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Heldman

P107

Alamosa, Colorado

November 29, 1961

Mr. J. E. Whitten, State Engineer
Room 232, State Services Bldg.,
Denver 3, Colorado

Mr. Whitten
Dear Sir:

Again I submit my annual report as Irrigation Division Engineer in Division No. 3 for the year 1961. This report consists primarily of the tabulated and summarized reports^{of} the water commissioners in this division of the amounts of water diverted from the various streams, of reservoir storage and deliveries, and of acres irrigated. *These* tabulations and summarizations ~~have been prepared by me~~ from the reports made to me every ten days throughout the season by the Water Commissioners of the amount of water diverted to the various ditches in his district^{there}.

The 1960-1961 winter snow pack report indicated a poor run-off; however, the 1961 season turned out to be a fair irrigation year due to the fact that the rains came early enough and of sufficient quantity to aid materially in maturing the crops. The rains continued long enough ^{to} that they increased the stream flows materially, especially so in the later part of the season. A number of ditches that were closed in early July again began diversions in late August and September. The spring run off season was cool and slow. There was no high water in any of the streams. None of the large reservoirs on the west side of the Valley were able to store any water after the run off season began, except possibly Platora, and that was due more to the fact that the

gates are not large enough to permit the natural flow of the stream to come through, rather than to stream flow of flood proportions. The Sanchez and Mountain Home reservoirs on the east side of the valley did store some water during the run off season and continued to store water a good many days during the irrigation season.

The total diversions in this Division this year, as reported by Water Commissioners ~~were~~ ¹⁰⁶³ 1063901 acre feet, being 91% of the previous year and 104% of the previous 10-year average. The total acres reported irrigated ~~were~~ ⁵²³ 523553 compared to 534595 acres in 1960. Water was diverted for 252 days.

The precipitation in the Valley this year was considerably more than in 1960 ~~or~~ ^{the} the average. At Alamosa, the precipitation January through October was 9.02 inches compared to 4.96 inches during the same period in 1960 and a year normal of 6.23 inches. The detailed report of precipitation is not included in this report as that information ~~can~~ ^{may} be obtained elsewhere more completely than can be given here.

The following is a tabulation of the amounts of water diverted in each of the various Water Districts in this Division and the percentage each bears to the amount diverted in 1960 and to the previous 10-year average.

District Number	Acre Feet diverted in 1961	Percentage of 1960 Diversions	Percentage of Previous 10 yr. average
20	528364	83	98
21	72908	84	90
22	248348	111	109
24	58882	101	120
25	45633	102	129
26	24624	61	64
27	7047	90	84
35	47511	84	97

For most of the ditches, except those with the earlier decrees, the average is not enough and supplemental water, either reservoir water or pumped water, is required to mature the crops. Pumping for irrigation purposes was carried on again extensively. The total amount supplied by pumps is not available at this time, but that information can be secured from other sources later. Figures are also not available at this time for the amount that the underground water level was reduced by pumping.

This was another very poor year for reservoir storage. Out of a total reservoir capacity in this Division of 371824 acre feet, there were only some 99452 acre feet in storage May 1 and available. This included a carry over from 1960 of 24367 acre feet. There were 54569 acre feet of reservoir storage delivered. On November 1 of this year the number of acre feet in storage was 44032. 7400 acre feet of this is in Platora Reservoir and subject to the Tri-State Compact of which some 4000 acre feet were released for the Lower States since November 1. Of the amount in storage November 1 there were something over 19000 acre ft. in storage in the 3 reservoirs on the east side of the valley.

These Districts had a very good run of water and all the reservoir water available was not used. It should be born in mind that there are several thousand acre feet in storage in reservoirs and lakes used for fish culture only.

The repair work at the Continental Reservoir has progressed according to schedule, and no more is contemplated until further investigations have been made. The restriction on storage has been lifted, except that a care taker will be required where storage is at the 70 ft. gage height or above.

The project in District 35 that was mentioned in my 1959 report of the construction of a canal from Indian Creek to the Mountain Home Reservoir has been completed and was used to considerable advantage this year carrying some 2600 acre feet from Indian Creek to the Reservoir.


The installation of new headgates in the various Districts is being carried on and notable progress has been made in several Districts this year, particularly so in District No. 26.

The mountain ranges were good and livestock was brought out in good condition this fall. Pasture in the Valley has been much better than usual due of course to the timely rains. These same rains caused considerable trouble in putting up the hay crop. The grain, potato and vegetable crops were good, but as usual the prices were not. The vegetable industry has increased to considerable proportions, particularly lettuce. This acreage has been increased and several additional vacuum tubes have been installed.

The situation at Garcia in regard to getting water in the Acequia Madre ditch across the State Line has not been improved. The water commissioner in District No. 24 was called to Garcia as often as two or three times a week in this matter. It is a difficult situation for the water commissioner as he has no authority in New Mexico and it is the users in New Mexico who are causing the trouble.

Little difficulty was experienced this year in regard to administering the water according to the decrees. The water commissioners and deputies in the various districts and Special Deputies State Engineers D. H. Mathias and Glen E. Brees are to be commended for their excellent work and I want to express my thanks to them.

