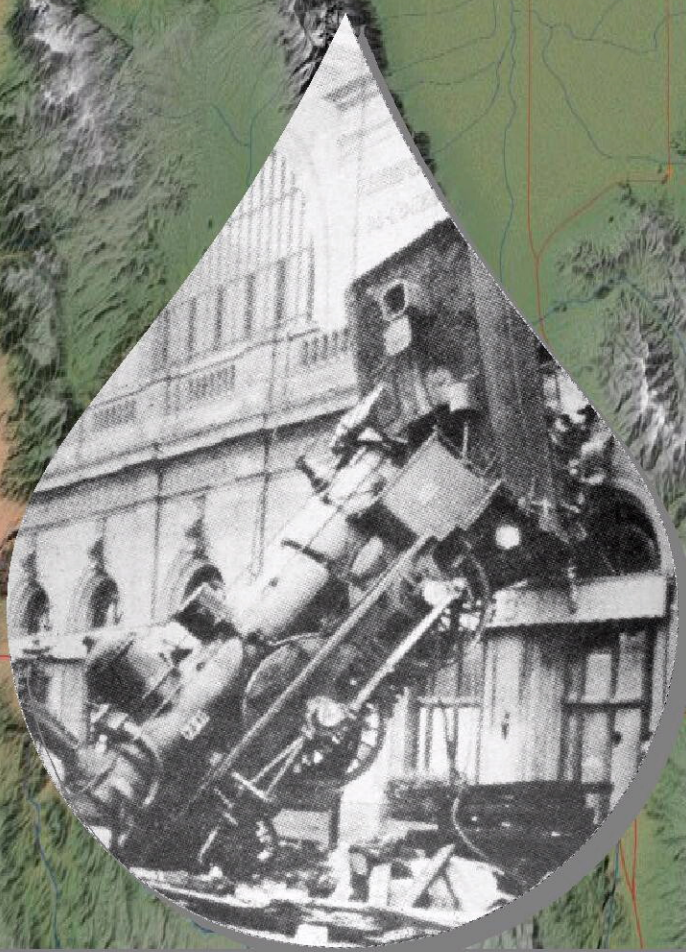


COLORADO
DIVISION OF
WATER
RESOURCES



ANNUAL
REPORT

DIVISION 3
2003

**COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
ANNUAL REPORT
DIVISION 3 - 2003**

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“Two in a Row!!”

-----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 has extended at least 28 months. Because of those antecedent conditions and a very low snowpack, 2003 turned out to be the second year of extreme drought for virtually all streams in the San Luis Valley. Following the drought of record in 2002, 2003 turned out to be the 6th driest year in recorded history that has been kept since 1890. This second consecutive year of extremely low runoff provided enough streamflow for most ditches to divert some water for about three weeks and then the streams were back down to base flows that were much below normal again this past summer. This lack of diversions once again resulted in a dramatic shortage of surface water for irrigation as well as for

recharge of the aquifer that the wells are so dependant on. This situation, along with very little natural recharge and very heavy pumping from both aquifers, caused another 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 again made ideal growing conditions for those with a groundwater supply and helped yield record crops. The area involved in the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Unconfined Aquifer of the Closed Basin Study lost approximately 270,000 AF in 2003 after losing over 400,000 AF in 2002. Added to previous years draft on the aquifer, the study indicates we are approximately 950,000 AF below where we were in 1976 when the study was initiated.

From the March and April 2003 forecasts it became evident that there would be little or no curtailment necessary on the Conejos system, especially when it had a sizable credit in Elephant Butte reservoir to work against. By early May, the delivery obligation on the Rio Grande settled in at about an average of 5% through the summer and then was at zero until the ditches turned off in mid-November. This provided adequate water to very closely meet the delivery obligation for the year. Since no summer monsoon developed few changes had to be made in Compact administration. Little precipitation came to the basin until mid-September.

Most streams had very low flows during the summer and fall. At one point in the latter part of August on the Conejos there was only enough water to be able to deliver 30% of the number one priorities. At the same time the Rio Grande was delivering to Priority Number 146 with less than 175 cfs available for distribution. Stream losses were again

a significant factor that had to be dealt with on most streams. Call records for all major streams are available in the table, River Calls, Irrigation Year - 2003.

Diversions for irrigation and recharge were allowed after November 1st on the Conejos and the Rio Grande because of our status under the Compact. No water was available for recharge. Diversions were shut off on the 20th of December on the Conejos and the 15th of November on the Rio Grande. The reservoirs on the Rio Grande were allowed to go into storage on November 10th. Diversions were allowed on all the other streams in the valley well after November 1st because of the open fall and the extreme dry conditions.

The Division III staff took the final steps in the abandonment proceeding by concluding all of the contested cases under the Revised Abandonment List filed 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 was appealed to the Supreme Court where a final decision on the matter was rendered by the court in favor of the state's position. We are now involved in a couple of cases wherein the plaintiffs are seeking to reopen the cases for lack of notice and other issues.

