

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

November 29, 1956

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

Dear Mr. Whitten:

I herewith present my annual report for Irrigation Division No. 6 for 1956.

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

The past season was below average water supply for irrigation combined with an extreme precipitation deficiency through most all the irrigation season, this situation continued up to first of November.

The water supply for direct irrigation held up fairly well the early part of the season but declined rapidly in July to nearly a record low in August and continued low for balance of season.

The irrigation water shortages occur first on tributaries to main streams. The past year the Elk River and the White River main streams provided the only ample^{supply} to meet all full direct flow demands.

The Little Snake River, after July 15, through balance of season was far short of supplying demands under Colorado-Wyoming Compact priorities.

The Yampa River above the town of Yampa from July 15th through balance of season, by direct flow did not take care of more than fifteen per cent of the demand. The Yampa River however, through the rest of District No. 58 District No. 57 and 44 supplied up to about fifty percent of the demand, due primarily to return water conditions and the Elk River supply, the diversions in said area were maintained to about the average.

First use of water for direct irrigation was March 23, in Water District No. 44. The last use was recorded in Water District No. 58 November 5th. The overall irrigation season extended through 225 days, starting approximately 20 days earlier and where water were available it was run 20 to 30 days longer than the average season.

The average number of days water was carried over the entire area was 73 days as compared to 94 days for last year. The average for number of days water carried was cut considerably due to early closing of many priorities on main streams and the insufficient supply on practically all tributaries.

The 1956 acre foot diversions are about twenty percent less than the 1955 diversions.

The total number of acre feet used in 1956 as recorded on water commissioner's reports is 412,175 for the irrigation of 119,508 acres or approximately 3.45 acre feet per acre average. Water District No. 43 where supply came nearer to meeting the demand the average number of acre feet used was 5.50 acre feet per acre, while in District No. 54 the average is not over 1.50 acre feet per acre.

Precipitation average on five stations, May through October period six months, total 3.97 inches; 2.51 inches or about 63 per cent of said total rain fall occurred during July and August which was well distributed and of sufficient quantities to produce beneficial results. The monthly averages on the five stations as follows; May .64 of an inch, June .12, July 1.49, August 1.02, September .05, October .60. All other rains occurring in the period except during July and August were totally ineffective.

The excessive and prolonged dry period following the spring wheat planting resulted in some total losses to the wheat grower in certain sections of the area. The ground in some instances remained too dry and for too long to produce sprouting and complaints were also heard that late spring frosts were detrimental to the spring wheat crop.

It is reported that the fall planted wheat returns will average above normal, therefore the overall 1956 production of wheat may average about normal.

Probably the most serious situation resulting from drought conditions occurred on the ranges, this is more particularly disastrous in the western portion of the area. The mountain ranges were also effected but water could be obtained in the higher elevations for stock watering purposes. A large percentage of the range stock were held in the high ranges and pastured otherwise considerably later than usual due to the lack of water on the winter ranges. This situation appears to have been relieved to some extent by the early November snow fall at the lower elevations. Feeding may be required more extensively throughout the winter due to lack of feed in the dry areas.

The following statistics were obtained through the Moffat and Routt County A.S.C. Offices;

	:Acreages :		Scaled Down Allotments			
	:Planted	:	1954	1955	1956	: Reduction in
	: in 1953	:				: Acreage since 1953
Routt Co.	: 39,791	:	25,313	22,342	23,711	16,080 40%
Moffat Co.	: 40,000	:	30,070	30,044	31,625	8,375 21%
Total	: 79,791	:	55,380	52,386	55,336	24,455 30%

Note: The total wheat acreage in the two Counties has has been cut 24,455 acres since 1953. This does not however, mean the total production has been reduced accordingly. All the poorer land has been taken out of production and means found to increase returns on the better land.

The 1956 Routt County dry land production was given as 26.6 bu. per acre. Irrigated land 27 bushels plus per acre.

The 1956 Moffat County dry land production ranged from 5 bu. per acre westerly portion to 27 bu. per acre easterly portion.

County average dry land 16.5 bu per acre. Some irrigated land run up to 35 bu. per acre. The Moffat County figures would indicate that irrigated wheat land will produce about double the dry land returns.

It is estimated that not more than 5 to 7 per cent of the present wheat acreage is so situated that it can be irrigated under any present irrigation system.

Within the past few years about thirty sprinkling units have been installed in this area and it is estimated that 3500 to 4000 acres is now irrigated under the sprinkling system.

Harvesting conditions were very favorable for all crops. Apparently no damaging effects to any extent were in evidence to agriculture returns as a result of the fall drought. Plowing and the preparation of land for planting of winter wheat were made difficult.

