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**COLORADO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION III**  
**2000**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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***“There is no such thing as normal, average, consistent, uniform, predictable, stable, typical, regular or ordinary conditions in the field of hydrology. These adjectives are myths used to deal with the unknown.”***

*-----the Division III staff*

## **CURRENT WATER YEAR**

### *Water Administration*

The summer and fall of 1999 provided unusually abundant rainfall and thus large diversions and recharge for the ditches and aquifers of the San Luis Valley. Those diversions provided that the valley was basically “topped off” and in good hydrologic condition. It was a good thing because the winter proceeded to be as dry as anyone could remember. We suffered through the warm, dry, windy winter and started April 2000, with a forecast for most of our streams between 34 and 69% of normal runoff. The weather remained warm and dry through the first week of May. By the May 1 NRCS forecast, the predicted runoff ranged from 29 to 61% across the basin and water rights and Compact administration proceeded in earnest with very limited supplies. The Division III staff settled into what was to be an extremely dry year.

As the meager runoff was beginning to recede, we hoped that the “summer monsoon” would set up and provide rainfall throughout the summer and early fall that could break the drought conditions. This precipitation never came to the upper part of

the basin and we spent the entire irrigation season under the hot, dry conditions. For those whose lands are served only with surface supplies, their water ran out in the early part of the summer. Those with wells raised some of the best crops possible because of the abundant groundwater supply stored the year before and the warm sunny weather. The only problem is that the aquifers were depleted during 2000 to the extent that a good recharge year is needed to prevent reduced pumping rates in the coming year. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District Unconfined Aquifer Storage Study showed approximately 270,000 af of depletion in 2000.

Streamflows were at record low levels on many of the streams in the basin. Some of the smaller streams actually went dry above the first point of diversion. The hydros measured some flows that were lower than any on record. The Rio Grande at Del Norte got down to as low as 173 cfs for a few days in August, not only causing many very senior rights to be curtailed, but also having an adverse effect on the fisheries in the river. Virtually all other stream systems in the San Luis Valley were down to the Number 1 priority for much of the summer and the fall. Call records for all major streams are available in Appendix A, River Calls, Irrigation Year - 2000.

Overall, the streamflows around the Valley were very poor. The very low Compact obligation on both the Rio Grande and the Conejos was easily met with much of the needed delivery coming before the irrigation season ever started. Consequently, diversions for irrigation and recharge were allowed after November 1. Approximately 7,380 acre-feet of recharge and 6,210 acre-feet of irrigation water were diverted before the end of the calendar year and we still exceeded our targeted deliveries for the Compact.

A thorough field investigation of every active structure on Saguache Creek and its tributaries was conducted during the fall of 1999. The location of each headgate was confirmed by GPS, photos taken of each headgate and measuring device and the condition of each structure recorded. Consequently, 48 headgate or flume orders were issued to owners of water rights that will have to be completed by the beginning of the 2001 irrigation season. We continued to follow up on these orders, as well as identify and address additional problems. A new set of water commissioners was appointed to the District and they went about this effort in a very comprehensive way. This effort will greatly enhance the ability of those water commissioners to properly administer and monitor diversions in District 26.

We did have to seek an injunctive action against one of the prominent water users on Saguache Creek this year because of his tampering with headgates and taking water that was out of priority. The case was settled out of court but remains a potential problem.

We joined with several water user groups to file a formal abandonment proceeding against the owner of a ground water right. This was done because of the threat they made to use their well before we could get the decennial abandonment case heard. The State and the other parties on the plaintiff side prevailed and the water right was abandoned. We extend our thanks to the Rio Grande Water Users Association, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and The Rio Grande Canal Users Association for their tremendous contribution to this effort. We anticipate more of this type of case as people try to revive old wells that have had limited or no use in the Valley.

Division III also administered a few instream flows for the CWCB in 2000. Because of the critically low stream flows it became necessary for us to work in conjunction with the Board to see that their rights were

protected. This was mostly done in the Creede area.

### Rio Grande Compact Administration

As was mentioned in the previous section, the administration of the Rio Grande Compact was not an issue like it is in most years. While we were constantly looking for changes in precipitation to raise the index supply, they never came and we didn't curtail water rights on either river for compact purposes during the irrigation season. The forecast flows were very close to what actually occurred; therefore, there was little activity as far as our having to constantly analyze and change the curtailment once we got started early in the year. The history of those changes is detailed in Appendix A, Compact Administration, 2000 Rio Grande Compact Report. The only water that got to the lower indexes during the irrigation season were return flows, Closed Basin Project production, a few operational bypasses and drain flows.

Diversions were allowed to start early because we thought there wouldn't be enough of a change in the weather to make up for the dry conditions. After deliberations with all of the users, diversions on both systems were allowed to begin on March 7. The Rio Grande wanted to hit their obligation very close since they only had approximately 2000 acre-feet of accrued credit. The Conejos wanted to use up some of their delivery credit from past years. The preliminary numbers indicated that the Rio Grande met their delivery goal and the Conejos was not able to underdeliver the amount they desired. In fact, they over delivered approximately 11,300 acre-feet because of all the late winter deliveries. Overall, it would appear that Colorado over delivered approximately 11,400 acre-feet after all the adjustments were made. If that projection holds true and evaporation rates are consistent with past years, Colorado will

start January 1, 2001, with a credit of approximately 27,000 acre-feet. The 2,100 acre-feet of evaporation from the Colorado credit in Elephant Butte is considered in that calculation.

Colorado began 2000 with a credit of 17,700 acre-feet. New Mexico began the year with 170,700 acre-feet of credit. Rainfall in the Middle and Lower Rio Grande Valleys helped New Mexico in the efforts to meet Compact obligations and the needs of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. The release of supplemental irrigation water so the farmers in the Middle Valley could pass native water for the minnow also contributed to this overdelivery. The release of water from Rio Grande Project Storage totaled approximately 752,400 acre-feet, which is a reflection of the scant rainfall throughout the summer in the area within the Rio Grande Project and the knowledge that Project Storage is declining significantly. Total Project Storage at the beginning of 2000 was 1,751,000 acre-feet and ended the year at 1,322,000 acre-feet. These storage amounts are incredible when one realizes that the evaporative losses drafted the Project another 201,000 acre-feet for the year. With the total draft of approximately 950,000 acre-feet from the reservoir system there will have to be a good inflow year to keep Project Storage from being short next year. This was the 22<sup>nd</sup> year in a row that the Rio Grande Project has been allotted a full supply.

#### Costilla Creek Compact Administration

The Costilla Creek Compact Commission met in Alamosa, Colorado, on May 4, 2000. There was a large turnout because of the controversy over the administration of the Creek and the position that the two States have taken. The meeting was very lively and controversial statements were made by various parties. The meeting ended on a less than desirable note.

