



Irrigation and Drainage Ditches- Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who owns the ditch running through my property?

There are various ditches running through the City of Delta. Some of these ditches are owned and maintained by formal ditch companies or private parties and are associated with irrigation water rights. Other ditches may be for drainage or tail water and exist to carry return flows back to the river. For a list and map of local ditches, see this link.

<http://www.colorado-water.com/delta/ditches>

2. Can I take water out of a ditch to water my lawn or for other uses?

In general, private citizens do not have the right to take water out of a ditch unless they own shares in the ditch or they own water rights in the ditch.

3. A ditch is overflowing and flooding my property. What should I do?

The City of Delta is not responsible to maintain private ditches or prevent floods from ditches. The City does maintain bridges and culverts that may cross ditches. If you believe that a culvert or pipeline under a public City Street is blocked and causing flooding, please contact the City of Delta Public Works Department at 970-874-7913.

If the flooding is not related to a blockage at a public street, then this is a private matter, and you may need to contact the ditch company (if there is one) or determine if one of your neighbors is causing the flooding. Citizens may wish to hire a private lawyer to advise them of their rights.

**** Notice:** This page is intended to provide general information, the City of Delta does not guaranty the accuracy of any particular information and is not providing legal advice. If you have specific questions about water rights or ditches crossing your property, you should consult a qualified water rights attorney or ditch commissioner.

