



City of Billings

Public Works Administration

Public Works Department
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May 30, 2012

NOTICE:

Dear Property Owner:

You are receiving this letter because your property is adjacent to either the Big Ditch or the High Ditch and we need your cooperation to minimize water polluting activities along these ditches that can impact Yellowstone River water quality. Another concern is the potential of flooding that can occur from debris dumped into these ditches.

The water in these ditches discharges into the City's stormwater system at several locations before eventually discharge into the Yellowstone River. This discharge is currently not treated by the City. Any dumping of yard wastes, chemicals, pet waste, trash or even loose dirt on either the ditch bank or within the ditch, can potentially cause water quality issues and blockages in the City's stormwater system, which can increase the potential for flooding. It can also cause ditch bank overflows. The City, in cooperation with the ditch companies, would like your help to maintain ditch sections through or adjacent to your property.

Because of this interconnection between the ditches and City's stormwater system, dumping of debris violates Section 28 of the City Code and State Law 75-5-605 - Prohibitive Activity. These ditches, along with the other ditches and drains, provide a valuable function for the valley by providing agricultural irrigation, residential/commercial/public outdoor watering, groundwater recharge, and stormwater runoff collection.

The Big Ditch and the High Ditch are controlled and maintained through ditch easements or prescriptive rights by private ditch companies. The City of Billings does not have any ownership other than repair and replacement of street culvert crossings. Please remember permission from the ditch companies is required to divert or alter the course of the ditches, construct ditch crossings (i.e. fences and bridges), discharge stormwater, and to use ditch water.

Below are the ditch company names, contact numbers with the corresponding ditch section to report bank damage, dumping, and other concerns;

Big Ditch: Russ Cumin, Superintendent 651-9333: From Head gate west of Laurel to Nina Clare Drive south of Poly Drive

High Ditch: Russ Cumin, Superintendent 651-9333: From Head gate west of Laurel to Shiloh Road.

City High Ditch Water Users Association: Jim Wulf 698-4757 From Shiloh Road to Glenwood north of Rimrock Road.

You can also contact Boris Krizek, Environmental Engineer at 247-8517 if you have questions or concerns. I want to personally thank you for your efforts and assistance with this important issue.

Sincerely

Dave Mumford, P.E.
Public Works Director