

Valley Insights™

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LOCATION:

Sandslope Acres
Royal City, Washington

PROFILE:

5,500 acres of varied crops, including potatoes, alfalfa, wheat, peas, sweet corn and timothy grass. The farm also has an orchard of apples and cherries.

EQUIPMENT:

- 80 pivots
- BaseStation3™ for remote irrigation management on 42 pivots
- Valley Insights™ to detect irregularities and provide insights

VISUAL DETECTION:

- Under-watering
- Plugged sprinklers
- Weeds and grass in wheat field

Valley Insights Leads to Healthier Crops

Sandslope Acres is an aptly named family farm that’s been operating since 1962. With a sloping landscape and soil consisting mostly of sandy loam, the farm grows a wide variety of crops. They irrigate most of the land, which lies under 80 pivots supplied by surface water from the Columbia Basin.

Dexter Allred and his father Wiley own and operate the farm. They use BaseStation3 to manage just over half of their pivots, so they’re no strangers to irrigation technology. When their Valley Irrigation dealer, Lad Irrigation, asked them to test the latest advanced technology from Valley, they were willing to give it a try.

“We started using Valley Insights at the very beginning of this growing season,” says Allred. “It works well and seems like a good thing. It finds issues early on and shows you where they’re happening.”

Valley Insights is a joint effort between Valley Irrigation and Prospera Technologies, a leading artificial intelligence (AI) company specializing in ag data. It uses various types of imagery (RGB, NDVI and Thermal) to identify areas of plant stress from over- or under-irrigation, pests or disease. It goes beyond traditional aerial imaging, because when an issue is detected, Valley Insights analyzes the data using artificial intelligence and alerts the grower so he can take proper actions.

Allred says he’s received quite a few notifications over the growing season.

“It’s mostly been under-watered areas due to plugged sprinklers,” he says. “Without Valley Insights, we wouldn’t know that a sprinkler



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was plugged before the crop showed signs of stress. This service lets us know at an earlier stage, so I could go out and fix those sprinklers. It’s saved some crop for sure.”

Valley Insights also notified Allred that there was a large patch of weeds in a wheat field.

“Unfortunately, we can’t spray the weeds and grass out of wheat, but it’s good to know that Valley Insights picked it up,” he says. “That type of detection could help us in other areas of our farm.”

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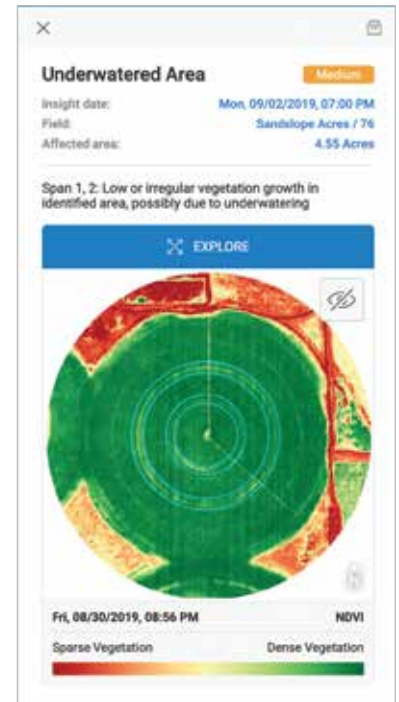
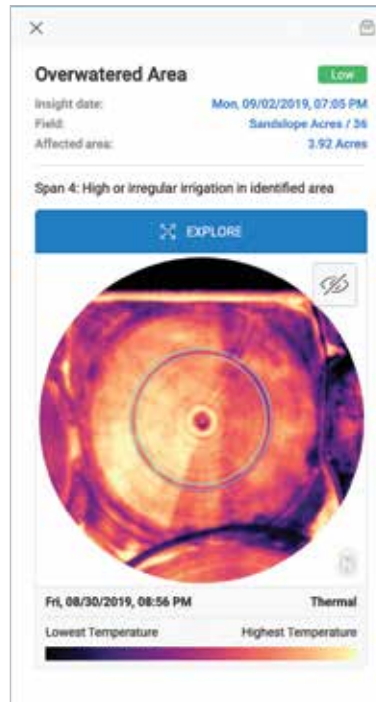


Providing Feedback for Future Improvements

Sandslope Acres was part of the initial limited release for Valley Insights, which proved to be invaluable to Valley Irrigation, because they could determine how growers use it and what they'd like to see the service do.

Allred was among those who offered constructive feedback. “It's good to get notifications when there's a problem,” he says, “but if they're taking images during the season, I'd like to see them.”

Valley Irrigation Senior Director of Product Management Troy Long says they took that suggestion seriously. “Our customers urged us to provide access to historical imagery so they can review their entire season,” he says. “As a result, Valley is already working toward that enhanced functionality. The voice of the customer plays a pivotal role in the way we develop our products and services. Our goal is to bring the greatest value to our growers so they can make better decisions for their operation.”



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Troy Long, Valley Irrigation

* Valley Insights is in limited release, available only in select regions.