

More from The Ditch Watcher

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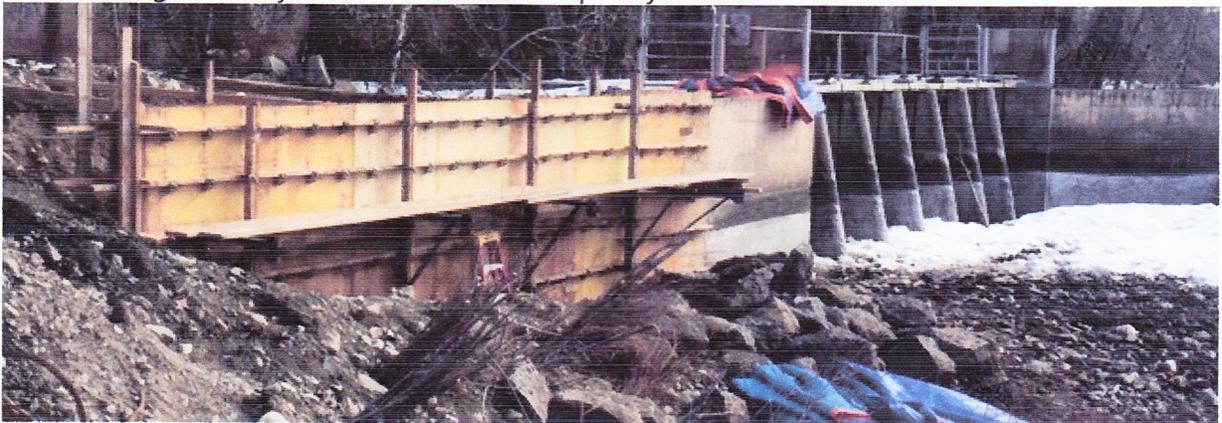
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Springtime!!plus!!



March 18 Our Season in the snow came to a very abrupt halt, three days before this, in spite of continued excellent conditions.....so abrupt that our toys were left out! They are still out, nearly a month later, for reasons which we are all intimately aware of.

Good timing, in a way, because we still had plenty left to do downstream!



The New Mains Back to work, Mid March. An extension of the existing concrete wing-wall, on the upstream side, will provide further protection to the top of the Canal plus a transition from the new organic river bank into the old, very stable Main Headgate structure. The new

addition is a substantial 40 feet long, 12 feet high, 10 inches wide, and stands on a 4 foot wide footing.



We caught Kokopelli!



We take our work very seriously!

Incidentally, this new construction was in the very fresh and drying stage when put to its first test by the recent earthquake. A very thorough examination revealed no cracks, in spite of it being both fresh and unsupported.



April 3 All ready for water! Keith opening up the coffer dam and allowing the river back over to our side.



Finishing touches



This is the lower, or canal side of the Mainsat least the message is wholesome, for this community under siege...and scrutiny.



We timed our clean-up so that I could allow water to keep the taggers from re-visiting. I opened the gates as soon as Bob gathered up his gear and climbed out of there.....4 pm on Saturday, April 4. I almost washed his portable radio down the canal!



The River is currently running about 70% of normal for early April. Magic Reservoir is not full and probably won't fill, this year. We are limited to just enough water, for now, to wet things down and flush clean the upper parts of the system. We will run water down each lateral over the next 10 days and hope to have it available to everyone by the 15th.

I know everyone has way too much to do, right now,☺.....but.....if anyone is so inclined, they'd be welcome to walk sections of the ditch and throw debris out onto the nearby banks. (You're just supposed to do it alone!☺) In keeping with my long term plan, try to throw things onto the west banks. The east banks are preferred, wherever possible, to keep clean and flat for mowing. To a degree, the low shrubs and debris on the west banks act as a weed-catching fence, and stop the wind from filling up the ditch with blowing tumble weeds.

Also, if anyone wants to burn along their own ditch banks, now is the time to do it. There is still significant moisture in the ground so the result is a cool, more desirable, and safer burn. Don't wait for me to come do it. You have to have a burn permit from Blaine County. There is still some risk, so plan accordingly: burn in the morning and get it out before the dry afternoon breeze comes up. Have a functioning garden hose nearby because there's no water to dip out of the ditch.



I've never liked driving a tractor on Main Street, but it's not too un-nerving at the moment. Since I was the only one out there I was able to come to a complete stop, to do this safely.



...and so my work continues, same as ever....."essential..."



This stretch was completely dry just a few hours before this Photo. I get a little twinge of satisfaction when I see such immediate benefit, even if its just for a couple of ducks! It's as if they were just hanging out waiting, with expectation!essential...



Back home for my pickup.

Call, text or email with questions, discussion or disagreements, as usual. Or, you're welcome to stop, should you see me out there. Just don't get too close, and please wear your mask! ...or keep your windows rolled up...

...and may we all get safely thru this.

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