

1757

STATE OF COLORADO  
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4  
MONTROSE

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

SUBJECT:

November 23, 1957

Annual Report 1957

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

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit my annual report. Generally speaking 1957 was probably the wettest year known for Irrigation Division #4. In checking with the water commissioners and with various persons in the farming and ranching game in various communities we learned that 1957 was too wet to give maximum production, and high quality in hay and grain crops. Stockmen tell us that lambs came off the high country ranges, and that while they were large in size, they were not fat; and that steers came off the ranges 50 to 150 pounds per animal lighter than usual. Rolling out an occasional head of grain, confirms that the grain kernels are not as filled out as they should be. We are therefore forced to conclude that an exceptionally wet year is good to fill reservoirs, and it is also good to alleviate water shortages somewhat; but on the whole it is bad for our communities.

Water District #28, there is no report, and no bills were submitted to us for work. It is our understanding that no ditches had to be shut off on the Cochetopa Creek and its tributaries in 1957. Water users regulated their own headgates as it suited them.

Water District #40 had an unusual amount of reservoir repair activity this year, as well as some new construction. In all we inspected four new reservoir dams and sites, and four repairs and enlargement jobs. There is no comparison between the jobs turned out now with carryalls and rollers, and the embankments that were put up by dump wagons and rollover type scrapers in the past. All of the work done in Water District #40 in 1957 appeared well done.

We are experiencing trouble with U.S.-S.C.S. personnel trying to write and approve their own specifications on reservoir dams. They even have a man bearing the title of State Engineer. In two cases some of their work has turned out poorly indicating wrong type of personnel or carelessness on their part.

So far as direct flow and storage were concerned this year, there were no conflicts.

Water District #41 had an unusual year. It is one of our most over appropriated districts. The water commissioner had no ditches to regulate--merely keep records.

Some new measuring devices will be installed in the lower part of the District near Delta prior to the 1958 season.

The Fish and Game Dept., Sweitzer Lake Reservoir Dam appeared in good shape this year. There were no drownings reported in it in 1957. So far there is no appearance of excessive leakage or other trouble. The outlet valve works are housed in a well-like structure where it is located. The commissioner has no lock and key for it, although he has requested one several times.

The Olathe City Reservoir was not visited this year. It was unnecessary to shut off the Gray's Creek Ditch to supply the Olathe City Reservoir in 1957. In any ordinary year this is always done.

Only a portion of storage of the two Buckhorn Reservoirs was used. The Little Buckhorn filled as usual, while the Big Buckhorn filled to within five feet of the spillway, the highest point of storage on record in 70 years. The operators used 61.6 Ac. Ft. of storage from the larger reservoir, and left the balance for 1958.

Many complaints were made about too much water. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users delivered 100% on demand to all users this season, excepting at a few points in their system where the supply ditches are too small to make such delivery. The reason for the complaints, of course, was the unusual and excessive rainfall.

Further figures reveal that the Uncompahgre River furnished about 46.85% of Normal at Colona in 1956, and in the irrigation season of 1957 it furnished 151.57% of Normal; 87,976 acre feet compared to 249,667 acre feet of this year's run.

Water District #42 experienced an excellent water year on Kahnah Creek and on Plateau Creek and tributaries.

There is, however, a small creek known as Indian Creek which has a problem. There have been several decrees written which unless studied over from the first one of 1912 to the last one of 1941 can be quite confusing. After finding the records straight and the priority lists in agreement this office made a written ruling, which while not satisfactory to either side has not yet been appealed.

The Callbran Project has been started. Once delivery of water has started under this project, there will be quite a few headaches for the Water Commissioner. The Bureau of Reclamation sold 25% more water than they will have available for delivery. Actually this is their problem, not ours, however we have had experience previously with the projects planned and built by the Bureau of Reclamation. They are quite prone to pass the buck when there is less than 100% of water for delivery. This is going to necessitate two or three more deputies in this district due to exchanges and filling of reservoirs with ditches on four streams. The reason I say this is because they will use four natural streams for carriers, in which there are numerous flow and storage ~~devices~~ decrees.

Water District #59 lost close to 50 headgates and 11 Parshall measuring devices due to high water. Mr. Koch, Water Commissioner, also reports extensive flood damage, to fields and crops as well as the above ditches.

North of Gunnison the Gunnison cut around and started running heavily in Clarks Stream, a minor branch of the Gunnison River, used with a headgate and measuring device as a decreed ditch for many years. We lost a gaging station on Willow Creek at Taylor Park. This is gage above Taylor Reservoir.

No water was run from Taylor Park Reservoir storage until 1st of October. Total storage is 107,000 acre feet, and is now approximately 90,000 acre feet.

This office and the Water Commissioner were called on to make two water measurements in a case involving two litigants. Measurement revealed 26 cfs. was being run to two parties of which one party was using 17 cfs. on 90 acres and the other party was using 8 cfs. on 300 acres. It is not surprising that this case was settled out of court.

While Taylor Reservoir is the principal storage project in Water District #59, there are several small projects. Officially we have no knowledge of storage being used in this district in 1957. All reservoir water run was released for the safety of the impounding structure.