Rio Grande Compact Administration

As was mentioned in the previous section, the administration of the Rio Grande Compact was rather routine in 2003. The abnormally dry weather conditions, the poor antecedent conditions, and the lack of summer precipitation created a near record low runoff. The Conejos River had little Compact obligation for the year because the low index supply, a large accrued credit in Elephant Butte Reservoir and a low corresponding delivery obligation. There was no curtailment of index supplies after April 3, 2003. The Rio Grande obligation was significant even though the index supply was very low. The average curtailment of ditches required during the irrigation season averaged about 5% until August 11th when all curtailment was removed until the ditches were shut off on November 15th. The most interesting issue was the continued reduction in the forecasts as the year progressed. The history of those changes is detailed in the table, Compact Administration, 2003 Rio Grande Compact Report.

Overall, Colorado started the year with an accrued credit of 42,800 AF as of January 1, 2003 and ended the year with a total accrued credit of 1,200 acre-feet. Diversions on the Rio Grande started March 17, 2003 and ended November 15th. Diversions on the Conejos started February 6, 2003 and ended December 23. In 2002, 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. They started 2003 with over 30,000 acre-feet of accrued credit which contributed to there not being a curtailment during the irrigation season. They were able to use all but about 5,900 acre-feet of the credit after evaporation charges were made to the credit pool. During the winter of 2003-4, the bypass gates at Platoro Reservoir would not pass the inflow and for dam safety purposes the butterfly gates on the end of the outlet could

not be operated due to icing. This storage was not allowable under Article 7 of the Rio Grande Compact. An arrangement was made at the Compact meeting in March 2004 with the Texas portion of the basin to accept the remaining Colorado accrued credit established for January 1, 2004 (1,200 acre-feet) in exchange for this storage. This relinquishment will be effective on March 31, 2004 when there will be approximately 1,157 acre-feet remaining due to evaporation. This will leave Colorado with no credit in Elephant Butte and the Conejos intrastate credit of approximately 4,700 acre-feet. The Rio Grande started the year with an intrastate credit of 13,200 acre-feet and ended the year with a debit of 4,700 acre-feet. This was a result of diverting a few days too long in the fall of 2003 and not realizing that the return flows were non-existent during the later part of the fall to help make deliveries.

The release of water from Rio Grande Project Storage totaled 365,700 acre-feet. This is less than one-half of a full supply for the Project contractors. 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 was credit water owned by Colorado and New Mexico. This left the Project to start 2003 with a total of 71,500 AF of usable Project Storage. New Mexico relinquished 122,500 AF to Texas in March 2003 to ensure some storage in El Vado, provide minnow water, and help the districts below Elephant Butte. Project Storage ended the 2003 calendar year with 81,000 acre-feet of usable water. This past year was the 1st year in the last 24 years that the Rio Grande Project has not been allotted a full supply. New Mexico relinquished approximately 80,000 acre-feet in March of 2004 to Texas that eliminated the credit water they had in Elephant Butte Reservoir and to allow storage of native water in El Vado.

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. Colorado continues to take the position that the Conejos can re-regulate pre-compact direct flow rights in Platoro as long as they are released in the same season. The major Colorado reservoir affected is Platoro Reservoir. Project Storage remained below

400,000 acre-feet the entire year in 2003 and is likely to remain in that situation throughout the 2004 year.

New Mexico did not approve the accounting sheets for 2003 because of a disagreement with the USBR concerning the release of water accounted for evaporation off the credit water in Elephant Butte.

The Rio Grande Compact meeting was held on March 27, 2003, in El Paso, Texas. At that meeting, the resolutions passed by the Commission on April 22, 2001, were reaffirmed.

Costilla Creek Compact Administration

The Costilla Creek Compact Commission met in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on May 9, 2003. Once again, the Commission adopted the Watermaster Operating Manual drafted by the Engineer Advisers of the two compact States for operations during 2003. The Commission directed the Engineer Advisers to continue to review the manual for possible adoption at the 2005 Commission meeting.

It was possible to deliver the 1,000 AF to Eastdale before the irrigation season started. At the start of the 2003 irrigation season Costilla Reservoir held only 5,190 AF and the runoff forecast was 39% 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.

Luis Trujillo continued as the Watermaster without an assistant Watermaster for the 2003 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. With the Operations Manual and the spreadsheet administration has settled down to fairly routine affair. The Watermaster e-mailed a daily diversion sheet (most days) to the Colorado Engineer Advisor.

No Costilla Creek water made it to the confluence with the Rio Grande during 2003.

The New Mexico Hydrologist remains concerned that the Canyon Mouth Gage, operated by the USGS, is not correctly determining the stream discharge at this location. Colorado again reviewed the operation of the gage and inspected the station. Colorado still 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 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 13,413 AF to the Rio Grande in calendar year 2003. 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 18,854 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 121% 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. Currently there have been 18 wells that have been redrilled with good success but not enough have been redrilled to make any difference in the overall production of the Project.

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 40% for the Rio Grande and 60% for the Conejos early in the year and it remained there for the entire year. Of the 13,413 AF of creditable water delivered to the river, 8,048 AF were credited to the Conejos River and 5,365 AF were credited to the Rio Grande. The 15-year cumulative allocation expressed as a percentage of the total is 60.1% for the Rio Grande and 39.9% for the Conejos.

