

Steamboat Springs, Colorado  
November 29, 1950

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

Dear Sir:

I herewith present my annual report for Irrigation Division No. 6 for 1950. Attached hereto are the tabulations of Water Commissioners ditch and reservoir reports.

While the supply of irrigation water from direct stream flow were short in some instances near the later part of the irrigation season, the overall shortages were only slightly under the average.

Snow accumulations recorded and forecasts as of May 1, were 115 percent to 120 percent of normal on Yampa and White river water sheds. Early runoff occurred followed by cool and dry weather through month of June. This dry condition continued through balance of the growing season with only slight temperature moderations. This condition created a much heavier than the normal demand upon irrigation water.

All storage reservoirs used for irrigation were filled by July 1, and first use of stored water for irrigation started on June 25 and continued, in some instances, through to October 9. First demand for direct irrigation was started on an extensive scale by April 15.

Deficiencies in temperatures and precipitation accompanied by above normal winds, made a combination detrimental to good crop production regardless of water supply. Subnormal temperatures were prevalent starting early in May and continued through June, July and August with

precipitation deficiencies for each of the said months. The average minimum temperatures and precipitation by months as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Average minimum temperature</u>	<u>Precipitation in inches</u>
May	28°	1.90
June	30.8°	.22
July	38°	1.27
August	$\frac{34.4^{\circ}}{32.8^{\circ}}$	$\frac{.40}{.96}$
Average		

September, both temperature and precipitation returned to about normal.

Most dry land crops, particularly as to grains, the yields were reported as low as 50 percent of normal. The irrigated crops averaged about 75 percent of normal.

Pasture and ranges suffered considerably due to the dry and cold period. The range conditions, however, were materially improved following temperature moderations and the return to normal precipitation starting early in September.

Harvesting conditions were favorable for all crops. Growers of the lettuce producing sections are reported to have taken a heavy loss this season, both in production and unfavorable prices. Operators in the Toponas area reported the crop is down 70 percent below normal this year due to unfavorable weather conditions. This crop has been selling for \$1.75 to \$2.00 per crate packed, as compared to \$3.50 and up to \$6.00 per crate previous prices. The shipping and packing operations were virtually on a non profit basis, the growers receiving just enough to compensate for cutting the crop.

Administration problems were numerous during the irrigation season but none serious. Good progress was made on new installations of Parshall flumes and new headgate construction and repairs to present gates. Also under the supervision of the soil conservation service a large amount of ditch cleaning and repairs were made.

Respectfully submitted

*B. T. Chase.*  
Irrigation Division Engineer  
Division No. 6

TABULATED STATEMENT OF  
WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL DITCH REPORT FOR  
IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1950

District No.	Number of ditches reported	Amount of appropriation cu. ft. per second	Capacity of ditches second feet	First day water used from natural stream
43	78	820.63	1045.00	4-15
44	97	471.73	548.00	5-4
54	50	109.28	275.00	5-15
55 & 56	No reports	--	--	--
57	57	307.18	253.00	4-19
58	276	1408.81	1669.28	5-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>3117.63</b>	<b>3700.28</b>	<b>4-15</b>

	Last day water used from natural stream	Average number of days water carried	Average daily amount carried in second feet	Number of acre feet used
43	10-30	76	463.10	139,725
44	10-9	70	346.86	50,232
54	10-1	50	148.00	16,240
57	10-26	75	180.60	41,068
58	11-1	72	1027.55	175,924
<b>Total</b>	<b>11-1</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>2166.11</b>	<b>423,189</b>

	Number of acres that can be irrigated	Natural			Market gardens
		Alfalfa	grasses	Cereals	
43	21,398	6398	10,748	3772	----
44	30,427	5815	10,363	2505	12
54	10,450	750	5,785	450	----
57	16,681	930	9,439	1845	----
58	69,098	971	41,408	3565	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,054</b>	<b>14,864</b>	<b>77,743</b>	<b>12,137</b>	<b>20</b>

	Potatoes	Pasture	Spinach	Lettuce	Total irrigated
43	----	----	----	----	20,918
44	----	----	----	----	18,695
54	27	----	----	----	7,010
57	----	----	----	----	12,214
58	88	10,466	955	660	58,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>10,466</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>116,960</b>

TABULATED STATEMENT OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR  
REPORT FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1950

District No.	Number of reservoirs reported	Area of high water line acres	Total capacity cubic feet	Quantity of water in reservoir May 1, cu. ft.
43	No reservoirs reported			
44	11	174	63,176,128	44,724,928
54	2	32	18,791,232	15,859,416
55 & 56	No reports			
57	14	363	149,226,694	65,048,741
58	12	366	401,671,132	397,625,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>632,865,186</b>	<b>523,258,562</b>

	Quantity of water in reservoir Nov.1, cu.ft.	First day water was used	Last day water was used	Average number of days water carried
44	000	5-8	9-8	94
54	3,703,066	7-20	8-15	25
57	000	6-22	9-3	59
58	133,795,887	6-25	11-1	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,493,953</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>11-1</b>	<b>54</b>

	Average daily amount carried cubic feet per sec.	Number of acre feet reservoir water carried	Alfalfa	Natural grasses	Cereals
44	12.50	2,614	----	1,160	----
54	6.00	300	----	----	----
57	7.50	1,383	40	260	160
58	73.85	6,478	----	----	----
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.85</b>	<b>10,775</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>160</b>

	Total irrigated	Remarks
44	1,160	in addition to that reported on ditch report.
54	----	supplemental supply to Riley Live Stock ditch.
57	460	three reservoirs only used for irrigation.
58	----	All acreage reported under the several ditches in the ditch report, this water was used as supplemental supply to approximately 3500 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,620</b>	