

COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES



The eagle eyes in Division III inspecting a new well meter.

ANNUAL REPORT DIVISION III

**COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
ANNUAL REPORT
DIVISION III - 2006**

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Meter, meter on the well, anxiously we await what you tell...

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Water Administration

The year 2006 was a year with below average flows. The year started out with the lowest snowpack in 30 years. By March 2006 the snowpack was less than that of 2002 the lowest year of record. The Sangre de Cristo range was particularly hard hit with some basins having no snowpack. Late March and April snow saved the year from being a total disaster, however calendar total forecasts by June were still well below normal.

With a low projected annual index of 440,000 af on the Rio Grande the compact curtailments were kept low for the runoff. Then the rains began. Significant monsoons developed over the basin causing a rise in the final index flows. Of course the higher index forecast late in the year means a higher obligation under the compact. Unfortunately the rise in projected index came after the runoff so higher curtailment percentages were required late in the season to 'catch up' with the final forecast. Significant rains occurred in August and September drastically reducing the need for pumping wells, but also causing damage to alfalfa that had been cut but not bailed. October witnessed amazing precipitation in the basin. The instantaneous flows for the Rio Grande at Del Norte and the Conejos at Mogote almost exceeded the peak for the runoff. The total amount of water passing the index gages in October exceeded the totals for June.

While the October storms generated significant river flows, which raised the indexes, the Rio Grande and Conejos were able to divert much of this water. The late season precipitation also helped contribute to improved winter return flows.

The area involved in the "Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Unconfined Aquifer of the Closed Basin Change in Storage Study" lost approximately 35,000 acre feet in 2006. This was due to the low runoff and hot summer. The late season rains and attendant recharge probably kept the decline in aquifer levels to a minimum.

Streams on the Sangre de Cristo range had some of the worst runoff on record. Ute Creek near Ft. Garland had no runoff hydrograph at all. Again the mixed blessing of rains in August and September gave some relief from the low streamflows but caused the loss of some crops in the valley. Call records for all major streams are available in the table, River Calls, Irrigation Year - 2006.

Diversions for irrigation ended October 31, 2006 on the Rio Grande because of our status under the Compact. Diversions were shut off on the 1st of November, 2006 on the Conejos. While the October storm event caused significant late flows, a sharp drop in

the flows at the end of October indicated that the impact of the event was ending. However the precipitation and high flows significantly added to the alluvial system and the rivers continued to show gains for the rest of the year. The gain on the Rio Grande below Del Norte amounted to approximately 9000 af and on the Conejos about 6000 af. Colorado ended the year with 15,500 af of credit, which was allocated 9500 af to the Rio Grande and 6000 af to the Conejos.

Platoro Reservoir went into winter operation November 7th the day after the Restrictions under Article 7 of the Rio Grande Compact were lifted for the remainder of the year.

Rio Grande Compact Administration

As was mentioned in the previous section, the administration of the Rio Grande Compact was rather challenging in 2006. A snowpack worse than that of 2002 accumulated early in the year. Saved by a few precipitation events in March/April, the runoff was still pathetic. Late rains in August, September, and finally in October contributed extensively to the final index values. In June the projected annual index for the Rio Grande at Del Norte was 440,000 af. The precipitation events added approximately 130,000 af causing the Rio Grande to end the year with over 570,000 af indexed. The Conejos suffered the same fate. While appreciated, the precipitation caused such increases in index flows that curtailment percentages had to be altered on a constant basis to keep up with the impact on the indices. After the irrigation season was over the Rio Grande and Conejos systems continued to have significant return flows below the upper index gages which contributed to an eventual credit situation for the state. The San Antonio and Los Pinos rivers contributed particularly to the over delivery as these upper index gages, which are not counted against Colorado during the winter months, flowed all winter long.

Overall, Colorado started the year with an accrued credit of 4,600 acre-feet as of January 1, 2006 and ended the year with a total accrued credit of 15,500 acre-feet. Diversions on the Rio Grande started April 1, 2006 and ended October 31st. Diversions on the Conejos started mid-March 2006 and ended November 1st. The Conejos system started 2006 with 1,700 acre-feet of accrued intrastate credit. However, the inability to operate the gates at Platoro Reservoir in winter resulted in 400 af being stored despite the provisions of Article VII of the Rio Grande Compact. On the 31st of March, 2006, Texas agreed to a relinquishment of 400 af of credit in Elephant Butte in return for the water stored in Platoro.

The release of water from Rio Grande Project Storage in 2006 totaled 435,100 af. This is approximately 55% of a normal release for the Project. Usable Project Storage at the beginning of 2006 was 397,400 af, with 41,300 af of credit water additionally in storage. Useable Project Storage was 511,300 af at the end of December, 2006 with 41,300 af of credit water in storage (4,200 for Colorado and 37,100 for New Mexico). However compact accounting on January 1, 2007 will mean that Colorado will begin the year with 15,500 af of credit and New Mexico with 180,100 af of credit. This is due, again to the significant precipitation events in the lower basin wherein New Mexico delivered 273,100 af in excess of their obligation but was limited to 150,000 af for the year by the

virtue of Article VI of the Compact. Usable water in project storage on January 1 will be approximately 357,000 af.

Over the last 5 years, Usable Project Storage has been fluctuating above and below 400,000 af. Consequently, Article VII of the Compact has been invoked and lifted several times. Article VII prevents the upstream States from increasing storage in any post-Compact reservoir without relinquishment. The major Colorado reservoir affected is Platoro Reservoir. Colorado continues to take the position that the Conejos can regulate pre-compact direct flow rights in Platoro as long as they are released in the same season. Project storage exceeded 400,000 af on December 28, 2005 starting the 2006 season without a limitation on project storage. The limitation was again invoked on April 14, 2006 and lasted until November 6, 2006 when project storage was again over 400,000 af.

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 regardless of the status of Article VII. The Commission has historically opposed this action to no avail.

The Rio Grande Compact meeting was held on March 23, 2006, in El Paso, Texas. New Mexico did approve the accounting sheets for 2005 because the Rio Grande Compact Commissioners directed the USBR hold credit water constant during the year and calculate evaporation at the end of the year as Compact accounting originally occurred.

