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STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

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

November 20, 1958

SUBJECT:
ANNUAL REPORT
1958

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

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit my annual report for the water year of November 1, 1957 to October 31, 1958.

1958 appears to be at this date an average water year. Flows began dropping all over the Division at a heavy rate on or about July 10, and continued falling for the balance of the season, excepting for about one week during August, when it rained. So far as precipitation is concerned, we had probably, one of the driest years of record. There was no precipitation from the early part of April until the latter part of August, a period of about 150 days. To this we attribute the heavy decline in flows in July when it occurred.

WATER DISTRICT #28

There was some activity in this district requiring some services of the water Commissioner. The Hot Springs Reservoir Dam is beginning to cause users in Hot Springs Creek to be rather vigilant about Who and How water is used. Other than the usual chronic shortage of water on Tomichi and Cochetopa Creeks, which could be alleviated with storage water, the situation is normal.

WATER DISTRICT #40

There were a number of interesting happenings in Water District #40 in 1958. First, we will discuss the Overland Reservoir Dam, which still gives some trouble. The Board of Directors attempted to fill the reservoir contrary to orders of your office, as you soon learned at the time. This office, together with the water Commissioner and his Deputy, luckily caught the situation before it was out of hand and forced the release of the necessary overstorage to prevent serious sliding in the portion of the main dam, where the trouble spot is located. Because of the refusal of the Board of Directors to cooperate with us, we had to get somewhat heavy-handed. Our orders were appealed to your office and the protestants were stunned when we were upheld by your office. It appears that they had been assured that your office would not do so, by some third party. A rather crude attempt was made to fill and cover the cracks in the center of the crest with earth, (as the inclosed photograph shows.)

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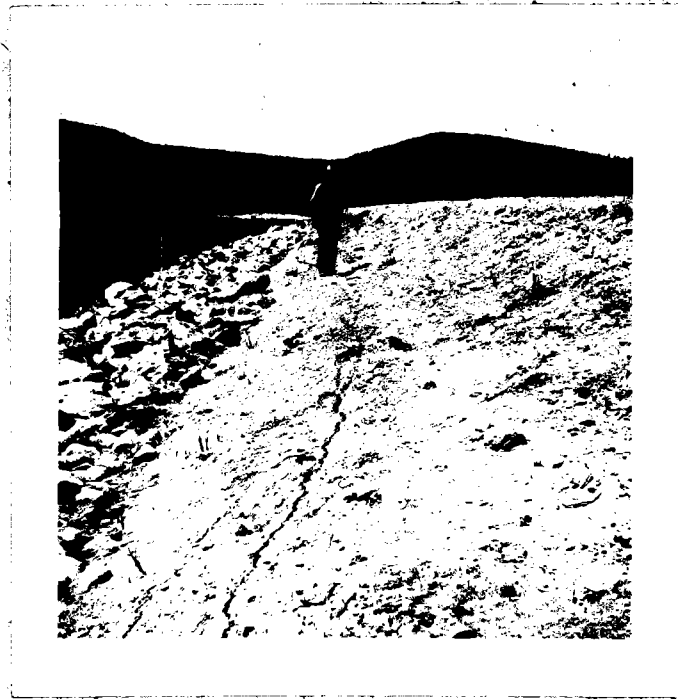
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According to Deputy Commissioner Brezonick, this, it is alleged, was done by an employee under orders from some of the Board of Director members the same morning you made your inspection. However the slide was progressing and it reopened by the time you arrived on the scene. (The second inclosed picture shows another crack near the water line some 200 feet or so in length.)



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There was considerable repair and enlargement work done on reservoir dams this season, principally the Y & S, Vela, Greenwood, Stell, Big Ward Lake and Granby #11, these all being on stream tributary to Tongue Creek.

The Gray Reservoir rehabilitation and enlargement on Leroux Creek was completed in August. The construction of the new Beaver Reservoir Dam on Minnesota Creek was completed in October. Inspection was also made on the Volk Reservoir Dam, which was enlarged and rebuilt, on a tributary of Muddy Creek.

The Y & S is the only one we had to turn down with a recommendation for restricted storage. The back slope was built on a measured slope of 1.36:1. Gage rods were not fixed rigidly in place. Slippage or sliding was beginning to take place on the back slope.

WATER DISTRICT #41

In this Water District, conditions were better for a normal or dry year, as one may consider 1958, than has been the case, excepting during 1957, in some five or six years.

