



**STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 6
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

B. T. CHASE
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER

November 28, 1955

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

Dear Sir:

I herewith present my annual report for Irrigation Division No. 6 for 1955.

Attached hereto are tabulated statements of water commissioner's ditch and reservoir reports.

The run-off and water supply for direct irrigation was again below normal and was less than that of 1954.

No overall serious consequences resulted by shortages of irrigation water. It is estimated that the total final results would average fifteen to twenty percent under the normal production. Only spotted total losses were reported and these were scattered over the entire area.

The total precipitation April through September was below normal. The approximate eastern one half of the area, the total for the six month period was slightly over seven inches, it was fairly well distributed and very beneficial to growing crops. In the westerly portion of the area, the rain fall was so light during the growing season that practically no benefit was derived therefrom, consequently dry land crops in this area were far below normal.

Precipitation recorded at five stations April through September, in inches.

<u>Station</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Total</u>
Steamboat	.95	2.00	1.73	.58	2.00	.50	7.80
Craig	.36	1.00	1.16	.50	2.71	1.26	7.08
Kampa	.68	1.19	.69	1.45	2.18	.53	6.72
Meeker	1.47	1.73	1.32	.33	1.91	.96	7.72
Rangely	.69	.35	.41	.14	1.21	.07	2.87

The first day water was used for irrigation is reported from Water District⁴³ on April 1, and the last day was November 1, in Water District No. 58.

Mr. Ceryl Kelley of Slater Colorado was appointed Water Commissioner of District No. 54, effective date of July 27, 1955 to succeed Frank Baxter who resigned on account of ill health. The first part of the irrigation season Mr. Baxter was only partially active, taking care only of some necessary ditch regulations. All Creeks were at an extreme low stage when Mr. Kelley took over. He visited and regulated only such ditches as were involved in priority demands which were recorded in his field book, but insufficient data were obtained for him to complete a comprehensive ditch and reser-report.

Upon receipt of a letter from your office in July requesting that plans be worked out by cooperation between Water Commissioner of Water District No. 54 of Colorado and the Wyoming Water Commissioner for the administration of decrees on the Little Snake River in the Compact area according to the terms of the Compact. I made a thorough study of the situation and at which time Colorado had no active Water Commissioner and the Little Snake River had reached such low water flow, the entire supply was being diverted to Wyoming ditches which had a prior right to all available supply at

the time. Further investigation disclosed there were other problems to work out and on November 16, a special report was prepared on this matter, a copy of which is attached to this report.

Construction was resumed in 1955, by a different contractor, on the Fish Creek Reservoir Dam for the town of Steamboat Springs. The dam was completed before bad weather except a few minor details.

The original filing claim map as prepared by Stanley Dismuke the town engineer, showed a high water line contour and spillway elevation of 49 feet. Outlet elevation at 6.0 Total capacity claim 1175.43 acre feet.

The plans as prepared by Woodward Clyde and Associates refer to the same high water line at an assumed elevation of 466.50. The outlet pipe at an elevation of 431.50. Location of the dam as constructed and as shown on plans is approximately 100 feet down stream from the location as shown on the filing map. This change could increase the capacity twenty or more acre feet.

The Sheriff Reservoir Dam in District No. 57, construction was resumed and the dam finished with crest and spillway elevation seven feet below elevation claimed in the filing on First Enlargement. It is completed to the 43 foot contour and will store 711.1 acre feet.

The Stillwater Reservoir No. 1, District No. 58 had in storage on May 21, 3970 acre feet, further storage was discontinued on above date at 63 per cent of capacity. Total release to 14 various river ditches 2909 acre feet. To the Stillwater ditch 1600 acre feet.

All return water from the Stillwater Fitch flows into Egeria Creek and the Colorado River.

The Yampa Reservoirs Public Irrigation District which controlled the Stillwater Reservoir has filed a petition in the District Court for the dissolution of the District and it proposes to form a mutual reservoir company, most all land owners have signed the petition to the Court.

Harvesting conditions in the area were fair, hay and grain harvesting nearly all completed prior to any interference from early snows.

Early snow fall ~~is~~ appears above record, 60 inches have been recorded in the Steamboat area to October 30, and through to November 28, there has been 82 inches. At this same time last year there had been a fall of only 15.4 inches

Respectfully submitted

B. T. Chase

Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 6

Tabulated statements of
Water Commissioner Annual
Reports attached and
Copy of report on Little Snake
Compact administration recommendations.

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL DITCH REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON 1955

District No.	No. of Ditches Reported	Amount of Appropriation cu. ft. per sec.	Capacity of ditches Sec. ft.	First day water was used
43	61	847.51	1243.50	4-1
44	97	513.40	759.00	4-7
54	See note below			
55-56	No water comm.			
57	49	317.46	403.00	4-20
58	291	1565.40	1670.00	4-20
Total	498	3243.77	4075.50	4-1

District No.	Last day water was used	Average No. days water carried	Average Daily amt. Carried in Sec. ft.	No. of Acre feet Used	Total No. acres Irrigated
43	10 - 30	100	506.96	131,565	23,591
44	10 - 3	91	446.14	88,144	21,663
54					
55-56					
57	10 - 28	111	199.42	45,182	13,064
58	11 - 1	73	950.03	154,646	54,318
Total	11 - 1	94	2102.55	419,537	112,536

Note:

District No. 54

Frank Baxter, Water Commissioner of Water District No. 54 on account of illness was unable to fully perform his duties the first part of the season. His successor, (Beryl Kelley) did not qualify and did not receive his appointment until about August 1,. He performed the necessary field duties for the balance of season, but did not obtain sufficient data for completion of a annual report; for the year 1955.

