

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

1955

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:

December 27, 1956

Annual Report, 1955

Mr. C. C. Hezmalhalch,
Deputy State Engineer,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Hez:--

Inclosed please find my report for 1955. I remember reading it from a penciled copy, and telling Mr. Whitten I would mail him a typewritten copy at a later date.

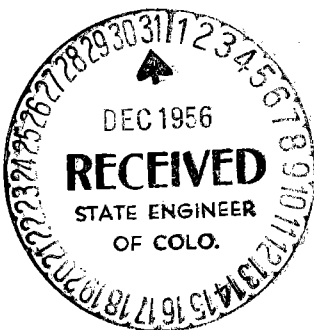
Since all I have found in my file is the original handwritten report, I must not have ever typed and sent in my report. I am therefor mailing you in todays letter a copy of the hand written report which I read last year.

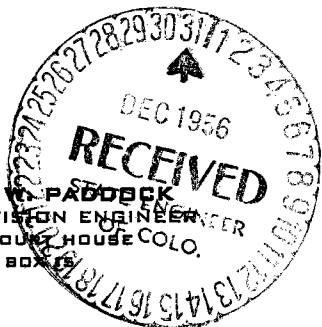
Frankly, I am still red behind the ears to find that I overlooked the report and typeing it after reading it.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Paddock
Frederick W. Paddock.

.....





FREDERICK W. PROBECK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 100
MONTROSE, COLO.

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

December 27, 1956

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

Mr. J. E. Whitten,
State Engineer,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:--

The following constitutes our annual report to your office for the year of 1955:

In general we had an extremely poor water year from the standpoint of available supply. The water supply was extremely short. Generally speaking thruout the run-off season the major portion of the streams ran off in such fashion as to mature grain crops and first cutting hay nicely. In as much as we entered the Month of May with good soil moisture conditions, the water shortage began to show up at the end of the period of the first cutting of hay.

In late June we had one good rain, and in August we had three very good rains. While there was some crop damage, it held flows more or less static. The extreme pressure for water came in September at which time several checks in the Division showed a flow of approximately 5 percent of flood flows, and 10 to 20 percent of flow we usually expect to see in September.

For example, we have seen the Uncompahgre River down to 25 or 30 cfs at Colona on two occasions in the past few years. This year it dropped to 10 cfs in September at Colona. A flow check on Leroux Creek showed approximately 3.00 cfs, which normally will produce 10 cfs at this same time. This cut back in supply took place in about one weeks time after the last rain.

Crops were excellent in Division 4 in 1955. Livestock came off the high range in excellent shape. Lambs, for instance, weighing out 95 to 98 pounds. Prices being what they are, many stockman and farmers are having a tough time financially.

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

WD28

In water District 28 there was a shortage of water in July and August. In view of what we have personally learned in the past few years, together with a study of past records we have arrived at the conclusion that reservoirs represent the only solution to the chronic shortages of water in this District. Mr. J. Roy Hicks is Water Commissioner and is doing an excellent job for the conditions he administers his district under. WD 28 is woefully short of adequate headgates and measuring devices. The water users prefer at present to do without water rather than correct the situation. This will be the last district in Div. #4 to request daily complete administration in the Division when that time comes.

In WD 40 this year, we got by very well for the most part. We had only two hearings before the State Engineer, and no suits. In June of 1955 the District Court ordered the local water officials to determine the capacity of the Slide Rock Reservoir. We placed a recorder on the Parshall Flume below the outlet conduit and checked the flow out. We also surveyed the capacity by transit stadia. Two years previously Mr. Leonard Kuiper Reg. Sur. had also surveyed the Slide Rock for capacity. We checked within 2.79 % with Mr. Kuiper on capacity by survey. We used a datum which differed by 0.3' in elevation from Mr. Kuiper.

The resulting capacity tables and capacity curves from hydrographic studies show that the water officials have over delivered storage from this reservoir for about 20 to 25 years. For some unknown reason to us, no one was even curious enough to demand any sort of reasonable effort to establish factually the volume of the Slide Rock Res. until the 1953 Gen. Adj. in WD 40 was signed. Due to leakage being so great it was not found feasible to determine any amount of underground storage. We know it exists, but not how much. When the court

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

issues its decree we will learn what the capacity of this reservoir is.

At present we are using the latest survey figures.

Mr. Robinson, Water Commissioner of WD 40 and myself attribute the let up in litigation and appeals largely to the excellent backing we receive from the State Engineer and his Deputy, and to you gentlemen we extend our thanks.

We are beginning to have more time to spend on the reservoir situation. Our campaign for gage rods, capacity tables and measuring devices in beginning to bear fruit. Specifically on Leronx Creek we will have to give you a detailed report, which is in preparation, together with maps, as it is too long and involved to be made a part of this one. Our entire problem is one of measurement and control of flows and storage. Satisfactory settlement will come only when all involved know that adequate measurements are made and reasonably good records are kept.

In WD 40, 339,096 Ac. ft. of flow was run and 40,162 Ac. ft. of storage was run for 1955, making a total of 379,258 Acne feet for the Season. The North Fork was the heavy producer with 67,292 Ac. ft. of flow.

In WD 41, little trouble was experienced. Mr. Dexter Walker, Water Commissioner, orally announced that it would be his last season and that he intended to retire.

We are progressing at a better pace now in solving our flow problems in the Uncompahgre River. We are getting better cooperation from the different Water Users as they are finding in some instances that they benefit directly in distribution of flows, which heretofor have been overlooked or incorrectly run. The water Commissioner and this office metered one flow of

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

10 cfs and in checking found it to be direct flow heretofore unmeasured or accounted for in the Uncompahgre below Colona; and from the source involved, runs a fairly constant flow. This is stopping an argument of several years standing. This winter we will prepare a map of the water district and divide the Uncompahgre into reaches, ^{of our} as a result of ~~our~~ part studies, and each reach will be checked separately in our determination of flows next year.