Water District #60 had an exceptional year. Storage reservoirs all filled, all ditches ran a full head almost all season.

The Farmers Water Development Company became involved in three way litigation in 1956. It started out with five parties suing the company. A referee was appointed by the court, who questioned the measuring devices and registers put in under the supervision of the Water Commissioner. The referee admits that much to his surprise, the measuring devices do work. We are, however, going to have to require one new automatic register to replace an old one. This year things have changed-only three of the present plaintiffs are of the original five, and some thirty to forty other parties have been made third party interveners.

The Farmers Water Development Company now plans to make a new improvement by installing another or additional outlet pipe in the Dam of the Gurly Reservoir. No storage was used this year, and about 3000 acre feet were released in September, and October to relieve pressure on the dam. This was done voluntarily.

Due to the season there were no ordinary or usual conflicts or battles over water.

Water District #61 ran an unusually great amount of water. As you know it is a small district, and will for the most part run an average of 6000 acre feet of storage and flow. The Buckeye Reservoir filled to capacity of 3800 acre ft. and a little over 6000 acre feet of flow was delivered. It has been several years since we have had any problems in Water District #61. Commissioner Garber does an excellent job.

Water District #62 has the headgate of the Gunnison Tunnel in it. This year for the first time since the Taylor Park Reservoir came into use, no storage water was used. With a capacity of ~~1000~~<sup>980</sup> cfs., a flow of 500 to 550 cfs. was run a great deal of the season, thru the tunnel.

On the main Gunnison River there were four headgates and Parshall flumes lost due to flood water. The heaviest loss being to the relatively new Blackstock Ditch, which in addition to the headworks, lost an entire mile from the headgate down <sup>stream</sup>. On the second of August, 1957, there was 7 cfs. in this ditch running into it solely due to the elevation of the surface of the river.

The commissioner reports 7 large headgates in other parts of Water District #62, were also lost.

The Fish and Game Department have several reservoirs in this District which apparently they do not intend to get decreed. We have also recommended in writing that they file them with your office, with plans, which we learn has not been done. This is beginning to make administrative problems for us. This may in the future, however, make worse problems for them, however that will be their problem, not ours.

Water District #63 is a small District and is handled by Mr. Saunders, regular commissioner of Water District #42. He has done an excellent job, so well that any person in our department can go into this district and state that he is a member of your department and be well received. All he did was insist right at the start headgates and Parshall flumes for everyone--no exceptions. When his orders were complied with, it was found by all that with adequate spillgates and measuring flumes, all get a fair share of the water. Squabbles and complaints never reach this office now, as they did a few years back.

Water District #68 has a new Water Commissioner and we now get reports, at least this year at any rate. There were no shortages of water for this district this season, which in turn aids in furnishing water for Water District #41. We are glad the new commissioner, Mr. Howard Noble of Rigeway, had an easy year to start. Present appearances indicate next season should be easy too. We hope so. We are very happy he is getting off to a good start.

In conclusion we will state that our present eight water commissioners are a fine group of men to work with, and that their successes are our successes and their troubles our troubles. It has to be that way in order that they as well as myself are to be enabled to do a very successful job. This office can begin to see some tangible accomplishments in our Division #4, of which the Water Commissioners and myself are justly proud.

We wish to thank your office and personnel for your help and cooperation. A list of tabulations of the Water Commissioners follows.

Very truly yours,

*Frederick W. Paddock*

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Irrigation Division Engineer #4

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1957 Annual Report  
Irrigation Division No. 4  
State of Colorado

Tabulations of the Water Commissioner Reports

Water District	No. of ditches decreed	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
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28	No 1957 record due to Water Commissioner not working this season						29,253
40	1132	482	434,215	595	365	152,600	
41	222	89	547,204	750	365	90,194	
42	760	206	614,863	843	365	110,874	
59	303	80	576,320*	1345	214	45,430	
60	265	138	105,202*	246*	214	41,386	
61	46	14	6,654	15.5	244	6,291	
62	200	76	290,330*	677*	214	28,570	
63	81	48	9,074	12.4	365	2,300	
68	310	137	97,153*	199*	244	21,188	
Division Totals	3319	1270	2,681,015	4683	365	528,086	

\* These figures may possibly be subject to change at a later date.

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Irrigation Division No. 4 25-  
State of Colorado / 4  
Tabulations of the Water Commissioner Reports & 50-

Water District	No. of Decreased Reservoirs in Water District	No. of Reservoirs Administered	Amount of Storage June 15 Acre feet	Storage delivered during the season Nov. 1 acre feet	Amount of Holdover Storage
		2	No reports from Water Commissioner		
40	247	140	56900	27805	21128
41	6	4	724	724	200
42	100	50	13350	9455	4395
59	3	2	107500	none	90000
60	22	2	10800	2000	7800
61	none	1	3800	3800	none
62	6	5	1675	1075	600
68	12	10	930	510	420
Division Totals	396	219	195,679	45,369	124,543