Respectfully submitted,


Roy B. Heilman
Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 3

SUMMARY - 1961

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	211	3-1	10-31	245	558364	318581
21	82	3-8	10-31	237	72908	45417
22	95	3-11	11-7	241	248348	94781
24	60	4-1	10-31	214	58882	22205
25	67	3-21	10-31	225	45633	12755
26	74	3-21	10-31	225	24624	10034
27	35	4-1	10-15	198	7047	2555
35	70	4-1	10-31	214	47511	17225
Totals					1063317	523553

TRANS. - MOUNTAIN DIVERSIONS

Name of Diverspn	Acre Feet Imported	Acre Feet Delivered to Ditches	Acre Feet Delivered to Reservoirs
Weminuche Pass			
Fuchs Ditch	902	757	0
Raber Lohr Ditch	1638	1352	61
Squaw Pass			
Squaw Pass Ditch	361	309	0
Spring Creek Pass			
Tabor Ditch	244	0	0
Wolf Creek Pass			
Treasure Pass Ditch	214	188	0
Piedra Pass			
Piedra Pass Ditch	0	0	0
Cochetopa Pass	?	165	0
Total	3359	2271	61

1961 RESERVOIR STORAGE REPORT - DIVISION NO. 3



AMOUNTS IN STORAGE IN ACRE FEET

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	Rio Grande	Santa Maria	Continental	Sanchez	Terrace
12-1-60	2653	1620	2760	5471	2021
1-1-61	3901	1916	3553	7523	2389
2-1-61	5322	2117	4063	8102	2449
3-1-61	6285	2710	4400	6514	2675
4-1-61	7856	3650	4868	6965	3215
5-1-61	9227	4317	4625	8432	6564
6-1-61	9227	2872	6065	11147	8017
7-1-61	0	1080	3635	9178	6660
8-1-61	0	880	3635	5063	4645
9-1-61	0	880	1131	6288	4701
10-1-61	0	880	1131	9002	5225
11-1-61	190	1073	1500	10504	5134

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	Mt. Home	Smith	Cove Lake	La Jara	San Luis or Beaver Park	Platoro
12-1-60	2505	1590	0	No report	640	4000
1-1-61	2921	No report	0	" "	1103	4000
2-1-61	3320	" "	0	" "	1589	4000
3-1-61	3508	" "	0	" "	1873	4000
4-1-61	4014	" "	384	4610	2508	4000
5-1-61	4927	3852	4335	3908	2508	4000
6-1-61	7245	5336	6334	No report	2507	4000
7-1-61	5490	3804	4080	3041	2507	7400
8-1-61	5109	2400	2600	2461	0	7400
9-1-61	4569	2600	1444	2407	0	7400
10-1-61	5175	3210	884	2417	0	7400
11-1-61	5629	3176	540	2243	0	7400

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SUMMARY - 1961
 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
Alberta Park	20	598	309	309	not used
Beaver Park	20	4758	2508	0	2258
Big Ruby	20	94	94	0	84
Bristol No. 1	20	121	0	0	4441
Bristol No. 2	20	804	0	0	
Continental	20	26716	6065	1131	3634
Downing	20	30	30	30	not used
Fuchs	20	241	237	237	" "
Goose Lake	20	223	139	0	125
Hermit Lake No. 1	20	221	221	221	not used
Hermit Lake No. 2	20	407	400	0	260
Hermit Lake No. 3	20	192	192	192	not used
Humphreys	20	842	842	842	" "
Hunters Lake	20	48	19	0	16
Jumper Creek	20	38	38	38	not used
Lake Cliff	20	no record			
Lock Laven	20	24	24	24	not used
Lost Lake (Lower)	20	966	521	0	560
Lost Lake (Upper)	20	68	68	0	
Meadow Lake (McCrone)	20	199	168	0	130
Meadow Lake (Wright)	20	115	115	115	not used
Metroz (Lower Basin)	20	396	301	261	36
Metroz (Upper Basin)	20	84	84	84	not used
Mill Creek	20	43	30	30	" "
Poage	20	370	222	28	176
Regan Lake	20	823	152	0	123
Rio Grande	20	51113	8300	0	7472
Rito Hondo	20	561	561	561	not used

SUMMARY - 1961 ✓
 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
Road Canyon No. 1	20	1587	1587	1587	not used
Road Canyon No. 2	20	84	0	0	" "
Santa Maria	20	43569	2872	880	1793
Shaw Lake	20	681	310	169	128
S U Dude	20	130	106	0	84
S U Dude No. 2	20	42	42	42	not used
Sowards No. 1A	20	8	8	8	not used
Sowards No. 2	20	35	35	35	" "
Sowards No. 3	20	19	19	19	" "
Sowards No. 4	20	45	45	45	" "
Spring Creek	20	165	165	165	" "
Spruce Lake No. 1	20	98	63	50	12
Spruce Lake No. 2	20	105	59	46	12
Squaw Lake	20	162	162	162	not used
Stearns Lake	20	41	41	41	" "
Trout Lake	20	320	320	122	180
Troutvale No. 1	20	201	201	201	not used
Troutvale No. 2	20	257	257	257	not used
Wee Ruby	20	186	112	33	72
Terrace	21	17700	9734	5134	4600
La Jara	21	14052	4610	2243	0
Platora	22	60000	4000	7400	not used
Cove Lake	22	6840	7920	540	7380
Sanchez	24	103135	22460	10504	11956
Eastdale No. 1	24	3468	2133	934	1925
Eastdale No. 2	24	3047	0	0	not used
Salazar No. 1	24	234	used as stablization reservoir		
Salazar No. 2	24	35	0	0	not used
Rito Seco-	24	?	0	0	" "
Mountain Home	35	20147	9518	5629	3889
Smith	35	5336	10033	3716	6857
Totals		371824	99452	44065	54569

DIVISION NO. 3

COMPARISON FOR PAST 10 YEAR PERIOD

	No. of Acres Irrigated	Acre Feet of Water Delivered to Ditches
1951	359228	631136
1952	615338	1626360
1953	581441	880377
1954	421406	772333
1955	446690	818004
1956	434445	752538
1957	570796	1655405
1958	572179	1181355
1959	454444	759246
1960	534595	1153248
1961	523553	1063317
