permission to the general public to access the property.

The Wild Rice Watershed District advises interested individuals to obtain permission from individual landowners along projects and ditches. Many of the counties within the District have a GIS Mapping link located on their website that can assist you with determining property owners.

The Wild Rice Watershed District encompasses approximately 2,085 square miles throughout six counties. The projects and ditches throughout the District are maintained on an annual basis. Due to the large size of the District, we are unable to delay this process to allow for haying to be completed prior to maintenance beginning. Please be advised that consultants will maintain the systems within the District in any order they chose to do so. It is not feasible to leave portions unmaintained for haying purposes. It is the expectation of the District that any bales will be removed as soon as possible following haying. We are not responsible for damages caused to bales left in the maintenance easement area.

If you have any further questions regarding the District's Haying Request or Maintenance Policies, please contact Stacy or Tara at 218-784-5501.

To view past publications concerning Watershed topics, visit the *additional resources* tab of our website. [www.wildricewatershed.org](http://www.wildricewatershed.org)