

ANNUAL REPORT - IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 6  
For the Year 1946

Steamboat Springs, Colo.  
November 29, 1946

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

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith the annual report of the office of Division Engineer No. 6, for the year 1946, consisting of administrative activities, water supply, seasonal weather, crop conditions and attached hereto a tabulation of Water Commissioner's ditch and reservoir reports.

Administration

The administration of decrees in the several water districts was carried on through the season without any controversies of consequence with the water user. Some difficulties were encountered in District No. 43 due to the resignation of the water commissioner of said district at the most critical time. A deputy water commissioner, unfamiliar with the district and his duties, was called upon to perform the duties of the water commissioner under direction of the Division Engineer. One water user in particular on Piceance Creek took advantage of this remote control administration and inexperience of the deputy and made the already difficult situation more difficult by unreasonable demands.

This office received from the District Court of Routt County this season, findings and decree at a general adjudication in District No. 58 appropriating to 134 ditches a total of 454.00 c.f.s.

Water Supply

It was anticipated the seasonal runoff in the Yampa River drainage area would be about normal while that of the White River drainage area would be below average. The water supply in both water sheds appeared to be ample for irrigation during 1946. This proved true with few exceptions. Upon some important tributaries a very light and early runoff occurred. On Piceance Creek an actual shortage of water occurred at the beginning of the irrigation season; the shortage grew worse as the irrigation season progressed. Other tributaries to the White River west of Meeker, the water supply was below average. This was the case however on all tributaries to both rivers whose water sheds were under 8,000 feet in elevation.

Rapid melting of snow occurred during April, heavy runoff took place during April from lower elevations. The peak flow in streams from higher elevations occurred after June 1. The runoff was held back during May due to continual cold and stormy weather.

Reservoir water plays a very small part in the irrigated agriculture of the division. All reservoirs used for irrigation were full at the beginning of the season and the greater part of such storage was used. The Stillwater Reservoir No. 1, District 58, showed diversions ~~at~~ of more than double that used in previous years.

#### Seasonal Weather

The average minimum temperature in May, 29.8 degrees; seventeen days below freezing. The average minimum temperature in June 33.7 degrees; nine days below freezing. Last freezing occurred June 22; the first freezing temperature again about Sept. 15. Precipitation average in May 2.5 inches distributed throughout month; continual cold and wet, not suitable for farming. Precipitation for June totaled .65 inches, .157 of which fell on June 18, whole month otherwise warm and dry. July precipitation .71 inches, fair distribution scattered showers, entire month hot and dry. August precipitation 2.44 inches, which started on August 12th with .81 inches, balance of month wet weather. No beneficial rain occurred from June 1 to August 12, except June 18 of .57 inches. The total precipitation following for next 54 days amounted to .84 inches, scattered showers. The final result of the weather condition and a common complaint among farmers was that the past season was too cold and wet in the early part, then followed by weather that was too dry and hot during the growing season. Crop shortages are reported in all areas even though irrigation water was plentiful.

#### Crops

While the dry weather has made all crops somewhat shorter than usual, some of the first returns indicate that the yield will be heavier than expected on some crops, wheat for instance, shows yield to be 35 bushels to the acre or better, potatoes are showing average production.

Hay crop appears to be the hardest hit; about three fourths to one-half normal crop. Some hay already sold in the bail for \$22.50 a ton.

About 3,000 acres is reported in District 58 as being planted in various vegetable crops. Most spinach ground was planted twice; first crop with good results, second crop about one-half. Of the entire vegetable acreage, it is estimated that about a 50% crop was harvested on account of dry weather. The railroad reports shipping 256 cars Spinach; 90 cars lettuce; 45 cars mixed vegetables. A fair price was received for all vegetable shipments.

An estimated 50% of the vegetable acreage not harvested at all; reason given, weather too dry.

Very truly yours,

B. F. Chase  
Irrigation Division Engineer  
Division No. 6.

TABULATION  
WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL DITCH REPORTS, 1946

District No.	Number of Ditches Reported	Amount of Appropriation Ca. Ft. Per Sec.	Capacity of Canals	First day Water Used From Natural Stream	Last Day Water Used From Natural Stream	Average No. Days Water Carried From Natural Stream	Average Daily Amount in Sec. Ft.	No. Acre Ft. Used By Canals
43	48	584.08	698.90	4-15	10-1	72	356.86	141,123
44	85	443.68	592.76	4-15	10-2	60	316.00	41,180
54	42	Omitted	Omitted	5-10	9-15	46	153.00	14,810
55	No report							
56	No report							
57	47	299.18	406.00	4-5	8-29	73	189.69	36,543
58	260	1003.98	1558.50	4-1	10-20	91	836.23	182,288
Tot.	482	2330.92	3256.16	4-1	10-20	68	1861.60	415,944

District No.	Total No. of Acres that can be irrigated	Alfalfa	Natural Grasses	Cereals	Market Gardens	Potatoes	Pasture	Spinach
43	15,432	3615	8803	1334		10	170	
44	28,790	10228	4610	1670		10	170	
54	9,250	1185	5010	395		33		
57	16,279	1670	10150	179				
58	68,617	1082	38697	3976	1	159	10343	1118
Tot.	138,368	17,780	67,270	7,554	1	202	10,513	1118

District No.	Lettuce	Berries	Cauliflower	Total Irrigated	Remarks
43				13,752	About 30% Ditches reported. Report 90% complete Complete report " " " " " "
44				16,688	
54				6,623	
57				11,999	
58	728	25	15	56,144	
Tot.	728	25	15	105,206	

**TABULATION**  
**WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR REPORTS, 1946**

District No.	No. Reservoirs in District Reported	Area at High Water Line Acres	Capacity in Cubic Feet	Quantity of Water in Reservoir May 1. Cu. Ft.	Quantity of Water in Reservoir November 1 Cu. Ft.	First Day Water Used
43	No Reservoir Report this year.					
44	No Reservoir Report this year.					
54	2	32	18,791,232	12,048,688	3,830,066	7-1
55	No Report					
56	No Report					
57	14	319	149,609,812	149,402,794		5-1
58	12	417	429,047,570	240,170,055	82,483,300	5-13
total	28	768	597,448,612	401,621,537	86,313,366	5-1

District No.	Last Day Water Used	No. of Days Water Carried	Average Daily Amount of Water Carried in Cu. Ft.	No. of Acre Feet of Water Carried.	Alfalfa	Natural Grasses	Cereals	Market Gardens	Spinach
43									
44									
54	7-24	24	5.00						
57	7-26	45	9.16	823	130	435	100		
58	10-7	35	47.59	4,574		290	75		5
total	10-7	35	61.75	5,397	130	725	175		5

District No.	Lettuce	Potatoes	Pasture	Total Irrigated	Remarks
43					
44					
54					
57				665	
58		50		420	
		50		1085	

Acres given under Ditch Report  
5 - used for irrig. (9 stock water only)  
Addition to acreage included in Ditch Report