Pot Creek and all tributaries head in the State of Utah, practically all runoff is from the Utah area. The Creek flows in a southeasterly direction and enters Colorado about five miles above its junction with the Green River. There are two Colorado water filings on said Creek in Colorado with a total claim to 5.50 cubic feet per second of the direct flow and a small storage claim. These claims date back to 1913 and water supply in Pot Creek was sufficient for many years thereafter to adequately irrigate about 240 acres of land under the Colorado claims from 1913 up to about 1951, when said water supply in Pot Creek was almost entirely cut off by recent construction of some storage reservoirs on Pot Creek in Utah. The overflow through spillway of the lower or last reservoir in Utah does not return to the Pot Creek drainage area. This situation deprives the Colorado users of all the water formerly available to them from Pot Creek except that slight run off which might enter the creek from early spring melting of snow in the small water shed below that last reservoir in Utah.

The Pot Creek area was visited, examinations and report were made first in 1953.

Since 1953 discussions have been carried on with officials from the Attorney General's and State Engineer's offices of the State of Utah in an attempt to arrive at some temporary arrangement or agreement with the Utah officials, pending a compact if it be required, whereby these Colorado users would not be deprived of the water formerly used by them from Pot Creek. No relief however has been obtained to date.

notes

The attached, relative to a meeting on the Pot Creek matter held in Vernal, Utah on June 18 1956 as recorded by

Raymond Wash, cover fairly well the claims as presented by the Colorado water users.

The State of Utah does not have a water commissioner covering the Pot Creek area. If they had, it is my opinion we could ^{get} some immediate action and relief for Colorado users.

Adminstration Colorado-Wyoming Compact on the Little Snake River following special report on this matter which has hereto fore been presented:-

The plan agreed upon and approved by the State Engineers of Colorado and Wyoming for the method of adminstrating the Interstate Priority Schedule of water rights on the Little Snake River in the compact area, were put into operation this past irrigation season, with very satisfactory results. The mininum water supply of the Little Snake River was about average. There have been no complaints reaching this office from either the Colorado or Wyoming water users and so far as can be learned no dissatisfaction from any source was voiced. The main contention heretofore undoubtedly was the result ^{of} misunderstanding and confussion among users both sides of the State line. It was more particularly evident among users under the same canal which crosses State line. This difficulty appears at least temporarily, to be under control.

The Little Snake River water rights in the Compact area are for approximately 126 appropriations totaling approximately 250.00 cubic feet per second in 25 ditches of which there are about 115 appropriations or total of approximately 173 cubic feet per second to 16 ditches in Wyoming and eleven appropriations with total of 78.55 cubic feet per second to nine ditches in Colorado.

The appropriations to several of the Little Snake River Ditches were made in Wyoming for the irrigation of land in Colorado and some were made in Colorado for the irrigation of land located in Wyoming.

All except one of the Wyoming diversions are located up stream in Wyoming above the Colorado ditch diversion points. No side streams contribute to the water supply of the Little Snake in the Compact area during the period of time when River administration is necessary. No gaging station located on the Little Snake is of any practical benefit in determining operations along the river. It is estimated however that the water supply in said river entering the compact area from about the middle of July through balance of season, ^{not} more than twenty to twenty five percent of the total appropriations and this to include the re-use of some return flow.

Attached to this report is a copy of the suggested plan of administration on the Little Snake River and copies of letters sent to some of the Colorado water users particularly under the Gibson and Blair Ditch and the West Side Canal, both Wyoming water rights, for purpose of correcting any misunderstanding of authority as existed prior to the agreement on the proposed administration.

All reservoirs used for irrigation and domestic purposes were filled by May 1, with the exception of the Sage Creek Reservoir in District No. 57 filled to only one fourth capacity and the Gradner Park Reservoir in District No. 58 to three fourths capacity.

A special report on the conditions of certain reservoirs in this area was forwarded on June 8, a copy of which is

included herewith. Also included is a copy of an order sent to the owners of the Sage Creek Reservoir to make certain repairs to outlet spillway etc. The Sage Creek Reservoir is located in District No. 57, a channel reservoir has a claimed capacity of 804 acre feet at a 35 foot storage depth. The drainage area is about 6 square miles. It seldom fills in one season. It has been poorly maintained ever since construction. Some time in past few years an improperly installed gate was removed from the upper end of outlet and a 14 inch gate valve was bolted to the lower end of the 18 inch cast iron outlet pipe, outside diameter. The said gate valve was cracked from freezing about the first winter storage. In an attempt to hold back the water and use the reservoir a home made temporary slide gate has been welded to the outer side of the old gate valve, about 9 inch by 14 inch opening.

