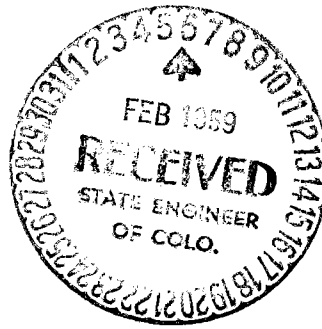


Alamosa, Colorado, X

November 24, 1958



Mr. J. E. Whitten,
State Engineer,
State Capitol Building,
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

Herewith is submitted my annual report as Irrigation Division engineer for the year 1958. This report includes tabulated and summarized reports of the water commissioners in this Division of the amounts of water diverted from the various streams, of the reservoir storage, and of acres irrigated.

The year 1958 might be considered a fairly normal year so far as diversions for irrigation are concerned, but not nearly so good a year as 1957. The diversions to ditches in this Division were 109% of the previous 10 year average but only 71% of 1957 diversions. There was considerable reservoir storage carried over from the previous year. Also there was considerable reservoir storage during the run off season. There was very little precipitation during the growing season, being much less than normal. The total number of acres irrigated was 572,179, compared to the previous 10 year average of 577,522 acres. Water was diverted for 282 days in this division.

Reservoir storage was used to advantage this year. On November 1957, there were in storage in the reservoirs in this Division 167,089 acre feet. On April 1, 1958 the amount in storage or available was 219,290 acre feet, of which 177,948 acre feet were delivered to ditches during the season. On November 1, 1958, the total amount

of reservoir storage was 75,669 acre feet. This includes 34000 acre feet in Platora Reservoir which amount may never be available to Colorado, as this reservoir is subject to the Tri-State Compact. Several of the larger reservoirs were filled to capacity and spilled, these being the Rio Grande, Continental, San Luis, Smith and Platora. The first three of these reservoirs were emptied during the season and had no water in storage on November 1, 1958.

The Platora Reservoir carried over from the previous year 30390 acre feet. This caused the reservoir to spill early in the season. After the reservoir ceased to spill, there were 6000 acre feet released in order to provide flood control storage space. Late in July permission was received from the Compact Commissioners of Texas and New Mexico to release 20000 acre feet for use in Colorado. Accordingly, the gates of the reservoir were opened and approximately 20000 acre feet were released during a 24 day period, of which 14456 acre feet were delivered to ditches on the Conejos River. This permission to release this water was greatly appreciated by the farmers and aided materially in helping to mature the crops. There was no demand during 1958 to release any of the water stored in this reservoir to the other signatory states of Texas and New Mexico.

I want to repeat in this report, the remarks I have made in my two previous annual reports, concerning the operation of the Platora Reservoir. It is my opinion that considerable water is stored illegally as the gates are not large enough to always permit the natural flow of the stream to come through the reservoir.



Also the stream is standing the evaporation and seepage loss of the reservoir, for the monthly reports of storage, made by the Reclamation Bureau, show the same amounts in storage each month except the months that water was released for irrigation purposes. This is a serious matter for Colorado and deprives the water users on the Conejos River of considerable water and at a time that water is badly needed in the area for irrigation.

The following is a tabulation of the amounts of water diverted in each of the Water Districts in this Division and the percentage each bears to the amount diverted in 1957 and to the previous 10 year average.

No. of District	Acre Feet Diverted in 1958	Percentage of 1957 Diversions	Percentage of previous 10 year average.
20	632543	73	110
21	81710	56	113
22	231797	70	94
24	61528	175	130
25	42543	91	108
26	62505	65	154
27	11085	62	104
35	57644	57	120

It is obvious from this table that the diversions in this Division were in excess of the previous 10 year average. However, the possible benefits of this were off-set by the lack of rainfall during the growing season. On the whole crop production was good. The potato acreage and yield were above normal but the price, so far this year, is bad and below the cost of production. The lettuce acreage was again increased this year so that now lettuce is considered one of the major crops of the Valley. The lettuce yield was good but the price during most of the season was so low that it did not pay the cost of harvesting and shipping and a number of fields were plowed under.

In the districts where hay is the principal crop, the yield was very good, especially so, in Districts 25 and 26. The mountain ranges turned out to be good for the few rains late in the season brought back the feed and livestock came off the ranges in good condition.

