# DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES <br> WATER DIVISION I 

James R. Clark<br>Division Engineer

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January 14, 1985

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Dr. Jeris A. Danielson, State Engineer Division of Water Resources Room 818 - Centennial Building 1313 Sherman Street Denver, Colorado 80203
Dear Dr. Danielson:
Please find submitted herewith the Annual Report for Irrigation Division No. I for the 1984 water year.
The encouragement, guidance, and assistance that we have received from you and your staff as well as the outstanding efforts of my own staff have been greatly appreciated.
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# ANNUAL REPORT DIVISION NO. I <br> 1984 IRRIGATION YEAR NOV. 1, 1983 - OCT. 31, 1984 

BY

JAMES R. CLARK, DIVISION ENGINEER
EDWARD W. BLANK, ASSISTANT DIVISION ENGINEER
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A. Current Water Year

1. Accomplishments for the year
a) Determined how much surface water was available through the efforts of our hydrographers.
b) Expanded our program of providing more broadbased experience for hydrographers by involving them more in administrative and legal activities.
c) Continued to tabulate augmentation plans as decreed.
d) Performed in depth review of District 8 tabulation with Joe Clayton before he retired.
e) Continued to code diversion records for augmentation plans.
f) Continued to streamline and make more efficient the information gathering system for Referee consultation.
g) Continued our efforts to spend more time with water commissioners, resulting in closer supervision and improved administration.
h) Continued the administration of Northglenn augmentation plan with the help of a special court approved water commissioner.
i) Involved water commissioners in closer surveillance of dams.
j) Survived another year of high flows on many division streams with the help of the Emergency Preparedness Program.
k) Involved Division Staff Engineers in the inspection of dams within the Division.
1) Submitted the Abandonment List to the Water Court for further proceedings. This list included 594 structures/priorities. Ten motions to delete structures from the Abandonment List and 25 motions to correct clerical errors in the Abandonment List were filed. A total of 156 protests to the Abandonment List were filed, involving 193 structures/priorities.
2. Involvement in Water User Community
a) Daily public contact - provided information and answered questions.
b) Met with several entities regarding high water problems. These entities included Army Corps of Engineers, County Commissioners, Ditch Company Associations, Ditch Companies, Conservancy Districts and Others.
c) Chatfield Reservoir releases were coordinated for construction in the South Platte River Channel.
d) Cherry Creek Reservoir releases were coordinated for construction in the channel of Cherry Creek continued.
e) Administered reservoirs on the South Platte River more closely.
3. Issues that impact, or may impact, existing policies, statutes, and administrative practices - nature and degree of impact.
a) San Luis Valley Supreme Court case could have a large impact, depending on degree of implementation.
b) Deep Well Legislation
1) Getches Committee report on proposed legislation.
2) Interim legislative committee recommendations.
3) Possible proposals to legislature by Colorado Water Congress.

All or a combination of the above would have a significant impact on Division $I$. This will require 2-3 man hours each day during the runoff season.
c) Cherry Creek Administration.
d) Satellite monitoring program will take a considerable amount of time, but will expand our capabilities. Monitoring of the Satellite data will probably require $2-3$ man hours each day during the runoff season.
e) Monitoring of wells and increased field investigations for well replacements and court consultations will continue to take more time away from surface water administration.
4. Problems, concerns, issues, tasks not addressed this year. Why?
a) Court decrees for water rights below the headgate:

1) Expanded Use.
2) Tabulation.
3) Investigation.
4) Administration.
5) Ownership.
6) Reuse of transferrable consumptive use water.
b) Items ennumerated in (a) above were not addressed in sufficient detail due to shortage of personnel.
5. Effect of workload changes on staff? Cause for the change?
a) Workload changes have occurred in the hydrographic section due to the loss of part-time employees. These employees were utilized very effectively for many years without a regular part-time position being established. These positions have now been eliminated as a result of the budget crunch. The result has been station maintenance that is not up to desired levels.
6. Impact of budget on division operations? Are adjustments possible to more efficiently utilize available funds?
a) Budget reductions have primarily resulted in not allowing vacant positions to be filled. Although staff positions have not been eliminated, the effect has been the same. The result has been reduced output and the inability to address new issues adequately.
B. Coming Water Year
l. What particular problems and concerns will impact division operations? Why?
a) Programs for our Wang Computer are needed as soon as possible since the keypunch machines we have been using at UNC are not being repaired any longer.
b) The court hearing schedule will be increased due to the large number of protests to the Abandonment List.
c) Additional complex water right decrees to be administered. This will require the keeping of diversion records beyond the headgate in order to enforce the conditions of the decrees.
7. What particular problems and concerns will not be addressed? Why?
a) Items ennumerated in $A(4)$ above will continue to be of concern due to staff shortages.
8. Projected work items planned for division staff?
a) Incorporate the new state operated satellite monitoring system into our operations.
b) Increase our efforts to make the coding of our diversion records more uniform and complete.
c) If staff increases make it possible, we will work toward the goal of anticipating problems and investigating them rather than reacting to emergencies.
d) Continue our newly implemented policy of working more directly with the water commissioners. This involves getting into the field with each commissioner once each month.
e) Increase and improve well administration.
f) Continue to investigate computer applications that would benefit the Division.
9. Priorities in terms of goals and objectives?
a) Read each decree and review with appropriate water commissioner.
b) Investigate each court application in more detail.
c) Pursue the possibility of having the court standardize certain language in decrees where decisions have already been made in other decrees and should not vary.

## II. Recommendations

A. Policies (new or change)

1. Water administration
a) Some guidelines would be helpful for possible future administration of Cherry Creek.
b) Rules and Regulations from Groundwater Section would help to provide some consistency in administration.
c) Coding system needed to handle reuse or total consumption water.
d) Use of computers by water commissioners would improve administrative capabilities.
2. Personnel
a) Training program.
3. Budget
a) More up-to-date, understandable, information for use of division offices.
4. Litigation activities
a) Some guidelines would be especially helpful in determining whether a specific case should be litigated.
B. Personnel changes
5. Additional water commissioners needed if we are to fulfill our statutory mission.
C. Budgetary priorities
6. Personnel
7. Operating
8. Capital outlay
D. Administrative practices
9. Seek to develop practices that would be responsive to statutes and decrees.
E. Legislation
10. Attempt to keep informed on progress of bills beforethe legislature that affect our area of responsibility.
11. Provide timely input to our legislators.
III. Statistical information
Attached are the completed formats for the following listed categories.
A. Transmountain Diversions
B. Storage Water
C. Water Diversions
D. Court Activities
E. Office Administration
F. River Calls
G. Compact Deliveries
H. Administration of Plans for Augmentation1) Due to the "adequate" water supply this year,augmentation plan administration was minimal.The water released for augmentation was 10,075AF this year.
TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSIONS SUMMARY - INFLOWS


> WATER DISTRICT Great Western Horse Creek Lower Latham Milton $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 1 \\ & 0\end{aligned}$

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WATER COURT ACTIVITIES
No. of Applications for Decree
No. of Consultation with Referee
No. of Decrees issued by Water Court

| Type of Decrees |  |  | Type of Structures |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Ditch | Res. | Spring | Well | Other | Total |
| New Appropriation | 291 |  |  | 17 | 88 | 34 | 377 | 19* | 535 |
| Change | 134 |  |  | 72 | 152 | 8 | 659 | 26 | 917 |
|  |  | TFR | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Alternate Point | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Change Use | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Diligence | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Abandonment | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Correction | 22 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Aug. Plan | 23 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Change Point Diversion | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Change Point Use | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Exchange | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Other | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other | 79 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Dismissal | 68 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Vacate | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Injunction | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Stipulation | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Other | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

+Involving New or Changes to 1,956 Priorities
*Includes 1 Minimum Flow "Structure"
$\qquad$