New Mexico has had a large turnover in their Costilla Creek Compact Engineer Adviser position in the last five years that has made the efforts to resolve the administration issues on the Creek and the drafting of the Watermaster Operating Manual very difficult. This turnover has frustrated Colorado's best efforts to address and resolve a number of difficult issues on Costilla Creek. Even with this difficult environment, and after months of work by the Engineers and Legal Advisers, the Commission released the draft Watermaster Manual for public comment on December 17, 1999. Norman Gaume, D. L. Sanders, Bernie Rodriguez, Sally Hatcher and Steve Vandiver were involved in numerous meetings that finally produced a document that addresses virtually all outstanding issues and areas of disagreements. Only one issue of disagreement remained between the two States. Both States' positions on that issue were stated in the draft. After the public comment and review period, changes started being made to the manual and administration unilaterally by the new deputy Engineer Adviser, Craig Roepke. These changes were discovered by Colorado at a meeting between the two states on December 20, 2000.

Communication, which had improved the year before, had obviously deteriorated during 2000 and negatively impacted the completion of the manual. New Mexico changed positions on several of the previously agreed upon issues in the administration of the creek. The Colorado Commissioner has written a formal letter to the New Mexico Commissioner requesting that he look into these issues and formally meet to discuss and resolve these concerns. Colorado still is looking forward to having the Manual as a guide for the Watermaster to administer the Creek if we can get these remaining issues addressed.

Unfortunately, this was a very poor water year in the Costilla Creek drainage and the

only users that had an adequate supply were on the Acequia Madre and the Cerro Canal. Water did not flow to the Rio Grande this year.

Amigos Bravos and the Riviva el Rio Costilla, along with other entities, are continuing to demand instream flows and regulations that fall outside the Compact and they are threatening to file a lawsuit to address administrative and in-stream flow issues.

Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA), a New Mexico water user association, is also supposedly building a war chest to file litigation over the Manual, if the Commission adopts it.

The ditch structure review was finished last year and the owners of the substandard structures have been notified. A number of new structures were ordered and/or installed in ditches that were deficient.

The Division Engineer, who is the Engineer Adviser for this Compact, did not spend nearly the time spent in 1999 on this Compact but remains heavily involved in addressing the remaining issues. This effort will be very worth while if the Watermaster Manual is approved by the Commission and is used by the Watermaster as the guide to the administration of the Creek. The State of Colorado has limited input into the supervision of the Watermaster and even less input into the day-to-day activities. This will be the next issue of concern once the Manual is approved for use.

#### Closed Basin

The Closed Basin Project delivered 14,201 acre-feet to the Rio Grande in calendar year 2000. The entire delivery met water quality standards for the Rio Grande Compact and therefore was creditable to Colorado's delivery to the Stateline. The Project produced 17,890 acre-feet, which was

delivered for the various purposes outlined in the enabling legislation and the decree. The production from the Project was approximately 67% of last year's production, and roughly half of the production of 1998.

The Project continues to be plagued by iron bacteria contamination, commonly known as biofouling. This biofouling continues to reduce the output capacity of the wells by a large percentage and seems to be getting progressively worse. Over the last several years, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has tried various remedies for this problem, but has met with limited success. This deteriorating situation is of serious concern to the USBR, the State of Colorado, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and the water users on both rivers. In 2001, the USBR will begin a well re-drilling program that everyone hopes will substantially increase the Project's production.

The Project was pumped at maximum sustainable capacity during several periods in the year. Testing and rehabilitation of the contaminated wells reduced pumping levels and therefore the overall output of the Project. Water quality was maintained at adequate levels to meet Compact standards. The Allocation Committee for the Project set the initial allocation at 60/40 early in the year and it remained there for the entire year. Of the 14,201 acre-feet of creditable water delivered to the river, 5,680 acre-feet were credited to the Conejos River and 8,521 acre-feet were credited to the Rio Grande. The 12-year cumulative allocation expressed as a percentage of the total is 61.2% for the Rio Grande and 38.8% for the Conejos.

Project deliveries made during 2000 were as follows:

- ❖ 800 acre-feet to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area
- 800 acre-feet mitigation delivery

- 0 acre-feet Tabor Division of Wildlife TMD exchange
- ❖ 2,889 acre-feet mitigation delivery to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ 14,201 acre-feet (creditable) to the Rio Grande
- ❖ 17,890 acre-feet total pumped volume

### Reservoir Operations and Dam Safety

**D**ue to the below normal runoff throughout the basin, reservoirs were not able to store under their priority storage rights during the 2000 runoff. Appendix A, Reservoir Storage Summary, Irrigation Year – 2000, shows the maximum and minimum storage levels for the major irrigation reservoirs in the San Luis Valley. As shown in this table, most of the reservoir storage levels declined throughout the year as they were drafted by heavy demand from irrigation.

As was mentioned in the last three annual reports, Rio Grande Reservoir (Farmers Union), the only mainstem reservoir on the Rio Grande, once again experienced problems with the outlet structure during the 2000 runoff season. This year the gates made new noises at some levels of release and storage much like in the years past. At the end of the season, no actual damage was observed but the San Luis Valley Irrigation District is concerned that there are still some problems with the gate structure, even after all the work that was done last year. This situation is still not well understood. It remains to be seen what the situation will be when the gates are operated in 2001.

Eastdale Reservoir No. 1 was drained during the irrigation season as the demand occurred. The purpose was to be able to thoroughly inspect the gates and the outlets of the reservoir. The left gate had historically leaked and the right hand gate had been

inoperable for some time. The owner was intent on determining the cause of the problems. The reservoir was emptied in the late fall of 2000. The outlet was found to be in good condition. The left-hand gate had debris and silt in the gate structure that was preventing the gate from closing tight. The right-hand gate was almost completely covered with silt and debris. The stem had been tarred solid in the superstructure of the outlet works and was completely inoperable. Dean Swift, the owner, removed the silt and debris in front of the outlet works and cleaned out both gates. This took extensive work to remove the gate stem from the right-hand gate and replace it with a new one. When the work is completed, in the spring of 2001, both gates will be operable for the first time in anybody's memory and the leak from the left-hand gate will be reduced significantly. This will greatly enhance the operation of the reservoir and allow Mr. Swift to be much more efficient in the management of his water supply.

All of these draining events were preceded by contact with the Division of Wildlife and the Water Quality Control Commission according to the MOU with those agencies.

Dam safety inspections in Division III were conducted by Brett Nordby the Dam Safety Field Engineer shared with Division 7. Thirty-nine dams had annual safety inspections performed by the Field Engineer and the Division 3 Water Commissioners.

The Dam Safety Program continues to await the outcome of the Extreme Precipitation Committee Study. This committee is developing new standards for modeling extreme precipitation for elevations above 7500 feet. Hydrology studies and new enforcement actions on existing Class I and II dam spillways have been postponed pending the outcome of this study. The Committee is expected to release its final results during the summer of 2001.

Various maintenance-related upgrades were performed on Smith Dam this year. They included flattening the upstream slope to match the originally constructed slope, removing silt upstream of the outlet structure, constructing an enclosure around the valve stem to also serve as a new reservoir elevation gage, and replacing the trash rack upstream of the outlet pipe. This work was completed in December. Final acceptance of the work is nearing completion.

Sanchez Dam experienced a safety-related incident this summer. In July, cloudiness and fines were discovered in the seepage along the bottom of the downstream slope near the outlet structure and channel. The situation was monitored throughout the remainder of the summer and into the fall. The amounts of cloudiness and fines never appeared to increase during this time. The owner dispatched divers to investigate the cause of the fines in the seepage, but nothing unusual was found. The cloudiness and fines appeared to be caused by previously placed filter material over the existing riprap along the upstream slope. This material appears to have been transported to the downstream side of the dam by the high amounts of seepage through the fractures in the structure's basaltic foundation.

