

DITCH DIRT

April 2017 Volume 2017, Issue 1

2017 IRRIGATION CERTIFICATION



The GID office staff has been very busy the past several weeks meeting with waterusers to go over their 2017 irrigation plans. All water users with 30+ irrigated acres were asked to review their current irrigation practices to ensure that we have correct acreages, irrigation modes, crops planted, etc. recorded. We appreciate the cooperation of all of those that have come in and certified their acres. All producers/owners **MUST** certify before they will be eligible to receive any irrigation water this Spring. It is important to have up-to-date information for each farm unit irrigated so that our mapping tool will accurately portray what is taking place out in the fields. This year went much smoother than our inaugural year and next year will be even better. We are anticipating that next year waterusers can simply review their packets, make changes, sign and return them in the mail. As you know, all waterusers must also complete their 960 certification process with Trudy before they can receive water. Please call into the office or stop by to do so.



Visit www.gid-mt.com

to see upcoming events, deadlines, important dates and useful information, as well as to take advantage of the very useful mapping tool where you can view parcels, find acreages, boundaries and much more!!!

What You Can Expect This Water Season.

- A normal water allotment of 2 feet
- Excess water will be available this year
- A start-up date of approximately the first week of May
- Normal season ending mid-September

If you do not already have one, please call into the office to ask for a print out of all the Farm Units that you will be irrigating this season. This will include ditches and turnouts and will be helpful for both you and our office crew when you call in to order water. If you are able to provide correct names, numbers, etc. you will be helping to make sure that our crew is performing the task that you are asking of them. Don't forget that the handy notebooks that were handed out at the annual meeting will be useful for tracking your orders this water season.

Current snowpack as of April 3rd, was 112%-- that is almost twice what it was last year at that time!



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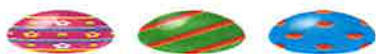
As you all know, the 2017 water season is rapidly approaching us. There are a few things that you should keep in mind to ensure that you are ready and able to receive water this Spring.

- Make sure that you have completed the certification process. This includes reporting any changes in irrigation practices, changes in ownership/lease status, correcting discrepancies you may have found on your farm unit maps, signing and returning your 2017 irrigation plan and your 960 certification packet.
- Make sure that you have removed all fences and obstructions so that ditch riders are able to access your ditches, turnouts, etc.
- If you irrigate from a drain you still are required to call into the office with your order, so that your GID can keep track of the water being used. Drain water is not free water.

HOME, HOME ON THE RANGE

This summer you may find more than just deer and antelope on the range. You may also encounter a certified brand inspector. GID is looking for a range rider to work one weekend a month during the summer and fall to inspect brands on grazing cattle, evaluate grazing conditions, report on the nature and condition of fencing and handle encroachment issues. The pasture lease income is a significant source of our O&M funds that helps offset your annual assessment. We must show the Feds we take management of these lands seriously.

GID WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY HOPPY EASTER!



GID

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GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT



7th Edition of "Ditch Dirt"



- 1) GID cannot grant permission to a 3rd party to use GID's easement unless the purpose is for Operations or Maintenance of GID's infrastructure.
- 2) GID's easement does not imply public access.
- 3) Converting an open drain to a subsurface drain, e.g. "closing a drain", does not mean GID has relinquished its easement.
- 4) GID's easement is year-round, not just seasonal when the canal is running water.
- 5) The level of road maintenance to the canal road is to the level we deem necessary for our use not others using our easement.
- 6) Parking pivots on GID's canal roads or other obstructions are not allowed.
- 7) Encroachments including fencing, field ditches, pivot sumps, buildings, etc. may be tolerated temporarily, but must be moved and relocated at owner's expense if they impact or hinder future operation or maintenance. Cattle guards on GID canal road must be at least 12 feet wide to accommodate our equipment.

There is much confusion and misunderstanding about GID's infrastructure and the ground it crosses. First, most of the land that our canals and drains traverse is private ground and the District (Bureau) has a legal access right for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of this infrastructure. It is true that some of the land is owned by the Bureau or GID.

These easements, are permitted in the 1890 Canal Act. This law allows Reclamation unrestricting authority reserved for establishing easements and ROWs for conveyance facilities. This is especially true within, but not necessarily limited to, our District boundaries when infrastructure is necessary to deliver water to the District members.

Other than portions of the SRS Supply Canal, no legal descriptions were recorded for these easements and the right-of-way boundaries remain undefined. An approximate easement footprint is shown on our historic Farm Unit Plans. In general, the drain easements are defined as 100 feet for a typical 8-foot deep, open drain. For canals the approximate easement is based on the canal dimensions; the canal bottom width plus 6 times the canal depth plus 2 times the top canal width plus 15 feet. Additional room may be warranted to fix seepage issues or slope stability concerns.

Facts about GID's easements:

GID Right-of-Ways (ROWs) & Easements. . .
 Brought to you by Erling A. Juell, Manager

EXTRA, EXTRA... READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The GID crew replaced 2 cracked pipes with a 10-foot corrugated metal pipe. This was done to ensure that there were no more leaks which had caused the washing out of the county road.

GID purchased fire equipment and is currently repairing it so it will be available for ditch burning projects, as well as to help with emergency grass fires.

After several years of being unable to travel on the Spring Valley Road from Fairfield to Fishkun, you will now be able to, thanks to the new bridge put in due to the efforts of the Public Land/Water Access Association (PLWA).