



DITCH DART

October 2020 Volume 2020, Issue 2

NOTES FROM THE MANAGER:



Just a short note on a few projects GID is working on or planning to work during the off-season:

- J-Lake Reregulation– GID submitted an application for a \$125K DNRC grant to implement Phase 2 of 3 of this project which includes a new “smart-gate” to regulate releases to Spring Coulee. The goal is to convert the “constant-level” J-Lake into a reregulation pond which will reduce water losses to Muddy Creek. The 1st phase, a “smart-gate” on GM-100 was finished this Spring.
- SCDA– Supervisory control and data acquisition is a fancy term for automation, remote control and flow measurements. GID received a \$75K grant to install flow control and measurement stations at several locations.
- Arnold Coulee Drop– GID submitted applications for a \$125K DNRC grant and a \$2M WaterSmart grant to replace this failing structure on the PSC with a new one which is “hydro-power ready”.

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FALL FACT OR FICTION

- 1) Fall has been historically called harvest because it is the time of year when crops are harvested.
- 2) Fall colors are caused by the amount of sugar in the leaves, the redder the leaf the more sugar the leaf is storing.
- 3) Overall traits of children born in the Fall are that they are better students and live longer.
- 4) Fall statistically has less weddings than Summer or Spring.
- 5) Pumpkins in the old days were used to remove freckles and cure snake bites.
- 6) It takes approximately 18 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.
- 7) Pumpkins grow in every continent except Antarctica.
- 8) A study noted that men found women more attractive in the cooler seasons.

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Fish Relocated by FWP & Volunteers:

Volunteers assisted Montana FWP and the Sun River Watershed Group earlier this month with a fish “rescue” at the SRS Main canal. The fish were Artic Grayling, which are a “Species of Special Concern” in Montana. As their name suggests, Artic Grayling require a lot of very cold water, so when they remain in the canal at the end of the irrigation season, it’s important to get them moved to a more appropriate habitat. Before their release a small genetic sample is taken to inform an ongoing study about the fish population’s genetic fitness. This effort was organized by Katie Vivian with support from the SRWG and would not have been possible without volunteers who helped: Jenny Gullick, Margo and Brian Neilsen and FWP techs Dan Frazer and Katie Webster.



Several of the GID crew members and management took time from their work day to participate in Fairfield’s community clean-up and picked litter up along the 2-mile stretch on Highway 89 towards Choteau.

BIG FALL REPAIRS ON THE PISHKUN SUPPLY CANAL THIS FALL

By O&M Foreman, Charlie Clement

The big project for this Fall is to replace the concrete underpass on the Pishkun Supply Canal (PSC) just upstream from Tunnel Lake that was built in 1914. This is a 3-conduit underpass that also includes a waste way with 3 gates to release water in case of an emergency.

This structure actually failed in May shortly after start-up and had to be shutdown to implement a temporary fix. A permanent solution was developed over the summer and repair materials were ordered and stockpiled. Dual 59" x 81" arched CMPs with a polymer coating will have the same capacity as the original.

During the summer, we prepped the canal road and cleared some trees to improve access for hauling materials. The massive concrete structure required us to rent and use a large hydraulic jackhammer mounted on our excavator. Thankfully the majority of the concrete was friable but contained a lot of rebar which had to be cut with torches.

During construction, we adjusted our plans to leave the existing concrete floor and outermost side walls. This expedited our work and will improve the finished product. All but 2 pieces of the culvert have been placed over a drainage bed and tile drain tile system. The culvert will be embedded with cementitious flowable fill up to the spring line on the pipe.

Unfortunately, an early winter has slowed our progress. Between now and April, we will finish installing and covering the pipe. Both canal embankments will then need to be rebuilt.



* Fall Fact or Fiction Answers: 1) False, it is because of the Harvest Moon that occurs close to the autumn equinox, 2) True, that is why maple leaves are deep red, 3) True, yeah for us Fall babies!, 4) False, Fall statistically has more weddings than Spring or Summer months, 5) True, how weird is that?, 6) False, it takes 3 dozen apples to make one gallon of cider, 7) True, 8) True, testosterone rises in both men and women in the Fall.

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT 🍂 2nd Edition of "Ditch Dirt" 🍂 **2020**

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