

Denver, Colorado

November 20, 1953

ANNUAL REPORT

Irrigation Division No. 1

Mr. M. C. Hinderlider  
State Engineer of Colorado  
State Capitol Building  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

I hereby present the Annual Report of the Office of Irrigation Division Engineer of Division Number One for the Year of 1953.

The Season of 1953 was similar in general to 1952, having had rather ample precipitation during the early part of the season, steady stream flow, with very little high water during the spring and a good storage reserve. During the later part of the season it was very dry, stream flow diminished rapidly, and most all stored water was used, leaving the irrigation reservoirs practically empty at the season's end.

Crops on the irrigated area were in general above normal, while the dry farming sections produced only fair to poor crops.

Due to the protracted dry period and warm fall weather, direct irrigation continued much later than usual, some as late as November 20.

Transmountain diversions to the division during the past season amounted to 284,487 acre feet, of which 194,155 acre feet were diverted through the Adams Tunnel. The operation of the Big Thompson project was increased considerably this year, and as the distribution system approaches completion it is expected that full operation of the project will begin within the next two years. There were about 105,000 acre feet of the Big Thompson project

water diverted to the Cache la Poudre River this season; 52,000 acre feet to the Big Thompson District and District No. One; 2,000 acre feet to Buckhorn Creek, and nearly 19,000 acre feet to the Little Thompson area, or a total delivery from the Big Thompson project of about 178,000 acre feet. A more detailed report on the Big Thompson project operation for the year will be found in the report by Special Deputy C. E. Schnurr.

The City of Colorado Springs diverted slightly less than 5,000 acre feet through the Hoosier Pass Tunnel, which amount, less loss in transit, was stored in 11-Mile Canon Reservoir. The pumping plant which the City of Colorado Springs has constructed at Lake George was put into operation in October of this year, and is now supplying water from the South Platte River to the Colorado Springs municipal system.

Work on the storage reservoir being built by the City of Denver on South Boulder Creek is progressing, and which, when completed, will materially improve the Moffat Tunnel system.

It is anticipated that an additional unit of the Big Thompson project will go into operation in the spring, namely Carter Lake and the St. Vrain supply canal. Some water was pumped from the Little Thompson River into the Highland ditch in District No. 5 this year; however with the completion of the St. Vrain supply canal, pumping will not be necessary in order to furnish water to District No. 5 from the St. Vrain supply canal.

Plans for the improvement of the water supply for the City of Boulder are also well advanced and include delivery of water to Boulder from the Colorado-Big Thompson project, by exchange.

Administration of the Laramie River District proceeded in accordance with the agreement of 1942. However, an argument between users on Jimmy Creek had to be decided by the District Court. There is a question before the U. S. District Court at this time relative to the administration


of rights from Shell and Dry Creeks and which involves water users in Wyoming and Colorado as well as the water officials of Colorado.

There were no floods of consequence, and very little high water during the spring. There were no dam failures in the Division, although a "slip" occurred at Baseline Reservoir which appeared dangerous and some water was released to relieve the pressure, and the reservoir later emptied as the water was used. The Company plans repairs to this dam before another filling of the reservoir.

The maximum amount of storage water in 1953 was attained May first, and was about 80% of present active capacity. The low stage of storage, and lack of precipitation during the past several months make the outlook for the coming season rather discouraging and a heavy winter snowfall and spring rains will be necessary to insure an ample supply of water next year.

Tabulation of the Water Commissioners' Annual Reports, amounts of water in storage by months, totals of transmountain diversions, and amounts diverted by the several users from the Laramie River and tributaries, accompany and form a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Irrigation Division Engineer  
Irrigation Division No. 1