Home Lake Dam, located just east of Monte Vista, was found to be in a poorly maintained state during its inspection this summer. Several large trees on the upstream slope near the crest of the dam and very little freeboard were found and remain as the largest safety concerns. Since there is no operable outlet to release storage during emergencies, this dam will remain as a concern. Unfortunately, no one will take responsibility for it. Neither the Division of Wildlife nor the Colorado State Veterans Center will admit ownership of the dam. A restriction will be recommended if the required repairs aren't made next year.

### Stream Administration

Stream administration in Division III in 2000 was difficult only because of the small amount of water that was available after the brief runoff, the futile calls that had to be determined, and the amount of time it took to check the ditches that weren't entitled to divert water. The drought that existed throughout the summer and fall allowed only the most senior ditches to divert. In many cases only the number one priority on a stream was allowed to divert. We were well into the summer before many water right owners understood how severe the drought was and that they were not going to receive water during the entire season. The River Call table in Appendix A is very illustrative of the shortage of water supply throughout the basin.

### Hydrography

The Hydrographic Branch in Division III has the responsibility of providing accurate 'real time' stream flow data and historic record of streamflow in and around the San Luis Valley of Colorado. This includes the Rio Grande and the Conejos River and their tributaries, as well as those streams tributary to the Closed Basin.

The number of stream gaging stations that the Hydrographic Branch operates has continued to grow. This year we began operating the Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap Gage. This gage was operated by the U.S. Geological Survey until budget cuts this year forced the abandonment of the gage. Since this gage is important in terms of historical record and river administration, the decision was made for the State of Colorado to operate it.

The Division of Water Resources entered into a cooperative agreement with the State Health Department and their consultant to



produce flow records of several stream sites downstream from the Summitville Mine Superfund Site. The Division 3 Hydrographic Branch will review streamflow records prepared by the consultant's personnel and the records will be published in the State's streamflow records report. If all works well, the agreement may be extended to future years.

We are waiting expectantly to see if the legislature funds our request for a full time hydrographer position for the Rio Grande Decision Support System (RGDSS). The RGDSS gages are currently being operated by a contract employee. This arrangement has allowed us to install these gages and produce records for them, but a regular full time State employee would be better able to handle the unusual streamflow events, help with other gaging stations, and possibly produce more accurate streamflow records.

#### Satellite Monitoring

The Satellite Monitoring System Repair Facility in Division III is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and calibration of all electronic data collection and telemetry equipment in Divisions III, IV, and VII. The facility provides technical support and assistance to field engineers and technicians in these divisions for system installation, field maintenance, and modifications. Approximately 30 percent of one full-time position is spent operating the facility.

In addition to the everyday repair and maintenance duties, several other functions were performed by the facility. A satellite system was installed at the new Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap gaging station. The DCP and pressure transducer at Rio Grande Reservoir were upgraded to a Sutron 8210 DCP and Sutron Accu-Bubbler to reduce the occurrence of lightning induced equipment damage. A new pressure transducer was installed at Mountain Home Reservoir to replace the old transducer that was

destroyed by a lightning induced current surge. Additional time was spent by the facility doing field maintenance and repair work on the RGDSS satellite systems.

#### Construction Projects

The installation of a new gage on the Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap, Colorado, was the largest project completed by the hydrographic branch during 2000. A new rock weir was installed at the Culebra Creek near Chama, Colorado, gage. The rock weir was installed to create a stable gage pool, which will allow for a reliable rating to be developed for the site. The La Jara Creek near Capulin, Colorado, gage was reset farther from the creek to prevent the gage from being heaved by ice. At the same time, the shape of the existing concrete weir was modified to lower the baseline and provide a better low flow-rating curve. A new walk bridge was made for the Pinos Creek near Del Norte, Colorado, gage. The walk bridge spans the concrete rated section and is used by the Hydrographers as a platform to measure off of when the creek is too high to be waded. Additional bench marks were installed at many stations to bring the number of bench marks at each station up to the U.S. Geological Survey standard of three per station.

#### Closed Basin

The Hydrographic Branch in Division III is charged with fulfilling the terms and conditions of a cooperative agreement between the State of Colorado and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. This agreement provides for streamflow measurement and data collection on the Closed Basin Project. It is the responsibility of the Hydrographic Branch to measure, record, and disseminate flow information to the Bureau of Reclamation and to other public entities. In addition, the Hydrographers are consulted on certain areas of concern regarding

streamflow and measurement within the project.

We are now in the third five-year agreement between the State of Colorado and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Closed Basin Project. The current agreement went into effect in October of 1999 and will continue until September of 2004.

## **WATER ISSUES**

The incredible conversion of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument to a National Park was accomplished in the closing moments of the congressional session in the fall of 2000. This would not normally be considered a water issue, but it is intimately tied to the Baca Grant and the whole idea of possible acquisition of the ranch and inclusion of it as part of the park. This idea is being pursued as of this writing and, if able to be accomplished, would end the continuing saga of water speculation like AWDI and Stockman's water. Gary Boyce, a minority owner in the ranch, has filed a lawsuit recently to prevent the majority owner, Farallon Inc., from selling the ranch. It remains to be seen whether the ranch can be obtained and then converted to be a portion of the National Park.

The Prairie Ditch and San Luis Valley Canal cases for changes in water rights are still pending. The San Luis Valley Canal case has been stayed pending the conclusion of the Prairie Ditch case that is going to trial in November of 2001. These cases involve adding recharge to their existing decreed use of irrigation and claiming pumping credits in case of well administration. These cases are contested cases with several objectors involved.

The impacts of the drought situation in 2000 were felt far and wide in the entire Valley. One of the most serious concerns was the lack of diversions and inherent lack of

recharge to the aquifers of the San Luis Valley. The overall water balance in the unconfined aquifer has been well maintained over the years despite significant water level fluctuations in extreme years of high flows or drought. This year, in the Rio Grande Water Conservation District study of the unconfined aquifer of the Closed Basin, a draft of approximately 270,000 acre-feet was caused by the hot, dry summer. This draft on our underground reservoir is a graphic representation of the importance of this source of water to sustain the agricultural community through these kinds of years. Yet, it makes us very aware of the importance of managing the aquifer systems to achieve an overall balance in the system. The importance of a coordinated recharge system is being recognized by even the most skeptical.

The biofouling of the wells in the Closed Basin Project continued to worsen in 2000. Once again, the overall production fell to a new low level with only approximately 14,000 acre-feet of the production being creditable water reaching the Rio Grande for Compact delivery purposes. This issue is of great concern to all. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Rio Grande Water Conservation District continue to do everything possible within their budgets to address this problem.

Battle Mountain Gold Inc., mining operations have been concluded for a couple of years, but the remediation of the mine site and the water produced by the mined area is in full swing. The augmentation plan for this project has had to be administered actively and in fact, a new augmentation plan has been filed to accommodate the new situations that have developed with mine runoff. The water quality of the mine runoff is a major concern and several agencies are involved in addressing these issues.

