



# DITCH DIRT

May 2025

Volume 2025, Issue 1

## HOW IS THE 2025 WATER SEASON SHAPING UP?

As you are all aware, this year we have seen an extremely reduced amount of precipitation, as well as lower than normal reservoir levels to begin the season. 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 May 22nd-24th
- An early season ending the beginning of August is expected

**\* Current snowpack as of May 12th: 45% of normal**

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The Sun River Watershed Group will be hosting an Outdoor Journaling Workshop on Saturday, June 14th, featuring local author Amy Grisak.

- ◇ SRWG will hold its Annual Sun Canyon Weed Whacker Rodeo on July 12th and is looking for volunteers to help remove knapweed.
- ◇ To learn more about these and other SRWG work and upcoming events, please visit [www.sunriverwatershed.org](http://www.sunriverwatershed.org)
- ◇ Call Tracy Wendt at (406) 214-2868.

## 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
Matt Genger: Division #1	Cell #: 406-410-2523
Jenny Gulick: Office Mgr.	Cell #: 406-590-7901
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
Tony May: Water Master	Cell#: 406-750-3274
Eric Mayer: O&M Foreman	Cell#: 406-590-3254
Scott Neckstad: Division #9	Cell#: 406-459-8320
Drew Quencer: Division #2	Cell#: 406-781-3388
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
Chris Ostberg: Precinct #5	Cell #: 406-590-1688

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Office Manager: [jenny@gid-mt.com](mailto:jenny@gid-mt.com)

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As you all know, the 2025 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 is preferred.

**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 1,700 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 Bridge Replacement Project**

This project includes the construction of a new 462 ft long, single lane bridge, the creation of 18 lineal feet of new roadway alignment, the removal of the existing bridge, and the obliteration of the existing roadway approaches. The contractor hired for the project has currently installed approximately 20% of the temporary work bridge on the east side of the Sun River during the last two weeks. Equipment and materials mobilization continues to be a regular activity to the east or west side of the project. Please have patience during construction. Possible minor traffic delays for work occurring near the new road alignment with road closures of up to 20 minutes. Minimal impacts anticipated through mid-June.

**NEWS FROM GID'S DISTRICT MANAGER**



Suffice it to say, this year's irrigation season will be very similar to last year's season, as we make do with what Mother Nature has provided. Please realize that GID is doing its best to minimize operational losses and maximize water deliveries. We have prepared a big list of system improvements which will optimize water management practices and significantly enhance our overall water use efficiency. Unfortunately, complete implementation of these dire improvements will take many years.

On the administration front, the GID Board has amended its board policies to recognize that each and every individual **MAY** be a qualified recipient eligible to receive GID water on up to 960 acres of assessed land, whether owned or leased and regardless of marital status, whether or not the recipient is an individual, part of a partnership, LLC or corporation, etc. Your GID Board, as well as the majority of the District members, recognize the long-term importance that Acreage Limitations have on the community landscape, and as such, has galvanized support from the local community.

**2025**



**1st Edition of "Ditch Dirt"**



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