

**COLORADO**

**DIVISION OF**

**WATER**

**RESOURCES**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**DIVISION 3  
2002**

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ANNUAL REPORT  
DIVISION 3 - 2002**

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# *“That’s not the end of the tunnel...that’s a train!!”*

----the Division III staff

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Water Administration**



The summer and fall of 2001 began a period of much below normal precipitation and streamflow conditions and above normal temperatures that extended at least 16 months. Because of those antecedent conditions and a record low snowpack, 2002 turned out to be the drought of record for virtually all streams in the San Luis Valley. This extremely low runoff did not provide enough streamflow for most ditches to divert any water and as a result, recharge of the aquifer from diversions was nonexistent. This situation, along with

very little natural recharge and very heavy pumping from both aquifers, caused a heavy draft on the aquifers of the San Luis Valley. Additionally, the summer monsoon season never developed, which only added to the woes of those using surface water. Ironically, the warm, dry conditions made ideal growing conditions for those with a groundwater supply and helped yield record crops. These conditions prompted irrigators with access to groundwater to pump extraordinary amounts of water. The result was a significant decline in aquifer storage. The area involved in the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Unconfined Aquifer of the Closed Basin Study lost approximately 400,000 AF in 2002. Added to previous years draft on the aquifer, the study indicates we are approximately 700,000 AF below where we were in 1976 when the study was initiated.

From the March and April 2002, forecasts it became evident that there would be no curtailment necessary on the Conejos system. By early May, the delivery obligation on the Rio Grande was unknown as the forecasts indicated that deliveries would be below the Compact scheduled delivery curves. By mid-May the runoff was complete with a high flow of approximately 680 cfs at the Del Norte gage and 400 cfs on the Conejos River. The Division decided early on that no curtailment on the Rio Grande was necessary, calculating that the low runoff would generate a low obligation, which could be covered by deliveries in the non-irrigation season. The continuing decline in the snowpack and runoff concerned the Division staff and questions were raised about whether the forecast was correct. By the June 1<sup>st</sup> forecast, the entire Basin had 17% of normal snowpack and the inherent predicted runoff. After reviewing the situation more carefully and working with the NRCS, a mid-June forecast was issued that lowered the

forecasted April-September runoff by 45,000 AF on the Rio Grande to a low of 90,000 AF for the April-September time period.

As the runoff began to recede, we hoped that the “summer monsoon” would set up and provide rainfall throughout the summer and early fall that could break the dry summer conditions. Little precipitation came to the basin until mid-September.

Many streams including the Conejos River had very low flows during the summer and fall. Flows were so low on the Conejos and Alamosa Rivers that the Number One priorities were subject to futile calls. At one point in the irrigation season, the Rio Grande was delivering to Priority Number 32 with less than 100 cfs available for distribution. At times stream losses amounted to 40% of that flow, which added to the woes. Most of the major canals did not come into priority at all during the year. Call records for all major streams are available in the table, River Calls, Irrigation Year - 2002.

Diversions for irrigation and recharge were allowed after November 1 on the Conejos and the Rio Grande because of our status under the Compact. Approximately 5,854 AF of irrigation water were diverted before the end of the calendar year from the Rio Grande. No water was available for recharge. Diversions were shut off on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November on the Conejos and the 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Rio Grande.

The Division III staff took the next steps in the abandonment proceeding by filing the Revised Abandonment List with the Water Court at the end of 2001. The Court received fifteen protests to the Abandonment List. The Court and Division held meetings with the protesters and managed to reach stipulated resolutions on fourteen of the contested cases. The final case went to trial and resulted in the court abandoning the water right. This decision has been appealed to the Supreme Court for a final decision on the matter.

### Rio Grande Compact Administration

As was mentioned in the previous section, the administration of the Rio Grande Compact was very different in 2002. The abnormally dry weather conditions, the poor antecedent conditions, and the lack of summer precipitation created a record low runoff. The Conejos River had no Compact obligation for the year because the index and corresponding obligation was below any value on the schedule, therefore no obligation to the Compact. The Rio Grande obligation was an unknown quantity for most of the year. Flows were so low at the Rio Grande index gage at Del Norte that they were off the bottom of the Compact delivery schedule for the Rio Grande. The most interesting issue was the continued reduction in the forecasts as the year progressed. The final forecast for the April-September period, issued in mid-June, predicted only 90,000 AF at the Del Norte index. The history of those changes is detailed in the table, Compact Administration, 2002 Rio Grande Compact Report.

Diversions on the Rio Grande started April 1, 2002. Diversions on the Conejos started March 5, 2002, because of the low anticipated obligation. The Rio Grande, as noted above, was off the chart for delivery obligation. The Division anticipated that off-season deliveries and return flows would fulfill whatever the obligation turned out to be. Consequently, there was no curtailment during the irrigation season. With the Rio Grande below 200,000 AF for the year, the Division and the water users consulted on the possible obligation. It was decided to extend the Compact's scheduled delivery curve for 2002 only, and proposed 30% of index down to zero as the obligation. The Conejos wanted to use up as much of their credit as possible from previous years, but, since they didn't have an obligation requirement, everything that was delivered was credit. The preliminary numbers for the 2002 accounting indicate that the Rio Grande ended the year with a credit of 13,200 AF and the Conejos ended the year with a credit of 29,600 AF. Overall, Colorado ended the year with an accrued credit of 42,800 AF as of January 1, 2003, after all the adjustments were made. Colorado began 2002 with a credit of 10,100 AF. New Mexico began the year with 155,700 AF of credit. Rainfall in the Middle and Lower Rio Grande Valleys, and release of water for Endangered Species needs caused New Mexico to over deliver a large amount and increase their credit accordingly. The storage and subsequent release of a portion of their Compact delivery allowed them to meet the needs of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow in a very innovative way that had to be approved by many entities on the river.