Saguache Creek water rights administration went well this year with the new personnel that transferred to the area. Art Rivale and

Rob Phillips combined administration in Districts 25 and 26, resulting in better coverage to address the many difficult issues of administration on the creek. We did have to take one of the more prominent public officials in Saguache County to court in an injunctive action to stop him from illegally diverting water from the stream and tampering with locked headgates. We have received many positive comments about the improvements on the Creek.

The Division of Water Resources staff, along with the Attorney General, the Rio Grande Water Users Association, the Rio Grande Canal Users Association and the Rio Grande Water Conservation District prevailed in an abandonment case against a well owner near La Garita. The well had not been used in over 30 years. After a two-day trial, Judge Ogburn decided that the water right for the well should be abandoned. This case was very important to establish that new appropriations in this basin will cause injury to other vested rights and old abandoned wells can not be allowed to be revived after decades of non-use.

There were several Temporary Substitute Supply Plans (TSSP) of consequence issued this past year. South Fork Ranches, a large housing and golf course development needed water to start the irrigation of their golf course this summer. They have very senior water rights which they were able to use to obtain a TSSP for the year. They have since filed their augmentation plan in court to confirm it officially. There are many objections to the case and it is possible that it will be some time before the plan is completed. The Native Aquatic Species Recovery Facility (NASRF) is a new Division of Wildlife facility that is being used to propagate many different "threatened and endangered" species. The facility needed a jump-start on the water supply this summer for its unconfined aquifer well. Transmountain water was used to recharge the aquifer around the facility in order to

pump the wells for the summer. Most recently, the Colorado Whiskey Distillery, also known as Lewis and Clark Expeditions, obtained a plan to begin construction of their new plant as well as bottle a limited supply of water in the next year. TSSPs are very time consuming and hard to administer. We would like to encourage most people to proceed to Water Court first rather than go through the process of a TSSP.

The Water Court judge, Robert Ogburn, was finally able to sign the United States Forest Service Reserved Rights claims after 21 years of being on the docket. A concerted effort by all the water user groups and the Attorney General of Colorado finally led to this historic agreement. The decree was signed on March 30, 2000. David Robbins and Ken Salazar, along with many others, were instrumental in getting the process moving and completed.

The Division of Wildlife initiated a study to determine the return flows from their use of transmountain water for irrigation. The study is complete, but has not gone to court for approval.

Margaret (Peg) Russell was appointed the new Water Court Referee to replace William Martinez who resigned in August 2000.

William "Wild Bill" Kopfman passed away in the latter part of 2000. He was the long-time president of the Rio Grande Water Users Association and the San Luis Valley Irrigation District. He was instrumental in seeing the Rio Grande system through some of the most tumultuous times in the history of the San Luis Valley and will be greatly missed. Roy Helms and Dave Graham are the new presidents of the Association and District, respectively.

Two more members of the Rio Grande Water Users Association passed away in 2000. The knowledge and experience of Bob Teems and John R. Wright will be greatly missed.

## ON-GOING PROJECTS

### RGDSS

The Rio Grande Decision Support System project was a part of Division III activities in 2000. Most of the staff was heavily involved in various aspects of the project, including identification of irrigated acreage, acquiring GPS locations for most active diversion structures, and rectifying water rights and well permit files. The hydrographic staff and Frank Kipple, a contract employee, continued monitoring and building rating tables for the new gages and DCP's installed in 1999. Most were used during the 2000 irrigation season and were very helpful to the staff in monitoring flows and diversions. Other portions of the RGDSS study included the drilling of the confined aquifer monitoring wells, consumptive use modeling, refinement of the ground water model, and the computer enhancement necessary to tie all this data together.

### Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow continues to cause everyone on the river to reconsider how and why things are done and where to find enough to keep the river wetted throughout the reach from Albuquerque to Elephant Butte. The Bureau of Reclamation purchased approximately 175,000 acre-feet of San Juan/Chama water from the City of Albuquerque and the Middle Rio Grande Water Conservancy District in 2000 for native flows to be left in the River for the fish. This was ordered by a Federal judge as part of a lawsuit filed by the environmental community on behalf of the fish. This happened in a very short water year and will undoubtedly cause trouble if we have even a mediocre year in 2001. There isn't enough water in the system to repeat the action and it will cause a great deal of anguish among everyone on the river if it happens. The judge also ruled that the

designation of critical habitat for the minnow was flawed and had been done incorrectly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The designation will have to be done again along with an Environmental Impact Statement that the Service refused to do in the original action.

### Costilla Creek Compact Watermaster Manual

The work on the Costilla Creek Compact Watermaster Manual continued in 2000. Several meetings involving the legal and engineering advisers to the Commission were held to refine the expected performance criteria of the Watermaster. Many very difficult subjects were discussed and all but one was resolved. The Commission will obviously have to confer on this issue since it involves some of the very basic principles of water law, administration and benefits of the Compact. The draft document was released and public comment was taken during the year and the Commission will consider adoption at the annual meeting in May 2001.

### Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model

The Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model being constructed by the Federal agencies in New Mexico is nearly complete. The Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers want to use it for the accounting for 2000 and 2001. Further correlation and testing has been requested by the Engineer Advisers, but it appears that the accounting module is sufficient in the present state to use for 2001 if the Rio Grande Compact Commission approves it.

### Alamosa River Restoration Project

The Alamosa River Watershed Restoration Committee completed two more site projects during the 2000 season. This brings the total number of demonstration projects to

four. A comprehensive plan of specific site projects and riparian management has been completed and more grants have been secured. Approval of landowners along the affected stretches is ongoing. The restoration of streambed channelization and subsequent degradation of the Alamosa River looks hopefully to the future.

### Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

The Rio Grande Restoration Project is in full swing. The main consultant, Montgomery-Watson, Inc., was selected and is being helped by several other firms. They are well into the basic data gathering process and plan to finish the study by mid-June 2001. Several interim reports have been produced and the technical advisory team is pleased with the direction and progress of the consultant.

## **ON-GOING ISSUES**

### USA vs. Elephant Butte Irrigation District

This case was dismissed in the latter part of 2000, but Elephant Butte Irrigation District refiled the cross-claims originally filed by the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. Therefore, the case is still alive and remains to be seen if the case will eventually have to involve the State of Colorado.

### Water Court Activities

When it came to the volume of cases filed during 2000, the total of 44 was a significant decrease from the 57 applications filed in 1999. However, the complexity of many of the 2000 cases will create some burden for the staff. Fortunately, only three cases required the intervention of the Division of Water Resources through statements of opposition. Most cases in Division 3 are resolved through the Division Engineer's

recommendation and negotiation of those terms and conditions placed in the decree. Only 4 cases were heard before the Judge or Referee during 2000.

The Division of Water Resources was a plaintiff in two cases filed during 2000. The 2000CW09 case enjoined the Division, the Rio Grande Water Users Association, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and the Rio Grande Canal Water Users Association vs. Charlotte Cody in a verified complaint filed to claim abandonment of an underground irrigation right located near La Garita. This case is discussed in the Water Issues section of this report. We are optimistic that this case sets precedence to block or inhibit the initiation of non-exempt groundwater use after an extended period of non-use.

The 2000CW13 case resulted in a restraining order placed on the illegal diversion of water by a user in the Saguache Creek drainage. This case is discussed in the Water Administration section of this report.

