

Ditch Doings June 21, 2019

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Not the Ditch!

Actually, Pensacola Beach, with family, a couple of weeks ago. Almost everything I do revolves around water!



Kingsbury Divide





A quick review of my ditch bank grooming

Besides keeping the water coming, I am tasked with canal and right-of-way maintenance. As most of you know, the ROW has, in many places, perhaps never been passable due to ditch construction and over 100 years of debris removal. The largest restriction being remnants of the many monstrous cottonwoods that used to line the banks. In an effort to keep the banks clean, burning and spraying have been used extensively.

It is my hope to simply be able to mow the banks and get away from burning and spraying, as much as possible. These two photos are both looking south along the East Lateral, although taken along different stretches, soon after all the large obstacles have been removed. We will follow up with planting grass. The surface normally ends up with smaller but loose rocks and woody debris—so much so that it is still risky to run a mower on it. Below are photos of what might be my final prep pass, with the little blade and roller. Next pass, in many places, could be done with a mower. Stay tuned.

It will be noticed that when possible, I leave more, larger growth on the west banks. Due to typical prevailing winds out of the west that blow trash and tumble weeds into the canal, our "west-side hedge" will serve somewhat as a "weed-catching fence." We will be able to either roll or mow the path along the west side of the hedge in order to keep it tidy. The east bank road is made closer to the water to allow us easier access to the canal itself. It's coming along, slowly.



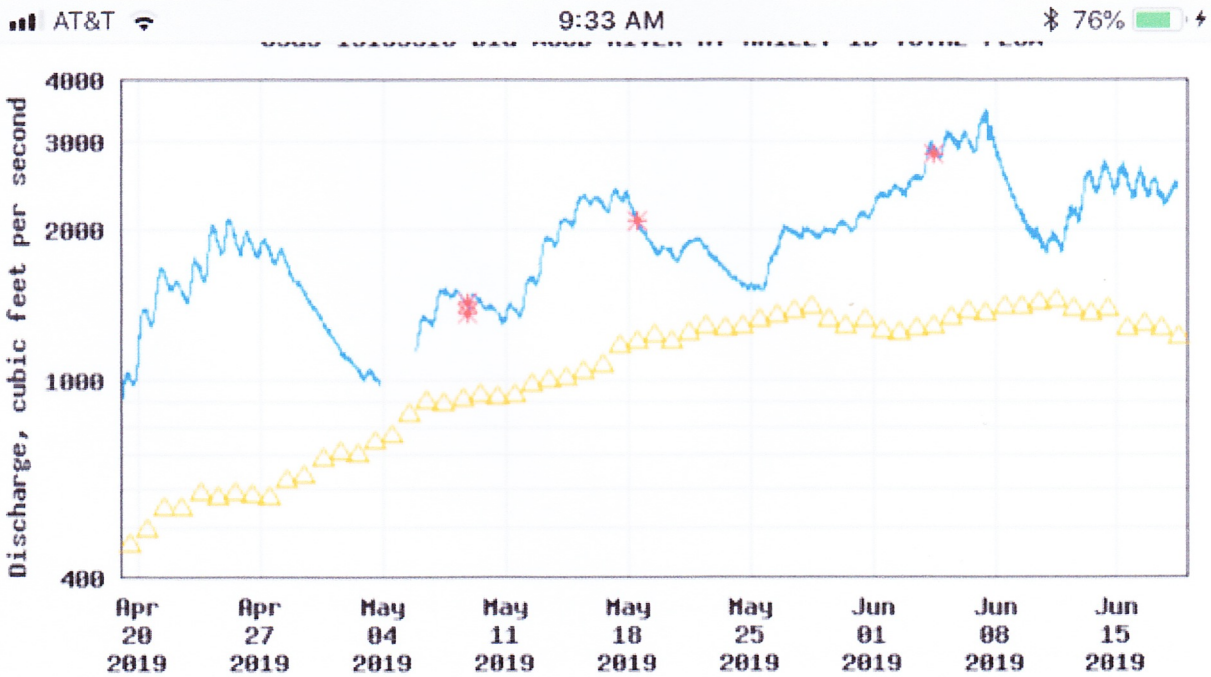
Making the Right of Way mowable This is a great little combination. The goofy little angle blade is for a soft touch only. It slides only loose but significant debris, most often rocks and pieces of loose wood, down off the bank tops so that a pass with a mower in the future will be safer. The 2,000 lb. roller does almost everything a mower can do, and more, plus it only has a fraction of the moving parts. With each pass the surface gets a little smoother. This equipment is all rented from neighbors.



I'm very easily entertained And I hate these exotic thistles!



Local bees taking advantage of our irrigated fields



Big Wood flow level for the last couple of months The yellow is average. It's been a great year for water, and it's holding up well. A lot of rain and cooler than normal.



I captured the Lochness Monster!



Other news: The dilapidated retaining wall adjacent to the Main Gates on the bank of the Big Wood River

It used to be that one could just charge into the river with whatever they needed, and rebuild something like this. That's not the case, anymore, thankfully. If it's work to be done in the river itself, permission is needed. And before permission is granted, expert advice and direction, need to be sought.

At the moment: the engineers have completed their study and presented us with a plan for wall replacement. Some funds were set aside when building our current budget, to start this process. It is possible that we will be working on this, come Fall. Stay tuned.

There is no end to the excitement, out there.

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