Project deliveries made during 2003 were as follows:

- ❖ 1364 acre-feet to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area
 - 800 acre-feet mitigation delivery
 - 564 acre-feet Blanca Habitat – San Luis Lake exchange
- ❖ 4,077 acre-feet mitigation delivery to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ 13,413 acre-feet (creditable) to the Rio Grande
- ❖ 18,854 acre-feet total volume

Reservoir Operations and Dam Safety

The position of Dam Safety Engineer for Division 3 (with concurrent responsibilities in Division 7) was filled in May of 2003, after being vacant for over 6 months. After nearly 10 years with the Division 1 Dam Safety group in Greeley, Dennis Miller transferred to Durango to fill the position. This arrival in the early part of the inspection season created a rapid-paced inspection season trying to catch up with the required work.

Dams within Division 3 were inspected according to the State Engineer's current policy of a 1/2/6-year frequency for Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 dams, respectively, except that all Class 2 dams were given a full inspection to provide familiarity with those structures. Also, several Class 3 dams which were due or overdue for inspection according to the 6-year frequency went un-inspected, due to time constraints and

difficult access conditions to remote, high-altitude sites. Altogether, full inspections were done on 10 Class 1 dams, 14 Class 2 dams, and 2 Class 3 dams within Division 3. Per State Engineer policy, inspections were not performed on federally-owned or operated dams, dams which are regulated by a Federal inspection program (e.g., FERC), or Class 3 dams owned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Follow-up inspections were performed on dams as considered necessary; altogether, follow-up inspections were performed on 3 Class 1 dams, 1 Class 2 dam, 2 Class 3 dams, 1 Class 4 dam, and 1 Non-Jurisdictional Class 3 dam to ascertain its status. Outlet inspections were performed on 3 major Class 1 dams within the 2003 calendar year; these included Sanchez, Continental, and Rio Grande Dams. The construction, operation, and inspection history of each dam's outlet system was reviewed in detail, and documented in a report, along with the results of the inspection performed. This involved a considerable effort in some cases to sort through the large volume of information and data and arrive at understandable and reasonable conclusions concerning each structure. Fortunately, the outlets on all 3 structures were found to be in good condition.

An outlet system which did encounter problems during the season was at Terrace Reservoir. During the irrigation season, the reservoir was drawn down to allow work to be performed on the west gate valve, which had previously been noted to have considerable leakage past it. As the drawdown neared the completely drained condition, problems were encountered with a large amount of debris, some pieces the size of logs, becoming lodged in the outlet's main regulating valve, raising suspicions about the integrity of the trashracks at the upstream end of the outlet tunnel. Once reservoir drawdown was completed in November, the worst suspicions were confirmed; the trashrack had failed due to structural overloading and was completely destroyed. This necessitated the design and construction of a new trashrack, which process was just getting started by the end of the 2003 calendar year. In addition to the debris problem, a considerable volume of reservoir bottom sediments was drawn through the outlet, fouling the Alamosa River channel downstream. This situation is discussed further elsewhere in this report.

Small repairs not requiring plans and specifications were performed on two dams within the Division during 2003. An old outlet operating platform was removed from the upstream edge of the crest at Humphreys Dam in February, and a new outlet intake structure was constructed at Soward #3 Dam, a minor, Class 3 structure. Both repairs were completed without incident.

Early-on in the 2003 inspection season, it was noted that the conditions and dimensions observed at a given dam during inspection did not always match up well with the record values in the dams database. To overcome this, a concerted effort was made during the inspection season to check all suspect data and appropriately update the database records. This was done for all dams inspected during the year, so all Class 1 and Class 2 dams, and some of the Class 3 dams, are now more accurately described than previously.

An additional effort was initiated, on reservoirs which are impounded by multiple dams, to create a separate database record for each dam, thereby increasing the number of dams of record within the division. This procedure ultimately allows separate evaluation of each structure for condition, hazard class, dam failure flood path, etc., giving a more accurate, descriptive portrayal of field conditions. This effort will continue as multiple structures are encountered.

Progress on development of acceptable high-altitude precipitation values for use in hydrologic analysis and spillway adequacy evaluation continues to be slow. As of the end of the 2003 calendar year, the direction this will take was still uncertain, although various alternatives were under consideration. Whatever course is chosen, it will likely have a very significant impact on dams and dam owners within Division 3. The large number of old structures in this division, all of which are located at an elevation above 7500 feet, and which were constructed long before the advent of modern hydrologic analysis, are not likely to be found anywhere near hydrologically adequate once the precipitation question is resolved and evaluation of hydrologic adequacy is resumed by the Dam Safety Branch. A very large workload is envisioned in this area, both from the standpoint of hydrologic review by our office and spillway upgrades by dam owners.

Stream Administration

Stream administration in Division III during 2003 was frustrating because the continuing low runoff and drought. On most streams we had less than a 50% runoff that has many effects besides just not being able to satisfy the demand by the surface users. Issues of no return flows, little or no recharge and general impacts of wells on the hydrologic conditions caused a continuing difficult set of circumstances for the San Luis Valley. The well owners got by, but in many circumstances, at the expense of the senior surface users. This issue continues to fan the flames for groundwater administration. The River Call table later in this report is very illustrative of the shortage of water supply throughout the basin.