Costilla Creek Compact Administration

The Costilla Creek Compact Commission met in Alamosa, Colorado, on May 11, 2006. The Commission had adopted the May 5, 2005 Watermaster Operating Manual at the May 2005 annual meeting and directed the Engineer Advisers to continue to review the manual for possible improvements. The Engineer Advisers continued to look for methods to improve the manual during the 2006 season.

It was possible to deliver the 1,000 af to Eastdale Reservoir by April 11, 2006 before the irrigation season started. Direct flow diversions were then allowed prior to the irrigation season. At the start of the 2006 irrigation season, May 16, 2005, Costilla Reservoir held 12,281af. The Commission determined that, based on the low snowpack-forecast, there would be no surplus water would be available for the year. It was a poor year with reservoir water needed for irrigation needs.

Luis Trujillo continued as the Watermaster with assistant Watermaster Wilfred Lucero for the 2006 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 spreadsheets, administration has settled down to a fairly routine affair. The Watermaster e-mailed a daily diversion sheet (most days) to the Colorado Engineer Advisor.

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.

The Engineer Advisers were also tasked with reviewing the operations of Costilla Reservoir to determine if the three inflow gages need to be maintained or if Reservoir elevations are accurate enough to determine inflows for daily administration. The Engineer Advisers will be reviewing the 2006 data at the 2007 Engineer Advisers meeting.

Closed Basin

The Closed Basin Project delivered 14,304 af to the Rio Grande in calendar year 2006. All of the delivery met water quality standards for the Rio Grande Compact and therefore was creditable to Colorado's delivery to the Stateline. The Project produced a total of 17,935 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 108% 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. The USBR has tried various remedies for the problem, but has met with limited success. 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 41 wells that have been redrilled with good success. We are beginning to see a slight increase in the overall production of the Project due to these redrilled wells.

The Project was pumped at maximum sustainable capacity for nearly the entire year. Testing and rehabilitation of the contaminated wells reduced pumping levels at times and, therefore, the overall output of the Project. The Allocation Committee for the Project set the initial allocation at 60% for the Rio Grande and 40% for the Conejos early in the year and it remained there for the entire year. Of the creditable water delivered to the river, 5,722 af were credited to the Conejos River and 8,582 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 2006 were as follows:

950 af to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area
2,681 af mitigation delivery to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge
14,304 af (all creditable) to the Rio Grande
17,935 af total volume

Reservoir Operations and Dam Safety

See the Dam Safety Branch annual report for Dam Safety activities in 2006.

Stream Administration

Stream administration in Division III during 2006 was challenging due to the low snowpack and the oddly timed precipitation events in the basin. Early low forecasts for basin yields led to low compact delivery requirements and curtailment percentages. The weather again impacted the valley with virtually no precipitation in the summer causing streamflows to drop to well below average by mid-July. Surface water rights were severely impacted. Meanwhile the well owners continued pumping. Then heavy precipitation events in late August, September, and October occurred. The precipitation relieved the need to pump wells heavily during the traditionally hot and dry late summer and generated large streamflows and the ability to recharge some additional water into the aquifers. The net result was a 35,000 acre-foot loss in the unconfined aquifer study area. 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 III 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.

The Hydrographic Branch in Division III is staffed by four hydrographers. Long-time Lead Hydrographer Craig Cotton was promoted to Assistant Division Engineer in this division. Scott Veneman, a Hydrographic Technician has taken on the Lead Hydrographer duties while continuing to manage the satellite monitoring system for this division. The three other Division III hydrographers perform hydro duties as well as manage portions of the hydrographic program. Stan Ditmars, also a Hydrographic Technician, is the Division III construction manager, and Lee Conner, an Engineer-in-Training, is in charge of repair and maintenance of Division III hydrographic and construction equipment. Matt Hardesty, a Professional Engineer, was hired in September and is taking charge of construction design.

Division III operates and maintains 57 streamflow stations for which it produces streamflow records. From these stations the Division III Hydro Branch produces 59 published water year streamflow records and 9 published calendar year streamflow records. In addition, the Hydrographic Branch in Division III cooperates with the Colorado Department of Health to produce and publish 4 streamflow records of other gaging stations in the San Luis Valley.

In 2006, the hydros in Division III measured and/or developed meter notes for stream and ditch measurements nearly 1,100 times. These measurements were used to develop fifty-nine water year records of flow, which will be published in the Division of Water Resources annual streamflow publication. Division III also assisted in the development and reviewed records from four 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. In addition, several stations were operated as administrative stations with their flow records not being published.

Satellite Monitoring

The Satellite Monitoring System Repair Facility in Division III is responsible for 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. With the personnel changes in this division, most of the Satellite System responsibilities for Divisions IV and VII were adopted by David Hutchens from the Denver office.

In Division III, 77 gages with satellite telemetry are maintained, which includes 53 stream-gage record stations. An additional stream-gage record station is tied into the satellite telemetry network via a line of site radio-bridge to a station with satellite telemetry. There are currently only 3 stream-gage record stations with no satellite telemetry. Other stations with satellite telemetry include 6 stream-gage administrative stations, 11 stream-gage diversion stations, and 7 reservoir stations. One of the reservoir stations also transmits outflow data for 1 additional stream-gage administrative station. Of the 77 gages with satellite telemetry, 2 of them also have phone line telemetry. An additional 1 stream-gage administrative station that doesn't use satellite telemetry, but is equipped with phone line telemetry is maintained. DWR owns the data logger / transmitter equipment at 66 of these stations.

In addition to the everyday repair and maintenance duties, several other functions were performed by the facility. In Division III, the satellite system at Costilla Ditch near Alamosa had to be removed and re-installed due to new gage installation by the ditch company. A new HDR data logger / transmitter system was installed at Big Spring Creek at Medano Ranch, where there was no previous satellite system. An SDI-12 radio bridge was installed at this station to communicate with a new shaft encoder at the nearby Little Spring Creek at Medano Ranch station. In Division IV, one trip was made to Razor Creek above Vouga Reservoir to troubleshoot and repair system.