The long-awaited resolution of the USA Federal Reserved Rights case was finally received on March 30, 2000. The decree granted a 1999 appropriation date for 303 quantification points located on U.S. Forest Service land. This case effectively mops up all unappropriated water in the Rio Grande National Forest while recognizing those rights previously drawing water on forest lands.

Pat McDermott continued to handle the bulk of the day to day Water Court activity, while Craig Cotten, Mike Sullivan and Steve Vandiver handled some of the caseload. The Water Commissioners also help when needed by performing field inspections or providing historical knowledge of the claim.

William Martinez' successful seven-year stint as Water Referee ended on August 31, 2000. Mr. Martinez and his staff efficiently

processed rulings on hundreds of applications while maintaining a healthy working relationship with the Division office. We look forward to working with Margaret "Peg" Russell, who was appointed Referee in his place. Judge Robert Ogburn continued to serve as Water Judge during 2000 and filled in as the acting Referee after the resignation of William Martinez. Court Clerk, Carol Redding, managed Water Court matters and lent her vast experience to the task of reducing the backlog of open cases.

## INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATER USER COMMUNITY

As always, we strive to be as involved as possible in the Water User Community. Our staff attends the regularly scheduled meetings of the Rio Grande Water Users Association, the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, the Conejos Water Conservancy District, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the Closed Basin Operating Committee, the Trinchera Irrigation Company, and all other Water User group meetings that we are invited to attend.

Additionally, the staff has given presentations to various elementary and high schools around the Valley. The Water Commissioners make themselves available and attend many of the ditch company meetings held in their districts.

We have actively participated in the San Luis Valley Wetlands Focus Group, in the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Recovery Plan, the Southwestern Willow Fly Catcher Recovery Technical Advisory Team, the Bureau of Land Management Rio Grande Corridor Plan, the RGDSS Advisory Team, Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model Advisory and Technical Teams, and many other public forums which require input on water issues.

The staff of Division III participated in a number of public forums relating to water. These include presenting a paper at the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute on the administration of the Rio Grande Compact, teaching a session of the Water Leadership Class sponsored by the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and presenting a speech to the Colorado Water Congress on groundwater issues in the San Luis Valley.

## PERSONNEL/WORKLOAD ISSUES

### Well Administration and Permitting Activities

The well permitting workload continued to increase with 596 exempt permits issued from the Division III office. Tim Lovato was transferred to the Well Commissioner position in March 2000. The division took this opportunity to implement the WellEval Program and move away from the WordPerfect version for conditioning permits. The Staff have reorganized the method in which permits are receipted into the office in order to more efficiently track the permit workload.

Many water users have been visiting the office for guidance on rectifying their existing water right/permit portfolios. Many users are going to Water Court to have replacement, supplemental, or alternate point of diversion wells adjudicated.

### Water Records and Information

The Water Commissioners continue to rely more heavily on the computer to perform their duties. The availability of gage information, from the computer each morning, allows the Commissioners to make and implement decisions regarding diversions early in the day. The new administrative gages in District 20 have greatly assisted in "setting the river"

and delivery of water to the users. This information, published daily in the stream administration sheet that is available to the water users, allows for more efficient allocation of this valuable resource. It also keeps the water users more informed about the conditions on the river each day.

Diversion records went smoothly this year. The Water Commissioners have a good handle on the toolkits, which makes developing the diversion records an easier task. This year the Division again copied the final diversion records in the Division Office, resulting in the information being available to the public by the end of January 2001, as well as alleviating some of the workload for the Records branch in the Denver office.

The acquisition of GPS units and the TOPO! Program for the water commissioners and engineers has greatly assisted in the performance of field inspections. The Division performed 78 field inspections for well applications in addition to numerous inspections for Water Court cases. The accurate locations and maps produced by the use of the GPS makes confirmation of locations a snap. The use of the GPS units also promotes confidence in the accurate location of water rights.

#### Abandonment 2000

**A**bandonment reared its head again in 2000. The office staff and water commissioners reviewed the water records and inspected ditches and wells that were candidates for the Division Engineer's 2000 abandonment list. The list was published in July 2000. Protests to the abandonment of several structures have been received. Meetings with the owners of several of the candidate structures have already occurred to review the data and explain the reasons the structures were listed.

#### Personnel Changes

##### **BRETT NORDBY**

**B**rett Nordby replaced Frank Kugel as the Dam Safety Engineer for Divisions 3 and 7. Brett has been coming up to speed on the various dam problems and opportunities during the past year. Frank Kugel mentored Brett during the first round of inspections so Brett has gained a very good understanding of the systems in the Division.

##### **ROB PHILLIPS**

**R**ob Phillips was selected in June 2000 to become the Water Commissioner for District 25/26. Rob took on the daunting chore of learning the unique District 26 area this year as well as parts of District 25. Rob brought 13 years of experience in water administration to the position. Before coming to Division of Water Resources, Rob was a foreman for the Rio Grande Canal, the largest water distribution system in the Division.

##### **ART RIVALE**

**A**rt Rivale took over administration of both Districts 25 and 26 during the spring of 2000. Art was the commissioner for District 25, but accepted the responsibility of handling District 26 when the former commissioner, Tim Lovato, was transferred to the Alamosa Office. Art had to locate all the diversions structures and learn the Saguache Creek administration system during the very short time between his appointment and the beginning of the spring runoff.

##### **TIM LOVATO**

**T**im Lovato, former water commissioner for District 26, transferred to the Alamosa Office where he took on the duties of Well Commissioner. Tim has been learning the well permitting business since March 2000.

### Training Activities

**T**raining in Division 3 was extensive in 2000. Mike Sullivan and Craig Cotten received Supervisory Certificate Training. Steve Baer, Joe McCann and Pat McDermott were trained in Excel. Tim Lovato spent a week in Denver working with the 237 team to learn how to use the WellEval system. In February, Divisions III and VII held a joint training session in Pagosa Springs. During this training session, Jack Byers presented a session on changes in the well construction rules and regulations and the way monitoring holes would be handled in the future. Jack also answered well permitting questions. Wendy Bogard presented information on Division II's training program and Ina Bernard gave an overview of GIS and what it can be used for. Jerri Baker attended the Annual Program Assistants Meeting in September where she received updates on COFRS and procurement card use. Craig Cotten and Jerri Baker attended training in April in preparation for using the new MasterCard procurement card for purchases. At the Fall Water Commissioner Meeting, Hal Simpson, Ken Knox and JoAnn Thomas presented updates on legislature, the abandonment process and personnel issues.

### Workload Issues

**W**e continue to try to diversify the experience of our staff by involving them in as many issues and situations outside their primary responsibilities as time allows. Many of the water commissioners have been assisting in the RGDSS efforts by working with the contractors on irrigated acreage, ditch, canal, and drain locations, locating headgates by GPS, and rectifying permit/rights files.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

### Water Commissioner of the Year

**A**rt Rivale was chosen as Water Commissioner of the Year for 2000 because of his willingness to take on the added duties of District 26 after the transfer of Tim Lovato to the Division office in Alamosa. Art learned all the structure locations and administered both Districts 25 and 26 until Rob Phillips came on in late June 2000. His loyalty and conscientiousness is an asset to Division III.