Hydrography

The Hydrographic Branch in Division 3 has the responsibility of providing accurate 'real-time' stream flow data and historic record production for streams in and around the San Luis Valley of Colorado. This includes the Rio Grande and its tributaries, the Conejos River and its tributaries, and those streams tributary to the Closed Basin. The Hydrographic Branch also supports the water commissioners and other DWR personnel by providing services such as ditch measurements, seepage investigations, structure installations, water-related consultations, etc.

For the second year in a row, Division 3 experienced severe low flow conditions in most of its rivers and streams. Although not as dry as 2002, it was again a struggle this year to ensure that our stations collected reliable low flow data. Ironically, we also experienced floods at a few locations because of indirect effects of the drought. The very dry conditions of last year led to a major forest fire in June 2002 in the area above our South Fork of the Rio Grande gage. The loss of vegetation in this area, combined

with the creation of hydrophobic soils by the intense heat, led to several flash floods on the South Fork and the mainstem of the Rio Grande below the confluence with the South Fork. Due to the dry conditions in 2003, the flooding was relatively minor and little property damage was reported. Hopefully, the area is in the process of healing from the fire, and in the future we will not see the types of flash flooding as occurred this year.

In 2003, the hydros in Division 3 measured and/or developed meter notes for stream and ditch measurements over 1,090 times. These measurements were used to develop fifty-eight water year records of flow, which will be published in the Division of Water Resources annual streamflow publication. In addition, Division 3 also assisted in the development and reviewed records from three Department of Health stations, which will also be published in the annual streamflow publication. The hydros also developed nine calendar year records for use by the Rio Grande Compact Commission.

This year the state Hydrographic Branch and the Information Technology Group succeeded in developing a flow alert system to warn of high (or low) flow events. Division 3 has four stations that have been set up in the flow alert system. They are the Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap, The South Fork of the Rio Grande at South Fork, The Rio Grande near Del Norte, and the Conejos River near Mogote. All of these stations are set to transmit flow alerts when the gage height reaches a pre-determined flood alert level. When the height of water at any of these stations reaches the alert level, the computer system will send an alert to our Division office, to the appropriate District office, and to a specifically designated cell phone. Hopefully this new system will enhance our ability to provide flood warnings to those people downstream who might be affected, and to allow better management of flood flows.

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.

New Stations/Rehabilitations/Modifications

The cableway at the Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap gage was replaced this year. The previous cableway, constructed by the USGS approximately 10 years ago, did not meet our criteria for safety and had been condemned. Nearly the entire cableway, with the exception of the mass anchors, was replaced, making cabling at this site much safer.

The left mass anchor at our Rio Grande at 30-Mile Bridge cableway was also replaced this year. This mass anchor had been buried by improvements made to the nearby county road, and it was impossible to determine the condition of the anchor and associated hardware. A construction company was hired to dig up the old anchor and construct a new, much larger mass anchor that will dramatically improve safety.

Still another cableway was rehabilitated this year. This cableway was located at our Saguache Creek near Saguache gage. The existing cableway was in need of significant repairs, but instead of repairing the old cableway, a new bank operated cableway was installed. Although we have several bank-operated cableways in use in Division 3, this cableway, a 'Tacoma' bank operated cableway system, was the first of its kind that we had installed. It appears to be a very good system and we are looking to install several others in the next few years.

The concrete control at Carnero Creek near La Garita was rehabilitated this year. The



concrete weir had developed some small cracks in it over the last several years. During the very low flow periods this year, the entire flow of the stream was simply running through these small cracks, causing the gage to be isolated from the stream. Repair was made to the entire control. This repair should allow the control to operate properly for many years to come.

Flood Hardening

One of the larger construction projects undertaken this year was the replacement of our Rio Grande above the mouth of Trinchera Creek gaging station. This station was replaced due to the extreme deterioration of the old wooden shelter and well, and the fact that the gage was very near to the river. There was a concern that the gage may be washed away in very high flow conditions. As a replacement, an exposed aggregate

shelter and concrete well were installed. The new gage was also placed at a higher elevation and farther from the river to minimize flood damage potential.

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.

The current agreement between the State of Colorado and the USBR regarding the Closed Basin Project went into effect in October of 1999 and is set to expire at the end of September of 2004. The Division of Water Resources is currently in negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a new agreement for the next 5 year period.

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 2003, negotiations and litigation continued and the final appeals are in process and it is hoped that the sale can be concluded by the end of 2004.

The continuing impacts of the drought in 2002 and 2003 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 continued to be a force to be reckoned with although somewhat less than in 2002. The Rio Grande has remained virtually neutral during the entire year compared to normal condition of about a 5 to 10% gain in the system. There were relatively small diversions 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 again pumped in the Valley. The RGWCD Unconfined Aquifer Storage Study showed a loss of about 270,000 AF at the end of 2003 over the storage at the end of 2002. From the 1976 baseline the study area contained approximately 950,000 AF less water by the end of 2003. 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 and matching the demand to it is being recognized by even the most skeptical. Throughout the 2003 year

the RGWCD organized several meetings to discuss the impact of the drought on farmers and the aquifers, and to encourage conservation of the water resources of the valley. In early 2004, SB-222 was passed at least in part because of this well and aquifer situation and provides the State Engineer a mechanism in which to proceed if he thinks that well administration is necessary.

