



# Midvale Irrigation District

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307-856-6359 [midvale@wyoming.com](mailto:midvale@wyoming.com) [www.midvaleirrigation.net](http://www.midvaleirrigation.net)

April 17, 2023

## WATER FORECAST & FLUSHING SCHEDULE

Currently, conditions do not allow for us to set a start date for flushing or delivery of irrigation water. We will have to see what happens over the course of the next couple weeks. Please check for updates on our website! But meanwhile, we are asking that gates be opened, and any obstructions in the laterals and canals be removed so when we are able to get started, everything will be ready to go.

Right now, ditchriders are stocking ticket boxes, locating check boards, and doing anything else they can to ready their rides for irrigation season. **Once we do get geared up with flushing**, it will be a couple weeks to totally flush the system. **Ditchriders will not be making their full rounds until flushing has been completed.** *Please remember that there is a **48 hour notice for water orders (on tickets) and 24 hour notice for an off ticket once water season is underway.*** *Online requests need to be in by 9:00 a.m. **When submitting online tickets over the weekend, please be aware that we do not receive these until Monday morning!!*** We will also be implementing a new water program system this year, but until that is fully in place, it will be business as usual. Once that system is up and running to our satisfaction we will let you know more details!

## CROP REPORT

If you farmed 40 acres or more of irrigable acres **last** year, you received a crop report census form from us last November. If you have not filled this out and returned it, **you will not be eligible to receive water this year.**

## TIME TO OPEN GATES

A reminder to everyone; it is time to remove any fences, gates, panels, etc. on the Easements and open gates on lateral operation and maintenance roads. District policy requires that all roads remain open to Midvale personnel during the irrigation season (April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> each year). We appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

## EASEMENTS

Midvale Irrigation District's Rules, Policies and Procedures, Rule 8 (Use of Easements) is written to help explain the Federal and District guidelines for use of Easements to water users. District easements are not open for public use. More and more people are using Midvale's easements for private drives, hunting and joy riding. You may have seen signs posted along the District easements. Midvale's easement is typically 50 feet on each side of the facility from the top inside of the canal or lateral. Any private improvement built within 50 feet is subject to authorization through requesting and approval of a permit from Midvale. Please review the above-mentioned rule and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the District Office.

## TICKET AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Water order ticket authorization forms are available at Midvale's office or online at our website ([midvaleirrigation.net](http://midvaleirrigation.net)). All persons authorized to order water for your property must be listed on this form before ordering water. If nothing has changed, there is no need to file a new form each year.

## PERMITS REQUIRED

All of Midvale's system (canals, laterals, open drains, and underground drains) are located on Federal easements. Anyone wishing to do any work on these easements must have approval & permission to do so in the form of a formal request and permit issued by the District. Examples of work requiring permits include bridges, pumps, crossing pipes, buildings, fences and water gaps. Please consult Midvale's Policy Handbook or call the District office (307-856-6359).

## "CERT" FORMS

Now that our contract is completed with the US Bureau of Reclamation, we will not have to fill out the Certification of Landholdings forms anymore. **But if you lease other property and plan on transferring water between the places, you will need to fill out a Farming Operation Summary** (see below).

## FARMING OPERATION SUMMARY / WATER ALLOTMENT TRANSFER

If you are leasing a property/properties and wish to receive the water usage information, you need to fill out a Farming Operation Summary. You then may transfer all or part of a water allotment between farms within your farming operation as listed on the *Farming Operation Summary*. **The Farming Operation form must be received in the District office by May 1 in order for you to be eligible for transfers.** The Release and Consent to Transfer Allotment form will be filled out if and when you are going to transfer water between the farms listed on your Farming Operation Summary. The *Release and Consent to Transfer Allotment* and *Farm Operation Summary Forms* are available on the District's website under the "Publication" tab (then go to "Forms" and select the appropriate form). If you do not have access to the internet please call the office and all necessary forms will be mailed to you. **Please note:** *It is not necessary to complete the Farm Operation Summary if you are not leasing irrigated ground to or from someone else.*

## WATER DELIVERY ISSUES

The Midvale Board of Commissioners, by resolution, has established a maximum rate of water delivery at 2 c.f.s. per 70 acres served by each turnout; this rate of flow was used by Bureau of Reclamation engineers to design the delivery system. We can deliver water to individual turnouts at that rate; however, due to physical limitations in the size of canals and laterals we cannot deliver water at maximum flows to all turnouts during periods of peak demand. If water demand exceeds the design capacity of a particular lateral, Midvale staff and management will begin to pro-rate delivery based on the percentage of acres being irrigated in relation to the total capacity of the lateral, each acre receiving an equal share of the total flow. Quite often landowners can work with their ditch rider to implement a rotation schedule among irrigators that will avoid a limitation in water delivery rates.

## WASTE WATER

Under provisions of Wyoming state law and Midvale policy, it is the responsibility & duty of the water user to return waste water to a natural drain. You are responsible for your water until it reaches the appropriate location, as dictated by the Midvale Board of Commissioners. During the past season we were notified by the Fremont County Road and Bridge Department and the State Engineers office of numerous violations within the Midvale system. Flood irrigation is not the only culprit, we have center pivot sprinklers that are irrigating county roads; if you are applying water to unadjudicated lands it is likely we will be contacting you about resolving the problem. The basic precept of Wyoming water law: *"Beneficial use shall be the basis, measure and limit to the right to use water at all times."*

## TRESPASS ON BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LANDS

Please be aware the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is investigating trespass of their lands by adjacent property owners. If you own or lease lands adjacent to USBR lands, please be aware of your property boundaries and keep away from trespassing by, 1) Not utilizing USBR lands for stack yards or storage of equipment, and, 2) Not irrigating/farming USBR lands without a water right or legal contract, or they will be contacting you. These areas include, but are not limited to, Ocean Lake, 5-Mile Creek, Muddy Creek and Boysen Take Lands.

## TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHTS

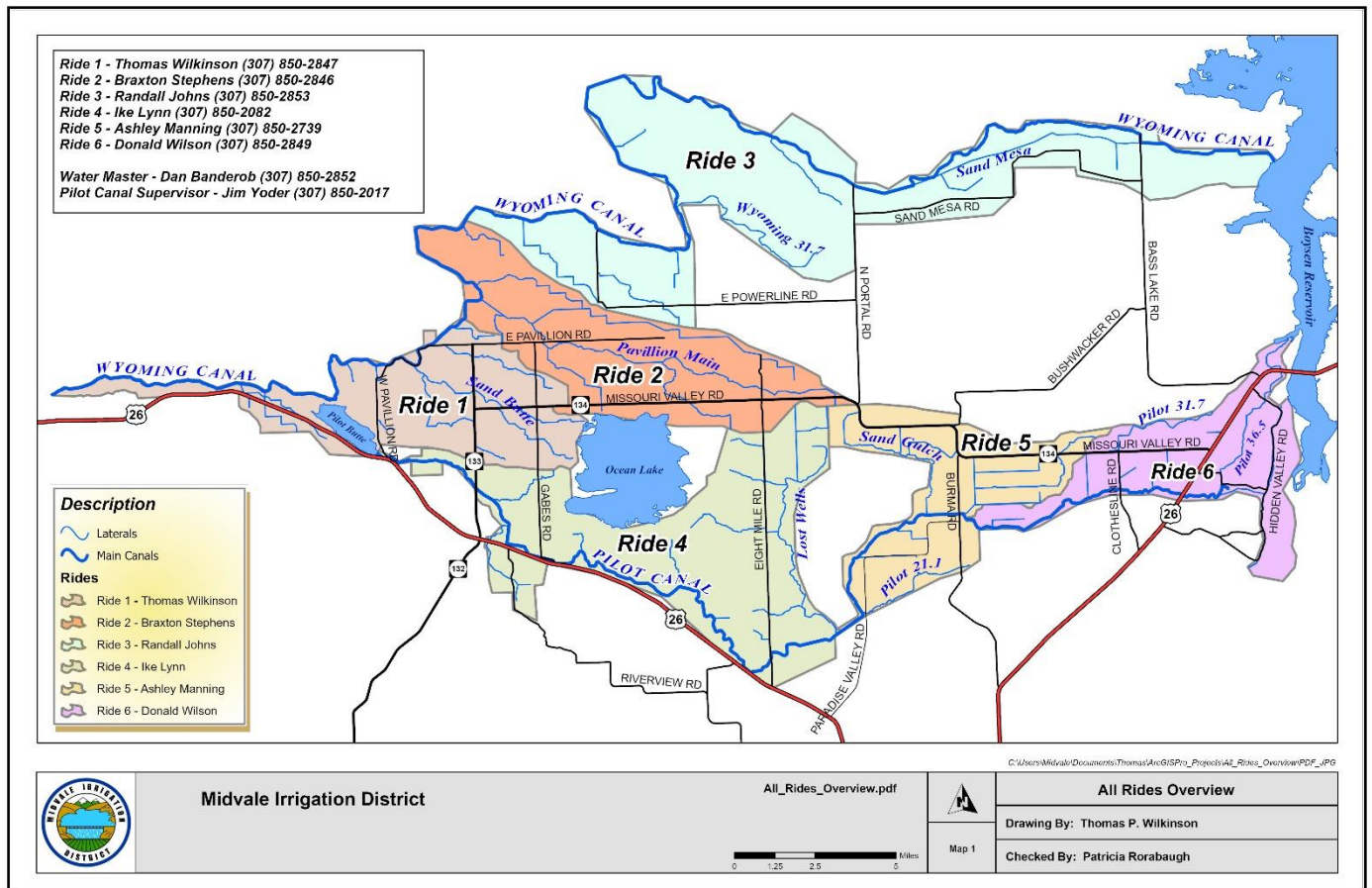
A reminder to land owners installing center pivot systems or changing systems around, you need to check with the Midvale office to make sure that your new system is not irrigating ground that is classified as Class 6 land. In February of 2008 the final adjudication of the 7300 Permit was complete, assigning water rights to specific lands. Class 6 land did not receive an adjudicated right because it was deemed incapable of producing an adequate crop to be economically viable. Legally, you cannot put 7300 Permit water on Class 6 land.

# MIDVALE IRRIGATION CONTACT LIST

Manager – Steve Lynn - 307-850-5441  
 Construction/Maintenance Manager – Colin Stalley – 307-709-2195  
 Water Master & Supervisor of Wyoming Canal – Dan Banderob – 307-850-2852  
 Supervisor of Pilot Canal – Jim Yoder – 307-850-2017  
 Office – Chris & Cyndy – 307-856-6359  
 Office Manager – Pat Rorabaugh – 307-856-6359

## Ditchrider Boundaries

Please see the map with names and phone numbers of ditchriders. If you have any questions as to who your ditchrider is, please contact the office. This map and more information are also on our website.



## Phone Numbers

We have noticed there are fewer and fewer phone numbers in the phone book. When we try to get in touch with you for a water reason, we find the number no longer exists. If you do not have a problem with us having your cell phone number, please contact us so we can enter you in our records. We DO NOT give out numbers to anyone other than the employee trying to reach you.