The release of water from Rio Grande Project Storage totaled an incredible 802,400 AF. This is more than a full supply for the Project, even though Project Storage was declining significantly. Total usable Project Storage at the beginning of 2001 was 998,800 AF and ended the year at 655,900 AF. Total Water in Project Storage at the end of 2002 was 379,300 AF. This number is significant when one realizes that 307,800 AF is credit water owned by Colorado and New Mexico. This leaves the Project to start the year with a total of 71,500 AF of usable Project Storage. This past year was the 23<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that the Rio Grande Project has been allotted a full supply.

On July 2, 2002, usable Project Storage dropped below 400,000 AF. Consequently, Article VII of the Compact was implemented. Article VII stops the upstream States from increasing storage in any post-Compact reservoir. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has taken the position that they can store Prior and Paramount rights for the New Mexico Pueblos in El Vado Reservoir. The Commission has historically opposed this action to no avail. The major reservoir affected in Colorado is Platoro Reservoir. A complete summary is located later in this report.

In September, the Engineer Advisers met with the El Paso District and USBR to discuss waste of water out of the El Paso irrigation system directly to the Hudspeth Irrigation District. The meeting did not lead to any changes in operation, but it did relay our concerns about waste of water and possible expansion of Project acreage.

The Rio Grande Compact meeting was held on March 23, 2002, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. At that meeting, the resolutions passed by the Commission on April 22, 2001, were reaffirmed. The most critical was a resolution that allowed the State of New Mexico to store water in Corps of Engineer reservoirs and reregulate their Compact

deliveries later in the year. This allowed water to remain in the river during the late summer and fall to help with flows for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. The idea worked very well, and it is anticipated that this concept may eventually be used as one of the long-term solutions to support the flows for the minnow.

### Costilla Creek Compact Administration

The Costilla Creek Compact Commission met in Alamosa, Colorado, on May 10, 2002. Once again, the Commission adopted the Watermaster Operating Manual drafted by the Engineer Advisers of the two compact States for operations during 2002. The Commission directed the Engineer Advisers to continue to review the manual for possible adoption at the 2003 Commission meeting. In October 2002, the Engineer Advisers met with the representative of Amigos Bravos to review suggested changes to the Manual. No substantial changes were made to the Manual.

Due to the extremely dry conditions it was not possible to deliver the 1,000 AF to Eastdale before the irrigation season started. At the start of the 2002 irrigation season Costilla Reservoir held only 6,000 AF and the runoff forecast was 21% of normal. The Commission determined that there was less than a full water supply for the year based on the forecast for the Costilla drainage.

At the request of the Jaroso Water Users, Reservoir water was released early because of the very warm, dry spring conditions. There was little runoff in the basin and the Reservoir was relied on extensively during the year. The Reservoir was completely drained toward the end of the season.

Luis Trujillo continued as the Watermaster with an assistant Watermaster for the 2002 irrigation season. The Watermaster used the spreadsheet developed by New Mexico to track the daily water deliveries and to determine the delivery amounts available to each ditch. Colorado continued to review the spreadsheet and recommended several changes that made deliveries more in line with the authorized Compact administration. After the first few weeks, administration settled down to fairly routine affair. The Watermaster e-mailed a daily diversion sheet (most days) to the Colorado Engineer Advisor.

In-line with the NRCS forecast, there was little runoff in the Costilla Basin. The Colorado creek ditches were out of priority all year, seeing only "sluice" water occasionally during the irrigation season. No Costilla Creek water made it to the confluence with the Rio Grande during 2002.

During the summer, the New Mexico Hydrologist remained concerned that the Canyon Mouth Gage, operated by the USGS, was not correctly determining the stream discharge at this location. Colorado, New Mexico, and the USGS all rated the gage to check the curve developed by the USGS for stage/discharge. Colorado agreed that the USGS operation and rating were within normally accepted standards, but suspected that the meter used by New Mexico might have been giving erroneous data.

Due to the press of duties, the Division Engineer, who is the Engineer Adviser on this Compact, was unable to spend nearly as much time on the Compact as has been required in the past. Receiving daily diversion reports from the Watermaster helped relieve the time requirements. The State of Colorado has limited input into the supervision of the Watermaster and less in day-to-day activities, so receiving this document allows Colorado to ensure that water is being fairly divided. The Division Engineer remains heavily involved in the finalization of the Watermaster Manual. The drafting and adoption of the Watermaster Manual has also helped to ensure that the Compact is fairly operated.

### Closed Basin

The Closed Basin Project delivered 11,607 AF to the Rio Grande in calendar year 2002. 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 delivered a total of 15,574 AF for all of the various purposes outlined in the enabling legislation and the decree. The total amount delivered from the Project for all purposes was approximately 77% of last year's total.

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. Over the last several years, the USBR has tried various remedies for the problem, but has met with limited success. This deteriorating situation is of serious concern to the USBR, the State of Colorado, the RGWCD, and the water users on both rivers. In 2001, the USBR began a well re-drilling program in an attempt to increase the Project's production. The Bureau and Conservation district continue to re-drill wells to boost the projects production.

The Project was pumped at maximum sustainable capacity for nearly the entire 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 11,607 AF of creditable water delivered to the river, 4,643 AF were credited to the Conejos River and 6,964 AF were credited to the Rio Grande. The 14-year cumulative allocation expressed as a percentage of the total is 61.1% for the Rio Grande and 38.9% for the Conejos. During the summer, the lower end of the Rio Grande in Colorado began experiencing severe losses. In order to keep the Rio Grande channel wet, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the Division of Wildlife (DOW) agreed to bypass some flows divertible to the Refuge and San Luis Lake, as well as bypass water intended for San Luis Lake. This innovative use of water under the Project helped in getting flows to Lobatos after the irrigation season ended.

Project deliveries made during 2002 were as follows:

- ❖ 854 acre-feet to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area
  - 800 acre-feet mitigation delivery
  - 54 acre-feet Blanca Habitat – San Luis Lake exchange
- ❖ 3,113 acre-feet mitigation delivery to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ 11,607 acre-feet (creditable) to the Rio Grande
- ❖ 15,574 acre-feet total volume

### Reservoir Operations and Dam Safety

Due to the resignation of the Dam Safety Engineer in 2002, there will be no Dam Safety Report this year.