SB-278 was passed in 2003 and provided for a water administration fee to help fund the Colorado Division of Water Resources personnel budget after facing severe budget cuts. The process of identifying the water right owners was an incredibly difficult process and took a large amount of staff time. When the bills were sent out we determined that many inadvertent mistakes had been made and the process of boiling down the correct owners caused even more pain for everyone involved. So many complaints were lodged with the JBC that the recommendation was made by them to the legislature to repeal the bill. It was done near the beginning of the 2004 session and they found other ways to fund the Division.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

RGDSS

The Rio Grande Decision Support System project was a part of Division III activities in 2003. Some of the staff was involved in various aspects of the project, including the refining of irrigated acreage, acquiring GPS locations for various structures, surveying cross-sections of various streams and drains and attending the technical advisory committee meetings to help the modelers get the model set up right. The hydrographic staff continued monitoring and building rating tables for the new gages and DCPs installed in 1999. Peer review meetings were held monthly to thoroughly review the model as it neared completion. As of this writing the model is nearly completed and runs will be made to complete the rules that are due June 30th, 2004.

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 relinquished water (122,500 acre-feet) to Texas in March of 2003 in order to store water in El Vado. A portion of that water was dedicated to the recovery of the minnow as part of an agreement to get the final Biological Opinion approved by the USFWS. The minnow had adequate water throughout the 2003 season pursuant to the BO but a considerable portion of the river did go dry during the year below Albuquerque. The 10th Circuit decided that the USBR did not have discretion over the SJC water and ruled Judge Parker's ruling moot. The minnow population census in late 2003 showed the lowest number of minnows collected than at any time of previous sampling. This situation does not bode well for the minnow, particularly since 2003 is another below normal year.

Costilla Creek Compact Watermaster Manual

The Costilla Creek Compact Watermaster Manual was used throughout 2003 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, 2002 and 2003. The accounting module has been approved by the Engineer Advisers and the Commission in the present state to use in the future. The model is being refined on a continuing basis.

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

With the completion of the feasibility study, the Rio Grande Restoration Project is now in transition to implementation. The report in that study will be used to continue the project in 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 2003 the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD) relieved the new manager of her duties and the new Manager for the District, Mike Gibson will be responsible to oversee the project.

ON-GOING ISSUES

Water Court Activities

Forty-four cases were filed in the Division III Water Court during 2003. Of the forty-four cases filed, the CWCB was responsible for seven applications with filings for new in-stream flow rights on several streams in the northern end of the San Luis Valley. Filings for the right to divert water for recharge and irrigation use during the winter season were also popular during 2002 and 2003. All of these applications arose from Water Districts 25 and 26. 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.

Judge Robert Ogburn retired from the bench in January 2003. Judge Kuenhold replaced Judge Ogburn in water matters and Patti Swift filled the vacant District Court Judge position. Margaret "Peg" Russell continued as Water Court Referee. Carol Redding, a

long-term employee of the combined courts, retired from her Water Court Clerk position during 2003. Carol was replaced by Shirley Skinner.

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 during January and February of 2003. One case went to trial and the water right was determined to be abandoned by both the water court and the supreme court.

Case No. 98CW36, Sunshine Potato Flake, LLC involved a change of underground water rights from irrigation to commercial use in a facility near the Town of Center. This case was finally resolved in April, 2003. This facility was subsequently sold to Idaho Pacific who plans to enlarge the plant and production. This business should provide many jobs to the area and a demand for less than perfect potatoes.

Case No. 99CW47, South Fork Ranches, LLC involved a change of surface water rights for the purpose of establishing a golf course in the South Fork area. After much opposition and negotiation, the change was approved and the course is in operation. This brings the total number of commercial golf courses in the San Luis Valley to three.

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 2003. 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

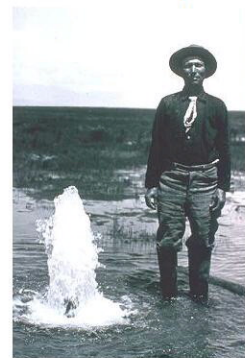
Corridor Plan, the RGDSS Advisory Team, Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model Advisory and Technical Teams, The Upper Rio Grande Water Operation Plan Review, The Rio Grande Headwater Restoration Project, and many other public forums which require input on water issues.

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 continued high in 2003 with over 572 exempt permits issued from the Division III office. The severe drought and drawdown of the aquifers continues to cause 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 many non-exempt wells are going dry or collapsing. These replacement applications require a through inspection and write-up to assure no expansion of use occurs. The State Engineer determined that no deepening of non-exempt wells would be permitted as this may be an expansion of use. Any applicants for deepening are advised to file a Water Court application.



Water Records and Information

The Water Commissioners 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 and 22 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 with the division fully using Hydrobase for diversion records. This program is an improvement over the old system and the Division appreciates the efforts of the programming team. Records production was delayed due to the pressing need to populate the SB-278 ownership database. SB-278 was particularly difficult and time consuming given that the ownership of thousands of wells in Division 3 had to be determined.

Abandonment 2003

Most of Abandonment was finalized in 2003. The Division Engineers' Revised Abandonment List was delivered to the Water Court on December 28, 2001. Division III listed 72 water rights on the Revised Division Engineers Abandonment. Protests to the abandonment of 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 protesters. In December



2002, a trial was held on abandonment of the remaining water right. The Court held that the water right was abandoned. This case was appealed to the Supreme Court who affirmed that the water right was abandoned. Two motions to re-open the abandonment case were still being reviewed by the court at the end of 2003.