Special Deputy State Engineer, D. H. Mathias, will make a detailed report for District No. 20, which District has about 55% of the total diversions and about 56% of the total number of acres irrigated in this Division.

The Terrace Reservoir in District No. 21, which developed a leak in July 1957 was repaired in a satisfactory manner, by digging a trench across the face of the dam in the area where the leak occurred and filling it with compacted earth. A six foot blanket of earth was put on the face of the dam from this point up to the high water level and ripped. The hole on the lower face of the dam that was caused by the earth sloughing off, was filled with some 9000 cubic yards of granite. It is now believed that this is now a much better and safer dam than ever before.

The new stabilization Reservoir in District No. 24, about 5 miles below San Luis, which was built by the Sanchez Ditch and Reservoir Co. and completed in the fall of 1957, was used to advantage this year. It gave much better control and use of the Reservoir water. This same company spent considerable money for drilling and grouting at the dam of the Sanchez Reservoir in an effort to stop a continuous leak of some 13 cubic feet per second through the side hill. A drilling company was employed to do the drilling and grouting. A total of 8 holes were drilled

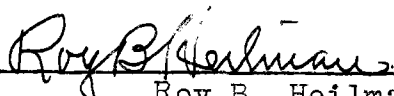
and some 7200 sacks of cement were used in the grouting operation at a total cost of about \$29000.00. The operation was not a complete success, although the amount of the leak has diminished somewhat.

A project is being undertaken in District No. 35, which will consist of the construction of a canal from Indian Creek to the Mountain Home Reservoir. When completed, this will bring a considerable amount of the flood water in Indian Creek to the Mountain Home Reservoir. This will also entail the construction of a new spillway for the Reservoir, which is being considered. No accurate estimate of the cost of the completed project has been made as yet.

^AClimatology and precipitation records are not included in this report as that information may be obtained elsewhere in much more complete form than can be given in this report. Report of shipments of produce is not made, as a very large amount of the shipments are made by truck and these records are not available at this time.

Special Deputy State Engineer, D. H. Mathias, and the Water Commissioners and their deputies are to be complimented for the very fine manner in which they handled the few administrative problems which arose and in which the water was administered.

Respectfully submitted,



Roy B. Heilman,

Irrigation Division Engineer,
Div. # 3,

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SUMMARY FOR 1958

WATER COMMISSIONERS' DITCH REPORTS

IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 3

No. of Water District	Number of Ditches Reporting	First day Water was Carried	Last Day Water was Carried	No. Days Carried.	No. of Acre feet carried by all	Total Acres Irrigated
20	194	2-13	11-30	282	632543	324248
21	72	3-17	10-31	228	81710	46001
22	96	3-10	10-31	235	231797	98342
24	54	4-1	10-31	214	61528	23376
25	67	4-1	10-31	214	42543	17910
26	71	3-20	10-31	225	62505	33420
27	34	4-1	10-31	214	11085	6692
35	70	4-1	10-31	214	57644	22190
<hr/>						
Totals	658				1181355	572179

1958 Report

TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSIONS INTO DIVISION NO. 3.

Acre feet brought over, Acre feet delivered

Weminuche - Raber	907.5	687
Lohr	907.5	687
Fuchs	525.	419
Tabor	795	724
Squaw	175	146
Piedra	244	000
<hr/>		
Totals -	3554	2663

1958 RESERVOIR STORAGE REPORT - DIVISION NO. 3

AMOUNTS IN STORAGE IN ACRE FEET.

	Rio Grande	Santa Maria	Continental	Sanchez	Terrace
12-1-57	38073	14020	Est. 10400	35756	1382
1-1-58	39738	14330	" 11000	34996	1465
2-1-58	40850	14530	" 11000	34996	1683
3-1-58	41599	11866	" 12000	32069	1445
4-1-58	41941	14866	" 12000	32069	1678
5-1-58	38961	15398	15311	33514	1262
6-1-58	46978	33754	25346	42504	4092
7-1-58	39251	34636	24516	48872	3868
8-1-58	9351	12870	9556	34908	2104
9-1-58	0	7878	226	29702	883
10-1-58	0	6995	0	26535	1683
11-1-58	0	6846	0	25622	1388