### Stream Administration

Stream administration in Division III during 2002 was frustrating because of the record low runoff. Many streams were down to the Number One priorities only for a large part of the irrigation season. Several streams even had futile calls to the Number One priorities and several streams dried up completely before they reached the gaging station on those streams. We experienced the record low drought on virtually all streams in the Division and it caused great harm to many water right owners. The well owners got by, but in many circumstances, at the expense of the senior surface users. This issue is fanning the flames of groundwater administration. There were no Compact curtailments required during the irrigation season. Most other streams in the Valley experienced severely low runoff with many gages going dry during the year. The River Call table later in this report is very illustrative of the shortage of water supply throughout the basin.

The Conejos River was particularly affected by the drought in 2002. The peak flow was just over 400 cfs and then dropped down to record low levels. Most of the summer just the three number one priorities could be partially served. The River continued to drop and finally withdrew away from the diversion dams on all three ditches. The remaining water did make the intake to the Town of Antonito water supply. But the majority of the flow at Mogote was lost to the streambed before it got there.

Carnero and Ute Creeks went completely dry for many days upstream of the gages at the mouth of the canyon they are on. Many fish were lost on these and other streams due to the drying and intermittent flow conditions. It will take years to restore them and the fisheries that were impacted.

The Rio Grande was also severely low throughout most of the summer months. The peak was approximately 680 cfs, which is normally a nice base flow in most years. After the flow in May, the stream dropped, like the others, and hung in the 90-120 cfs range for much of the season. To complicate matters, the river turned from a normally gaining reach between Del Norte and Monte Vista to a losing reach. At many times we were losing about 40% of the flow at the Del Norte gage while trying to deliver to the calling



priority. Priority Number 32 on the Centennial Ditch was the calling priority much of the summer and was short of that appropriation much of the time. As far as anyone can remember, this was the first time in history that the ditch was unable to get its full priority under that water right. The drying of the alluvium and the associated hydrologic features of the River, as well as the mountains that have been severely depleted, will take a large fraction of the water available in the River this spring.

### Hydrography

As with most of the Hydrographic branches in the State, the Division III Hydrographic



Branch experienced unprecedented low flows at almost all of its gaging stations this year. Water Year 2002 was the driest year ever recorded at virtually all of the gaging stations in this Division. Most of the peak flows for our gages occurred in the fall of the year or in the very early spring, which is very unusual. By the first of June, when most streams usually peak, the flows had dropped significantly. Many of the streams in the division went dry, even some that had never been

known to go dry before. Ute Creek near Fort Garland was dry for a total of 61 days during the summer, and in its 79-year history, it had only gone dry for a short period in one other year. This year we also had to deal with stations becoming isolated from the stream due to the low flows. Construction work had to be done at several sites to re-connect the stream flow to our gage.

One of the most time consuming areas this year has been the need to develop and/or rework the rating tables for our gaging stations. We have had at least 13 gaging stations where the flow has fallen below the lowest point on its respective rating table. When this happens there is no easy way to determine the actual flow, and our web site shows an error message for that station. The water commissioners are also 'in the dark' and have to spend extra time trying to estimate the flow. For instance, the rating table for the Conejos River near Mogote only went down to 21 cfs, which had been adequate for the last 90 years, but this year the flows dropped below 10 cfs. In these instances, we have had to make unscheduled measurements and then either develop a new rating table or extend the existing table down to cover the low flows.

Due to the retirement of the Chief Hydrographer, Mr. Jim McDanold, this summer, more duties have been assigned to the field Hydro branches. With the current budget situation, the vacant Chief Hydrographer position has not been filled. Therefore, the lead hydros have been assigned various duties that have been traditionally handled by the Chief Hydro. In addition, the Lead Hydro in Division III is still responsible for the review and final sign-off of all Division 4 hydrographic records.

The Division III Hydros are always looking for ways to improve the accuracy and reliability of our data. To that end, we installed two new control structures at sites this

year. These new control structures are known as ramp flumes, or long-throated flumes. They are concrete, cast in place structures that are supposedly more accurate than even Parshall flumes. Due to the extremely low flows this year, we were unable to verify the high flow accuracy of these structures, but they did perform very well during the very low flow periods. We are confident that this type of structure will prove its accuracy at all flows. Several additional sites have already been chosen to receive this new structure in the future.

The Division of Water Resources may once again be cooperating with the State Health Department to compile and publish streamflow data for several sites related to the Summitville Mine Superfund Site. Division III has entered into cooperative agreements in the past in order to assist the health department with the development of streamflow records related to the superfund site, and we have been again asked to assist in 2003. Flow records were not developed in WY 2002 due to problems with the Health Department oversight of the project.

### 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 trip was made to Division VII to install two Sutron 8210 DCP systems with speech modems and to work on five other stations with miscellaneous electronics problems. In Division III, a satellite system was installed at Kerber Creek near Villa Grove using an existing Sutron 8004D model DCP. A new 8210 DCP with speech modem was installed at Culebra Creek near Chama. A new high accuracy Stevens-Greenspan PS1200 pressure transducer was installed at Platoro Reservoir to replace the old existing balance beam manometer system and the 8004D DCP was upgraded to a Sutron 8200 DCP to read the transducer's SDI-12 output signal. Ten 8210 DCPs were upgraded with new High Data Rate transmitters and installed. These DCPs transmit data once every hour. Due to some firmware bugs, several visits were required to each of the HDR stations to solve problems and upgrade firmware. Three existing satellite systems were removed and reinstalled due to gage replacement or enhancement. Due to the extreme low flows and resulting reservoir levels, the submersible pressure transducers at Terrace Reservoir and Mountain Home Reservoir had to be extended further to get them below the water surface.