Personnel Changes

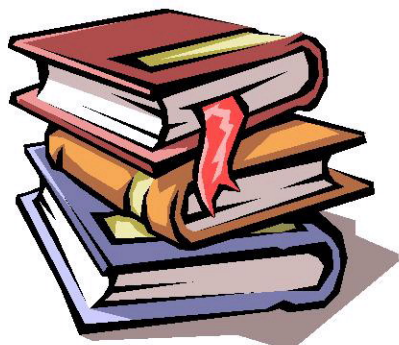
Paul Clark lead Water Commissioner for WD 22, the Conejos basin, retired at the end of 2003. Paul was with the State of Colorado for 35 years. He was with the Division of Water Resources for 21 years all of that time working in Water District 22.

Tim Lovato retired from the position of Well Commissioner in the Division 3 office. Tim was the Well Commissioner for 3 years. Previously he was the Water Commissioner for WD 26 the Saguache Creek area. Tim was with the Division for 28 years.

Wayne Williams retired from his position as Water Commissioner for WD 35 the Trinchera Creek basin. Wayne was with the Division for 14 years as Commissioner for that area.

Jerri Baker accepted position of Well Commissioner moving from the Program Assistant position. Jerri will be using her experience helping folks with well permits instead of the other myriad tasks associated with the PA position.

Training Activities



Training in Division III consisted of training on the new phone systems, new computer applications, budget changes and safety requirements for our employees.

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, the Division has been looking into cross-training younger water commissioners to try and keep the knowledge and experience within the Division. This cross training has paid off with the recent retirements. The Division relied on the experienced Water Commissioners to help carry us thru the times when we were short staffed.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Water Commissioner of the Year

Joe McCann was chosen as Water Commissioner of the Year for 2003 because of his efforts in providing consistent and diligent administration in Water District 21. Due to hiring constraints Joe had to handle this two-commissioner district alone during 2003 irrigation season. This required a significant time commitment from Joe. He had to learn the lower end of the district which has very complex delivery systems. He also manages to stay tuned in to the Summitville Technical Team and continues assisting the Division 3 groundwater section.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Water User of the Year

Mike Pollard was recognized as the “Water User of the Year” at the Fall Water Commissioner Meeting in 2003. Mr. Pollard was nominated for this honor because of the significant part he plays in the complex Trinchera Creek (WD 35) basin and the assistance he has been to the Water Commissioner in assuring the lower end of the system had the proper amount of water delivered. On his own volition Mr. Pollard reported to the Water Commissioner the gage readings and any anomalies in the flows. This assistance greatly helps in administering the Trinchera basin.

Water Manager of the Year

Carol Redding was honored as the "Water Manager of the Year" for 2003. Carol had the dual duty of Clerk of the Combined Courts and Water Court Clerk. She spent many extra hours trying to straighten out the water court files and processes in the Division 3 Water Court. After she retired she greatly assisted the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District by taking over as interim manager until they could find another qualified manager. She also returned to the district part-time to reorganize and clean up their financial, legal, and water accounting operations. The work she has done with the Court and the District has greatly helped the water community and the Division of Water Resources.

Reservoir Operator of the Year

Luis Herida was honored as the "Reservoir Operator of the Year" for 2003. Luis operates the Terrace Reservoir in Water District 21. Luis works well with the Water Commissioner and understands the priority system. He is quick to get to the reservoir or his headgates and make changes in outflow and diversion as requested by the Water Commissioner. He always maintains a congenial attitude towards other water users making working with Luis a pleasure.

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 2004.

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 continues to be important with the fiscal tightrope the State is walking. 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 Hydrobase.
6. Correctly issue well permits on a timely basis under the well permit decentralization program. This item will take an extra effort with wells continuing to go dry and with recent replacement of our well commission.
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 and leads to useful and administrable rules for new appropriations from the confined aquifer.
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 budgets that has been cut substantially over the last few years.
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 2004

The potential for another below average runoff is a real possibility as of this writing. At present, the May 1, 2004, forecast is being predicted at approximately 85% on the Rio Grande and only slightly higher on the Conejos system. This possibility following the drought of the last two years will only further complicate the problems we already have. Lack of streamflow and declining water tables and confined aquifer 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 the Promulgation of Rules and Regulations for new appropriations in the confined aquifer is likely to require additional staff time. Due to the general drought across the state the Division expects the rulemaking process to be somewhat contentious. Additionally, the Division expects the number of well permit applications to continue to increase as the continuing drought takes its toll on surface water and the groundwater aquifers.

A real concentration on quality water administration and record keeping will be one of the top priorities of 2004.

Dealing with the ESA issues downstream in New Mexico will be another major activity in 2004. 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 declining Silvery Minnow continues to effect water administration on the Rio Grande in New Mexico.

The administration of the two Interstate Compacts in Division III will be a major interest in our workload. After the past two years, 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 2004 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 these past years.