The Allen Basin Reservoir Company, a mutual organization consisting of eight ranchers in the Hunt Creek area, organized for the purpose of constructing the Allen Basin Reservoir Dam. The reservoir has a claimed capacity of 2259 acre feet and is to be used for supplemental water supply to existing ditches taking water from Middle Hunt Creek for the irrigation of approximately 3000 acres.

A contract was let for the construction of the Allen Basin Reservoir Dam in July and construction was completed in September. Permission was given to commence storage in said reservoir on November 1.

The Fish Creek Reservoir, domestic use for the Town of Steamboat Springs, The Dam was completed in fall of 1955. The first storage of water was permitted to start in 1956

The gate was closed too soon, which resulted in an early filling of the reservoir with several feet depth of snow in the spillway-causing water to raise 3.5 to 4 feet above spillway crest level, before a channel could be cut through the approximate 100 yards of packed snow obstructing the free flow through spillway. This obstruction if not observed in time could have possibly raised the water a sufficient depth to have topped the dam. The spillway approach is through a natural low area for about 100 yards before reaching the crest and spilling over slope down to another drainage and it is located near the upper end of the reservoir approximately 2000 feet from the dam. Attached is a copy of a special report on the Fish Creek Dam.

Another separate and complete report was forwarded to the office August 27, 1956 of conditions and needed reconstruction in connection with the McKinnis Meadows Reservoir Dam, copy of which was sent to Mr. R. H. Andrews of the Colorado Game and Fish Department.

The Sheriff Reservoir Dam in Water District No. 57 constructed by the town of Oak Creek for domestic purposes, was completed in the fall of 1955. Storage capacity around 750 acre feet, was filled this year and the water stored therein except a small portion used for town purposes, was released at approximately 2 1/4 acre feet per day for the benefit of priorities on Trout Creek. This dam was inspected this year with the reservoir full and water flowing out spillway. It appeared in good condition. A slight erosion started on an unprotected slope of the spillway return to the creek, not to the extent to imperil the safety reservoir.

Attached hereto are the tabulated statements of the Water Commissioner's Ditch and Reservoir Reports and copies of some of the more important correspondence relating to official acts for the past season.

Respectfully submitted

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

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL DITCH REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON 1956

District No.	No. of Ditches Reported	Amount of Appropriation cu. ft. per sec.	Capacity of Ditches Sec. ft	of First Day Water was used
43	: 80	: 798.55	: 1153.00	: 4 - 1
44	: 101	: 497.53	: 779.00	: 3 - 23
54	: 41	: 134.13	: 263.00	: 5 - 1
55-56	: No. records	: ----	: ----	: ----
57	: 50	: 333.67	: 426.00	: 3 - 29
58	: 285	: 1530.06	: 1601.00	: 3 - 29
Total	: 557	: 3293.94	: 4220.00	: 3 - 23

District No.	Last Day Water was used	Average No. days water carried	Average Daily Amt. Carried in Second feet	No. Of Acre feet Used	Total No. Acres Irrigated
43	: 10-20	: 74	: 441.10	: 123,039	: 22,216
44	: 10-17	: 94	: 413.75	: 75,775	: 22,033
54	: 9-29	: 50	: 95.10	: 9,860	: 6,865
55-56	: ----	: --	: ----	: ----	: ----
57	: 10-27	: 87	: 192.36	: 37,783	: 16,068
58	: 11-5	: 75	: 982.06	: 165,818	: 52,426
Total	: 11-5	: 76	: 2,124.37	: 412,175	: 119,508

District No.	ADDED	COMMENT
	: Acre foot:	
	: per acre :	Explanations
	: diversion:	
43	: 5.52	: Variations in the acre foot diversions in
44	: 3.39	: the several districts is the result of the
54	: 1.43	: available water supply through the entire
57	: 2.33	: season. District No. 43 is about an average.
58	: 3.16	: District No. 54 about 25%
Average	: 3.17	:

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR REPORTS
FOR IRRIGATION SEASON 1956

District No.	No. of Reservoirs Reported	Area of High Water Line acres	Capacity in cubic feet	Quantity of water in Reservoir May 1st cubic feet
43	No Report	----	-----	-----
44	14	446	75,814,475	68,658,475
54	3	33	13,023,994	13,023,994
57	14	452	170,951,889	121,831,218
58	11	446	414,652,302	396,026,046
Total	42	1395	674,442,650	599,539,733

