

1956

STATE OF COLORADO

IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4

MONTROSE

November 26, 1956

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

SUBJECT:
1956 Annual Report

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

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit my annual report for 1956;

We have just completed a study of the flow at Colona Colorado of the Uncompahgre River for a 30 year period. We find some very interesting information. The average annual flow at this point was found to be 155,000 Acre Feet for the 30 year period. During the last 10 year period, we found the average to be 84% of normal. We also found that in 6 of the last 10 years the flow at Colona was below the 30 year average. One striking thing is that 1954 produced several thousand Acre Feet less than 1934. We shall continue our studies for what help it will be for the commissioners involved.

Crops on the whole were below normal in yield in Division Four this year, however, quality has been excellent for the most part.

Water District 28

One new storage reservoir was put in operation in 1956, on Razor Creek. This brought up a problem of water measurement not heretofore encountered by the water users involved. It was solved by means of parshall flumes and a few headgates. The State Game and Fish men very courteously removed beaver, after which Commissioner Hicks dynamited the beaver dams. Other than the above there was only ordinary routine administration in this water district this year. Mr. Hicks works too few days to make a report or keep records in his district.

Water District 40

There was unusual activity in reservoir construction and reservoir

rehabilitation in Water District 40 during 1956. We are at present completing those reports of inspections we made, which we have not yet filed with your office. The U.S.--S.C.S. men tell me that any information on reports they give me on reservoir construction under their supervision shall not be official. The S.C.S. will probably find that all written reports and letters from this office are official. The S.C.S. men have let me know that they are to be considered as having the last word on reservoir construction while our department is allowed the privilege of assuming all responsibility in case of failure. We informed the S.C.S. men that this office expects a certificate in regard to the performance on construction specifications, and whether they were followed or not, prior to us making any sort of recommendations to your office. To date we have received no reports.

Toward the end of the season we received a complaint on Dirty George Creek from direct flow users against the Granby Res. System.

Considering the year, there were few complaints from Water District 40. Mr. Robinson is doing an excellent job.

Water District 41

Mr. Dexter Walker retired as Water Commissioner and was replaced by Mr. Ralph Glendening. We feel Mr. Glendening has done an excellent job, as good or better than several of our experienced men have done. His background includes 6 years as a ditch rider on a Reclamation Project. With his help, we conducted measurements to bring our District 41-68 priority lists up to date. We have now completed this work and shall continue using the new lists until some later evidence may be had which will necessitate revising them again. In spite of the extremely short water year, we believe that the average water user is well pleased with Mr. Glendening's work. He is doing an expert job in his district. Mr. Glendening determined shrink in Benton Creek on Reservoirs, which had not heretofore been done, in Water District 41.

Water District 42

It was necessary to condemn two reservoir dams in Water District 42 early in the season. Commissioner Saunders enforced our orders to the letter, and as a result we feel he was very instrumental in causing the immediate repair of the two condemned reservoir dams.

Mr. Saunders, the Water Commissioner, is getting good cooperation from his water users at this time. His records are improving very rapidly. He has quite a domestic water problem. One of these days, at some date in the near future, the owners of decreed artesian wells in Water District 42 will rise up and demand administration. We had this come up three or four years ago, at which time we refused the protesting users service. There are three water bearing sands in Water District 42.

We hope a good ground-water statute will be passed in the near future. We believe it to be one of Colorado's immediate needs.

Mr. Roy Rennick, a deputy Water Commissioner, resigned this season and was replaced by Mr. George Pickens. While we were sorry to see Roy leave, we are very happy to have such a good man to replace him.

Kahnah Creek now requires annual administration. The towns of Palisade and Fruita are posing problems of double storage, and storage of priority flow, on the respective streams from which they obtain their waters.

Mr. Saunders tries to anticipate his hot spots ahead of time and be prepared in advance to handle them properly when they come up. He is doing an excellent job.

Water District 59

Mr. Henry Koch installed approximately 50 parshall flumes this season. The majority of them are 4' or larger in size. A survey of Mr. Koch's District 59 indicates that he saved down stream water users approximately 25,000 Acre Feet of storage from Taylor Park Dam alone. This does not take into account a very sizable amount of water he likewise distributed correctly from direct flow. Administration of East River was started during 1956. Administration of Ohio Creek will be formally demanded, we believe, in 1957 or 1958. Ohio Creek was so badly over decreed in the first adjudication that no account of its waters need be made with other streams along the Gunnison River. Mr. Koch is doing a very good job in this district.