## Construction Projects

2002 was a very busy year for the Division III hydrographic branch personnel as several construction projects were completed around the Division. A new control section was installed at North Clear below Continental Reservoir. This new control consisted of a concrete ramp flume designed and installed by R&M Construction & Services of Montrose, Colorado with assistance from the Division III hydrographic staff. Wing walls were also installed above the gage to help flood harden the gage and stabilize the approach section to the gage. R&M Construction & Services also assisted in the relocation and refurbishment of the Kerber Creek near Villa Grove gage. The new exposed aggregate gage house and concrete ramp flume were installed approximately two miles below the old gage site. This was done in order to get satellite monitoring capabilities at the gage, to improve the quality of the record, and extend the number of months of the year that a good record could be obtained. Flood hardening monies were used to replace and flood harden the Rio Grande near Del Norte gage. The old wooden gage house was replaced with an exposed aggregate gage house on a new concrete pad with a concrete well. The new gage was also set back further from the river to take advantage of the highway bridge and embankment protection of the gage in the event of a flood. The new gage is capable of recording, and surviving, very high river flows and should serve the needs of the Division of Water Resources for many years to come. Hydrographic branch personnel also replaced the A-frame on the right edge of water at the Rio Grande near Del Norte gage. The Alamosa Creek above Terrace Reservoir gage was reset with new inlet pipes lower in the creek to prevent the gage from becoming isolated at low flows.



## 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 USBR. 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 USBR 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 USBR 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 continues. 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. There is currently an agreement between the majority owners and the Nature Conservancy District for the purchase of the Ranch pending an active litigation by the minority interests in the Ranch to prevent the sale. If the sale is finally approved it would end the continuing saga of water speculation like AWDI and Stockman's water. During 2002, arbitration was conducted between the partners in the Ranch as to the valuation of the water rights to be paid to AWDI. Arbitration found a value of approximately \$6 million for the water rights and consequently awarded AWDI 10% (\$600,000) of that for those rights.

The Prairie Ditch Change of Water Right case was concluded in the fall of 2001. This case involved adding recharge to their existing decreed use of irrigation and claiming pumping credits in case of well administration. The case was heavily contested and a complex consent decree was entered by the court that addressed the concerns of all the parties. The companion San Luis Valley Canal case that was stayed pending the conclusion of the Prairie Ditch case was concluded in 2002.

The impacts of the drought in 2002 were felt far and wide in the entire Valley. The depletion of groundwater supplies and the dry antecedent conditions caused much concern and changes to normal administration. River transit losses were vastly higher than normal with losses as high as 40% on the Rio Grande and 60% on the Conejos. There was very little diversion into the Closed Basin during the year. As a consequence of the lack of surface diversions and low precipitation during the irrigation season, massive amounts of ground water were pumped in the Valley. The RGWCD Unconfined Aquifer Storage Study showed a loss of about 400,000 AF at the end of 2002 over the storage at the end of 2001. From the 1976 baseline the study area contains approximately 700,000 AF less water. This situation makes all concerned 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. At the end of the year the RGWCD was organizing meetings to discuss the impact of the drought on farmers and the aquifers, and to encourage conservation of our resources.

The Division of Water Resources staff, along with the Attorney General, went to trial in the David Bradley (99CW25) Change of Water Right case in 2001. This was a fairly straightforward alternate point of diversion case in which the applicant was unable to provide any historic use of the original well. The Court granted the application, which was appealed to the Supreme Court. In 2002 the Supreme Court reversed the District Water Court ruling.

House Bill 1414 changed the way Temporary Substitute Supply Plans (TSSP) were evaluated and administered. This change has dropped the number of submitted plans dramatically and it is likely to remain that way because of the complexity and length of

time that is required to completed them. Many of the older plans have expired but several are still active in the Division.

## ON-GOING PROJECTS

### RGDSS

The Rio Grande Decision Support System project was a part of Division III activities in 2002. Most of the staff was 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 continued monitoring and building rating tables for the new gages and DCPs installed in 1999. 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. Peer review meetings were held monthly to thoroughly review the model as it neared completion.

### Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow continues to cause everyone on the Rio Grande to reconsider how and why things are done and where to find enough water to keep the river wetted throughout the reach from Albuquerque to Elephant Butte. The State of New Mexico received permission from all involved to reregulate a portion of their Compact delivery in Abiquiu and Jemez Reservoirs and deliver a portion of that water to Elephant Butte during the later portion of the summer to try and enhance the streamflow for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The remaining water that had been stored in 2001 for this purpose was released during 2002, along with all of the San Juan/Chama (SJC) water that was leased for fish purposes. With no water remaining except the firm yield water of the contractors that remains in Heron Reservoir, the minnow will be very vulnerable in the spring and summer of 2003. The court cases in Federal District Court in New Mexico have been concluded and are on appeal in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit and should be decided in March of 2003. With Judge Parker's ruling that the USBR has discretion over the SJC water and that it can be used for the minnow, the appeal is a critical decision that will affect New Mexico and other Western States dramatically. The minnow population census in late 2002 showed the lowest number of minnows collected than at any time of previous sampling. This situation does not bode well for the minnow, particularly if 2003 is another dry year.

### Costilla Creek Compact Watermaster Manual

The Costilla Creek Compact Watermaster Manual was used to administer the Creek this year and no changes appear to be necessary in order to recommend to the Commission that it be approved.

### 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 used it for the accounting for 2000, 2001 and 2002. It appears that the accounting module is sufficient in the present state to use in the future.

### Alamosa River Restoration Project

The Alamosa River Watershed Restoration Committee continues to obtain funding and support to restore the river. Many activities are taking place in this regard.

### Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

The Rio Grande Restoration Project is in full swing. The main consultant, Montgomery-Watson, Inc., completed the feasibility study and did a tremendous job in identifying the issues involved in restoring the river to meet the needs of all concerned. The report that was produced will be used to continue the project into the implementation phase and will be a guide for the work to be done. The advisory team was very pleased with the product and is now pushing hard to start the project. During 2002 the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD) interviewed and selected a manager to oversee the project.