District No.	Quantity of water in Reservoir Nov. 1st cubic feet	First day Water used From Reservoir	Last Day Water used From Reservoir	Average No. days water was Carried
44	5 - 000	5 - 14	10 - 9	45
54	000	7 - 6	7 - 30	26
57	7,099,625	5 - 1	9 - 7	78
58	24,741,072	6 - 1	10 - 26	39
Total	31,840,697	5 - 1	10 - 26	47

District No.	Average Daily Amount carried cubic feet	No. of acre feet Reservoir water Carried	Total Irrigated Acres	Remarks
44	14.48	1402	1210	Additional land
54	5.00	225	450	" "
57	16.38	1776	760	" "
58	72.50	9333		Supplemental supply to 25 ditches
Total	108.36	12736	2420	

ADDED STATEMENT

District No. : The 42 Reservoirs reported were classified as per the following tabulation;

District No.	Irrigation		Domestic		Stock water		Not Used	
	No	Capacity: Ac. feet	No	Capacity: Ac. ft.	No	Capacity: Ac. ft.	No	Capacity
57	4	1527	1	712	6	1184	3	503
58	9	7950	2	1570	-	---	-	---
44	6	1300	0	----	5	287	2	154
54	1	227	0	----	2	72	-	---
	20	11,004	3	2282	13	1543	5	657

57 : One Reservoir reported for fish use only
: The 13 reservoir reported used for stock water are
: all adjudicated for irrigation.
: The 5 reservoirs reported unused are unfit for use.

(Notes: transcribed by Ray E. Nash, Attorney)
 (at Law in Vernal, Utah, relative to a meet-)
 (ing. Re: Pot Creek Rights.)

Notes relative to a conference that was held in the office of Ray E. Nash on the 12th day of May, 1956. Present were Mr. Thomas L. Ainge, Mr. Bill Karren, Mr. B. T. Chase, representing the State of Colorado, he being the Division Irrigation Engineer of Division 6, State Engineer Office, and also Mr. Nash.

The discussion was on the matters relative to the adjudication on Pot Creek in the interests of Mr. Karren and Mr. Ainge, they having Ranches and land in Colorado.

Mr. Chase emphasized the fact that a compact between the two states, would be necessary before a final determination could be reached, but it was felt that in the interest of these fellows, it would be well to get some temporary arrangement worked out whereby their rights as recognized by the state of Colorado would also be recognized and not be pre-empted by Utah users.

It was decided that two copies each of the rights, maps and other documents in the state engineer's office in Colorado would be obtained by Mr. Karren and Mr. Ainge, these to be used in connection with the conference which we hope to arrange with the state engineer of Utah in the very near future.

It is also felt that various other people such as Siddoways and the Searles and others who have put dams on the water sheds on Pot Creek should be brought into this matter and that they should recognize the paramount rights of these down stream users. We noted that the water used by these people come from the Oldfield and the Miles ditches. These fellows used water and it had been appropriated prior to the establishment of any dams upon Pot Creek. Also, they were some of the first users of water for irrigation and appropriation on this Creek. It is their contention that their rights should be recognized as paramount and practically to all the other rights upon the Pot Creek, this however to be determined by survey and probably by the adjudication pending before the Court in this state in connection with the compact to be entered into between the two states.

The Colorado rights recognize $5\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet per second to these two users, Mr. Karren and Mr. Ainge on their property. In addition to this, Mr. Karren has his storage right to his Dry lake reservoir. Mr. Ed Lewis and Mr. Ainge together own that.

Mr. Chase is of the opinion that the $5\frac{1}{2}$ second feet will not adequately irrigate the land now under the ditches in these two places, but it will take more water than that amount to adequately irrigate them so they will raise beneficial crops and be properly irrigated. This opinion is established after having examined the land and its nature and that quite carefully.

Mr. Chase recommended that some arrangement should be worked out, whereby the water coming to Mr. Karren and Mr. Ainge could be measured at or near the state line and this to be insured or handled by a commissioner or someone appointed to see that it was properly distributed to reach that point. Mr. Chase suggested that there be a uniform handling of the water in all this area covering both the Colorado users and the Utah users and the rights, of the Colorado users be recognized and it be inegrated in connection with the Utah rights, this to be irregardless of decrees or adjudications in the respective and separate states.