This year, in Division III, five more stations were upgraded to High Data Rate data loggers / transmitters. This brings the total number of DWR owned HDR systems in this division to 42. Since there are 66 stations with DWR owned satellite telemetry, the upgrade phase is nearly two-thirds complete. There are 11 stations with satellite telemetry owned by other entities. Only 3 of these have been upgraded to HDR.

New Stations/Rehabilitations/Modifications

New rock weir controls were installed at Cotton Creek near Mineral Hot Springs and San Isabel Creek near Crestone.

New inlets and a concrete well were installed at North Branch Conejos River near Conejos Colorado.

Gaging station shelters were installed on existing stilling wells at Big Spring Creek above Los Ojos Diversion at Medano Ranch and Little Spring Creek at Medano Ranch near Mosca in order to move electronic equipment above ground level. A HDR data logger / transmitter system was installed at the Big Spring Creek station with an SDI-12 radio bridge to retrieve and transmit gage-height data from the Little Spring Creek station.

The four foot Parshall flume at Big Spring Creek above Los Ojos Diversion at Medano Ranch was modified with a ramped insert in the throat of the flume to alleviate submergence problems and allow flume to pass the heavy sediment load.

The cableway cable was replaced at the North Channel Conejos River near La Sauses gage. The cableway cable and turnbuckle were replaced at the South Fork of the Rio Grande at South Fork gage.

Flood Hardening

There was no Flood Hardening projects completed this year in Division III.

Closed Basin

The Hydrographic Branch in Division III is charged with fulfilling the terms and conditions of a contract between the State of Colorado and the USBR. This contract 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. Specifically, the Division of Water Resources is responsible for the operation of the gaging station on the Closed Basin Canal, and the development of monthly and yearly streamflow records for this location. In addition, there are at least nine other locations on the Closed Basin Project area that are to be measured when the need arises.

The current 5-year contract agreement between the State of Colorado and the USBR regarding the Closed Basin Project went into effect in February of 2005.

WATER ISSUES

In June of 2005, the Division of Water Resources promulgated rules on the measurement of groundwater in Division III. Titled "Rules Governing the Measurement of Ground Water Diversions Located in Water Division III, The Rio Grande Basin," these rules call for the metering of all non-exempt wells over fifty gallons per minute located in Division III. The Rio Grande Water Users Association filed an objection to the rules. However, the Division was able to work with the objectors in working out concerns regarding the availability of meters, allowing variances under the regulations, and setting up standardized information forms for implementing the program. The Court ruled in favor of the rules in July 2006. The deadline for having meters installed on these wells is March 1, 2007. In May 2006, a class was held in Alamosa to qualify interested persons to verify the accuracy of well meters. Over 60 people attended the class assuring that there would be a sufficient number of installers to handle the large number of wells in the valley. To offset the well metering workload the legislature authorized seven additional FTE for the Division staff. Hiring efforts began as soon as the new fiscal year began. By the end of December the four field technicians and program manager had been hired. Two additional staff members, an Administrative Assistant and an Information Technology Professional, are to be hired in 2007.

The continuing impacts of the drought are 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. The incredibly poor 2006 snowpack caused much anguish early in the year. The low runoff and later high precipitation events caused multiple changes in compact curtailment over the year. Due to the low runoff there were lower than normal diversions into the Closed Basin again during the year. However, late season rains limited the normal heavy reliance on well pumping in the latter half of the season. The RGWCD Unconfined Aquifer Storage Study showed only a loss of 35,000 af in 2006. Compared to the 1976 baseline, the study area contained approximately 1,000,000 af less water by the end of 2006 and the trend continues downward. 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. 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.

For the last several years, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) has encouraged the formation of groundwater Subdistricts to attempt to manage portions of the aquifer system. These types of Subdistricts were recognized in SB-222. They would have as their goal to stabilize the aquifers associated with each Subdistrict and prevent injury to senior rights and restore the historic stream aquifer connection and promote a sustainable system. During the summer of 2006 the Court approved the formation of Subdistrict #1 located in the closed basin north of the Rio Grande. The petitions for formation of Subdistrict #2 (alluvium south of the Rio Grande) are being recollected for submission to the RGWCD for formal review and filing with the Water Court.

Additionally the formation of a Subdistrict in the Conejos area started collecting petitions in the latter half of 2005, and discussions have been had regarding formation of Subdistricts in the Saguache/San Luis area, the Trinchera Area, and the Alamosa-La Jara area. Absent some kind of entity and effort to address the impact of wells on the system, the State Engineer will surely have to step in and require some kind of administration of the aquifers to address these issues. The State Engineer is giving the well owners an opportunity to use SB-222 and address the depletion issues themselves but at some point will have to act.

SB04-222 was passed in the 2004 session of the Colorado legislature. This bill was the combined effort of the water entities in the valley to address the confusion revolving around the ability of the State Engineer to promulgate rules regarding well administration. It cleared the way for that to happen while allowing considerable flexibility to the state in addressing these issues. The three primary goals of any plan would be to restore and stabilize the aquifers, minimize injury to senior vested rights, and insure that the State can meet her Compact obligations. The bill recognizes entities like the Subdistrict outlined above, to provide a vehicle to address these issues within the valley without having the State come in and promulgate rules that would be much less flexible. The bill also recognizes the ability of the State to consider many different issues in the overall issue of management of the aquifer.

The State Engineer promulgated Rules and Regulations regarding new appropriations from the Confined Aquifer in 2004. Beginning in January 2006, trial was held on the merits of the Rules and Regulations and the model supporting those rules. The trial lasted six weeks. The Court issued its ruling in November 2006 affirming the rules and the underlying model. Indeed the Court opined that Sustainability will be the next great tenant in water law. That ruling has been appealed and may be reviewed by the Supreme Court in 2007.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

RGDSS

As noted in Water Issues above the Rio Grande Decision Support System project was deemed sufficient by the Water Court to support the Rules and Regulations for new appropriations from the confined aquifer as required under the RGDSS enabling legislation (HB98-1011). Work continues to refine and update the model as more data become available.

Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow continues to cause everyone on the Rio Grande in New Mexico 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 2006 year, with its low runoff, was not particularly kind to the minnow with what appears to be potentially low recruitment rates. Even late season rains did not seem to produce a spike in the population of minnows. The division was involved in the drafting of the

Silvery Minnow Recovery Plan. The draft was finalized in October, 2005 and submitted to the regional office of the USFWS for review. We await its release from the regional office.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

During 2004 the USFWS re-designated proposed critical habitat for the endangered Southwestern Willow flycatcher. In Division III the new designation included the Conejos River up to HWY 285 and the Rio Grande up to Del Norte. The Division and the RGWCD spent many hours providing comments on the listing to the USFWS. The RGWCD also formulated a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is designed to help maintain the habitat the bird needs. Additionally the USFWS personnel at the local wildlife refuges (Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges) spend considerable effort in assuring useful habitat for the species. As a result of the comment, the work on the HCP, and the Refuges extraordinary success in sponsoring the bird, the final designation of critical habitat (2005) did not include any land in Colorado. The RGWCD continues to work on the HCP to satisfy the USFWS requirements.

Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model

The Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model being constructed by the Federal agencies in New Mexico is basically complete. The Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers have used it for the accounting since 2000. The accounting module has been approved in its present state by the Engineer Advisers and the Commission for use in the future. The model is being refined on a continuing basis.

Alamosa River Restoration Project

The Alamosa River Watershed Restoration Committee obtained funding via a settlement with the parties involved in the Summitville Mine project. There are severe restrictions on the use of those funds. The Committee continues working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and an independent engineering firm to analyze the needs of the watershed and determine the best use of the acquired funds. The Division has attended scoping and planning meetings to provide input on the water rights implications of various proposed projects. The Committee has developed a list of projects which includes items from river stabilization structures, instream flows, to grazing management in riparian areas. The Committee is most interested in developing an instream flow in the reach using purchased water and storage in terrace reservoir. The Committee is preparing a funding request for Roundtable review to supplement the existing funding.

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 fund/start the project.

Groundwater Enforcement

The Division III staff continues to make concerted efforts to address numerous issues regarding the use of groundwater. Since there are no groundwater administration rules in effect, the staff has tried diligently to address issues of expanded use, improper use of wells on land they were not intended to serve and change of uses without confirmation by the State Engineer or the Water Court. Terms and conditions on permits, late registrations and decrees provide our initial guidance along with extensive aerial photo interpretation. These issues arise in various ways, but many find us without any effort on our part. The recent implementation of well metering rules has required that owners install meters on their wells. Staff inventory of wells and review of the installations and variances has generated a host of additional issues with respect to the current use of some wells. These are being brought to the attention of the owners so they have an opportunity to correct those problems either through administrative or court proceedings. Numerous issues, particularly in regards to expanded use come to our attention by people participating in the EQUIP program of the NRCS. With the Federal government's large cost share in this program, users have in many instances tried to add new acreages beyond that of a wells stated or historic service area. The delivery efficiencies of new pipelines, sprinklers and regulating reservoirs in many instances creates "extra water" that they want to take to new ground and dramatically increase the consumptive use of a wells production. There is little understanding that the increase in consumptive use in an over-appropriated system is detrimental to the entire area. NRCS staffs have in some cases not grasped the concept that conservation and efficiency cannot and does not create the ability to add new acres. It is very hard for many to understand that there is no water savings just because there may be less water pumped but the new system and its efficiency has increased consumption. We have met with the NRCS on numerous occasions and they now refer all potential "water expansion" applications to the Division office for review prior to NRCS approval. These efforts take considerable resources but are absolutely essential to us holding the line on overall consumptive use in the Rio Grande Basin. The Rio Grande and Conejos River systems are consumptive use limited pursuant to the Rio Grande Compact, and since the Basin is already over appropriated we cannot afford any new depletions to the system.

ON-GOING ISSUES

Water Court Activities

Twenty-one cases were filed in the Division III Water Court during 2006. The majority of the cases filed during the year sought a change of underground water right. Typically, the Applicant sought to adjudicate an existing alternate point of diversion or supplemental well or convert the historic use to a new use. Some of these have been filed in response to investigations under the well metering rules. The Division continues to oppose those Water Court applications that seek to deepen an existing non-exempt

well or construct a new alternate or supplemental point of diversion. Pursuant to Policy 2003-3, the State Engineer has denied well permit applications for deepening wells and/or construction of a new supplemental or alternate point of diversion. This policy has been backed by Statements of Opposition filed against such claims. A trial, scheduled to be heard in front of Judge Kuenhold during November, 2004 on this matter, was dismissed as the Applicant chose to pursue assistance with formation of a groundwater Subdistrict rather than defend his right to a change of water right in Court.

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 Kuenhold remains the Water Judge and Margaret "Peg" Russell continued as Water Court Referee.

Water Court casework during 2006 was currently assigned to 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 2006. 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.

The well metering staff attended many forums and put on public meetings in all areas of the valley to inform the community about the requirements of the new Rules and Regulations for Well Metering.

Additionally, the staff has given presentations to various elementary and high schools around the Valley. The Water Commissioners make themselves available and attend many of the ditch company meetings held in their districts. We have actively participated in the San Luis Valley Wetlands Focus Group, 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 Division staff have attended and provided input on the formation of Subdistricts under SB222 and in the development of service plans under the authorized Subdistrict.

The Division Engineer has been attending the Rio Grande Roundtable meetings as an adviser to the Roundtable. The meetings have been an opportunity to provide education on water issues to a large group of individuals with varied backgrounds and interests.

The Roundtable has begun to evaluate water project funding proposals for submission to the CWCB.

The staff of Division III participated in a number of public forums relating to water. The Division Engineer has also been involved in a number of conferences and seminars in the San Luis Valley concerning the drought including the Potato-Grain Conference, and the Adams State open forum on water issues. The level of interest is very high since 2002 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 been disseminated. Several voluntary actions are being suggested for well owners to reduce their draft on the aquifer and impact to stream system.

PERSONNEL/WORKLOAD ISSUES

Well Administration and Permitting Activities

The well permitting workload picked up somewhat in 2006 with over 395 permits issued from the Division III office, of these, 234 were issued after the July 1 fee reduction. As in prior years, much of the permitting is for new residences in the valley as well as replacement for older wells.

