

Water Rights/Ditch Rights and Irrigation Districts

District information

Bitter Root Irrigation Dist

- Como lake can store up to 38,495 acre feet
- The main canal is 72 miles long
- The District has 146 miles of lateral or open ditches
- The canal maximum capacity is 350 CFS
- District has high water rights on several tributaries

Daly Ditches Irrigation Dist

- Water Rights off of the Bitterroot River and Skalkaho Creek
- Nine main canals totaling approx. 83 miles
- The District has approx. 146 miles of laterals or open ditches
- Carries up to 417 CFS through it's 11 main canals.

- BRID irrigates 16,665 acres
- Services 1,560 water users
- 15 private gravity lines
- Three-mile subdistrict gravity lines
- The main canal has 8 large siphons
- 97 total head gates on the main canal
- Daly Ditches irrigates 14,843 acres
- Services 2,090 users covering 2,551 parcels.
- Water is carried thru buried siphons and flumes besides open ditches.
- 326 headgates on 9 main canals.

Ditches

- Ditches CAN NOT be filled in or moved without permission.
- Must obtain permit for Main Canal crossings.
- Subbing
- Wastewater
- Trees on Right-of-Way
- Access to canal
- Communicate with the Irrigation Districts about how you can and will irrigate.

Subbing



Montana Code Annotated (MCA)

These are codes that govern how districts operate

These are just few codes the District uses

- MCA 70-17-112 Interference with canal or ditch easements prohibited
- MCA 85-7-1924 Interference with commissioners or distribution system –penalty
- MCA 85-7-1923 Entry on land
- MCA 85-7-2212 Irrigation ditches – nonliabilities

BRID subdivision checklist

- **Subdivision, Family Transfer and Boundary Line Relocation Checklist**

- District needs a copy of a plat map for the parcel that is being subdivided/family transfer/boundary line relocation/court appointed splits.
- Seller is required to fill out a Water Allocation Agreement stating how much water is attached to each parcel. Note (Can't have more acres of land than irrigated acres of water)
- Subdivision must have recorded easements in place for buried irrigation pipelines.
- All turnouts must be downsized for the appropriate amount of water delivery for each parcel.
- Subdivisions are required to have a meter and a valve or some type of measuring device to accurately measure water.
- The meter and valve will be located in a place where it is easy for the ditch rider to monitor.
- There needs to be a point of contact for the Subdivision or HOA so that they can be notified if there is a problem.
- All divisions of land with Bitter Root Irrigation District water attached must go before the District Board for review and approval.
- For further information on Divisions of land please see Districts Operating Policy

DDID Subdivision Policy

- Subdivision of farm units (subdivision defined as a farm unit divided) no additional turnouts will be allowed. The irrigation district will be responsible to deliver water only to the point of diversion for the original farm unit. The landowner may be granted permission to change the point of delivery from the original farm unit or previously amended farm unit to a more convenient point if it doesn't adversely affect another water user in the district. The landowner shall pay for all costs of installing an approved farm turnout, measuring devices and any other appurtenances.
- No water shall be delivered to any divided farm unit until an Irrigation Plan is submitted and approved by the District Board. In order for the District Board to consider a request for subdivision approval, the following information shall be provided by the subdivider:
 - A. A detailed design/construction drawing, prepared by a competent engineer or person with expertise in designing irrigation water delivery systems, showing the size and location of all measuring devices, new and existing ditches, abandoned ditches, new and existing pipelines and appurtenances, and new and existing turnouts. The drawing shall also show the allocation of water to each unit in the subdivision, and the proposed method to restrict the amount of water to each unit.
 - B. A written statement detailing an irrigation schedule for each unit in the subdivision if needed.
 - C. A statement from the subdivider certifying that all new pipelines and appurtenance will conform to the Natural Resources Conservation Service specification for underground irrigation pipelines.

Contact Information

Bitter Root Irrigation Dist

Daly Ditches Irrigation Dist

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The biggest takeaway from this meeting is call
the irrigation district
We can help you out



QUESTIONS?