Water District 60

Toward the end of the irrigation season, due to the heavy demand for water, the Gurley Reservoir was drawn down to a very low level revealing

two leaks. The two leaks have been repaired principally with a bentonite mix as recommended by your office. We are using grout to repair the outlet tunnel as it turned out to be the only economical way we could do it. When the work is finally completed this office will make you a detailed report of the same.

Mr. Sullivan, the Water Commissioner, had the usual problems in Water District 60 that all Commissioners have in a dry year.

The Sylvan Reservoir Dam has not yet been brought up to meet the Specifications approved for it.

Water District 61

In any ordinary year flow drops off to a point where there is water for the first 12 to 14 priorities. This year Mr. Garber had to shut back to number 4. For perspective we should keep in mind there are 59 active priorities. There are 6 or 7 irrigation wells pumping water from a depth of approximately 60 feet. It is the opinion of this office based on some personal knowledge and some other small amount of evidence that some or all of these wells are responsible for a part of this years shortage of water, due to lowering the natural ground-water table.

As in the case of Water District 42, we hope we get a ground-water code before too long. There was no appreciable storage in 1956 in Water District 61. Mr. Garber handles Water District 61 in a fine manner.

Water District 62

Domestic Water is beginning to be an annual problem in Water District 62, principally on the Blue and Little Cimmarron Creeks. Always we have the fellow who says, " You gotta give me stock water", and then tries to irrigate with it, and always he has to learn the hard way, by having to haul water. There are some reservoir possibilities in this district, but talk is as far as they get.

Water District 63

The people of this district petitioned us for a deputy commissioner to serve under Mr. Saunders. We do not recommend any additional help at this date in Water District 63. Mr. Saunders report shows 4609 Acre Feet run for the season. There is only one Creek involved, and all flow after July 1 is from springs. This makes for an extremely static condition. Reservoir water was no problem this year as there was none. Mr. Saunders

water users speak well of him in Water Districe 63.

Water District 68

We had a hard time with this district this year. For the fourth consecutive year we have received no report. Administration has been extremely poor and steps have had to be taken to correct it.

Conclusion

People in Irrigation Division #4 are becoming water conscious with a much different concept in 1956 than previously. We believe the past ten years of which six of them were drouth years, have brought this about. It is bringing a true conception of Colorado's water law and its basis home to all on the Gunnison River Shed. Our people realize now that one cannot live two or three counties away upstream and ignore his neighbor downstream. There no doubt will never by a 100 % agreement that this should be, but there will be a genuine majority. This makes for a better understanding of the other person's problem as well as your own.

On the behalf of seven water commissioners and myself, I wish to thank you for the help and service we have received from you and your staff.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Paddock

FWP:pg

1956 Annual Report
Irrigation Division No. 4
State of Colorado
Tabulations of the Water Commissioners Reports

Water District	No. of Ditches decreed in Water District	No. of Ditches Administered	Amount of Water in Acre Feet	Daily Amount of Water run in Second Feet	No. of Days Water was Run	No. of Acres in Water District	Hold-over Storage Nove. 1, 1955 Acre Feet	Storage June 1, 1956 Acre Feet	Storage Run 1956 Acre Feet
28	No record available due to insufficient information	182				29,253	None	500	500
40	1132	482	299,993	481	365	152,600		34,640	34,640
41	222	89	510,596	700	365	90,194	None	776	746
42	760	206	482,490	660	365	110,874	None	10,741	10,741
59	303	80	500,000 +	1170	214	45,430	42,000	107,206	100,206
60	265		86,200 +	202	214	41,386	600	8,820	8,820
61	14	14	5,944	13.9	214	6,291	None	None	None
62	200	76	320,680 +	750.0	214	28,570	None	6,756	6,756
63	81	48	4,609	10.25	214	2,300 +	None	None	None
68	310	No report from the Water Commissioner			365	21,188	No report from the Water Commissioner		
Division Totals	3479	1259	2,210,512	3917.15	365	528,086	42,600	168,433	161,233

• Subject to revision