

DITCH RIDER

JOB DESCRIPTION

A ditch rider is considered a remote worker who reports to the Water Master during water season. The ditch rider is responsible to carry out all tasks related to the delivery of water to the users of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.

General duties include, but are not limited to, conferring with water users, maintaining the irrigation ditch and working with equipment operators.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Make daily readings of the headgate and report to the Water Master.
- Control the irrigation system to convey water to farms in assigned area, according to rights, or as instructed by Water Master or Operations Manager, for irrigating fields and crops. Communicates with water users to determine quantity of water needed, and time and duration of delivery.
- Computes and regulates quantity of water required.
- Operates gates, checks, turnouts, and wasteways to regulate waterflow into canals and laterals.
- Measures or estimates diversions of water from canals and to water users and calculates and records quantities delivered for use in computing charges to farmers.
- Patrols assigned area by foot, or motor vehicle to detect leaks, breaks, weak areas, or obstructions and damage to irrigation system.
- Removes debris and makes emergency repairs to banks, structures, gates, and canal roads.
- Fills holes and exterminates rodents.
- Writes reports and records daily deliveries, number of users, amount of water used, and other data required by law or company.
- May prepare reports on condition of system and equipment, and replacements or repairs needed.
- May supervise crew workers cleaning ditches, raising ditch banks, repairing concrete and wooden structures, erecting fences and gates, and other maintenance work after irrigating season has passed.
- Takes annual crop census and makes weed and other surveys.
- May patrol canal at night to determine that water is flowing in prescribed volume into users' ditches.
- During off-season (winter), pipe installation for laterals and structure repair.
- Any additional duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Experience in irrigation water delivery, inspection, maintenance and repair of irrigation canals, ditches, flumes, and other related structures and conveyances is a plus, but not required.
- Ability to interact comfortably and productively with the users.
- Individual is expected to provide his or her own vehicle and have a clean driving record.
- Must provide proof that a minimum of vehicle liability insurance is current.
- Ability to safely use hand and power tools.
- Ability to repeatedly lift and move objects weighting up to fifty (50) pounds in an outdoor environment.
- Must be able to stand, squat, bend and walk without assistance.
- Must be available 24/7 during the irrigation season.