

APRIL 2026

IRRIGATION INSIGHT

Grand Valley Irrigation Company

Working Together for Efficiency

BY NICOLE MUNIZ

As we move further into the irrigation season, we want to highlight a few important practices and reminders to help ensure equitable and efficient water use for all shareholders.

Red Tags on Headgates

You may occasionally notice a red tag on a headgate. This indicates the structure was diverting more water than allocated or required adjustment.

A red tag means the headgate has been adjusted by ditch personnel, the current setting reflects the correct allocation, and it must not be altered without authorization, as doing so is a misdemeanor offense under CRS 37-89-103.

These tags help maintain equity and compliance across the system. If you have questions about a red tag, please reach out.



“EQUITABLE
WATER DELIVERY
DEPENDS ON
FOLLOWING
HEADGATE
SETTINGS, USING
WATER
EFFICIENTLY,
AND
ADDRESSING
ISSUES AT THEIR
SOURCE.”

SEAN NORRIS

This headgate had been adjusted by the Grand Valley Irrigation Company and must be left as now fixed under penalty of law. Notice is hereby given that the Company will prosecute any person tampering with this headgate. The administrative control of this headgate will be effective until further notice. Any questions please call 242-2762.



Working Together for Efficiency Cont.

BY NICOLE MUNIZ



Why Did I Get a Red Tag and My Neighbor Didn't?

We understand it can be frustrating to see a red tag on your headgate while a neighbor appears untouched.

Red tags are placed at the time of inspection when a headgate is found over-diverting or needing adjustment. Conditions are addressed as they exist during that visit, and neighboring headgates may be checked at different times and adjusted later if needed.

A red tag is not a comparison between users—it reflects what was observed at that moment. Our goal is equitable distribution across the system, and we continuously monitor and adjust as conditions change.

Addressing Inefficiencies

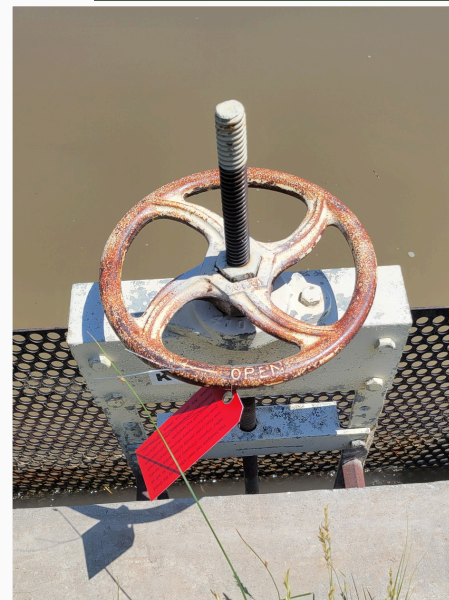
If you're having trouble getting water to your property, increasing your diversion is not the solution and is not permitted under shareholder rights. It is your responsibility under state law to ensure you take no more water than is adjudicated to you.

Instead, we encourage you to identify and address the root cause of inefficiencies, such as sediment build up, obstructions, infrastructure issues, and upstream/downstream coordination challenges.

Solving these issues may require extra effort but leads to better long-term results and protects the system for everyone.

Be Water Smart

Efficient water use benefits everyone. Time irrigation carefully to avoid waste, rotate use where possible to reduce strain on the ditch, and communicate with neighbors to coordinate schedules and improve flow.



Final Reminder

Our shared goal is to deliver water equitably, efficiently, and in accordance with established rights. By respecting headgate settings, communicating openly, and addressing problems at their source, we can make the most of water available.