Pursuant to the Well Permitting Guidelines for Water Division III dated October 28, 1999, the Division staff continues to submit recommendations with all non-exempt well permit applications processed by the Denver staff. Many non-exempt irrigation wells were replaced during 2006 as aquifer levels continued their decline. Older wells continue to fail as casings rust and collapse and need replacement as well. A great deal of research goes into each checklist before it is submitted to the Denver office. Although this process is cumbersome at times, it allows the staff the opportunity to discover any discrepancies with the existing permits and decrees and prevent expansion of use.

Well Inspection program

The well inspection program continues to be an important part of the Division III operations. As noted above policy 2003-3, regarding deepening of non-exempt wells, would be difficult to oversee without a well inspector to physically review construction. The inspector continues to assure that exempt and non-exempt wells are constructed in accordance with the Construction Rules as promulgated by the Board of Examiners.

Water Records and Information

In this age of satellite uplinks and computer record keeping the Water Commissioners would not be able to perform their duties without the computer. 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 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 posted in all districts and are available in the division office. The division continues to look toward improving the daily sheets to better serve our users.

Diversion records went slowly but smoothly this year with the division again using Hydrobase for diversion records. With vacancies in the division senior staff the records review process was delayed. The division also participates in the Hydrobase team meetings in efforts to standardize record keeping and production. The Team has met several times and succeeded in reviewing the water rights tabulation system and the diversion information system. The Division saw some of the proposed changes to the data entry system during 2006, however, the massive database needs of the well metering program diverted the programmers during part of 2006 so not all the changes were in place by the end of 2006.

Personnel Changes

During 2006 the legislature authorized Division III to hire up to seven new staff for well metering. Additionally a PSRS position authorized during 2005 was filled in 2006. Finally previous retirements, promotions, and vacancies continued to cascade through the Division:

In February 2006, Mike Sullivan was formally appointed as Division Engineer. He had been acting Division Engineer since August 2005. Previously he was the Assistant Division Engineer.

In May 2006 Craig Cotten was appointed the Assistant Division Engineer. Craig was formerly the Lead Hydrographer in Division III.

Scott Veneman has been placed in charge of the Hydrographic Branch in Division III a reflection of his expertise, commitment and experience as a Hydrographer.

Matthew Hardesty was hired in September as a Professional Engineer for the Hydrographic Branch, taking over many of the duties Craig Cotten performed. Matt was formerly a Professional Engineer with Davis Engineering.

Rob Phillips was promoted to fill the new PSRS position in the Alamosa office. Rob was formerly the Lead Water Commissioner in WD22.

Corey DeAngelis was hired in September as a Professional Engineer to oversee and form the Well Measurement Group. Corey was a Professional Engineer and Principal with Davis Engineering.

Wayne Peck was promoted in October to Well Measurement Technician in the Well Metering Group. Wayne had been the Deputy Water Commissioner on the Alamosa-La Jara drainage. Wayne was extensively involved in Division III's off-season well inventory process for several years before his promotion.

Sam Rikkenbaugh was hired in October as a Well Measurement Technician in the Well Metering Group. Sam had extensive experience with irrigation systems and in operating a business with intensive organizational and customer contact requirements.

Steve Rivera was hired in December as a Well Measurement Assistant in the Well Metering Group. Steve has a degree from CSU in Wildlife Biology, has experience as a ditch rider and irrigator and is intimately familiar with the water resources of the Valley.

Richard Merrill was hired in December as a Well Measurement Assistant in the Well Metering Group. Dick is a retired Naval Officer with engineering and personnel management experience. After retiring from the Navy, Dick was involved as a principal in companies providing professional and technical services.

On December 31, 2006 Perry Alspaugh retired from DWR after 27 years. Perry was the Water Commissioner in charge of the La Garita/Carnero drainages and the upper Rio Grande.

Finally, in late December, Pat McDermott, staff engineer was posted to Division IV to become the Assistant Division Engineer, Pats incredible knowledge of the Rio Grande basin will be missed.

The promotion of existing staff to new positions has created a cascade effect where positions within Division III are still being filled into 2007. As of the beginning of 2007 Water Commissioner positions were vacant in WD22, WD21, and WD20. Credit belongs to Craig Cotton for drafting many of the new PDQs and in working diligently to hire the new staff and fill the vacancies.

Training Activities

Division III sponsored a Well Measurement training session in the Valley. The class was taught by the Division II Well Measurement Staff. We are thankful that Division II was so generous in "lending" their expertise and staff time to Division III to help launch the Well Metering program. .

Workload Issues

The workload issues have exploded in Division III with four major changes: implementation of Well Metering regulations, formation of Subdistricts, Roundtable activities, and Rules and Regulations Trials.

Well Metering: The simple hiring of staff for the Well Metering during the year added another layer of work for the existing staff. With the staff on board the program is running well, but has also placed a burden on the IT staff in the needed development of databases and programs for collection and use of data essential to the program.

Subdistricts: The formation of Subdistricts has required the Division Engineer devote considerable time to meetings regarding formation of Subdistricts, development of service plans, and water management plans. The Deputy State Engineer has also been working with the Board of Managers of Subdistrict #1 to assure that the provisions of SB04-222 are firmly addressed in their planning. The formation of two additional Subdistricts, projected for 2007 will add considerably to this workload.

Roundtable: The Rio Grande Roundtable meets monthly in Division III. The first meetings were spent in establishing protocols, rules, and bylaws. Since adoption of the bylaws, the Roundtable has been reviewing proposals for funding of water projects and 'becoming educated' on water issues. The Division Engineer attends all meetings, provides educational presentations, and attends/advises the subcommittee on water projects

Of lesser personnel impact to Division III, the trial on the Rules and Regulations regarding new appropriations from the confined aquifer had a huge impact on DWR in general. For six weeks the Stat Engineer, Deputy State Engineer, Water Unit Attorneys, and Modeling staff were in constant attendance at the trial. Their efforts are appreciated by the Division III staff.

