

## **Ditch Rider Report for Irrigation Year 2021**

The irrigation season this year started at the end of May

- Please click [HERE](#) to see upcoming FID District Rotations by date for 2022. This document is based of usage last year dates are TBD.

We started off the same as last year due to ditch maintenance. Water levels did not stay high for long; we were running about 50+ CFS the end of May and water was used as stock water only by the end of July. Our first big decrease was mid June. I opened the main gates on 5/19/21 and we were at full flow by 5/27/21. Main gates were closed on 8/18/21 due to low water levels.

Main pass is looking into building a headgate that will allow them to divert water sooner and quicker for pond fill, which in return will have less impact on the district at the start of the season.

Commissioners hired the wrestling team for 4 hours of ditch maintenance. They did a great job and saved me around 20 hrs of work. They cleaned quite a bit of ditch below the big pond on Main Pass ranch and downstream from Simmons through Babcocks.

We also hired Dan Randall to clean out several areas. He started on the Main Pass ranch where he checked for fallen rock on the bend and cleaned out all the sand above the big culvert by the Main house on the ranch. He also cleaned above and below the culvert on BJ rd headed to the District III Split, the culvert was full of sand. He cleaned a large section on District II Blair as well as added new headgates, culverts and added a sand trap.

District I Middle Diversion gate rotation/timing was adjusted and will continue to work on this section as they only allotted 55 of the ditch.

The main gates off Fall Creek cannot be sealed off completely, we always get some leakage between that and the natural spring water that flows into the ditch below the gates. This area is highly prone to beaver damage because of the excess water. The ranch manager and I will keep an eye on it until it freezes this winter.

I believe we are starting to get caught up on most of the major ditch cleaning for the district. Here is what needs to be addressed in the future:

- Main Pass - I have three sections that if we go over 53 CFS, it will spill over.
- State Section - Runs slow, would be highly beneficial to make it a more straight route. Has some larger sand areas that need to be cleaned out.
- Below District I Middle diversion headgate - ditch is washing out some and could cause issues in the future if it keeps cutting in.
- BLM above Mourers - District II/III could use a more direct route as well on BLM.
- District I Margo silted in and was noticeable at the end of the season, will walk that section for possible cleaning.
- District II - redo culvert under BJ Rd

- District II Gregory - ditch has swallowed from Arttie to Clint.
- District III - Below the First split, on BJ, that section is in bad shape and leaks excessively. We also are experiencing slow flow to the east.

Items of discussion:

- Pumping chart - usage per acre.
- Telemetry need for proper usage
- State and BLM sections above the Grand Canyon are still running slow. May need to be engineered properly.
- Possible use of Sandtraps in each direct to make silt cleaning easier.