

ANNUAL REPORT - IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 6  
For the year 1945

Steamboat Springs, Colorado  
November 30, 1945

Mr. M. C. Hinderlider  
State Engineer  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit the annual report of the office of Division Engineer of Division No. 6, for the year 1945, supplementing a preliminary report of October 30. Attached hereto are the tabulated lists of Water Commissioner's annual ditch and reservoir reports.

Water Supply

On the White, Yampa and Little Snake drainage, at all points, the run off was much higher than the average. The water content of the snow in the late spring months was far above the average. The snow cover on both the high and low areas were slow in melting in the spring. Later with a normal precipitation and good snow cover over the farming areas, the soil moisture conditions were exceptionally good. The stream flow was above normal and the summer flow of the rivers and all tributaries exceeded the normal and remained in a good stage throughout the season.

All reservoirs supplied from low elevation drainage areas, were full to capacity by May 1, some reservoirs at higher altitudes were not filled to capacity until late in June. It was necessary to turn some water through the Stillwater reservoir early in June to satisfy direct flow demands, however later in the month they were again allowed to store all the runoff at that point and it filled to 5244 acre feet, of which only 1262 acre feet were used during the season.

The average rain fall over the area, through the months of April to September was over 13 inches; this included 64 days of well distributed and beneficial rains except during the month of June, when the rainfall amounted to 4.30 inches, this together with freezing temperatures along the middle of the month resulted in the delay of all farming activities. Otherwise the past season has been the best in a number of years for a good general water supply.

### Seasonal Weather

Farming activities were somewhat delayed in April, due to subnormal temperatures and wet weather. In May the weather was much warmer and favorable for all farming activities, altho cool and quite wet.

June 16, 17, and 18 damaging frosts and freezing temperatures occurred, this together with above normal precipitation during the month, caused considerable delay in all farming activities, altho very slight permanent damage to crops resulted. July and August the weather was generally favorable for growing crops and early harvesting. Only slight damage occurred to the hay crop during the early harvest caused by wet weather and shortage of help. Through September harvesting conditions were generally favorable for all grain, vegetable and hay crops. Freezing temperatures and killing frosts terminated the growing season in most all areas on Sept. 8.

### Crops and Prices

With the exception of the first cutting of alfalfa, all hay crops were up to the average yield. Potatoes, grain and vegetable crops were generally above the average yield. Reliable reports indicate the farmers are receiving \$19.00 to \$24.00 per ton for bailed native hay, in the field, and \$12.00 to \$15.00 per ton for the same hay in the stack. Five thousand tons of the bailed native hay have been contracted for shipment. This will net the farmers concerned around \$100,000. The stacked native hay, regardless of being sold or fed locally is valued at a minimum of \$12.00 per ton and exclusive of District No. 43, where no acreage figures are available this native hay crop will run well over 300,000 tons. The average return to the farmer this year for hay will be approximately \$40.00 per acre.

Alfalfa, of which there is approximately 14,000 acres exclusive of District No. 43, is being sold at an average of \$20.00 per ton at the ranch.

About 4000 acres were planted this season in vegetable crop in District No. 58, this acreage consists of spinach, lettuce, peas, some carrots, cauliflower, cabbage and croccoli, of which it is reported a total of 436 cars were shipped, as follows: Spinach 286 cars; Lettuce 75 cars; Peas 5 cars; Mixed vegetables 60 cars. 1440 crates of carrots were shipped at \$3.00 per crate. Spinach ranged from two to two and one-half cents per pound. It is estimated that the returns to the farmer for spinach was \$130.00 per acre. Forty acres planted for spinach seed, produced 400 pounds per acre, valued at \$60.00 per hundred, or total returns on the forty acres \$9,600.

Lettuce prices through season at \$2.00 per crate. Potatoes and grain are principally a non-irrigate crop in this area, therefore unable to quote acreage total on these crops. However, some potatoes have been sold at \$2.00 per cwt. but the majority of the potatoes are

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being held for \$3.00 per hundred. Farmers are being paid at this time for No. 1 wheat \$1.38 per bushel; Oats \$1.75 per bushel; Barley \$1.75 per bushel.