## **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

### Ditch Rider of the Year

**D**on Jansen from South Fork, Colorado, was recognized as the Ditch Rider for 2000. Mr. Jansen's willingness to ensure excellent communication with District 20 water commissioners and to make the administration of water on the Minor Ditch easier earned him the recognition.

### Water Manager of the Year

**R**ay Wright from Monte Vista was recognized as Water Manager for 2000 because of his diligent efforts to ensure the protection of water resources in the San Luis Valley and the State of Colorado. Ray is also one of the driving forces behind the Rio Grande River Restoration Project.



## KEY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

**M**any of our key objectives and goals are on-going from year to year, but they form the basis for what we do and how we do it. The following are our key objectives for the year 2001.

1. Administer the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek Compacts in a manner that ensures the entitlements of Colorado under each Compact are fully realized and utilized and that Colorado's obligations are met.
2. Operate the Division III office in a manner that allows us to stay within our budget, including the development of a budget process acceptable to the State Engineer for the utilization of Compact funds for Compact related expenses.
3. Implement the provisions of the Long-Range Plan.
4. Continue to develop and implement the quality assurance/quality control program for Division III data, including historic diversion records, water rights information and ownership information.
5. Provide training to our staff in the use of the computer applications available to us; in particular word processing, spreadsheets, communications, databases and the forthcoming Hydrobase and Well Evaluation Tools.
6. Correctly issue well permits on a timely basis under the well permit decentralization program.
7. Constantly improve the quality of our hydrographic and diversion records and meet all deadlines for the completion and submittal of final records.
8. Coordinate with water user groups, individuals and other State and Federal agencies on issues such as endangered species, instream flows, Compact administration, Interstate litigation and Water Court

9. applications, in order to maximize cooperation and minimize disputes. Work with CWCB, the SEO, and the consultants on the RGDSS project to ensure that the system meets the needs of the users and that it is correctly done.
10. Continue to implement Principal Centered Leadership.
11. Identify any problems with and improve water administration at every level in the organization.
12. Try to help restore the travel, personnel services and the operating budget that has been proposed by the Joint Budget Committee to be cut substantially.
13. To effectively accomplish the Water Court process responsibilities with efficiency to provide terms and conditions that will practically and effectively deal with impact to other vested rights.

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2001

**S**everal activities will affect our workload in the coming year. Foremost are the continuation of the RGDSS study and the Rio Grande Headwater Restoration Project. The Division will be continuing to work with the consultants by providing information on the operations and administration of the Division. Additionally, the Division will continue to determine actual locations of headgates and structures using the available GPS technology.

The administration of the Compacts will again be one of the most important duties.

A major activity in 2001 will be to continue to familiarize ourselves with the new level of technology available to both our Water Commissioners and the Alamosa office staff. With the impending shift to Hydrobase, new user interfaces, RGDSS, a new satellite monitoring program, use of the Internet and

the Intranet, and new hardware with which to use it, we anticipate spending considerable time getting everybody trained and comfortable with the new systems.

A real concentration on quality water administration and record keeping will be one of the top priorities of 2001.

Dealing with the ESA issues downstream in New Mexico will be a major activity in 2001.

## **INNOVATIVE ADMINISTRATION TECHNIQUES**

**A**t the request of the State Engineer, we will attempt to describe a few techniques to solve problems that we have or are working on to address problems that do not lend themselves to normal remedies.

1. The outlet gate structure in the dam at Rio Grande Reservoir has suffered damage on several occasions apparently due to unusual turbulence conditions in certain ranges of flow. It apparently happened again in 2000. Through the joint efforts of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District, the users on the Rio Grande, other reservoir owners, and Division of Water Resources, operating criteria will continue to be reviewed and developed to release flows outside of the damaging range of flow and protect the downstream vested rights. This criterion will have to ensure that no senior users downstream or our ability to deliver Compact water to New Mexico is impacted by this release restriction.
2. During extremely dry winter months there are areas in the San Luis Valley that are prone to domestic wells going dry and stock unable to be watered. After several different scenarios were suggested and failed, we will amend our normal Compact administration in

some cases when possible. We will try to let specific ditches divert small amounts of water during the winter and pay the Compact back later in the spring by giving up a part of their irrigation supply.

3. Similar to that, we are working with ditches that want to divert earlier than the majority wants the irrigation season to start. We are allowing the diversion of what, in the past, has been Compact water under terms and conditions that require repayment later in the season to the extent there is a Compact curtailment.
4. We are currently working on an operating plan that would allow the use of a post-Compact reservoir to "pre-store" Compact water that would normally be run to the Stateline to try to minimize the over- or under-delivery of our obligation.
5. The use of private irrigation reservoirs to control flooding. With the agreement of a reservoir company, we are trying to re-regulate the peak of the hydrograph in high years to prevent flooding of vulnerable areas downstream.

## **MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 2000**

**T**he Rio Grande drainage experienced drought conditions almost as bad as 1977, one of the worst drought years on record during the summer months. The River reached a low of 173 cfs during August, the lowest recorded August flow at the Del Norte gage in 100 years of record. On the mainstem Rio Grande, most of the large canals were out of priority for most of the summer. The tributaries and the Conejos River were delivering a partial water supply to the Number One priorities for most of the summer. The Rio Grande delivered 100 acre-feet over its delivery obligation to the Stateline. The Conejos delivered 11,300 acre-feet over their obligation to the

Compact, most of that water coming during the winter.

Work continued on the Costilla Watermaster manual with many meetings between the Engineer Advisers to try to hash out the final details. Work with the New Mexico Engineer Adviser took a turn for the worse late in the year when the Adviser reneged on many previously agreed upon items in the manual.