Clark Felch on May 10, examined Zelph Calder's reservoirs and the water flowing into them and he determined that above the reservoirs about 10 second feet of water was pouring in, but none was being discharged from the reservoirs by Mr. Calder at all. Mr. Karren also contacted Mr. Calder and requested that he turn some water rights down. Mr. Calder advised him that he would recognize his right and turn some water but has failed and refused to do so as yet, and is still impounding all of the water in his dams as far as Mr. Karren is concerned and has not. Some waters going into Bill Allen's reservoir, this perhaps pursuant to the Federal Court Decree awarding Bill Allen and then crosses 5 second foot full from Pot Creek prior to Zelph Calder's rights. However, it should be emphasized that the rest of these users were not parties to that action and therefore are not bound by the judgement or the decree of that court entered by Judge Tilman H. Johnson sometime ago. Perhaps it would be well to notify the state engineer and that there are other dams and reservoirs located on the Diamond Mountain area covering the drains to Pot Creek by Siddoways and Searles which are impounding water and perhaps no filing has been made on these reservoir sites and if there has been a filing, the water is being impounded and prevented from being allowed to go down these users who have paramount rights to the same.

Note: Further statement by B. T. Chase, Division Engineer, that the Ainge and Karren rights in Colorado have a prior valid claim to the Pot Creek water in the amount of not less than 5.50 cubic feet per second to any storage in the Utah reservoirs or ditches constructed subsequent to 1913.

STATE OF WYOMING

State Engineer's Office
Cheyenne

March 15, 1956

Mr. Lealand U. Crieve,
Savery,
Wyoming

Dear Lealand:

The enclosed copy of the report of Mr. Chase to State Engineer Whitten is self-explanatory.

I feel that Earl Lloyd and Mr. Chase have accomplished a sensible and workable plan here, and now it will be up to you Little Snake River water users in Wyoming to find a suitable man to act as Water Commissioner on the Wyoming side. Your cooperation in this effort will be appreciated.

Should you need help in breaking in a new Commissioner, Mr. Ernest LeVasseur of Laramie will be available, and Mr. Knowlton will cooperate by endorsing any man that you and the Carbon County Commissioners approve.

We will expect to hear from you if we can help at this end.

Sincerely yours,

L. C. BISHOP,
State Engineer

LCB:em
Encl.

cc: W. J. Knowlton, Supt. Water Div. #1, Torrington, Wyo.
Ernest LeVasseur, Box 292, Laramie, Wyoming
County Commissioners, Carbon County, Rawlins, Wyo.
B. T. Chase, Irr. Div. Engineer, Steamboat Springs, Colo.
J. E. Whitten, State Engineer, Denver, Colorado

March 13, 1956

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

Dear Mr. Whitten:

At the meeting held in Dixon, Wyoming, on March 9th, with Mr. Earl Lloyd, Deputy State Engineer of Wyoming, a method of operation was agreed upon for the administration of priorities on the Little Snake River. In accordance with the Interstate priority schedule of water rights on the Little Snake River starting at a point 100 feet below the confluence at Savery Creek and the said River.

Those present and participating in this meeting from Wyoming in addition to Mr. Lloyd, Deputy State Engineer of Wyoming were Mr. Ernest LeVasseur, Special Assistant State Engineer of Wyoming, Mr. W. J. Knowlton, Superintendent of Irrigation, Division 1 of Wyoming, Rachael LeVasseur, and Mr. George Salisbury, County Commissioner of Carbon County and representing the water users of Wyoming. For Colorado, myself and Mr. Beryl Kelley, Water Commissioner, District No. 54.

It was agreed that the regularly appointed and acting water commissioner of District No 8 of Wyoming and the regularly appointed and acting water commissioner of District No 54 of Colorado would operate cooperatively and in conformity with the interstate priority schedule as follows:

The water commissioner of District No. 8 of Wyoming to administer the priorities to all ditches heading in Wyoming on the Little Snake River from the point at the upper extreme of the compact area that is a point starting 100 feet below the confluence with Savery Creek on the Little Snake River and following down said River to where it again enters Colorado just above the head of the Trowel Ditch.

And, in the performance of this operation it is agreed that the said water commissioner is to exercise all authority invested in him by the Laws of the State of Wyoming, throughout the entire length of all ditches and to all water users thereunder having water claims in the ditch that heads in the prescribed area. This in particular refers to the West Side Canal and the Gibson and Blair Ditch under which there have here to fore been some disagreement of authority.

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

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March 13.1956

In order that some of the expense of administration in the compact area be borne by Colorado, it was further agreed that the regular appointed water commissioner of District No 54 in Colorado operating in conjunction with the Wyoming commissioner and in conformity with the interstate priority schedule, administer the priorities to all the ditches down stream on the Little Snake River below that point as above stated at the Colorado Wyoming line and particularly starting at the head gate of the Trowel Ditch and continuing with all ditches below that point.

