

Ditch Doings Nov 16, 2018

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It's been a beautiful Fall, and a busy one! It's not over yet, but Winter is in the Forecast; snow in a week!

In my last Update, we were shutting down the Canal, rescuing fish, and putting finishing touches on next year's budget.

Now the Canal is dry as a bone, Trout Unlimited volunteers rescued over 8000 fish, and spending next year's money is well underway.

For now: besides having snow in the forecast, Alpine Tree Service is scheduled to begin some removal of large trees, which are posing the most risk, over the Upper Canal. This work has been post-poned twice already, once due to rain about a month ago. Keith still has a couple of stretches of ROW to clean up, especially along the long-put-off sections of the East Lateral. Though all the large Cottonwoods were cut down 10 years ago, on that section, the old remnants of them are still present, along with other after-effects of that work, like broken down fences and old concrete diversions.

Chris and I still have numerous collections of much smaller, more recent debris, that we will be cleaning up.



Fish rescue after the Mains were shut down



Upper Canal issues, soon to be addressed





The first foto is what Doug Neidrich used to see from his kitchen window. The second foto, from the same location, shows evidence of a little work. I'm not certain he likes the new scenery but I assured him we weren't done. The fence gets a regular watering from the neighboring yard so Justin planted grass along our ROW, and I threw a ton of Hollyhock seeds along the fence. Stay tuned, Doug.



Looking up the Canal, across from the fire station. Large trees used to provide some bank stability around this turn. After the trees were removed, the high fast current along this stretch was eroding into the neighboring yard. We placed 27 two ton blocks along the foot of the bank thru-out the turn.



Same turn looking down stream. I've left what will become a small grove of trees at both the upper and lower ends of the wall so that tree roots will serve to protect the bank where the wall starts and ends, in an attempt to benefit from a little bit of holism. Don't anyone get carried away and spray to kill them again, as any water getting behind the blocks could quickly render our work worthless.





South side of Bellevue



For the 2nd year in a row we have coaxed these monsters into the top of the canal. It's impressive to see how these things handle getting off road. The work on the eroded bottoms of the Main Gates is done, for now. We will be monitoring it for years, hopefully, to see if our work of the past two Falls, can endure the beatings from the high spring flows as well as the original work did. Stay tuned.



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