	Mt. Home	Smith	Cove Lake	La Jara	San Luis or Beaver Park	Platoro
12-1-57	8354	3514	no report	3823	Est. 330	30390
1-1-58	8435	4191	" "		No report	30390
2-1-58	8706	4320	" "		" "	30390
3-1-58	9204	Spilling	" "		2086	30390
4-1-58	9460	"	2672		2460	30390
5-1-58	9173	"	3180	6300	app. 3222	30390
6-1-58	12232	"	6407	6024	4696	54190
7-1-58	10676	3852	3180	6300	4710	54000
8-1-58	5112	2198	1420	5647	1026	37066
9-1-58	3010	1996	570	2847	0	34000
10-1-58	2334	1692	447	2590	0	34000
11-1-58	2116	1788	176	2018	0	34000

SUMMARY - 1958

WATER COMMISSIONERS' RESERVOIR REPORTS

IRRIGATION DIVISION NO.3

Name of Reservoir	Water District No.	Capacity in Acre Feet	Acre Ft. in Storage May 1, or amount available	Acre Feet in storage Nov. 1,	Total Acre Feet Delivered
Rio Grande	20	51113	51113	0	49148
Santa Maria	20	43560	39376	6846	29382
Continental	20	26716	26716	0	24009
San Luis(Beaver)	20	4758	4226	0	3990
Squaw Lake	20	162	162	0	150
Regan Lake	20	667	555	0	338
Goose Lake	20	232	232	0	216
Metroz	20	395	306	260	32
Big Ruby	20	77	45	0	42
Sowards 1-2-3	20	162	---		Fish culture only
Meadow Lake	20	140	140	0	126
Streams	20	64	---		Fish culture only
Downing and) Loch Laven)	20	41	---		" " "
Alberta Park	20	597 x	597	0	516
Jumper Creek	20	38	38	38	
Mill Creek	20	43	43	43	
Hunters Lake	20	48	48	48	
Humphreys	20	842	---		Fish culture only
Wee Ruby	20	186	113	0	112
Bristol Head #1	20	151)	292	0	251
Bristol Head #2	20	804)	---	---	
Spruce Lake #1	20	111	111	118	88
Spruce Lake #2	20	105	105		
Shaw Lake	20	680	680	120	504
Hermit Lakes 1-2-3	20	200 about	---		Not used.
Troutvale # 1	20	299	---		" "
" # 2	20	257	---		" "
Fuchs	20	237	202	0	180
Road Canon	20	no record	---		Fish culture
Lost Lakes	20	966	966	0	810
Spring Creek (Wrights)	20	145	145	145	Not used
Meadow Lake (Wrights)	20	114	114	114	" "
Trout Lake	20	320	320	0	298
S.V.Dude	20	120	120	120	Not used
Poage	20	370	370	109	234
Rito Hondo	20	600	----		Fish culture
Lake Cliff	20	No report	----		" "
Terrace	21	17700	1262	1388	3942
La Jara	21	14050	6300	2018	1472
Cove Lake	22	6480	3180	176	6534

SUMMARY - 1958

WATER COMMISSIONERS' RESERVOIR REPORTS

IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 3

Name of Reservoir	Water District No.	Capacity in Acre Feet	Acre ft. in Storage May 1, or amount available	Acre Feet in stor. Nov. 1,	Total Acre Feet Delivered
Platora	22	60000	30390	34000	11456
Sanchez	24	103135	33514	25622	22497
Eastdale # 1	24	3468	3000 Est.	600 Est.	1164
Eastdale # 2	24	3047	no report		
Salazar # 1	24	234	" "		
Salazar # 2	24	35	" "		
Rito Seco	24	?	" "		
Smith	35	5336	5336	Spilling, 1788	2842
Mountain Home	35	20147	9173	2116	14616
Totals		369312	219290	75669	177948

DIVISION NO. 3

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COMPARISON FOR PAST 10 YEAR PERIOD

	No. of Acres Irrigated	Acre Feet of Water Delivered to Ditches
1948	757041	1320484
1949	789722	1444440
1950	570392	964516
1951	359228	631136
1952	615338	1626360
1953	581441	880377
1954	421406	772333
1955	446690	818004
1956	434445	752538
1957	570796	1655405
1958	572179	1181355