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association was able to hold delivery of water to its users at a point of 70%. This contrasted with the fact that in several previous years delivery dropped to 50% on part of the project and 60% on the balance. A fairly strict following of the decree system for the two Water Districts #41 and #68, reveals that this 10% to 20% difference in delivery will result when the decrees are not followed.

This amounts to an average daily flow of 125 cubic feet per second for 60 days as best we can tell, or a total of 15,000 acre feet. This affects the people under one system, a group numbering 7000. It can readily be seen that close cooperation between the commissioners of Water Districts #41 and #68 is most important. There was one water user who refused to put in three headgates and measuring devices when ordered to do so in writing. Fourteen days later he changed his mind and now addresses the Water Commissioner as Mister.

WATER DISTRICT #42

It has been necessary to commence a program of straightening up administration of flow and storage rights on some stream in this district, and to commence forcing rehabilitation of neglected dams. We find that condemnation and heavy restriction of storage or complete denial of storage is the only method which appears to secure any results. We have condemned to following reservoir dams, Griffith #1 - #3 and #4 on Coon Creek, and Scales #1 and #3 on Kahnah Creek. Letters are out on the Griffiths and the principal owner of the Scales #1 and #3 has been notified in person of the situation. He or they will be further notified in writing latter. The Forest Service has cooperated in this district when necessary.

There is a great deal of interest in the Collbran Project locally. Commissioner Saunders has been notified by subscribers of the Collbran Project that he will be no longer needed when it is completed, on Cottonwood Creek and Bull Creek. When the subscribers start getting 73% of the water they signed up for on a 100% basis, we anticipate Mr. Saunders will for a while be somewhat more busy than usual.

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In removing a beaver dam from Griffith #3 this office and Commissioner Saunders got a good scare. The spillway started cutting back to the storage basin. Fortunately we ran out of water before we did spillway.

Filing of a 1914 decree ended with us, an administrative problem on Indian Creek, as it set aside a flow and storage right under a 1912 decree. For some reason the decree was never filed in our office.

In 1958 we will continue working on the reservoirs in need of repairs and rehabilitation. There is now a good road into Cottonwood Creek from Bonham Reservoir.

WATER DISTRICT #59

This past season of 1958 administration was extended up East River and tributaries, from Almont, North. We are so accustomed to hear the average farmer in this district state that his land is different, that it is underlain with gravel, and hence we were somewhat surprised to learn that the major lands in this area are almost all of this type, and requires lots of water. Some areas of this district have good soil which is reasonably deep. It appears that on the East River drainage there are more gravel beds with a thin layer of soil than possibly any other drainage in this district. Administration, it appears, by the strict letter of the law, will stop irrigation on 50 to 75% of the lands under ditches from two weeks to one month earlier than we are accustomed. This could, we believe, be countered by a change in methods of irrigation. This may take place. A system of rotation can be worked out with senior water rights. People in this district "cuss" each other but are pretty good about cooperating with one another.

We estimate Commissioner Koch saved approximately 35,000 to 40,000 acre feet of storage for Taylor Park Reservoir. Return flows of 75% to 80% do not obtain on the Gunnison River in late July and August, popular opinion notwithstanding. The saving was made by running flow by the decrees to the rightful owners, and by shutting down all flows in excess of their rightful amounts or junior in date of the 1913 decree for the Gunnison Tunnel. No call from Water District #40 at Delta was made this year for water to be run past the Tunnel.

Commissioner Koch discovered a ditch running water in late August with a very junior decree. As the ditch was carrying about 75 cubic feet per second, and its location was not known to him until August, 1958, he was quite put out about the whole business of running water.

Each year a few more headgates, spillways and measuring devices make it easier and better to run the water in this district. The water users of Water District #59 are becoming storage conscious.

WATER DISTRICT #60

In this district, removal of our recorder from the measuring station above the Gurley Reservoir in the filling ditch, and ~~requesting facilities~~ to make the measurements and records at the point of diversion, has eliminated our major administrative problem, for the Norwood or Wrights Mesa area. We have a minor problem on Hastings Mesa which presented no real trouble in 1958.

getting permission

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WATER DISTRICT #61

A new pipe line is in working order for domestic water deliveries. Exchanges between reservoir storage and flow have been made for those periods of time when there would be no flow available for the pipe line. There were no problems brought to our attention in 1958. It is a small but well run district.

WATER DISTRICT #62

There were no outstanding problems in this district in 1958 other than we were called in Lake City to make a report on the Flood condition in the spring season on two occasions.

The airport was damaged, as it was predicted, that it could be under some conditions. Extra money given the County saved all bridges and most road beds. This office has been requested to map the airport river area, by the County Commissioner, which we plan on doing in the immediate future.