## **ON-GOING ISSUES**

### Water Court Activities

Sixty-eight cases were filed in the Division III Water Court during 2002. While most cases in Division III are resolved through the Division Engineer's recommendation and negotiation of those terms and conditions placed in the decree, some require a hearing or a trial. Beginning in 2002, all supplemental well and alternate point of diversion well applications were required to be heard by the Water Court. This, along with protests to the Revised Abandonment List, resulted in an increase in Water Court cases in Division III.

Judge Robert Ogburn continued to serve as Water Judge during 2002. He retired from the bench in January 2003. Judge Kuenhold will replace Judge Ogburn in water matters and Patti Swift will fill the vacant District Court Judge position. Margaret "Peg" Russell continued as Water Court Referee. The combined court clerk, Carol Redding, managed water court matters until the end of 2002. Carol resigned her position in February 2003 and was appointed the Interim Manager of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy

District. No replacement has been made for the Water Court position as of the date of this report.

An adverse decision in case 99CW25, David Bradley, resulted in a formal appeal of that ruling to the Supreme Court. After a July 12 trial, Judge Robert Ogburn issued a judgment granting a change of water right to the pro se applicant. Although the applicant failed to present a historical quantification of the underground water right he intended to change, the Judge saw fit to grant the requested change. The Division felt the precedent set by the Judge's decision was very dangerous and was compelled to appeal. The appeal was filed in September and the opening brief was filed with the Supreme Court during February 2002. The Supreme Court reversed and remanded the District Court ruling.

Case 99CW46, filed by the San Luis Valley Canal Company Case was very similar to case 96CW45, Prairie Ditch Company, which was settled in late 2001. These very contentious cases sought to grant the Prairie Ditch and San Luis Valley Canal Company the right to divert water from the Rio Grande under its original priorities for recharge purposes. Further, the cases sought to allow the companies to quantify the amount of recharge to the unconfined aquifer of the Closed Basin and the right to withdraw all such recharge through the shareholders' existing wells. The San Luis Valley Canal Company Case was settled by stipulation in November 2002.

The Division Engineer filed the Revised Abandonment List on December 28, 2001 (Case 2001CW37). A total of 60 structures (72 rights) were placed on the list. The final list had been pared down quite a bit from that originally submitted by the Water Commissioners. Fifteen formal protests were filed to the Revised Abandonment list. The Division and Court worked with the protesters in October 2002 and reached settlement in 14 of the cases. One case went to trial and the water right was determined to be abandoned by the court.

Water Court casework is currently assigned to Steve Vandiver, Mike Sullivan, Craig Cotten, or Pat McDermott. The Water Commissioners also lend help when needed via field inspections or historical knowledge of the claim.

## **INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATER USER COMMUNITY**

As always, we strived to be as involved as possible in the water user community again in 2002. 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. It has become apparent that

in order to reach higher numbers of people and inform them about water issues in the Valley, attendance at ditch company meetings and smaller user group meeting is going to be required.

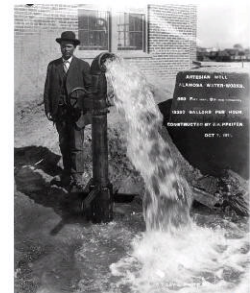
We have actively participated in the San Luis Valley Wetlands Focus Group, the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Recovery Plan Team, the Southwestern Willow Fly Catcher Recovery Technical Advisory Team, the Bureau of Land Management Rio Grande Corridor Plan, the RGDSS Advisory Team, Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model Advisory and Technical Teams, The Upper Rio Grande Water Operation Plan Review, The Rio Grande Headwater Restoration Project, 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 included a speech to the CLE conference in Albuquerque on the “Law of the Rio Grande” and the NMWRRRI conference in Ruidoso concerning the operation of the Rio Grande in New Mexico. These events were critical to attend not only to learn about downstream issues but things that pertain to Compact administration and how that they might impact Colorado. The Division Engineer has also been involved in a number of conferences and seminars in the San Luis Valley concerning the drought. The level of interest is very high since last summer especially regarding the aquifer conditions and the lack of streamflow and how to incorporate wells into the priority system. Several hundred people have attended these conferences and much information has disseminated. Several voluntary actions are being suggested for well owners to reduce their draft on the aquifer and impact to stream system. Another area that the Division staff has been involved in is the Saguache Water Users Association. Issues about winter water use and well impact are a continuing issue to be dealt with.

## **PERSONNEL/WORKLOAD ISSUES**

### *Well Administration and Permitting Activities*

The well permitting workload skyrocketed with over 1000 exempt permits issued from the Division III office. The severe drought and drawdown of the aquifers caused many domestic wells to cease functioning. Many wells were Late Registrations/Replacements resulting in the need for the well permitting staff and water commissioners to spend many hours inspecting/verifying use of these wells. Additionally, DWR determined on May 16, 2002, that it would not process applications for non-exempt Alternate Points of Diversion or Supplemental wells. This action meant that the water users had to file for such changes in water rights with the Water Court, where public notice was given of their intentions.



### *Water Records and Information*



The Water Commissioners continue to rely 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 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. Daily diversion sheets are now posted in all districts and are available in the division office.

Diversion records went smoothly this year. Due to the heavy workload, the Division was not able to setup and distribute the new computer equipment needed to take advantage of the new data-entry software. Records were substantially complete by the time all the computers were in place. 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 2003, as well as alleviating some of the workload for the Records branch in the Denver office.

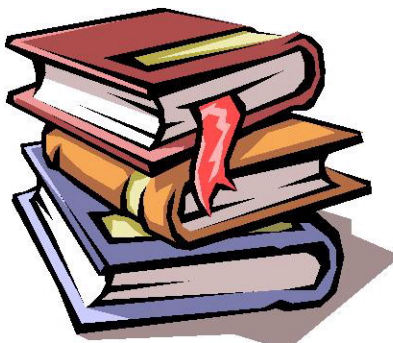
### *Abandonment 2002*

The Division Engineers’ Revised Abandonment List was delivered to the Water Court on December 28, 2001. Division III listed 61 water rights on the Revised Division Engineers Abandonment. Protests to the abandonment of 15 of the rights on the list were received. The Division reviewed the information received from the protesters and conducted meetings and additional field inspections as needed. At the end of the review period the Division had reached stipulated settlements with 14 protestors. In December 2002, a trial was held on abandonment of the remaining water right. The Court held that the water right was abandoned.