This will require a close cooperative operation between the two water commissioners to properly administer the priorities as intended under the interstate priority schedule and in keeping with the terms of the Upper Colorado River Compact.

Should the water commissioners involved in the administration of the Little Snake River below the mouth of Savory Creek encounter any difficulties or should a situation arise as a result of any arrangement made by Mr. Lloyd or myself, which they are unable to handle that they should immediately apply to Mr. Lloyd or myself or both for advise.

Very truly yours,

(s) B. T. Chase
B. T. Chase
Irrigation Division Engineer No. 6

cc. Mr. Earl Lloyd
Deputy State Engineer
Cheyenne, Wyoming

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of Irrigation Division
Engineer of Division No. 6

Steamboat Springs, Colorado. April 4, 1956

To:
Joe Herold)
Marion Jones) Colorado users of water in the Gibson &
Carley Jebens) Blair Ditch

Relative to the administration of priorities in conformity with the Inter State Priority Schedule of water rights on the Little Snake River.

The acting Water Commissioner of District No. 8 of Wyoming has been designated to administer a portion of said priorities which include the Gibson and Blair Ditch and in the performance of his duties he is to exercise all authority invested in him by the laws of the State of Wyoming, throughout the entire length of said ditch.

All water users therefore, irrigating land in Colorado under the Gibson and Blair Ditch will be under the said water commissioner's jurisdiction and he is authorized to make adjustment of ditches in Colorado if required.

It is essential that you comply with his orders and of the ditch rider who may be acting under his directions.

Very truly yours

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

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of Irrigation Division
Engineer of Division No. 6

Steamboat Springs, Colorado April 4, 1956

To

Carl Oberg)
Ronald Lowe)
Everett Orchard)
Carley Jebens)
Clifford Leggett)
John T. Sherman)

Colorado users of water in the
West Side Canal

At a meeting held in Dixon Wyoming on March 9th 1956 between representatives of the offices of the State Engineer's of Wyoming and Colorado to formulate plans for the administration of priorities on the Little Snake River for this year. It was agreed that the acting Water Commissioner of District No. 8 of Wyoming and District No. 54 of Colorado would act cooperatively in the administration of priorities in conformity with the Inter State Priority Schedule of water rights on the Little Snake River in agreement with Article XI of the Upper Colorado River Compact.

Referring particularly in this respect to the West Side Canal which is to be under control of the Wyoming Commissioner: It was agreed that in the performance of this function, the said Water Commissioner is to exercise all authority invested in him by the laws of the State of Wyoming, throughout the entire length of said canal and that all water users thereunder irrigating land in Colorado having water claims therein or diverting water from the canal, will be under the jurisdiction and control of the said Water Commissioner and he is authorized to make adjustments of ditches in Colorado if required. It is essential that you comply with his orders and of the ditch rider employed by the ditch company who will be acting under the direction of the water commissioner.

Very truly yours

cc:
Mr. Ernest LeVasseur

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

June 28, 1956

Mr. C. C. Hezmalhalch
Deputy State Engineer
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Hezmalhalch:

This is in reply to your letter of June 12, in which you requested certain information relative to the safety of dams and a rumor of a possible unsafe dam near Steamboat Springs. I have been on the alert in this regard and continually in close contact with conditions of all major reservoirs in the area and since receiving your letter I have made extra effort to trace down any possible reason of any thing that might be a basis for a rumor. So far have only uncovered one possibility. That is the conditions resulting by probably a premature closing of the gate by the towns water superintendent at the new Steamboat Springs Reservoir on Fish Creek.

The Fish Creek Reservoir belonging to the town of Steamboat Springs, which was completed last year and were given permission to proceed with storage some time prior to June 1, 1956. Early in April this year the town water superintendent got over anxious, made a trip up to the reservoir in a snow cat and closed the gate, unbeknown by me. He returned about a month later and found the reservoir full of water and about nine feet of snow still in the spillway, and according to his report the snow was holding back the overflow through the spillway, water just starting to cut through slightly with approximately a four foot depth of water above the natural crest. The freeboard on the dam is supposed to be 7.5 feet and he estimated there were not more than 3.5 feet between high water line and the crest of the dam. He stated that he used powder to open a channel through the snow in the spillway and the water level was lowered to proper level in a matter of hours, and has been in clear since. This reservoir is situated in an inaccessible area and for at least seven months of the year can be reached only on foot or some means of snow travel. The dam has been covered with snow until just recently. It is expected that the site can be reached by July 10. I will make a complete inspection of its condition and will forward a detailed report and recommendations following the inspection .