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 2003

The Rio Grande drainage continued to experience conditions unequaled in the history of the Rio Grande Compact. The second year of drought after the drought of record made it a very difficult water year for the water users. The Rio Grande index came in at about 48% of average. Both rivers under-delivered the Compact obligation using up almost all of the credit water stored in Elephant Butte reservoir. New Mexico reached accord with Texas on relinquishment of stored credit water late in the spring. This allowed New Mexico to store some water in post-compact reservoirs and generated enough water for the users below Elephant Butte to have a partial water supply.

The allocation on the Closed Basin Project was reversed giving the Conejos 60% and the Rio Grande 40% of the creditable flows. This allocation was used to try and bring the long term average close to the required 60/40 under the agreement between the two basins.

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 make the task of water administration and running our Division very difficult.

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 saga continues with challenges to the sale being whittled away by the court. Arbitration between the interests in the ranch quantified the value of the water rights at approximately \$640,000 smoothing the way for final closing and transfer of the ranch to the Nature Conservancy.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration 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 began in 2003 but was stalled when the project coordinator left in a management reorganization at the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District.

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 has delayed implementation of rules and regulations until June 30, 2004. The RGDSS team spent many hours doing peer review of the model and tying up loose ends.

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	420	61	103	18	31	4638	NF Los Pinos
20	920	Tabor	Trib Clear Creek	740	139	323	92	62	774	Cebolla Creek
20	921	Treasure Pass Ditch	SF Rio Grande	126	30	185	33	29	4669	Wolf Creek
20	922	Weminuche Pass D	Weminuche	501	16	64	5	31	4637	Rincon LaVaca
20	923	Williams Creek Squaw Pass	Squaw Creek	317	85	226	114	78	4672	Williams Creek
26	702	Tarbell	Saguache Creek	594	76	330	73	28	4656	Cochetopa Creek

B. TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY--OUTFLOWS

79	N/A	Hudson Branch Ditch	Huerfano River	118	36	356	48	35	657	Medano Creek
79	N/A	Medano Ditch	Huerfano River	575	49	444	40	35	658	Medano Creek

RESERVOIR STORAGE SUMMARY
IRRIGATION YEAR – 2003
AMOUNT OF STORAGE

WD	ID	RESERVOIR NAME	SOURCE STREAM	AF	MINIMUM DATE	AF	MAXIMUM DATE	END YR
20	3532	Beaver Park	Beaver Creek	2553	10/31/2003	4245	4/16/2003	2553
20	3536	Continental	North Clear Creek	1023	9/24/2003	5467	5/16/2003	1059
20	3554	Rio Grande	Rio Grande	3905	9/2/2003	19151	5/14/2003	4090
20	3558	Santa Maria	North Clear Creek	4141	10/20/2003	11132	11/30/2002	4170
21	3582	La Jara	La Jara Creek	87	7/31/2003	697	4/16/2003	252
21	3583	Terrace	Alamosa River	35	8/24/2003	3388	5/23/2003	43
22	3574	Platoro	Conejos River	7333	10/31/2003	13947	6/11/2003	7333
24	3576	Sanchez	Culebra Creek	7222	8/30/2003	13286	6/5/2003	11541
35	3529	Mt. Home	Trinchera Creek	244	11/1/2002	4407	6/26/2003	2000
35	3530	Smith	Trinchera Creek	14	5/12/2003	813	6/23/2003	25

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	212	92	47	28	7,764	9,940	320,885	22,671	318,989	182,489	1.74
21	62	39	3	4	965	2,867	57,354	2,709	39,513	25,848	1.53
22	122	0	23	4	1,636	4,898	186,984	3,691	180,806	85,072	2.12
24	73	7	3	12	384	4,485	57,980	8,591	72,415	28,108	2.58
25	72	49	8	9	666	1,678	46,949	0	45,397	14,767	3.07
26	43	110	12	8	1,393	1,842	21,394	0	21,012	5,450	3.85
27	10	30	6	5	1,263	516	5,079	0	4,285	2,017	2.12
35	75	5	37	7	622	5,300	61,655	5,095	43,025	20,466	2.10
TOT	669	332	139	77	14,693	31,526	758,280	42,757	725,442	364,217	1.99

WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES
RIVER CALLS - IRRIGATION YEAR – 2003

District	Most Senior Priority Curtailed	Most Junior Priority Served	Calling Right in Spring
20 Rio Grande	#144 Atencio #2 Ditch	1903-22D San Luis Valley Canal	#198 Rio Grande Canal
21 La Jara	#6 Garcia #1 & Le Mita #2	#87 Coddington Ditch	#19 Gallegos #4D Ditch
21 Alamosa	#1 Alamosa Creek Canal & El Veigo	#55 Cottonwood Ditch	#1 El Veigo Ditch
22 Conejos	#1 Guadalupe, Romero and Manassa	#189 Bosque Ditch	#24 Rincones Ditch
22 San Antonio	#4 El Coda	#194 8-mile Ditch	#4 Llano Ditch
24 Culebra	#12 Cerro Canal	1994 Fox Ditch	#12 Cerro Canal
26 Saguache	#5 Star Ditch	#19 Braun Bros Ditch	#9 Lawrence Ditch #3
27 La Garita	#1 Biedell #10 Ditch	#20 Home Ditch	#2 Biedell #10 Ditch
27 Carnero	#1 Omnibus Ditch	#18 La Mogote #2	#4 Omnibus Ditch
35 Trinchera and Tributaries	#3 Sangre De Cristo #3	#71 Garland Headgate #2	#30 Hannah-Thompson 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
WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES FOR VARIOUS USES - IRRIGATION YEAR 2003