Finally, as is true throughout DWR, the general workload continues to increase. The increasing complexity of water court cases, the impact the drought has had on well permitting requests and requirements, and the issues being uncovered as part of the well metering efforts have all contributed to the staff's workload.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Water Commissioner of the Year

Art Rivale was chosen as Water Commissioner of the Year for 2006 in recognition of his efforts in training Water Commissioners in Division III. In the last 6 years Art has trained three Water Commissioners who have all gone on to more responsible positions, a reflection of the excellent training Art has provided.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Ditch Superintendent of the Year

Mike Springs was honored as the "Superintendent of the Year" for 2006. Mike handles one of the most complex augmentation systems in the Rio Grande and is always in communication with the Water Commissions to assure that things are operating smoothly and correctly.

Water Manager of the Year

Raymond Price was honored as the "Water Manager of the Year" for 2006. Raymond has been with the Commonwealth (Empire) Canal for many years and runs the

extensive Empire system. Raymond's quick response to changes, willingness to help our water commissioners, and can-do attitude earned him this award.

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 2007:

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,
3. Implement the well metering rules and continue the process of building suitable databases and programs to effectively collect and utilize the information gathered through the program.
4. Implement the provisions of the Long-Range Plan.
5. Continue to develop and implement the quality assurance/quality control program for Division III assuring accurate present and historic diversion records, proper water rights information, current ownership/contact information, and continuing an accurate and efficient decentralized well permitting program.
6. Constantly improve the quality of our hydrographic and diversion records and meet all deadlines for the completion and submittal of final records.
7. Coordinate with water user groups, Roundtables, 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.
8. Work with CWCB, the SEO, and the consultants on the RGDSS project to update and refine the model.
9. Continue to implement Principal Centered Leadership.
10. Identify any problems with and improve water administration at every level in the organization.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Provide sound judgment and encouragement to the Subdistricts and well owners to move to a sustainable system that addresses impact to the surface stream and protects the river in all ways.
14. Promulgate effective rules that identify and address the issues facing this valley with regards management of the aquifers, senior rights, and our Compact compliance.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2006

The potential for a well-below runoff is a real possibility in 2007 with a consequent increase in public awareness of water issues. Division III staff will be proactive in providing water availability/diversion information to water users.

With the implementation of the "Measurement Rules for Groundwater Withdrawals in the Rio Grand Basin" meters are to be in place on all wells by March 1, 2007. Collecting, processing, populating databases, and utilizing the massive amounts of information, much of it in paper form, will present formidable tasks for the Division III staff.

Additionally the staff will be reviewing/drafting rules for post compact depletions above the Compact index gages for possible promulgation in late 2007 or early 2008.

Dealing with the ESA issues both in Colorado and downstream in New Mexico will be another activity in 2007. The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, which has critical habitat on the Middle Rio Grande, and the imperiled Silvery Minnow continue 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. Each 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.

The US Park Service filed an application at the end of 2004 to preserve and protect the aquifer under the Great Sand Dunes. This unique application claims all un-appropriated water in the aquifers below the dune mass. This application is being set for trial and will require some staff time in trial preparation toward the end of the year.

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. Also, the Reservoir is pursuing funding that could allow for repair of the gates and a potential expansion of the

- Reservoir. The Division is supporting these efforts as resolution of the gate issue and addition storage may significantly assist in water administration in the basin.
2. During extremely dry winter months as seen in the last few 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. We are currently working on an operating plan that would allow the use of a pre-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.
 4. 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 on several river basins in Division III.
 5. We are cooperating with the RGWCD and the well owners in the Valley to try and reduce the demand on the aquifer via the innovative SB04-222 legislation. This legislation allows for Subdistricts to develop groundwater management plans and “self-manage” groundwater issues under DWR review. In the interim, with the continuing decline in many portions of the aquifer, we are still urging well users to continue to reduce their pumping to the extent possible in their individual operations to jump start any recovery.

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 2006

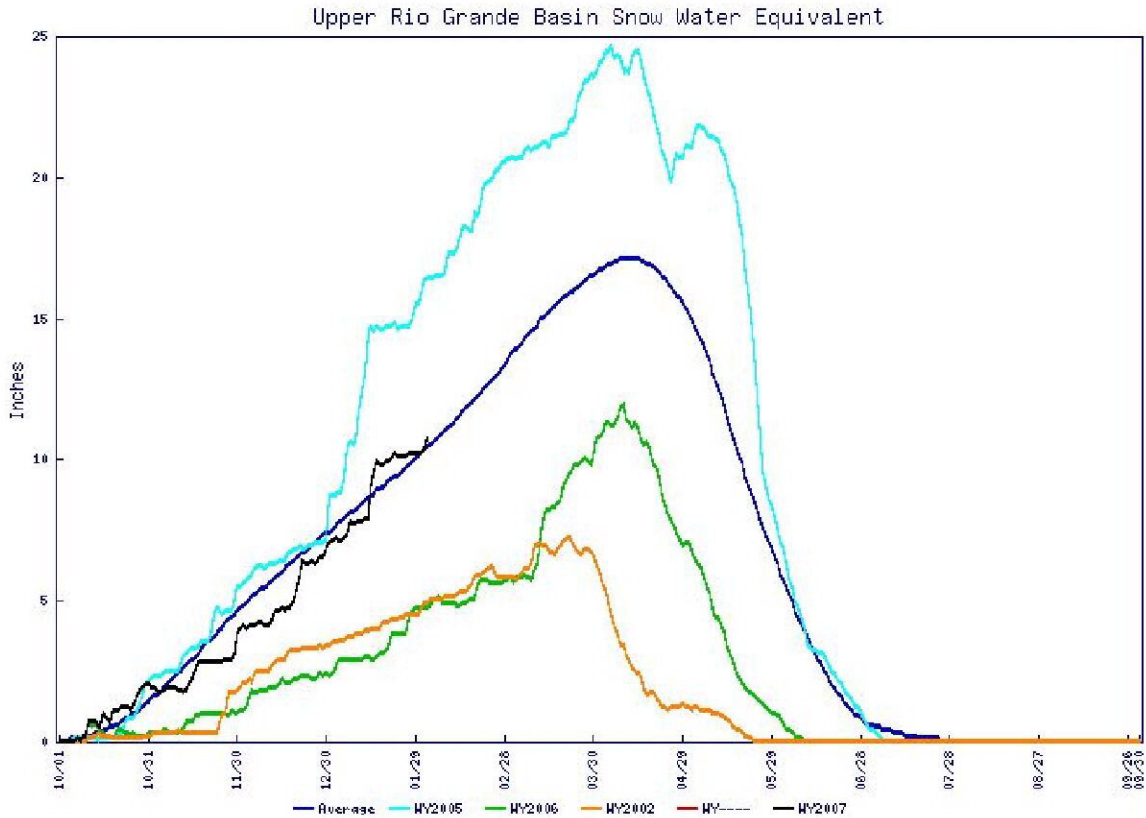
The trial and approval of the Rules and Regulations regarding new appropriations from the Confined Aquifer has finally solidified the moratorium on new appropriations that the State Engineer’s office implemented in the early 1970’s.