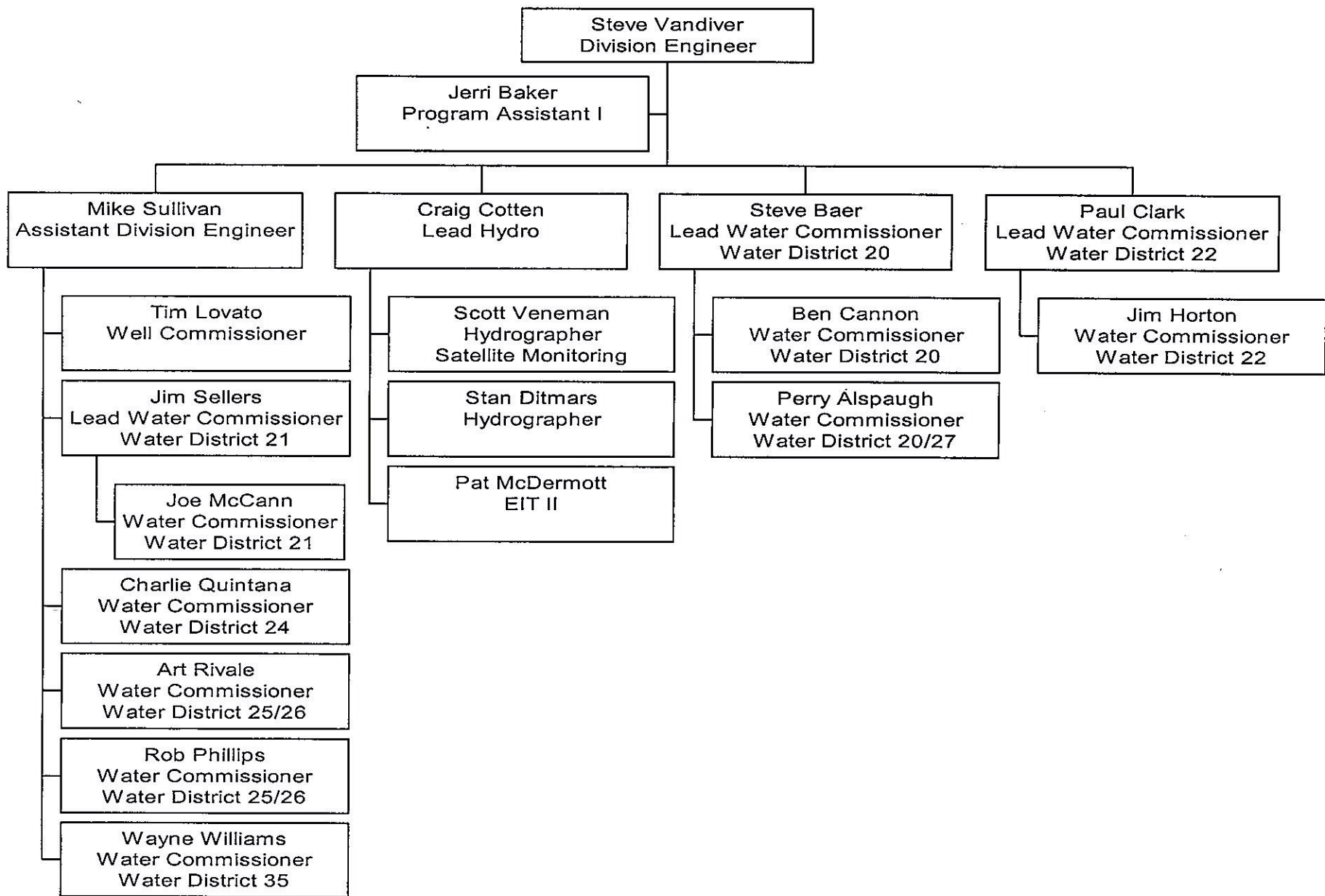
The increase in mileage costs has been adversely affecting the ability of the water commissioners to perform their duties. Increases of 40 percent in costs were experienced in the last half of 2000 with no relief from the legislature in funding.

The Federal legislation authorizing the Great Sand Dunes National Park sailed through Congress in 2000. The Park Service is currently conducting negotiations with the owners of the Baca Ranch to purchase the ranch and incorporate it into the Park property. If the sale goes through, it may remove the threat of exportation of large amounts of water from the Rio Grande basin.

William Martinez, the Water Referee, resigned at the end of August. Margaret "Peg" Russell was appointed Water Referee late in the year. We hope to quickly clear up the backlog of cases generated during the vacancy.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration project got off the ground. Montgomery-Watson, Inc., was selected to do the feasibility study for the project with the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District managing it. The project is looking at improving riparian habitat, improving flow conditions in the Rio Grande, evaluating flooding potential, evaluating structures in the river, and stopping some of the degradation and accretions in the River which make it difficult to deliver water to the priority water rights and to the Compact.

The RGDSS development is moving along. Work continued on developing the groundwater model. Contractors installed many of the new monitoring wells and conducted pump tests to gather data for the groundwater model. Much of the surface structure and irrigated acreage mapping was completed during 2000 and the data has been incorporated into the GIS system. Rules and regulations for new appropriations from the confined aquifer were originally required to be written by July 1, 2001. Currently proposed legislation would delay implementation of rules and regulations for two years. This is due to the contractors being unable to provide sufficient data as a basis for the rules.



# APPENDIX

## A

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**Transmountain Diversion Summary - Inflows/Outflows**  
**TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY - INFLOWS**

Recipient										
				10-Year Average		Current Year		Source		
WD	ID	Name	Stream	AF	Days	AF	Days	WD	ID	Stream
20	917	Don LaFont #1 Ditch	Trib Red Mtn Creek	14	11	0	0	78	4,670	Trib Piedra River
20	918	Don LaFont #2 Ditch	Trib Red Mtn Creek	141	47	10	23	78	4,671	Trib Piedra River
20	919	Pine River	Weminuche	468	69	203	21	31	4,638	N.F. Los Pinos
20	920	Tabor	Trib Clear Creek	925	154	495	170	62	774	Cebolla Creek
20	921	Treasure Pass Ditch	S.F. Rio Grande	120	33	70	26	29	4,669	Wolf Creek
20	922	Weminuche Pass Ditch	Weminuche	826	31	0	0	31	4,637	Rincon LaVaca
20	923	Williams Creek Squaw Pass	Squaw Creek	361	80	230	79	78	4,672	Williams Creek
26	702	Tarbell	Saguache Creek	501	64	630	87	28	4,656	Cochetopa Creek

**TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY - OUTFLOWS**

79	N/A	Hudson Branch Ditch	Huerfano	115	31	155	61	35	657	Medano
79	N/A	Medano Ditch	Huerfano	803	55	341	63	35	658	Medano

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**

**Storage Water**

**RESERVOIR STORAGE SUMMARY**

IRRIGATION YEAR - 2000

				AMOUNT IN STORAGE (AF)				
				MINIMUM		MAXIMUM		
WD	ID	RESERVOIR NAME	SOURCE STREAM	AF	DATE	AF	DATE	END OF YEAR
20	3532	Beaver Park	Beaver Creek	2999	10/31/2000	4507	04/30/2000	2999
20	3536	Continental	North Clear Creek	1019	11/01/1999	7246	04/30/2000	1019
20	3554	Rio Grande	Rio Grande	80	11/01/1999	14371	05/31/2000	80
20	3558	Santa Maria	North Clear Creek	9047	10/31/2000	21444	11/01/1999	9047
21	3582	La Jara	La Jara Creek	0	07/20/2000	1199	04/18/2000	0
21	3583	Terrace	Alamosa River	2683	10/31/2000	10696	04/28/2000	2683
22	3574	Platoro	Conejos River	16355	10/31/2000	32698	05/30/2000	16355
24	3576	Sanchez	Culebra Creek	46133	11/01/1999	46853	05/08/2000	25284
35	3529	Mt. Home	Trinchera Creek	750	09/13/2000	5227	06/08/2000	1124
35	3530	Smith	Trinchera Creek	0	09/03/2000	5494	03/20/2000	0

## WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES

Storage Water  
RIVER CALLS  
IRRIGATION YEAR - 2000

District	Most Senior Priority Curtailed	Most Junior Priority Served	Calling Right in Spring
20 Rio Grande	#146 Rio Grande & Piedra	#57C Meadow Glen	#236A Empire Canal
21 La Jara	#1 Garcia #1 & Le Mita #2	#87 Coddington Ditch	#4 Hanson Overflow #3
21 Alamosa	#1 Alamosa Creek Canal & El Veigo	#70 Miller Ditch	#1 El Viejo Ditch
22 Conejos	#1 Guadalupe, Romero and Manassa	#158 Jacobs #3 Ditch	#32 La Sauces Ditch
22 San Antonio	#7 Los Pinos	#196 Eight Mile Ditch	#7 Los Pinos Ditch
24 Culebra	#11 Cerro Ditch	#1951-4 Lobato Ditch	#2 San Pedro Ditch
26 Saguache	#7 Reservoir Enlargement Ditch	#65 Werner Clark Ditch	#65 Werner Clark Ditch
27 La Garita	#4 Home #1 Ditch	1988 Juan Trujillio Ditch	#8 Home #1 Ditch
27 Carnero	#6 Omnibus Ditch	#70 Moody & Head Ditch	#21 Green Ditch
35 Trinchera and Tributaries	#6 Trinchera Garland Canal	#40 Trinchera Canal	#32 Seyfried Stribling Ditch

Because of the idiosyncrasies of the administration scheme in District 25, no such information could be obtained which made sense.



