

Ditch Doings Winter, 2019-20

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Back to Work! Yesterday(April 5). Grateful to have work, considering. Note my mask amongst my essentials.

Fall/Winter Update first:



This is history! The 60 year old boards and steel are gone; the bank and trees are gone.



November 12 Our meeting, planning, and funding had been finished. The largest share of the expenses came from grants provided by the state and the local flood district for the purpose of mitigating future flood damage. This was determined to be a vulnerable length of river bank because the old, well worn structure was constructed to keep high water from entering into the canal uncontrollably. The replacement will provide the same protection, should handle even greater flow and pressure from the river, and should last indefinitely, all while providing a somewhat more ecologically sound and aesthetically pleasing area adjacent to the Big Wood River.



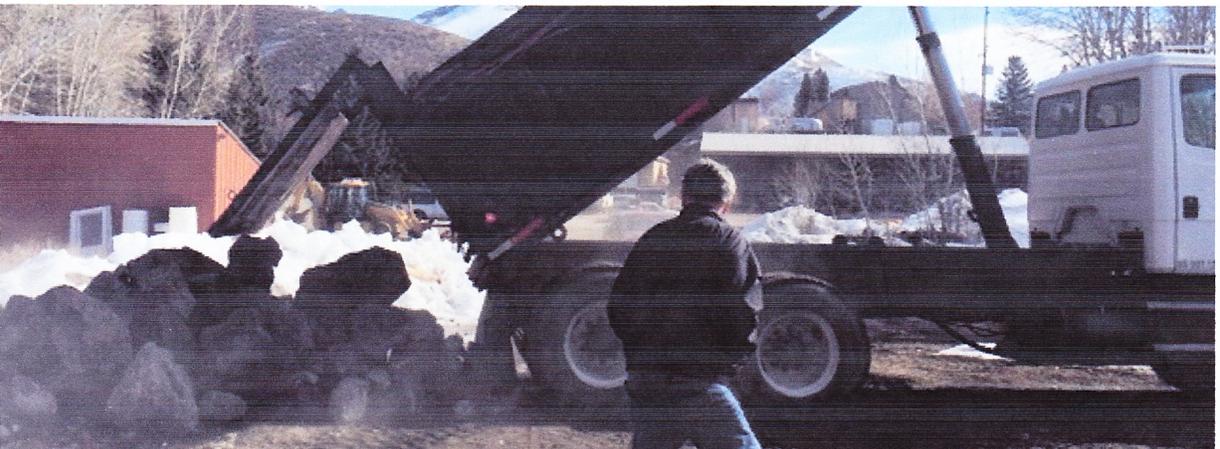
Pulling with all his might. Note the back end of the excavator off the ground as Keith pulled the last tree up the bank and out of the way. The roots of the trees, along with 20 foot lengths of the trunk attached, were buried back into the banks to provide very well anchored and solid interference for high velocity, highly erosive current.



Embedding large rocks below the river bed to prevent any water from undermining the bank. The eastern bank of the river had been dried up by building a gravel bar up stream, to direct all flow towards the west side of the river.



Gathering willow cuttings The cuttings were planted thru ought the project, in order to provide soil stability.



Rock hauled in It was placed deep under the bank and also up the slope to ensure stability of the embedded logs, roots, and willow bundles.



Planting willowsdeep into the bank to ensure that their planted end could be in contact with water below the surface, through the Spring and summer. We had very hardy, dedicated help from Trout Unlimited, throughout the whole process.



In the meantime: we tackled some of the more deteriorated portions of the canal infrastructure. The old floor, here is possibly around a hundred years old. In this case, there is a more recent wall on the left, and now a brand new wall on the right, put in by one of our water users along Kingsbury. Allowing these places to erode excessively would lead to unnecessary instability progressing up the canal bottom, and become increasingly difficult to repair.



Besides, its kinda fun!



We did 6 of these ...rough but adequate repairs for a little over \$200.00 each, whereas waiting until the entire structure came apart would cost at least \$3-4,000, to rebuild just the smaller ones. We will continue to work on these.



Late December ...the snow and frozen ground shut us down...



So I was off to do something else!!!

...until the snow was gone and the water demanded our return!!

I have many additional photos, should anyone want to see more of our project, or other Ditch doings and activities at wrvid45.com

...or call me

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