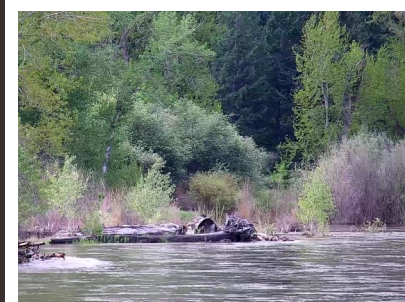




days at
Dunrovin

May 2019



**Ranch
Talk**



Managing Water

Always Too Much or Too Little!



**The Bitterroot River during
Winter's Low Water**



**The Bitterroot River during
Spring's High Water**

The Bitterroot River is not subtle. It lacks guile. It commits boldly to new season with its freezing, thawing, flooding, and retreating.

Spring is, of course, the showy season, arriving with vibrant colors and promises of sweet things to come. Rivers embrace this exuberance by overflowing their banks, spreading themselves across the land, scattering logs and debris along their paths, and carving new courses through the land.

Spring rivers demand attention. Broiling currents swollen by rain and carrying winter's melting snow, water rising up through rich riparian soils, and pastures transforming into small lakes cannot be willfully ignored.

Here at Dunrovin, we have come to love this annual spring display of the Bitterroot River's might. In an oxymoronic display of destruction and regeneration, the Bitterroot uses what it tears down upstream to build downstream. Trees fall, ponds form, channels wonder, and life rushes in.

Unseen, yet most importantly, is the vegetation's reaction to this aquatic abundance. Flooding is essential to riparian zones. Willows, grasses, and cottonwood trees all lap it up, responding with vigor and regeneration. Snowy white clouds of cottonwood seeds fall softly on the muddy soils required for germination. Healthy, multi-aged riparian cottonwood forests proclaim healthy, free flowing rivers.

Summer's Heat Means Irrigation and Pasture Management



Montana's famous big skies are generally clear and bright in summer, making for long, hot and dry days. Dunrovin Ranch's many flowering trees and bushes, activity laws, flower gardens, and horse pastures all need consistent watering to thrive. This means an organized system to deliver just the right amount of water at just the right time to conserve both water and energy while ensuring that the plants get what they need.



Dunrovin Ranch Redefines "Running through the Sprinklers."

Horses and Young Riders LOVE Running through the BIG SQIRT on a Hot Summer's Day



Pasture management means not only watering, but using electrical tape to create small sections to keep the herd off recently watered grass and to force them to eat the more mature grass rather than selecting the sweet and fast-growing grass. This technique is called mob grazing.

Broadcast Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____