Approval of the Rules and Regulations regarding Well Metering in the Rio Grande Basin was another milestone in 2006. Implementation of the rules will allow for empirical data to be available to analyze the actual use of groundwater in the basin.

The approval of Subdistrict #1 (Unconfined aquifer - Closed Basin area) has allowed the water users in that area the opportunity to solve the aquifer overdraft and attendant impacts to surface streams in new ways. Rather than the administrative axe the owners will use economic means to self fund and purchase/retire water rights and reduce impacts.

The Rio Grande drainage continued to experience conditions unequalled in the history of the Rio Grande Compact. The very odd low snowpack and early runoff were partially compensated by late season rains which allowed for a reduction in pumping demand and additional recharge opportunities. It made for a difficult administrative year under

the compact and late season rains contributed to an over delivery of water for the compact.



The 2006 SWE (green line) was far below 2002 until March. Despite snow in March and April, the basin experienced a very early melt-out compared to average.



San Marcial Railroad Bridge – near Elephant Butter Reservoir

A. TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY—INFLOWS 2006

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	1	2	0	0	78	4670	Trib Piedra River
20	918	Don LaFont #2 Ditch	Trib Red Mtn Creek	12	7	0	0	78	4671	Trib Piedra River
20	919	Pine River	Weminuche	449	61	461	48	31	4638	NF Los Pinos
20	920	Tabor	Trib Clear Creek	772	141	835	174	62	774	Cebolla Creek
20	921	Treasure Pass Ditch	SF Rio Grande	177	37	72	19	29	4669	Wolf Creek
20	922	Weminuche Pass D	Weminuche	853	29	242	15	31	4637	Rincon LaVaca
20	923	Williams Creek Squaw Pass	Squaw Creek	378	95	359	121	78	4672	Williams Creek
26	702	Tarbell	Saguache Creek	734	81	231	36	28	4656	Cochetopa Creek

B. TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION SUMMARY--OUTFLOWS

79	N/A	Hudson Branch Ditch	Huerfano River	219	67	126	73	35	657	Medano Creek
79	N/A	Medano Ditch	Huerfano River	530	54	264	73	35	658	Medano Creek

RESERVOIR STORAGE SUMMARY
IRRIGATION YEAR – 2006
AMOUNT OF STORAGE

WD	ID	RESERVOIR NAME	SOURCE STREAM	AF	MINIMUM DATE	AF	MAXIMUM DATE	END YR
20	3532	Beaver Park	Beaver Creek	2709	10/31/2006	4489	5/23/2006	2709
20	3536	Continental	North Clear Creek	10	11/01/2005	3220	5/15/2006	1016
20	3554	Rio Grande	Rio Grande	5815	7/14/2006	25184	3/28/2006	9314
20	3558	Santa Maria	North Clear Creek	4563	7/31/2006	8021	3/31/2006	4592
21	3582	La Jara	La Jara Creek	1116	7/31/2006	1921	4/15/2006	1312
21	3583	Terrace	Alamosa River	3389	10/05/2006	8560	5/22/2006	3621
22	3574	Platoro	Conejos River	7030	11/17/2005	16727	6/13/2006	8192
24	3576	Sanchez	Culebra Creek	9916	9/18/2006	21429	4/17/2006	11900
35	3529	Mt. Home	Trinchera Creek	1429	11/01/2005	3045	6/09/2006	1873
35	3530	Smith	Trinchera Creek	230	9/20/2006	2527	4/03/2006	1080

WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES 2006

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	400	68	26	46		8520	543534	10780	551297	329389	1.67
21	77	17	7	3		3012	134249	5246	91362	52872	1.73
22	139	0	22	9		2636	218087	8986	206120	85467	2.41
24	69	2	5	13		1772	55338	11513	52717	21824	2.42
25	134	41	30	10		1389	39714	0	39495	10388	3.80
26	124	95	15	20		914	24082	0	23846	9765	2.41
27	19	24	6	9		360	9242	0	8475	3420	2.48
35	34	10	75	68		1097	18014	4607	12474	19947	0.63
TOT	996	257	186	178		19700	1042260	41132	985426	533072	1.85

WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES
RIVER CALLS - IRRIGATION YEAR – 2006

District	Most Senior Priority Curtailed	Most Junior Priority Served	Calling Right in Spring
20 Rio Grande	#203 Rio Grande Canal	1903-24F Farmer's Union Canal	#178 Rio Grande Canal
21 La Jara	#16 Jose Atencio Ditch	#59 Alamosa Ditch	#4 Coddington Ditch APD
21 Alamosa	#9 Valdez Ditch	#74 Weist D.and N. Alamosa D.	#1 El Viego Ditch
22 Conejos	#1 Guadalupe, Romero and Manassa	#190 Christiansen Ditch	#1 Romero Ditch
22 San Antonio	#3 El Coda	#194 8-mile Ditch	#160 Jackson Ditch
24 Culebra	#11 Cerro Ditch	1951-2 Lobato Ditch #2	#23 Guadalupe Sanchez Ditch
26 Saguache	#8 Lawrence Ditch #3	#23 Wall Ditch	#14 Hearn Ditch
27 La Garita	#8 Home Ditch #1	ALL	#8 Home Ditch #1
27 Carnero	#17 La Mogote Ditch #2	60B Omnibus Ditch	#10 Shown Ditch
35 Trinchera and Tributaries	#32 Seyfried	#51 Garland Ditch No. 2	#44 Beckwith 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 2006