### *Personnel Changes*

Jim Sellers retired from the Division of Water Resources in November 2002. Jim was with the Division for 17 years, starting as an Assistant Water Commissioner in Water District 21, the Alamosa and La Jara Rivers. Jim retired as the Lead Water Commissioner for the same district.

### *Training Activities*



Training in Division III was slightly less in FY02 than in 2001 due to budget issues. Because of these budget issues, the usual joint training with Divisions III and VII was cancelled. Jerri Baker and Mike Sullivan attended an Access Class in December 2001. Rob Phillips, Steve Vandiver and Pat McDermott took advantage of the funds

to attend the training session at the CWOA meeting in Division I. Other funds were spent on handbooks and computer books to be used by the Division employees to increase their proficiency.

### *Workload Issues*

We 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 well permitting by performing field inspections on “late registrations” and non-exempt well permit applications. Additionally some water commissioners assisted in the RGDSS effort by performing multiple cross-sections of the major rivers and rectifying permit/rights files. With a large number of Senior Water Commissioners planning on retiring in the next few years, the Division has been looking into cross-training younger water commissioners to try and keep the knowledge and experience within the Division.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

### *Water Commissioner of the Year*

Jim Sellers was chosen as Water Commissioner of the Year for 2002 because of his years of service in providing consistent and diligent administration of water rights in District 21. Jim also stepped up and made an extended effort to take on field inspections when the well permitting branch became overloaded. Jim also spent a lot of time during the summer running down “expanded acres” issues that seemed to crop up with the drought.

## **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

### *Water User of the Year*

Mike Fuchs was recognized as the “Water User of the Year” at the Fall Water Commissioner Meeting on October 16, 2002. Mr. Fuchs was nominated for this honor because of the significant part he plays in the complex water system on Pinos Creek in former Water District 20. During the drought of 2002, Mr. Fuchs reorganized the water users on Pinos Creek and replaced a structure that hadn’t been working for years in order for the water to be split beneficially for all users on the Creek.

### *Water Manager of the Year*

Lawrence Gallegos was honored as the “Water Manager of the Year” for 2002. Mr. Gallegos satisfied the many responsibilities of a Water Manager while demonstrating his dedication to the cause of improving water management on the Los Pinos River in former Water District 22. All of the projects overseen by Mr. Gallegos in the capacity of

President of the El Codo Ditch Company will assist the District 22 Water Commissioners in the efficient administration of water rights.

## **KEY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS**

Many 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 2003.

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. This issue will be particularly important in the coming fiscal year with the cuts in budget that we know are going to come to contend with the drop in revenue in the state. Trying to devise ways to continue the critical programs and do what is necessary to administer water rights will be a challenge.
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.
6. Correctly issue well permits on a timely basis under the well permit decentralization program. This item will take a huge effort with all the wells going dry and with the upcoming retirement of our well commission this will be a major concern.
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 applications, in order to maximize cooperation and minimize disputes.
9. 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.

14. Insure that all dams in Division III are monitored frequently enough to recognize any deficiencies and promptly work with owners to correct them. All these efforts to insure the integrity of our dams and to provide public safety as it involves those structures.

## **MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2003**

The potential for another below average runoff is a real possibility as of this writing. At present, the March 1, 2003, forecast is being predicted at approximately 60% on the Rio Grande and only slightly higher on the Conejos system. This possibility following the record drought of last year will only further complicate the problems we already have. Lack of streamflow and declining water tables and pressures will be of great concern. The Division Staff will have to be very diligent in finding alternative administration schemes to accomplish just basic administration.

Several activities will affect our workload in the coming year. Foremost is the huge increase in well permit applications. The Division expects the number of well permit applications to continue to increase as the drought takes its toll on surface water and the groundwater aquifers.

A major activity in 2003 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 staff 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 2003.

Dealing with the ESA issues downstream in New Mexico will be another major activity in 2003. The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, which is currently listed, and the potential for the Rio Grande Cutthroat to be listed, are areas of concern that will have to be closely monitored.

The administration of the two Interstate Compacts in Division III will be a major interest in our workload. After the past year, we are reminded of how fickle the systems can be and how carefully we must consider the action we take, the effects of those actions and how we set up the river administration as the season goes by.

## **INNOVATIVE ADMINISTRATION TECHNIQUES**

At 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. 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. We continue to be in contact with the District to find those tools necessary to accomplish the above.
2. During extremely dry winter months as seen in the last two years, there are areas in the San Luis Valley that are prone to domestic wells going dry and the problem of stock out of water. After several different scenarios were suggested, tried, 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. This has been accomplished over the past couple years with great success. We continue to have extremely dry warm winters on the Valley floor and this issue is very persistent.
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.
6. We are cooperating with the RGWCD and the well owners in the Valley to try and reduce the demand on the aquifer. In 2003 this will amount to a request to reduce the amount of irrigated acreage under wells by 20%. This may help stop the fall in water tables and help reduce the amount of stream depletions that we have seen this past year.

## **MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 2002**

The Rio Grande drainage experienced conditions unequalled in the history of the Rio Grande Compact. The continually decreasing forecast made a very difficult water year for the water users. As the Rio Grande index was below what the framers of the compact ever anticipated the Division did not have a hard delivery obligation. Rather the Division had to estimate what the obligation should be and administer the river to that number. Then the Division needed to convince both the users and the Engineer Advisers that such an obligation was reasonable. Both rivers over delivered the Compact obligation. With New Mexico and Colorado holding 75% of the water in Elephant Butte as credit the lower districts will be facing a less than full water supply for the first time in 24 years.