In this particular district there was no water shortage, the principal trouble spots being Cebolla and Elk Creek areas. Runoff flows were reported more than ample by Commissioner Koch, for the 1958 season. Koch reports that removal of beaver from Powderhorn Creek resulted in an ample all summer supply for that Creek in 1958.

We made a trip to Lake City with Mr. Koch in regard to the Trading Post Well which was drilled with no permit. The request was in the mail when we arrived.

Along the main Gunnison River some trouble is being experienced in getting adequate headgates and measuring devices in the Andrews Ditches #1 and #2, the Browning, and the John A. Adams ditches. Written notice and action by statute will be resorted to by Commissioner Koch in 1959.

WATER DISTRICT # 63

Commissioner Saunders reports no special problems for this district. After getting headgates and parshall flumes installed on West Creek, there is water for almost all users. At about the lower 1/3 point on West Creek there is a contact line between granite from the Uncompahgre igneous uplift and the sedimentary rock downstream. We find a heavy flow of water at this point which will satisfy all priorities below this point. Some three or four ditches above must be regulated for one or two early decrees. As a result of unusual conditions almost no one has to do without some water.

WATER DISTRICT #68

In this district affairs were very quiet during 1958. Commissioner Noble started out on a program of getting worn out measuring devices replaced as fast as possible. He has had quite a bit of success to date. During 1959 he expects to have a great many headgates for his district replaced. By working very closely with Mr. Noble, we found that strict adherence to the decree lists permits a greater acreage in his district to be well irrigated than it has been in the past few years. 1957 did not require him to do other than keep records, and was his first year as Commissioner. In 1958 he was able to hold his district up to about priority 100 while giving District #41 the waters they were entitled to for the 60 day critical part of the summer. As 1958 was a season in his district where men are separated from the boys,

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he appears to us to pass with flying colors.

There is some awakening to the need of storage reservoirs by people in this district. From 5,000 to 10,000 acre feet would solve all shortages of concern. Two more seasons such as 1958 and Commissioner Noble should have everything running on a reasonable basis. His cooperation with Commissioner Glendening has taken quite a load from my shoulders, and has done more for good public relations in general for our complete department than I dreamed possible. No one likes to see his ditch shut off, however, if he knows he is getting fair play, he respects the situation.

In conclusion, we will state, we had an unusually busy season, as far as field work is concerned, right up to November 15. We had four more reservoir inspections to make when the last storm struck on Grand Mesa. In December we will complete the inspections left at lower elevations. We have about two weeks correspondence on dams waiting after completion of this report.

We have had quite a turnover of commissioners in the past ten years. We feel our present group is the best we have had to date. We wish to thank your office and its members for your and their help and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Paddock

1958 Annual Report
Irrigation Division No. 4
State of Colorado

Tabulation of the Water Commissioner Reports for Ditches

Water District Number	No. of Ditches in the Water District	No. of Ditches Administered	Amount of Water in Acre Feet Delivered	Daily Amount of Water run in Second Feet	No. of Days water was run	No. of Irrigated Acres in the Water District
No report from the Water Commissioner in 1958						
28	1132	482	373,868	512	365	152,600
40	222	89	653,237	895	365	90,194
41	760	206	516,761	708	365	123,576
42	303	29	392,040	775	240	39,204
59	265	138	93,078	233	200	41,386
60	46	14	4,177	17.1	244	6,291
61	200	76	410,328	789	244	21,657
62	81	48	7,904	21.7	365	2,300
63	310	177	85,000	238	200	25,513
68	3319	1270	2,536,393	4,188	365	532,411
Total for the Division						

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1958
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Tabulation of the Water Commissioner's Reports for Reservoirs

Water District Number	No. of Reservoirs in District	No. of Reservoirs Administered	Amount of Storage on June 15 in Acre Feet	Amount of Storage delivered during the season in Acre Feet	Amount of Holdover Storage November 1, in Acre Feet
38	5	2	2,775	410	No report from the Water Commissioner
40	247	140	56,900	44,536	12,364
41	6	4	724	60,984	None
42	104	60	33,832	13,171	None
59	3	2	106,700	60,270	47,030 Per use in 1959.
60	22	2	14,661	8,600	6,061 Major held over for winter power.
61	None	1	3,800	3,600	200
62	6	5	1,675	1,075	600 (City of Montrese Winter Supply)
63	4	4	468	422	None
68	13	12	859	439	420
Total for Division	410	232	222,394	193,497	66,675