Mr. Hezmalhalch

The reservoir and dam has been observed by flying over at various intervals and it has the appearance of being in good shape. I believe the town board has learned a lesson from this years experience and will guard against a re-occurrence. I have uncovered no evidence up to the present time that the dam is unsafe but I am of the opinion that some additional freeboard should be provided on the dam or the gate should be left open through the winter and not closed until about June 1. I am sure the reservoir would fill without difficulty after that date.

Following are some further notes and comments on some of the other reservoirs in this area.

No exceptionally heavy runoff has occurred any where in this Division this year. The runoff and storage conditions appear about average, but much improved over the past two years.

The Stillwater Reservoir No. 1 was filled by May 1. This is the first time this reservoir has in the past two years has had over half storage.

The Gardner Park Reservoir by May 1, was within three feet of full with a possibility of no further storage in sight.

The Simon Reservoir No. 1, was filled to capacity by May 15. The above three reservoirs are in District No. 58 and are all reported in good general condition as to safety.

The Elk Lake Reservoir in District No. 54 is not considered to be unsafe but has been neglected in maintenance and should be put in proper condition prior to any practical future use. It is an off channel reservoir, supplied by feeder ditch from Willow Creek. Adjudicated 398 acre feet, ownership recently changed hands. Will send more detailed report and recommendations at a later date.

Sage Creek Reservoir in District No. 57 is not considered unsafe at this time. Notice has been served on the owners to make certain repairs, copy enclosed herewith. This reservoir is located south of Hayden on Sage Creek, it has an adjudication for 804 acre feet, about a 35 foot storage depth.

An item appeared in a recent issue of the local newspaper, where bids have been advertised for the construction of the Allens Basin Reservoir in District No. 58. (You sent me a set of these plans and specifications). This project was started and original surveys were made by the S.C.S. and later rejected by that office for some reason. The plans and specification were finally prepared by a private engineer. It appears however, the S.C.S. office is furnishing the technical advise. I don't know just who is going to be responsible for the construction supervision.

Mr. Hezmalhalch:

It is noted that Stanley Dismuke is the Engineer that signed the plans and specifications for the Allens Park Dam. Through his connection with the Highway work, he would have very little time to devote any personal attention to other matters, and unless other arrangements are made, I do not believe he would be in a position to give this construction the necessary attention.

I herewith recommend that your office require a rigid inspection on the construction of the Allens Park Dam and that the owners and their engineer be informed that a capable and full time inspector approved by your office, be employed during the construction. I have noted so much of this type of construction being left in the hands of the contractor and an occasional visit by the engineer.

Very truly yours

Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 6

enc.

August 9, 1956

To the Honorable Mayor,
and Town Board
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to requirements imposed upon this office by the State Engineer, an inspection was made on July 18, 1956 of the Fish Creek Reservoir and Dam to ascertain the conditions as a result following its first storage of water since construction.

Special attention was centered on the resultant effect of storage to the dam and appurtenant works and included herewith are some of the observations noted and recommendations resulting therefrom.

I am informed the gate was closed and the reservoir filled during the month of May this year. This would be prior to the heavy run-off in that area and of course prior to any noticeable decrease in snow depth.

The spillway appeared to have been adequate with no great depth of water to take care of the overflow, following some earlier difficulty encountered by what I would consider a premature closing of the gate, causing an early filling of the reservoir with deep snow in the spillway at that time.

A very slight erosive condition in the surface soil shows on the slope below the spillway crest. It is of no importance or concern as a hazard to the reservoir. It is noted however, there is some finishing yet to be completed in connection with the spillway.

On the date of inspection, the reservoir was full and an estimated several cubic feet per second was flowing through the spillway. Gate remained closed and all water entering the reservoir was being passed out the spillway.

It was noted that the measuring flumes were not yet in place in the streams supplying the reservoir, these will be essential at certain times and it is hoped that they will be installed without too much further delay.

An examination at the dam disclosed several small wet places at the lower toe of the dam. It appears that some of these were having a tendency of decreasing or possibly drying up. These spots are no more than were expected and may gradually disappear as some of these may be caused by moisture which has entered from the slopes or springs in the rock crevices at or near the lower toe of the dam.

The only real seepage appearing where an actual flow of water appears, that could be coming from the reservoir aside from the tile drains, is at a point at the lower end where a temporary spillway was located which was used during the winter of 1954-55. This seepage, a very slight flow at this time, could be following along the bed rock in the old spillway channel under the full width of the fill. I am inclined to believe at this time, I think it might be disregarded as anything of importance, if this water is finding its way through this outlet from the gravel drain in the dam where it is not intercepted by the tile drain. If this seepage does not show any sign of increase over a period of time and it is later determined that it may be coming from the reservoir direct. It might be controlled if necessary, by applying a seepage control compound to the hillside adjacent to the dam on the up-stream side.