The losses on Closed Basin water between the confluence with the river and Lobatos and the losses internally in the Norton Drain caused staff to revisit how the allocation of these flows was made between the Conejos and the Rio Grande. Flows that were calculated or measured at certain points were not able to be credited 100% like they have in the past in order to recognize those losses and insure that neither river suffered a reduction because of these calculations. These losses were another product of the drought and the severe lowering of the groundwater tables

The continuing decrease in our personal services budget is a great concern and the further cuts in Out-of State travel and personnel services budgets is going to make the task of water administration and running our Division very difficult. If we are not allowed to travel to critical out-of-state meetings involving the Compacts and ESA issues the State will be at a big disadvantage.

Resolution of the purchase of the Baca Grant was good news for the basin. The Nature Conservancy's purchase of the Baca Ranch may remove the threat of exportation of large amounts of water from the Rio Grande basin.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration project feasibility study was completed and was a job well done by Montgomery-Watson, Inc., and the other consultants. The project looks to 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 implementation phase of the project is now under way. A new coordinator, Jane Salisbury, has been hired to lead that project in the future and we look forward to helping in that effort.

The RGDSS development is continuing with most of the work on the groundwater model completed. Rules and regulations for new appropriations from the confined aquifer were originally required to be written by July 1, 2001. Legislation passed in 2001 would delay implementation of rules and regulations until July 1, 2003. It may again be necessary to delay the rulemaking to allow sufficient time to debug the model.

**A. TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY--INFLOWS**

RECIPIENT								SOURCE		
10-Year Average					Current Year					
WD	ID	NAME	STREAM	AF	DAYS	AF	DAYS	WD	ID	STREAM
20	917	Don LaFont #1 Ditch	Trib Red Mtn Creek	3	2	0	0	78	4670	Trib Piedra River
20	918	Don LaFont #2 Ditch	Trib Red Mtn Creek	57	28	0	0	78	4671	Trib Piedra River
20	919	Pine River	Weminuche	434	64	0	0	31	4638	NF Los Pinos
20	920	Tabor	Trib Clear Creek	814	146	74	129	62	774	Cebolla Creek
20	921	Treasure Pass Ditch	SF Rio Grande	119	30	0	0	29	4669	Wolf Creek
20	922	Weminuche Pass D	Weminuche	495	16	0	0	31	4637	Rincon LaVaca
20	923	Williams Creek Squaw Pass	Squaw Creek	338	80	91	60	78	4672	Williams Creek
26	702	Tarbell	Saguache Creek	572	70	0	0	28	4656	Cochetopa Creek

**B. TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY--OUTFLOWS**

79	N/A	Hudson Branch Ditch	Huerfano River	83	31	41	62	35	657	Medano Creek
79	N/A	Medano Ditch	Huerfano River	637	51	24	8	35	658	Medano Creek

**RESERVOIR STORAGE SUMMARY**  
**IRRIGATION YEAR – 2002**  
**AMOUNT OF STORAGE**

WD	ID	RESERVOIR NAME	SOURCE STREAM	MINIMUM AF	DATE	MAXIMUM AF	DATE	END YR
20	3532	Beaver Park	Beaver Creek	2800	10/31/2002	4517	1/28/2002	2800
20	3536	Continental	North Clear Creek	1671	10/31/2001	4399	8/31/2002	1071
20	3554	Rio Grande	Rio Grande	8207	11/30/2001	13984	5/31/2002	13696
20	3558	Santa Maria	North Clear Creek	6857	11/30/2001	11119	10/31/2002	11119
21	3582	La Jara	La Jara Creek	0	8/17/2002	896	4/2/2002	0
21	3583	Terrace	Alamosa River	1433	9/8/2002	4693	4/29/2002	1452
22	3574	Platoro	Conejos River	10462	10/6/2002	17113	1/1/2002	10519
24	3576	Sanchez	Culebra Creek	8943	10/1/2002	24430	4/22/2002	9418
35	3529	Mt. Home	Trinchera Creek	0	9/29/2002	2004	5/17/2002	232
35	3530	Smith	Trinchera Creek	0	8/18/2002	705	3/25/2002	52



## WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES

WD	STRUCTURES REPORTING			ALL OTHER STRUCTURES		# Visits Structure	Total Diversions AF	Total Diversions to Storage, AF	TO IRRIGATION		
	With Record (1)	No Water Avail. (2)	No Water Taken (3)	No Info Avail. (4)	No Record (5)				Total Diversions, AF	Number of Acres Irrigated	Average AF Per Acre
20	160	155	18	22	7,756	7,694	172,788	9,029	141,994	45,254	3.14
21	46	54	3	2	966	1,972	18,244	0	18,700	15,922	1.17
22	43	101	6	2	1,631	2,257	54,303	57	52,378	34,539	1.52
24	27	8	3	10	430	3,931	40,504	0	33,689	21,221	1.59
25	46	66	14	9	669	1,861	14,198	0	12,908	2,881	4.48
26	39	118	14	7	1,390	1,262	11,101	0	10,151	3,670	2.77
27	10	32	3	5	1,251	402	3,892	0	2,789	1,440	1.94
35	61	14	46	3	622	2,362	28,530	1,665	25,403	14,337	1.77
TOT	432	548	107	60	14,715	21,741	343,560	10,751	298,012	139,264	2.14

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**RIVER CALLS - IRRIGATION YEAR - 2002**