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR REPORTS
FOR IRRIGATION DIVISION NO 6, SEASON 1955

District No.	No of Reservoirs Reported	Area of High Water Line acres	Capacity in cubic feet	Quantity of water in Reservoir May 1, cu. ft
43	No reservoirs reported			
44	14	140	63,520,962	63,520,962
54	No report for 1955			
55 & 56	None			
57	15	419	148,014,053	57,349,554
58	10	104	414,652,202	280,355,202
Total	39	963	626,187,218	401,225,718

District No.	Quantity of water in Reservoir May 1 cubic feet	First day water used From Reservoir	Last day water used From Reservoir	Average No. Days water was Carried
44	00	5-10	9-18	90
57	00	5-2	9-12	113
58	2,946,202	6-1	11-1	39
Total	2,946,160	5-2	11-1	81

District No.	Average Daily Amount Carried cubic feet	No of acre feet Reservoir water carried	Total Irrigated Acres	Remarks
44	22.80	4,145	1140	Additional land irrig.
57	5.90	1,377	460	" " "
58	56.57	6,245	00	Supplemental to 5500 acres
	85.27	11,770	1500	

ADDED STATEMENT

District No.	Description	Capacity cu. ft.
(5-)	Reservoirs used for irrigation	63,520,960
(3-)	" used for stockwater only	10,454,400
(5-)	" not filled various reasons.	7,144,100
(1-)	" Game & Fish Dept	-----
	Total	81,119,460
(3-)	" used for irrigation	37,645,966
(5-)	" stockwater only	32,402,349
(4-)	" un-used, out.	24,617,106
(2-)	" Did not fill	53,348,663
(1-)	" Domestic.	-----
	Total	148,014,054
(9-)	" Used for irrigation as supplemental supply to 36 ditches	397,217,337
(1-)	" Domestic use	17,234,856
	Total	414,452,193

November 16, 1955

J. E. Whitten
State Engineer
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Whitten:

Following an extensive inquiry, examination and study of facts on the Colorado - Wyoming, Little Snake River administration, I am not satisfied that the appointment of an Inter-State Water Commissioner would be a solution for solving the problems that have been presented by a few of the water users in the area.

I therefore do not recommend the appointment of such official but it is my opinion that if Wyoming can provide a suitable and capable Water Commissioner for their area, cooperation between the regularly appointed Wyoming and Colorado Water Commissioner can and will accomplish the desired results without the additional and unnecessary expense to Colorado of their proportionate costs of a special compact commissioner. No Colorado rights at this time are particularly involved.

The principal complaints on administration and the instigators of the movement to have some changes made come principally from water users irrigating land in Colorado, but under Wyoming Canals and Water Rights, and in each instance it involves only their individual diversion, ^{from the canal, and not} priorities from the river to the head of such canals, much less any involvement as between State priorities. There were a few exceptions which were caused by improper actions or misadministration by the last years Wyoming Water Commissioner involving only those diversions in his own area.

I am informed that the Wyoming Canals of any size have their own ditch riders, also that the water commissioners in Wyoming are authorized by law and it is expected of them by the water users that they are to go down the ditch and dictate the setting of turnouts and the division of water of each individual diversion from a canal when a controversy arises. It is my impression that an Inter-State Commissioner would not divide water among users of the various ditches, and could not without the aid of several assistants.

Some of the Colorado water users under the Wyoming ditches and water rights resented the action of the Wyoming Commissioner in attempting to exert the same authority in the canal over their diversions as were enforced in Wyoming. Other Colorado users under same circumstances are demanding that the Wyoming Commissioner exert such authority in Colorado or that the Colorado Commissioner take over at the State line and continue with the same Wyoming authority as practiced in Wyoming. I believe I have made some progress in getting the above situation under control.

J. E. Whitten
State Engineer
Denver, Colorado

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November 16, 1955

I understand Mr. C. J. Stanton of Baggs, Wyoming, the acting Water Commissioner, of last season for District 8, recently resigned leaving said district without a Water Commissioner at the present time.

The main item of contention on the river last summer was the water users dissatisfaction with the action and attitude of the Water Commissioner, Mr. Stanton.

When advised of the Snake River situation this summer, the water in the river had reached such a low stage that the water was available only for a small proportion of the very early priorities. The first 32.00 cfs. going to water users under various Wyoming ditches.

As far as I can learn, Mr. John J. Sherman, owner of the Ferndale Ranch in Colorado, has only one objective in mind, that is for some State authority to set or regulate the division of water between himself and one of his neighbors, both irrigating land in Colorado with water rights under the West Side Canal, a Wyoming ditch and Wyoming permits.

Carbon County, Wyoming pays the Water Commissioner for the District in which the compact area is situated. At present they have no Water Commissioner. It also appears the appropriation for such purposes is inadequate to employ a competent qualified man. Am also informed they cannot find a qualified man that will take the job for less than \$350.00 a month.

Carbon County wants Colorado to pay half of this cost as a compact commissioner. There would be little or no benefit to any Colorado water rights by such arrangement.

Very truly yours,

Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 6.

BC:hw