

Ditch Doings! 3/29/18

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Here we go!!



Keith, today, removing the last of little sand bars and winter induced debris slides from the upper portions of the canal. With the Fall work to remove gravel and marginal trees, the upper reaches of the canal are well spruced up and ready to move a little water. This chase after these somewhat minor obstacles will set us up once again for an attempt to determine what our max capacity is, later in the season. We had a little difficulty with frost, still, deep along the shaded banks.





Some projects still in the works. This is near Anderson's house. a new structure to divert water into one of the recharge ponds. This work is being carried out by the land owner, but use of the recharge pond stands to benefit us all to some degree. This work will be done by early next week.



Near the top of the East Ditch. Keith will pull these willows out and pull the banks back some, tomorrow. He has half a day here and half a day removing gravel at the top of the 75 Ditch. The gravel will not be hauled but used instead along the adjacent banks to create a drivable passage.



The remnant of our "in-river" coffer dam, built last Fall to dry out our Main Headgate. It served us well, and was only breached after two inches of rain fell last week.



Keith removed the remainder of the dam this afternoon. Now there is 24" of water awaiting against the Main Gates. This is our first chance to see if our new floors, put in last Fall, gave us a little more positive control on shutting down the gates.



The lower side Prior to our Fall repairs, the shut gates allowed an estimated 12-15 cfs thru when shut tight. This is just a trickle, now. I'm guesstimating about 1-2 cfs, most coming thru places we did not work on. I don't believe this water will extend more than a couple 100 feet down the canal. I was pleased to see this.

I pulled out all of the temporary boards at all the Take-Outs, today. Most Take-Out gates are shut, but many leak. If so, now is the time to clean your ditches, if you want to do it when they are dry. And the mouths of most of the Take-Outs need a little shoveling. which is the users responsibility. Spread the word. Its easier, now, in some cases.

I'm expecting to have water flowing by early next week. We will ramp it up slowly over several days.

...and the weather is perfect for this kind of early "Spring cleaning!"very little frost remains, but everything is damp.

Great time to burn!before it gets too warm and dry....



Tree roots that armor the steep banks along the upper canal sections.

They also suck up water, as everyone knows.

Were they completely eliminated, to save water, the steep banks would constantly be sloughing in, slowing down the flows, allowing more water to sink down, or evaporate, and requiring constant maintenance. It would be hard to determine which leads to a greater loss of water.

But, after an unusual event, the trees will always provide a "shock-absorber."

...and surely, we all know, that "unusual events" are becoming a little more "normal!"

Lets not get too hasty with our continued tree removal.

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