**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**Compact Administration**  
**2000 RIO GRANDE COMPACT REPORT**  
Preliminary Figures

	A.F.
1. Adjusted Rio Grande Index	390,800
*Adjusted Rio Grande Delivery	90,900
Required Rio Grande Delivery	95,800
Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
Net Required Rio Grande Delivery	90,800
2. Adjusted Combined Conejos Index	142,400
**Adjusted Conejos Delivery	23,300
Required Conejos Delivery	17,000
Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
Net Required Conejos Delivery	12,000
3. ***Total Delivery at Lobatos	114,200
Total Required Delivery at Lobatos	112,800
Less Paper Credit (See Compact)	10,000
Net Required Delivery at Lobatos	102,800
Margin	11,400

4. Rio Grande Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 - March 6	100%	January 1 - March 6	100%
March 7 - May 2	8%	March 7 - December 31	0%
May 3 - December 31	0%		

5. Conejos Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 - March 6	100%	January 1 - March 6	100%
March 7 - December 31	0%	March 7 - December 31	0%

\*Includes 8,521 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

\*\*Includes 5,680 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

\*\*\*Includes all the creditable Closed Basin Project production (14,201 a.f.).

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES FOR VARIOUS USES - IRRIGATION YEAR 2000**

WD	TRANS-MOUNTAIN OUTFLOW	TRANS-BASIN OUTFLOW	MUNICIPAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RECREATION	FISHERY	DOMESTIC & HOUSEHOLD	STOCK
20	0	16425	7983	608	644	0	581	147	0
21	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	2501	0	0	0	0	5680	0
24	0	0	269	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	1545	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	310	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	667	0	430	37	297	0	0	34	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>16425</b>	<b>11540</b>	<b>2190</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>5861</b>	<b>0</b>

WD	AUGMENTATION	EVAPORATION	GEO THERMAL	SNOW-MAKING	MINIMUM STREAMFLOW W	POWER GENERATIO N	WILDLIFE	RECHARGE	OTHER
22	5358	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	0
24	228	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	388
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1262	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2491	0
35	405	0	0	0	0	80	0	63	12,715
20	2632	172	0	0	0	0	6672	7210	15,602
21	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	36,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>8632</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>6672</b>	<b>11186</b>	<b>65,505</b>

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**WATER DIVERSION SUMMARY IRRIGATION YEAR - 2000**

WD	Structures Reporting			Others		Number of Water Commissioner Observations	Total Diversions -AF-	Total Diversions to Storage -AF-	To Irrigation		
	With Record	No Water Available	No Water Taken	No Information Available	Wells, Ditches and Reservoirs with No Record				Total Diversions -AF-	Number of Acres Irrigated	Average AF per acre
20	226	61	28	35	7,680	8,774	425,256	13,457	397,549	338,961	1.17
21	105	10	7	0	943	3,800	88,037	3,458	56,815	48,138	1.18
22	149	7	21	4	1,595	5,004	157,097	3,185	145,571	83,362	1.75
24	91	1	8	8	353	4,088	80,265	16,094	63,281	28,527	2.22
25	145	26	27	25	570	787	25,438	0	23,803	9,956	2.39
26	172	63	28	21	1,274	1,954	34,439	0	32,867	13,690	2.40
27	50	9	7	8	1,202	675	14,154	0	11,663	3,978	2.93
35	114	7	35	3	584	5,563	61,510	6,248	44,599	29,116	1.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>14,201</b>	<b>30,645</b>	<b>886,196</b>	<b>42,442</b>	<b>776,148</b>	<b>555,728</b>	<b>1.40</b>

**DIVISION III**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**  
**2000**

	Water Year	Calendar Year
Number of structures observed	1,052	1,052
Number of surface rights	2,839	2,839
Number of reservoirs*	337	337
Number of wells**	27,918	27,918
Number of observations	30,645	30,645
River measurements	803	803
Ditch measurements	220	220
Dam inspections	11	11
New water rights administered	372	372
Number of Augmentation Plans	80	80
Plan of Augmentation Structures***	916	916
New Plans of Augmentation	3	3
Wells administered	27,918	27,918
Active SSPs	12	12
Applications for decrees	42	44
Decrees issued by Water Court	67	66
Consultations with the Water Court Referee	393	281
Water Court Appearances	81	69
Meetings with water users	473	408
Meetings to resolve water related disputes	86	73
Public assistance contacts	44,752	41,974
Well permits issued	571	596
Miles driven by staff	208,847	199,672
Professional and Technical Staff	7	6
Clerical Staff	1	1
Water Commissioner FTE (Full/Part-Time)	4/5.75	4/5.75

\* includes Non-Jurisdictional Impoundment filings

\*\*includes permits

\*\*\* includes "domestic" wells under aug plans

## WATER COURT ACTIVITIES

January 1 - December 31, 2000

### Water Court Applications in 2000 - Type of Claim

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Underground Water Right	7	11
Surface Right	5	6
Storage Right	1	1
Plan for Augmentation	2	4
Exchange	0	0
Change of Underground Water Right	14	37
Change of Surface Right	3	4
Change of Plan for Augmentation	0	0
Complaint for Declaratory Judgement	1	2
Verified Complaint	3	3
Petition to Correct Location	0	0
Finding of Diligence	1	3
Diligence - Make Conditional Absolute	7	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>81</b>

Note- Some applications in 2000 contained more than one type of claim or action (e.g. Change of Water Right and Plan for Augmentation). The type of claim was tabulated above under only one category of application.

### Type of Decree Entered in 2000

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Finding of Diligence on Conditional Rights	4	9
Cancellation of Conditional Rights	0	0
Conditional Right Made Absolute	3	3
Conditional Right Adjudicated	3	9
Surface Right Adjudicated	11	319
Underground Right Adjudicated	8	9
Storage Right Adjudicated	3	4
Right of Exchange Adjudicated	0	N/A
Plan for Augmentation Adjudicated	1	2
Change of Surface Right Adjudicated	3	4
Change of Underground Right Adjudicated	24	40
Change of Plan for Augmentation	2	11
Complaint for Declaratory Judgement Resolved	0	0
Petition Resolved	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>410</b>

Number of Open Cases as of December 31, 2000: 92

Number of Cases Dismissed in 2000: 3

Number of Cases Withdrawn in 2000: 3

Decrees Issued by the Court in 2000: 62

Cases Closed in 2000: 68