



DITCH DIRT

May 2019 Volume 2019, Issue 1

HOW IS THIS WATER SEASON SHAPING UP????

Here are some things that you can expect to see:

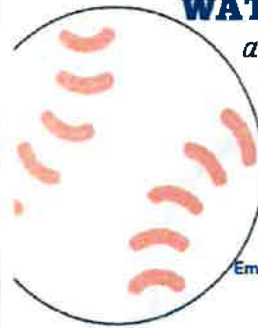
- A normal water allotment of 2 acre-feet is expected
- 1/2 price water will likely be available
- Availability of excess water will be determined at a later date
- A start-up date around mid-May, with first delivery date anticipated for Monday, May 20th
- A normal season ending mid-September is expected

*** Current snowpack as of May 7th: 99%**

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

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Join **SUN RIVER**
WATERSHED GROUP
at the *Voyagers Game!*
June 26th



Email sunriverwatershed@gmail.com to reserve your tickets today!

MANAGER'S COLUMN



There is no shortage of things to work on here at GID. Keep in mind, most of our infrastructure is 100+ years old and constructed within a 4 to 5-year period. So it only goes to reason that everything will fall apart about the same time.

That being said, just recently we experienced a serious malfunction of the Willow Creek Reservoir outlet gates. The stem of the regulating gate is damaged due to corrosion just above the actual gate. In order to initiate this repair, the upstream emergency or guard gate must be closed and sealed. Unfortunately at this same time, we experienced concrete failure around the frame of the guard gate which results in leakage on the order of 75 CFS. Repairing the guard gate requires a significant lowering of the reservoir pool and sealing off the outlet tunnel. Given the effort involved, it may make sense to replace the original gate.

Regardless, this maintenance issue will impact GID's work load, maintenance budget and operation of Willow Creek reservoir over the next two years. On a positive note, your GID crews have the experience and technical know-how to get it done. Hopefully no other "emergencies" occur.

Also, on a positive note, Johnson Drop Repairs are done!



SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

**25TH ANNIVERSARY
& CELEBRATION**
**2019 ANNUAL
MEMBERS MEETING**

AUGUST 24 • SUN CANYON

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As you all know, the 2019 water season is upon 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 your Irrigation Plan, as well as your 960-acre limitation certification, if you were asked to.
- Make sure that you have removed all fences and obstructions from GID's easement so that ditch riders are able to access your ditches, turnouts, etc.
- If you have any delinquent real estate taxes or outstanding invoices owed to GID, you will not be able to receive project water until those are paid in full.

SOME FACTS THAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT GID'S STORAGE RESERVOIRS.....

- **Gibson Dam & Reservoir:**

Gibson Dam is 199 feet high and contains 167,500 cubic yards of concrete. A drop inlet spillway located just upstream from the north end of the dam has a capacity of 30,000 cubic feet per second. Gibson Reservoir has a total capacity of 99,100 acre-feet.

- **Pishkun Dikes & Reservoir:**

Pishkun Reservoir is an off-stream storage reservoir about 15 miles northeast of Gibson Dam and has a capacity of 46,700 acre-feet. The reservoir is formed by 8 earthfill dikes with heights ranging from 12 to 50 feet and an overall length of 9,050 feet. The outlet structure has a maximum capacity of 1,600 cubic feet per second, and has no spillway.

- **Willow Creek Dam & Reservoir:**

Willow Creek Dam is an earthfill structure on Willow Creek about 15 miles southeast of Gibson Dam. In addition to storing water from Willow Creek, the reservoir is fed from the Sun River through the Willow Creek Feeder Canal. The structure is 93 feet high, has a crest length of 650 feet, and contains 275,000 cubic yards of material. An open spillway channel 700 feet wide at the ground surface has a capacity of 10,000 cubic feet per second. The reservoir has a capacity of 32,400 acre-feet of water.

- **Sun River Diversion Dam:**

The Sun River Diversion Dam, located 3 miles downstream from Gibson Dam, is a concrete arch structure with a structural height of 132 feet and a crest length of 261 feet. The dam contains 6,500 cubic yards of concrete. It is equipped with an overflow crest for a spillway. The capacity of the outlet works feeding the Pishkun Supply Canal is 1,400 cubic feet per second.

NEWS FROM THE NRCS.....

- ◇ The Teton County Natural Resource Planning Community Meeting to identify, discuss and prioritize the natural resources concerns in Teton County, will be June 12th at 7 p.m. at the Ambulance Station in Fairfield.
- ◇ The NRCS is offering additional funding through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target honey bee pollinator resource concerns in Montana in 2019. Deadline for applications is May 10, 2019.
- ◇ Conservation Stewardship Program Application Deadline for the 2019 fiscal year is May 10, 2019. Producers can get up to \$40,000/year for 5 years.
- ◇ NRCS is accepting applications for grants until July 1, 2019 to fund Montana projects that could stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applicants can request up to \$75,000 for projects lasting one to three years.

Contact your local USDA Service Center or visit www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov, for more details on any of these programs.

2019



1st Edition of "Ditch Dirt"



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