WD	TRANS-MOUNTAIN OUTFLOW	TRANS-BASIN OUTFLOW	MUNICIPAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RECREATION	FISHERY	DOMESTIC & HOUSEHOLD	STOCK
20	0	14928	6627	371	0	0	814	161	0
21	0	0	72	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	1941	0	0	0	0	815	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	219	1545	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	179	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	390	9	272	2	0	0	130	6	0
Total	390	14937	9310	1918	0	0	944	982	0

WATER ADMINISTRATION DATA SUMMARIES
WATER DIVERSION SUMMARIES FOR VARIOUS USES - IRRIGATION YEAR 2006

WD	AUGMENTATION	EVAPORATION	GEOHERMAL	SNOW- MAKING	MINIMUM STREAMFLOW	POWER GENERATION	WILDLIFE	RECHARGE	OTHER
20	3791	197	0	2	0	890	3343	3828	12198
21	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	40798
22	1464	4	0	0	0	0	0	219	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	1545	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	649	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	767	0
35	5348	0	0	0	0	0	0	343	1
Total	10608	206	0	2	0	2436	3343	5806	52997

Compact Administration
2006 RIO GRANDE COMPACT REPORT
Preliminary Figures

	Acre-feet
1. Adjusted Rio Grande Index	570,300
*Adjusted Rio Grande Delivery	155,700
Required Rio Grande Delivery	151,300
Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
Net Required Rio Grande Delivery	146,300
2. Adjusted Combined Conejos Index	247,900
**Adjusted Conejos Delivery	71,400
Required Conejos Delivery	73,700
Less Paper Credit per agreement	5,000
Net Required Conejos Delivery	68,700
3. ***Total Delivery at Lobatos	227,100
Total Required Delivery at Lobatos	225,000
Less Paper Credit (See Compact)	10,000
Net Required Delivery at Lobatos	215,000
Margin	12,100

4. Rio Grande Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 – March 26	100%	January 1 – March 26	100%
March 27 – April 5	6%	March 27 – April 5	6%
April 6 – June 6	8%	April 6 – June 6	7%
June 7 – July 11	10%	June 7 – July 11	10%
July 12 – August 9	11%	July 12 – August 9	11%
August 10 – August 23	16%	August 10 – August 23	16%
August 24 – October 4	17%	August 24 – October 4	17%
October 5 – October 10	11%	October 5 – October 10	11%
October 11 – October 30	16%	October 11 – October 30	16%
October 31 – December 31	100%	October 31 – December 31	100%

5. Conejos Curtailment

Delivery Target	(% of Index)	Estimated Curtailment of Ditches	(% of Index)
January 1 – March 10	100%	January 1 – March 10	100%
March 11 – April 5	0%	March 11 – April 5	0%
April 6 – May 3	8%	April 6 – May 3	8%
May 4 – May 21	4%	May 4 – May 21	4%
May 22 – May 31	7%	May 22 – May 31	7%
June 1 – June 6	10%	June 1 – June 6	10%
June 7 – July 11	12%	June 7 – July 11	12%
July 12 – August 9	19%	July 12 – August 9	19%
August 10 – August 23	26%	August 10 – August 23	26%
August 24 – September 5	38%	August 24 – September 5	38%
September 6 – Sept 22	40%	September 6 – Sept 22	40%
September 23 – October 4	49%	September 23 – October 4	49%

October 5 – October 31	42%	October 5 – October 31	42%
November 1 – December 31	100%	November 1 – December 31	100%

*Includes 8,582 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

**Includes 5,722 a.f. of the creditable Closed Basin Project production.

***Includes all the creditable Closed Basin Project production (14,304 a.f.).

Water Court Activities
January 1 – December 31, 2006

Water Court Applications in 2006 - Type of Claim

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Underground Water Right	0	0
Surface Right	0	0
Storage Right	0	0
Plan for Augmentation	0	N/A
Exchange	0	0
Change of Underground Water Right	26	41
Change of Surface Right	0	0
Change of Plan for Augmentation	0	0
Declaratory Judgment	0	0
Petition to Correct Location	0	0
Finding of Diligence	4	10
Instream Flow Right	0	0
Diligence - Make Conditional Absolute	2	2
Total	32	53

Note- Some applications in 2006 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 2006

Type of Claim	Number of Cases	Number of Structures
Finding of Diligence on Conditional Rights	0	0
Cancellation of Conditional Rights	0	0
Conditional Right Made Absolute	0	0
Conditional Right Adjudicated	0	0
Surface Right Adjudicated	1	1
Underground Right Adjudicated	2	3
Injunction: Abandonment	0	0
Petition to Correct Location	0	0
Plan for Augmentation Adjudicated	1	1
Change of Surface Right Adjudicated	0	0
Change of Underground Right Adjudicated	0	0
Rules: Well Metering	1	N/A
Complaint for Declaratory Judgment Resolved	0	0
Complaint Resolved	0	0
Total	5	5

Water Court Activities January 1 – December 31, 2006

(Continued)

Number of Open Cases as of December 31, 2007:	76
Number of Cases Dismissed in 2006:	0
Number of Cases Withdrawn in 2006:	0
Decrees Issued by the Court in 2006:	<u>5</u>
Cases Closed in 2006:	5

**DIVISION III
ACTIVITY SUMMARY
2006 CALENDAR YEAR**

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Number of structures observed	1617
Number of surface rights	2890
Number of reservoirs*	343
Number of wells**	22627
Number of observations	34276e
River measurements	952
Ditch measurements	141
Dam inspections	32
New water rights administered	4
Number of Augmentation Plans	94
Plan of Augmentation Structures***	1065
New Plans of Augmentation	1
Wells administered	22627
Active SSPs	2
Applications for decrees	32
Decrees issued by Water Court	5
Division Engineer Recommendations Filed	11
Water Court Appearances	160
Meetings with water users	602
Meetings to resolve water related disputes	70
Public assistance contacts	53546
Well permits issued	366
Miles driven by staff	272,607
Professional and Technical Staff	10
Clerical Staff	1
Water Commissioner FTE (Full/Part-Time)	4/5.75

e: this number estimated due to variables in Hydrobase

* includes Non-Jurisdictional Impoundment filings

** includes permits

*** includes "domestic" wells under aug plans. # calc from Hydrobase & Welltools data.

