



DITCH DIRT

April 2024 Volume 2024, Issue 1

HOW IS THE 2024 WATER SEASON SHAPING UP?

As you are all aware, this year we have seen an extremely reduced amount of precipitation. That being said, you are probably all wondering what that means for our rapidly approaching water season. Here are some things that you can expect to see:

- A reduced water allotment of 1 acre-foot/acre is expected, to start the season, with a potential to increase it if circumstances improve.
- 1/2 price water will not likely be available
- Availability of excess water is also not likely.
- A start-up date around the end of May to the beginning of June, is anticipated.
- An early season ending mid-August is expected

*** Current snowpack as of April 10th: 64% of normal**

Office Hours: 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., 7 days a week.

GID Employee Directory

Wyatt Awtrey: Division #6	Cell #: 435-243-9338
Shad Beck: Division #5	Cell #: 406-590-4580
Mark Dale: Dam Tender	Cell #: 406-450-0879
Jenny Gulick: Office Mgr.	Cell #: 406-590-7901
Brad Hanson: Division #2	Cell #: 920-838-4959
Richard Hart: Division #7	Cell #: 406-590-2926
Erling Juel: District Mgr.	Cell #: 406-799-4416
Chaz Keller: Division #8	Cell #: 406-231-5456
Ernest Kietzman: Division #3	Cell #: 406-788-2753
Steve Lettengarver: Water master	#: 406-590-2744
Tony May: Division #1	Cell #: 406-750-3274
Eric Mayer: O&M Foreman	Cell #: 406-590-3254
Scott Neckstad: Division #9	Cell #: 406-459-8320
Operators: Travis Schenk & Cory Copenhaver	
Canal Maintenance: Tony Melander & Ryan Peace	
Nancy Fry: GIS Mapping Spec. Ph#: 406-467-2533	

Board Commissioners:

Dave Gulick: Precinct #1	Cell #: 406-799-1374
Pat Brosten: Precinct #2	Cell #: 406-590-3158
Tim Brunner: Precinct #3	Cell #: 406-788-3458
Chase Brady: Precinct #4	Cell #: 406-868-3693
Bill Norris: Precinct #5	Cell #: 406-799-5323

105 Central Avenue West, Fairfield, MT 59436
Phone: 406-467-2533 Fax: 406-467-2705
Emails: District Manager: erling@gid-mt.com
Office Manager: jenny@gid-mt.com

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Sun River Water Management Work Group will meet April 18th at 10 A.M. at the Fairfield Ambulance Training Center.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Spent Ammo & Trash Cleanup at Freezeout Lake : May 4th—9 A.M. bring gloves, everything else is provided.

* 26th Annual Weed Whacker Rodeo: July 13th at 8:30 A.M., bring gloves. Meet at the Beaver Creek Camp Area. Lunch and Door prizes will be included.

◇ Call Tracy Wendt at (406) 214-2868.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As you all know, the 2024 water season is just 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 do so.
- 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. by May 1st.
- 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.
- 48 hour advance notice for on orders and 24 hour notice for off orders. Cut off time is 3 P.M. for orders.
- Policy Regarding installation of new irrigation equipment in GID boundaries: We require a full layout of the irrigation plan, including acres covered, if a new delivery point is required, or there is a change in the existing one prior to purchase, one month advance notice needed.

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.

Work to Close Part of the Willow Creek Road

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, with the help of Greenfields Irrigation District, will be improving the spillway at Willow Creek Reservoir beginning April 1st. The improvements are designed to reduce the potential for erosion during a flood event. For the safety of the public, the Willow Creek Road, north of the dam, will be closed for road improvements to accommodate trucks and rock deliveries through the end of June. The public should be prepared for increased truck traffic along this route Monday through Friday. No change in reservoir operations is anticipated.

NEWS FROM GID’S DISTRICT MANAGER



As of today, this year’s snow-pack and projected summer weather patterns suggest a short irrigation season ending on or about the first of August. Gibson Reservoir will fill but will also drain quickly due to waning in-flows. A lot can change, and I hope the prognosis improves. Your GID Board is making adjustments to maximize the irrigation season for everyone and to be as fair as possible. Unfortunately, the limited water season will impact flood irrigators and those with coarse, granular soils. This challenging water year reinforces the need and sense of urgency for the District to complete a system-wide overhaul of our infrastructure and to modernize the District’s water delivery operations. Given the size and complexity of our district, this effort will take many years and access every possible funding sources; State and Federal. The end result will be more off-stream storage to start each water season and a more efficient delivery system to conserve water for irrigation. This is analogous to the gas mileage and efficiency of your car. The better we are with handling the water, the further and longer we can go each season.

2024



1st Edition of “Ditch Dirt”



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