TRANS-MOUNTAIN DIVERSIONS

To IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. I

1953

Name of Diversion	From Dist.	To Dist.	Source of Supply	First Day	Last Day	ACRE FEET
Deadman Ditch	48	3	Laramie River	5/27	7/9	873
Laramie-Poudre Tunnel	48	3	" "	5/24	9/27	14,469
Skyline Ditch	48	3	" "	6/3	7/5	4,776
Lost Lake Ditch	48	3	" "	-	-	0
Columbine Ditch	48	3	" "	-	-	0
Bob Creek Ditch	48	3	" "	-	-	0
Sand Creek Ditch	48	3	Sand Creek	5/20	7/9	1,147
Michigan Ditch	47	3	No.Platte River	6/3	6/25	1,452
Cameron Pass Ditch	47	3	" "	6/8	6/26	125
Grand River Ditch	51	4	Colorado River	5/25	8/29	19,714
Adams Tunnel	51	4	" "	11/1/52	10/31/53	194,155
Eureka Ditch	51	4	" "	6/28	8/2	26
Moffat Tunnel	51	6	" "	5/5	11/15	34,769
Williams Fork Tunnel	51	7	" "	7/1	9/28	7,257
Berthoud Pass Ditch	51	7	" "	6/8	8/10	594
Boreas Pass Ditch	36	23	" "	6/13	8/30	272
Hoosier Pass Tunnel	36	23	" "	5/27	9/9	<u>4,858</u>
TOTAL - - - - -						284,487

OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER OF COLORADO  
 Diversions from Laramie River & Tributaries

- 1953 -

Recapitulation - Totals for Season

Name of Ditch	Amount Diverted Acre Feet
Bliler - Boswell Stuck Warren	1,294
Mansfield & Enlg. Mansfield No. 2	2,051
Forrester No. 1 Grace Cr. & Enlg.	1,745
Detro No. 1 Detro No. 2 Lower La Garde	574
Jimmy Cr. (Net) La Garde minus Lower L.G. La Garde No. 1 Schmitger	1,513
Yelton	728
Homestead No. 1 (Big Jenkins) Homestead No. 2 (Little Jenkins) Pache Nellie	667
Martin No. 1 Martin No. 2 & Enlg. Wright	3,000
Brown-Nunn Cr. Cabin Davy Forrester - Brown Cr. Stubb	1,559
Link No. 1 Link No. 2 Smith-Brown Cr. Upper Hills	1,336
Brown - Porter Cr.	74
Lamb	758

Laramie River Diversions - Continued

Name of Ditch	Amount Diverted Acre Feet
British Cr.	
Comet	
Homestead - McIntyre Cr.	
Lower Grant	
Upper Grant	
Stuart No. 1	
Stuart No. 2	1,046
Brinker	
McIntyre	
Pine Creek & Enlg.	815
Glendevey	
Talmadge	180
Lower Jim	
Trollope	
Ward No. 1	
Ward No. 2	162
Jim minus Lower Jim	
Jim No. 2	
Lone Tree	
Ollie	
Timothy	<u>1,949</u>
Total Meadow Land Diversion	19,451 Acre Feet

-Trans-Mountain Diversions-  
Laramie River

Deadman Ditch	873
Laramie-Poudre Tunnel	<u>14,469</u>
Skyline Ditch	4,776
Lost Lake Ditch	0
Columbine Ditch	0
Bob Creek Ditch	<u>0</u>
	20,118 Acre Feet
Grand Total Diversion from the Laramie River	39,569 Acre Feet

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORTS  
For the Irrigation Season 1953

Irrigation Division No. 1

Dist. No.	First Day Water Used from Nat'l Stream	Last Day Water Used from Nat'l Stream	No. Acre Feet Used by Canal for Season	Total Irrigated
1	4-27	11-16	242,332	158,660
2	5-1	11-20	387,195	209,810
3	5-4	11-15	351,095	241,890
4	4-24	10-31	219,954	140,950
5	3-22	10-31	115,097	111,880
6	4-27	10-31	123,939	168,650
7	3-8	11-15	131,704	115,430
8	3-14	11-15	168,126	21,440
9	3-18	10-31	31,595	15,540
23	3-20	8-15	85,620	43,360
47	5-23	8-1	E. 300,000	131,000
48	5-2	11-10	19,454	4,800
64	3-4	11-15	315,948	154,370
65	4-7	10-31	19,502	3,180*
TOTALS . . . . .			2,511,597	1,520,960

\* 2,000 Acres in Nebraska