WD	TRANS-MOUNTAIN OUTFLOW	TRANS-BASIN OUTFLOW	MUNICIPAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RECREATION	FISHERY	DOMESTIC & HOUSEHOLD	STOCK
20	0	11036	5510	358	0	0	1181	170	0
21	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	1846	0	0	0	0	4018	0
24	0	0	135	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	277	1275	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	303	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	800	0	311	14	77	0	0	61	0
Total	800	0	8446	1647	77	0	1181	4249	0

WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES
WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES FOR VARIOUS USES - IRRIGATION YEAR 2003

WD	AUGMENTATION	EVAPORATION	GEOHERMAL	SNOW- MAKING	MINIMUM STREAMFLOW	POWER GENERATION	WILDLIFE	RECHARGE	OTHER
22	5437	3	0	0	0	0	0	183	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	482
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	382	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1013	0
35	1344	0	0	0	0	0	0	372	18670
20	3172	909	0	2	0	0	7943	1803	4099
21	18	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16772
Total	9971	916	0	0	0	0	7943	3753	40023

Compact Administration
2003 RIO GRANDE COMPACT REPORT
Preliminary Figures

A. F.

1.	Adjusted Rio Grande Index	319,200
	*Adjusted Rio Grande Delivery	59,600
	Required Rio Grande Delivery	79,200
	Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
	Net Required Rio Grande Delivery	74,200
2.	Adjusted Combined Conejos Index	181,300
	**Adjusted Conejos Delivery	14,200
	Required Conejos Delivery	35,600
	Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
	Net Required Conejos Delivery	30,600
3.	***Total Delivery at Lobatos	73,800
	Total Required Delivery at Lobatos	114,800
	Less Paper Credit (See Compact)	10,000
	Net Required Delivery at Lobatos	104,800
	Margin	-31,000

4. Rio Grande Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 - March 16	100%	January 1 - March 16	100%
March 17 - April 3	7%	March 17 - April 3	7%
April 4 - May 6	5%	April 4 - May 6	5%
May 7 - June 5	4%	May 7 - June 5	4%
June 6 - July 14	10%	June 6 - July 14	7%
July 15 - August 11	4%	July 15 - August 11	4%
August 12 - November 14	0%	August 12 - November 14	0%
November 15 - December 31	100%	November 15 - December 31	100%

5. Conejos Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 - February 5	100%	January 1 - February 5	100%
February 6 - April 3	7%	February 6 - April 3	7%
April 4 - December 21	0%	April 4 - December 21	0%
December 22 - December 31	100%	December 22 - December 31	100%

*Includes 5,365 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

**Includes 8,048 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

***Includes all the creditable Closed Basin Project production (13,413 a.f.).

Water Court Activities
January 1 – December 31, 2003

Water Court Applications in 2003 - Type of Claim

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Underground Water Right	4	5
Surface Right	8	181
Storage Right	1	1
Plan for Augmentation	2	6
Exchange	0	0
Change of Underground Water Right	13	43
Change of Surface Right	1	2
Change of Plan for Augmentation	0	0
Injunction: Civil Abandonment	1	1
Verified Complaint	1	1
Petition to Correct Location	0	0
Finding of Diligence	2	4
Instream Flow Right	7	7
Diligence - Make Conditional Absolute	4	12
Total	44	263

Note- Some applications in 2003 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 2003

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Finding of Diligence on Conditional Rights	9	223
Cancellation of Conditional Rights	1	2
Conditional Right Made Absolute	0	0
Conditional Right Adjudicated	4	4
Surface Right Adjudicated	7	8
Underground Right Adjudicated	0	0
Decennial Abandonment	1	44
Protest to the Revised Abandonment	15	15
Plan for Augmentation Adjudicated	1	16
Change of Surface Right Adjudicated	2	14
Change of Underground Right Adjudicated	15	26
Change of Plan for Augmentation	1	1
Complaint for Declaratory Judgment Resolved	0	0
Complaint Resolved	1	1
Total	57	354

Water Court Activities January 1 – December 31, 2003

(Continued)

Number of Open Cases as of December 31, 2003:	80
Number of Cases Dismissed in 2003:	5
Number of Cases Withdrawn in 2003:	1
Decrees Issued by the Court in 2003:	<u>57</u>
Cases Closed in 2003:	63

**DIVISION III
ACTIVITY SUMMARY
2003 CALENDAR YEAR**

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Number of structures observed	1207
Number of surface rights	2884
Number of reservoirs*	343
Number of wells**	29358
Number of observations	31526
River measurements	991
Ditch measurements	104
Dam inspections	26
New water rights administered	37
Number of Augmentation Plans	84
Plan of Augmentation Structures***	1049
New Plans of Augmentation	1
Wells administered	29684
Active SSPs	4
Applications for decrees	44
Decrees issued by Water Court	57
Division Engineer Recommendations Filed	46
Water Court Appearances	167
Meetings with water users	455
Meetings to resolve water related disputes	73
Public assistance contacts	52354
Well permits issued	572
Miles driven by staff	210936
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