Shipments of cauliflower were not heavy this season. This crop should have been planted about two weeks earlier to produce desired results. Farmers report all other crops either normal or above normal. Very little fall irrigation was needed this year. Some hail damage occurred to the vegetable crop in both the Yampa and Elk River valleys. On the whole, the past season has been exceptionally good; in fact ideal for the growing, maturing, harvesting of crops and prices received.

There are no proposed conservation projects of any consequence in this division, which are not already included in or under study by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.

There has been however, over the past year, approximately \$50,000 expended by individuals in construction of new canals or the enlargement and extension of those already in use, in order to bring additional acreage under irrigation and to insure water supply for lands already under ditch. The most important of these being the construction of what was originally filed as the Coal Creek Ditch which heads on the Yampa River and diverts water to the head of Watson Creek in District No. 58. The principal supply of said ditch being the water stored in the Stillwater Reservoir No. 1.

Very truly yours,

*B. F. Chase*

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Irrigation Division Engineer  
Division No. 6

TABULATED STATEMENT OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S  
ANNUAL DITCH REPORTS - 1945

Dist. No.	No. of Priorities Reported	Capacity in S.F.	Amount of Approp. in S.F.	First day water used from natural stream	Last day water used from natural stream	No. days water was used from natural stream	Average daily amount used in S.F.	Number of acre feet used from natural stream
43	No report							
44	67	582.00	405.54	5-1	11-1	58	307.50	37.196
54	41	112.00	111.62	5-10	9-20	47	160.43	16.664
55	No report							
56	No report							
57	54	416.00	301.28	5-1	9-23	63	244.66	52.435
58	<u>265</u>	<u>1516.60</u>	<u>994.67</u>	<u>4-1</u>	<u>10-10</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>871.35</u>	<u>151.152</u>
	427	2626.60	1813.11	4-1	11-1	62	1583.94	257,447

Dist. No.	No. of acres that can be irrigated	Alfalfa	Natural Grass	Cereals	Market	Potatoes	Peas	Pasture
44	26.636	10,552	3,965	1,080				
54	8.840	1,083	4,832	580		26		
57	16 243	1 680	10 762	39				
58	<u>68 642</u>	<u>1 159</u>	<u>39 420</u>	<u>3 527</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>16, 232</u>
	121.361	14 474	58 979	5 226	28	99	65	16 232

Dist. No.	Spinach	Lettuce	Cauliflower	Total Irrigated
44				15,597
54				6,521
57				12,481
58	<u>1,003</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>61,852</u>
	1 003	320	25	96,451

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL  
RESERVOIR REPORTS, 1945

Dist. No.	Number of Reservoirs Reported	Area of High Water Line (Acres)	Capacity in Cu. Ft.	Quantity of water in reservoir May 1 Cu. Ft.	Quantity of Water in Reservoir Nov. 1 Cu. Ft.	First day water was used.
43	No report					
44	No reservoirs reported					
54	2	32	18 791 232	9 156 216	3 830 066	7-20
55	No report					
56	No report					
57	13	318	149 302 794	135 194 434		6-5
58	<u>11</u>	<u>412</u>	<u>426 521 572</u>	<u>197 476 450</u>	<u>186 391 658</u>	<u>6-6</u>
	26	762	594 615 598	341 827 100	190 221 724	6-5

Dist. No.	Last day water used from reservoir	No. of days water carried from reservoir	Average Daily amount of water carried from reservoir in Cu. Ft. during season	No. of Acre feet of Reservoir Water carried during season	Alfalfa	Natural Grass	Cereals	Potatoes	Pasture
54	7-30	10	9.00	180					
57	8-16	43	10.63	1.703	230	475			
58	<u>8-15</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>41.92</u>	<u>2.177</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>375</u>
	8-16		61.55	4.060	345	650	60	12	375

Dist. No.	Total Irrigated	Description
54		All acreage reported under Ditches
57	705	Additional acreage to Ditch Report
58	<u>637</u>	" " " "
	<b>1342</b>	