All wet areas should be watched, particularly when the reservoir is full and observations made and noted of any changes or increases in seepage.

Based upon the difficulties encountered this past spring with snow obstructing the spillway, together with other facts and conditions as they exist at this time, I suggest and recommend that starting very soon, the water level in the Fish Creek Reservoir be gradually lowered over the next sixty to ninety days depending upon weather conditions this fall, to the outlet level. That the gate be left wide open during the winter in order that the direct and normal winter flow of the Creek will pass through the outlet and the increased early spring runoff will not accumulate any storage until the proper time in the spring to close the gate.

This reservoir is isolated during the winter months and difficult to reach for about seven months of the year. There is no reason under present conditions for any holdover storage. It will easily fill in a short period of time in the late spring run off, even up to or after late in June, depending upon known snow coverage at that time. I therefore suggest that the gate not be closed for the storage of water next year until conditions in the spillway are not going to interfere with the ordinary overflow level. I further believe it will be beneficial to relieve that pressure on the dam during that period of time.

I am not in accord with a suggestion that this reservoir remain full or be filled during the winter months in order that the overflow might keep a channel open in the spillway under the snow etc. This is wholly speculative. Could be an administrative problem on the stream, and if permitted, it would require frequent, if not constant attention throughout the winter.

After a few years storage and the dam is otherwise prepared and is proven to be completely stable, it might be expedient to add in a proper manner a few more feet to the present dam height to provide sufficient freeboard as a safe guard to take care of an emergency as existed this year.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Copy to:
State Engineer

September 21, 1956

Subject:
The Allen Basin Reservoir Dam
Dist. No. 58
The Allen Basin Reservoir Co.
Owners
R. E. Jones, President, Yampa,
Colorado

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

Dear Mr. Whitten:

Construction on the above named dam was completed on September 14, 1956 by David Henderson contractor.

I made a final inspection on the above date of the completed structure, in addition to several visits to the site during various stages of construction.

I find the said dam has been constructed in conformity with the plans and specifications in every detail as originally approved with the exception of the change in the kind of outlet pipe, which I understand, later had the consent of your office. Mine rails were used instead of the 4-inch by 4-inch wooden gage rod. The later I believe will be more permanent.

Mr. M. L. Starbuck, engineer employed by the owners, was on the job continually during the construction, directing the procedure, setting grades, lines, making tests, etc. and enclosed herewith is a copy of his statements relative thereto.

I herewith recommend that the construction of the above named dam be approved as completed and the owners be authorized to close the gate and commence the storage of water as soon as prior demands on Hunt Creek below the dam will permit.

Very truly yours

Division Engineer, Irrigation
Division No. 6

October 30, 1956

Mr. R. E. Jones, President
Allen Basin Reservoir Co.
Yampa, Colorado

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your Company is herein given authority to close the gate and commence the storage of water in the Allen Basin Reservoir by November 1, of this year.

It is suggested that you do not remove the present temporary dam up stream above the reservoir gate, with the gate closed. There was no sediment provision made to take care of accumulation of silt above the gate and if the water stored back of this temporary dam were to be released too fast it would probably wash down silt and mud sufficient to entirely cover the gate. That should be drained when the gate is open.

It is further suggested that after closing the gate, the crank be removed and a heavy chain and lock be provided, to securely lock the gear wheel and a key turned over to the Water Commissioner of District No. 58. A key should also be provided to whoever may be designated by the Reservoir Company to look after the reservoir. This will eliminate any unauthorized persons from tampering with the gate.

Very truly yours

Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 6

May 17, 1956

Mr. Marvin Barnes)
Mr. Easel Scott) Owners Sage Creek Reservoir:
Hayden, Colorado

Dear Sir:

This is to notify you as an owner in the Sage Creek Reservoir, located on Sage Creek in Water District No. 57: That the gate must be removed from the lower end of the outlet tube, or to remain entirely open at all times.

Prior to the said reservoir being used for any purpose or any water allowed to be stored therein. A suitable gate properly installed must first be placed at the upper end of the outlet tube, such as will be acceptable to and approved by the State Engineer.

The spillway will also require some attention previous to any further storage of water.

The Water Commissioner of Water District No. 57 has been directed to refuse to allow any future storage of water in this reservoir until this order has been complied with.

Respectfully yours

Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 6

Copy to
A. R. Goree
Water Commissioner
Dist. No. 57