At present we do not know who Mr. Walker's successor will be.

In WD 42 we have a new Water Commissioner. As nearly as he and I can tell there may possibly be litigation pending on Kahnah Creek. We do not know why, so can only assume it involves users and no questions of administration.

We are obtaining control of a situation in WD 42 which has existed for some years, namely, the reservoir owners for a number of years on the North side of Grand Mesa have locked their reservoir valves and had their caretakers release flow under the expert guidance of the said reservoir owners.

Creek flows have varied from no flows to ^{very} chaotic flows. How the water officials have kept out of litigation over this we do not know.

We started off the 1955 season by putting a lock on a key reservoir after removing the owners lock on Mesa Creek. We then had the regular Mesa Creek Deputy unlock the gate, personally ~~witnessed~~ ^{witness} all turns of storage water by ~~the~~ Co. caretaker, and then personally ~~turn~~ ^{turn} all direct flows himself. There were a few complaints from the Board of Directors to the Commissioners but none to date to this office. We hear they have complained to your office.

On Bull Creek, we are informed, your orders are being complied with in regard to Beaver Reservoir Dam and its unfinished spillway.

An Engineer has been retained to draw up plans for rehabilitating of Colby Horse Park Reservoir Dam which was condemned by this office during 1955.

STATE OF COLORADO

IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4

MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

Restricted Storage, to an extent, which appears safe will be allowed in 1956 to prevent undue hardship. This Reser^{voir} is used for an exchange (storage to replace flow), for flow run thru to the South side of Grand Mesa by means of the Leon Reservoir Co. Tunnel. The Colby Horse Park Storage is used on the North side of Grand Mesa. The best figures we have to date are that we ran ^{least} at 54,671 Ac. ft. of flow and ~~at~~ 14,145 Ac. ft. of storage in WD 42 during the 1955 irrigation season.

In WD 59, Mr. Henry Koch continued instalation of measuring devices and headgates. On one day in September he found 180 cfs in two ditches entitled to approximately 75 cfs at the time. Taylor Park storage at that time was furnishing about 80% to 85% of the flow in the Gunnison at the point. They were releasing 600 Sec. feet and there was approximately 125 cfs ft. flow in the Gunnison. Roughly, we believe the project benefited 200 cfs by proper administration in 1955, during August and September. By allowing Taylor Park to commence refilling in late Sept of 1954, the Project was able to just fill Taylor Park Res. Water spilled for only 7 days. In 1956 it is intended that all users between Almont and the Gunnison tunnels shall have headgates and ^{measuring} ~~weir~~ devices meeting legal requirements, for the first time. We predict that ~~many~~ users are in for quite a shock when they learn what the truth ~~is~~ about the flows they are presently using.

On Ohio Creek there was not any administration and flows dropped to 30% of the amount needed to fill decrees adjudicated in 1906 (First Adj.). Storage use in WD 59 amounted to about 81,710 Ac. Ft. Flows are not computed to date.

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

WD 60

Some problems arose in WD 60, the most serious one in which theft of water occurred and we were unable to convince the District Attorney to prosecute. In addition to finding the water running in the wrong ditch, we were able to locate an eye witness. This did us no good however. This is a blow below the belt to the local Water Commissioner. I might add, ^a similar situation also occurred in WD 40 in another county, that is we could get no help from the District attorney, or his assistant.. There was about 7500 Acre feet of storage used from these reservoirs. Flows are not yet computed.

WD 61

There were no particular problems this year. Mr. Garber, the Water Commissioner, ran what water he had to distribute and so far as we know had no undue problems. He distributed about 7738 Ac. ft. of which 1690 Ac. ft. was storage. The majority of water he distributed originated in Utah.

In WD 62, Mr. Henry Koch, Water Commissioner, had a few problems as usual. This year they were caused by exceptionally dry or drouth conditions. Several Reservoirs need to be built in this area and they would fill. Users on Powderhorn Creek started rotating water on July 1st.

There was a total of about 1500 Acre feet stored in 4 reservoirs.

In WD 63--Due to the extreme drouth conditions, it was necessary to appoint the adjoining Commissioner in WD 42 as Commissioner and have him spend a few days in the Gateway Area on West Creek in Uniweep Canyon. Some users there are beginning to put in headgates and measuring devices.

Last but not least we get to WD 68 where they sue State and Division Engineers, but not Water Commissioners, for arbitrary and capricious conduct in office. We are very happy to report that the case was thrown out of court.

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 7, COURT HOUSE
P. O. BOX 15

SUBJECT:
1955 Annual Report

Very few other problems arose in this district however in 1955. There was about 800 acre feet of water stored in 11 reservoirs of which about 350 acre feet was used to irrigate with. About 240 acre feet of water came in thru the Red Mountain Ditch and about 2000 acre feet thru the Garnet Feeder. Also the Leopard Creek Ditch brought in approximately 900 acre feet.

In conclusion we will say that we are starting the current water year of 1956 with wet ground and heavy rain after an extremely dry summer and fall. Water users are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that good records and measuring devices teach us all a great deal. Some find that they are not using much water. Some find that extremely heavy use of water necessitates high priced drainage systems. Some are finding what the water officials have long known. That is, only storage will furnish dependable late season supplies of water.

On the behalf of both myself and the eight Water Commissioners in Irrigation Division #4, we thank you for your help in 1955.

Very truly yours,



Frederick W. Paddock

FWP:pg