WATER DIVISION NO. I

## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

| ACTIVITY | MONTHLY <br> TOTAL | FISCAL YEAR to DATE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of professional and technical staff <br> Number of clerical staff <br> Number of Water Commissioner FTE assigned (full and part-time) <br> Number of decreed surface rights <br> Number of surface rights administered <br> Number of wells <br> Number of plans for augmentation <br> Number of consultations with Referee <br> Number of Water Court appearances <br> Number of meetings with water users <br> Number of meetings to resolve water related disputes <br> Number of contacts to give public assistance on water matters <br> Contacts with other agencies |  | 4 2 15 Full Time 13 Part Time $9,590 *$ $* *$ 60,740 $21-1984$ 477 238 13,947 477 28,217 180 |

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## SOUTH PLATTE RIVER COMPACT

The Colorado-Nebraska Compact on the South Platte provides that Colorado shall have the full use of the river water between the fifteenth of October of any year and the first day of April of the succeeding year but that, between the first day of April and the fifteenth of October of each year, Colorado shall not permit diversions from the river below the Washington-Morgan County line to supply water rights having priority dates junior to June 14, 1897 to the extent that they would diminish the flow of the river at the Julesburg gaging station below a daily mean flow of 120 cfs.

Normally it is not necessary to curtail any surface diversion in Colorado to honor the compact because stream flows are inadequate to satisfy all the water rights senior to the compact date.

Preliminary flow data for the Julesburg station indicates that during the 198 day period from April lo Octover l5, 1984, the mean daily flow dropped below 120 cfs on 15 days.

## REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT

The Republican River Compact allocates water to the signatory states, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska on the basis of beneficial consumptive use. Colorado's total allocation of 54,100 acre feet is broken down as follows:

North Fork of the Republican River Drainage Basin 10,000 AF Arikaree River Drainage Basin 15,400 AF South Fork of the Republican River Drainage Basin 25,400 AF Beaver Creek Drainage Basin 3,300 AF
and in addition, for beneficial consumptive use in Colorado annually, the entire water supply of the Frenchman Creek (River) Drainage Basin in Colorado and the Red Willow Creek Drainage Basin in Colorado.

The computed annual consumptive use in Colorado in the Republican River Basin for the 1984 water year, the last year for which offical figures are available, was as follows:

STREAM
North Fork of Republican River South Fork of Republican River Arikaree River Beaver Creek

CONSUMPTION

| 8,440 | 84.4 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 12,390 | 48.8 |
| 5,410 | 35.1 |
| 0 | 0 |
| $26,240 \mathrm{AF}$ | 48.5 |

## LARAMIE RIVER COMPACT

The 1957 decree of the United States Supreme Court limits the diversions from the Laramie River and its tributaries to 49,375 acre feet annually for the state of Colorado. Of that amount, 19,875 acre feet are allocated to Transmountain Users and the remaining 29,500 acre feet to the Meadowland Users within the river basin. The Meadowland Users are further restricted to diversions of not more than 1,800 acre feet after July 31 of each year. In the event that the Transmountain Users do not divert their full allotment, the Meadowland Users may divert the difference between the 19,875 acre feet and the actual amount if diverted within the same year.

Sand Creek, which arises in Colorado, later becoming tributary to the Laramie River in Wyoming, is not included within the terms of the compact. Instead, Colorado and Wyoming have a working agreement whereby senior water rights on Sand Creek in Wyoming are recognized before junior diversions are made in Colorado through the Wilson Supply Canal, a transbasin diversion.

In 1984 the transmountain diversions under the Laramie River Compact totaled 18,310 acre feet of the 19,875 acre feet compact allowance. The meadowland diversions totaled 8,910 acre feet or some $30 \%$ of the allotment. Total Colorado diversions were 27,220 acre feet or $55 \%$ of the total allotment of 49,375 acre feet.


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[^1]:    *Estimated from Tabulation
    **To be Determined