District	Most Senior Priority Curtailed	Most Junior Priority Served	Calling Right in Spring
20 Rio Grande	#32 Centennial Ditch	#236A Empire Canal	#236A Empire Canal
21 La Jara	#1 Garcia #1 & Le Mita #2	#87 Coddington Ditch	#18 Romero Ditch
21 Alamosa	#1 Alamosa Creek Canal & El Veigo	#15 Cristobal Rivera	#1 El Veigo
22 Conejos	#1 Guadalupe, Romero and Manassa	#32 Los Sauces	#32 La Sauces Ditch
22 San Antonio	#3 El Coda	#33 Lovato Irrigating Ditch	#4 Llano Ditch
24 Culebra	#2 San Pedro	#12 Cerro	#12 Cerro
26 Saguache	#2 Malone Sullivan/Ford 1& 2	#12 Lawrence Ditch	#12 Lawrence Ditch
27 La Garita	#2 Biedell #10 Ditch	#13 Biedell #10 Ditch	#2 Biedell #10
27 Carnero	#1 Omnibus Ditch	#20 Omnibus Ditch	#18 La Magote Ditch
35 Trinchera and Tributaries	#1 Fred Etter Ditch	#38 1/4 Notley Ball Overflow 38 1/4	#38 1/4 Notley Ball Overflow 38 1/4

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

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES FOR VARIOUS USES - IRRIGATION YEAR 2002**

WD	TRANS-MOUNTAIN OUTFLOW	TRANS-BASIN OUTFLOW	MUNICIPAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RECREATION	FISHERY	DOMESTIC & HOUSEHOLD	STOCK
20	0	0	7323	323	0	0	0	134	0
21	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	2684	0	0	0	0	2894	0
24	0	0	329	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	211	1079	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	303	0	0	0	0	0	647
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	65	0	359	13	69	0	0	59	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11273</b>	<b>1415</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3087</b>	<b>659</b>

**WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES**  
**WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES FOR VARIOUS USES - IRRIGATION YEAR 2002**

WD	AUGMENTATION	EVAPORATION	GEOTHERMAL	SNOW- MAKING	MINIMUM STREAMFLOW	POWER GENERATION	WILDLIFE	RECHARGE	OTHER
22	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	458
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1103	0
35	90	0	0	0	0	24	0	42	2,459
20	2145	162	0	0	0	0	6231	2095	4,067
21	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,974
<b>Total</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6231</b>	<b>3278</b>	<b>8,958</b>

**Compact Administration**  
**2002 RIO GRANDE COMPACT REPORT**  
Preliminary Figures

	A.F.
1. Adjusted Rio Grande Index	154,600
*Adjusted Rio Grande Delivery	57,200
Required Rio Grande Delivery	46,400
Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
Net Required Rio Grande Delivery	41,400
2. Adjusted Combined Conejos Index	59,700
**Adjusted Conejos Delivery	13,800
Required Conejos Delivery	0
Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
Net Required Conejos Delivery	-5,000
3. ***Total Delivery at Lobatos	71,000
Total Required Delivery at Lobatos	46,400
Less Paper Credit (See Compact)	10,000
Net Required Delivery at Lobatos	36,400
Margin	34,600

4. Rio Grande Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 - March 31	100%	January 1 - March 31	100%
April 1 - November 21	0%	April 1 - November 21	0%
November 22 - December 31	100%	November 22 - December 31	100%

5. Conejos Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 - March 4	100%	January 1 - March 4	100%
March 5 - November 19	0%	March 5 - November 19	0%
November 20 - December 31	100.0%	November 20 - December 31	100%

\*Includes 6,964 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

\*\*Includes 4,643 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

\*\*\*Includes all the creditable Closed Basin Project production (11,607 a.f.).

**Water Court Activities**  
**January 1 – December 31, 2002**

**Water Court Applications in 2001 - Type of Claim**

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Underground Water Right	4	12
Surface Right	8	12
Storage Right	0	0
Plan for Augmentation	3	24
Exchange	0	0
Change of Underground Water Right	26	47
Change of Surface Right	1	1
Change of Plan for Augmentation	0	0
Complaint for Determination of Water Right	0	0
Verified Complaint	0	0
Petition to Correct Location	0	0
Finding of Diligence	6	7
Protest to the Revised Abandonment List	15	15
Diligence - Make Conditional Absolute	5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>126</b>

Note- Some applications in 2002 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 2002**

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Finding of Diligence on Conditional Rights	5	11
Cancellation of Conditional Rights	0	0
Conditional Right Made Absolute	4	7
Conditional Right Adjudicated	2	2
Surface Right Adjudicated	2	3
Underground Right Adjudicated	5	7
Storage Right Adjudicated	0	0
Right of Exchange Adjudicated	0	0
Plan for Augmentation Adjudicated	3	6
Change of Surface Right Adjudicated	4	4
Change of Underground Right Adjudicated	11	31
Change of Plan for Augmentation	1	10
Complaint for Declaratory Judgement Resolved	1	1
Petition Resolved	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>82</b>

**Water Court Activities**  
**January 1 – December 31, 2002**  
(Continued)

Number of Open Cases as of December 31, 2002:	107
Number of Cases Dismissed in 2002:	1
Number of Cases Withdrawn in 2002:	2
Decrees Issued by the Court in 2002:	<u>38</u>
Cases Closed in 2002:	41

**DIVISION III  
ACTIVITY SUMMARY  
2002 CALENDAR YEAR**

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Number of structures observed	<b>1087</b>
Number of surface rights	<b>2884</b>
Number of reservoirs*	<b>342</b>
Number of wells**	<b>29358</b>
Number of observations	<b>21741</b>
River measurements	<b>812</b>
Ditch measurements	<b>241</b>
Dam inspections	11
New water rights administered	37
Number of Augmentation Plans	83
Plan of Augmentation Structures***	1039
New Plans of Augmentation	3
Wells administered	29112
Active SSPs	9
Applications for decrees	68
Decrees issued by Water Court	40
Consultations with the Water Court Referee	185
Water Court Appearances	115
Meetings with water users	455
Meetings to resolve water related disputes	73
Public assistance contacts	<b>48750</b>
Well permits issued	1073
Miles driven by staff	<b>210936</b>
Professional and Technical Staff	8
Clerical Staff	1
Water Commissioner FTE (Full/Part-Time)	4/5.75

\* includes Non-Jurisdictional Impoundment filings

\*\* includes permits

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



