

Division No. 6

Steamboat Springs, Colorado
November 23, 1962

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

Dear Mr. Whitten:

I herewith present my Annual Report for Irrigation Division No. 6 for 1962.

Attached are the tabulations of the Water Commissioners' Ditch and Reservoir Reports from Water Districts 43, 44, 54, 57, and 58, along with a copy of a report on the administration of Pot Creek. The Report on Pot Creek was made by Water Commissioner David Rasmussen of Vernal, Utah, to the Division Engineer of Division No. 6. The Pot Creek Report covers the full administration of Pot Creek for the 1962 irrigation season for both Utah and Colorado.

The first water diverted and recorded for direct irrigation in Division No. 6 was April the 1st. This water was diverted out of Piceance Creek in Water District No. 43. The last day that water was diverted and used for irrigation in Division No. 6 was October 28th out of Snake River in Water District No. 54.

The irrigation season extended over a period of 210 days in the Division. The length of the irrigation season varied from 202 days in Water District No. 43 to 145 days in Water District No 57. The water

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supply was above normal as predicted in the runoff forecasts. It was felt that the streams would cause considerable damage due to the high predicted runoff, however, the spring weather was such that no excessive flood damage was caused, and the water flow was much above average until late in the irrigation season.

A total of 450,292 acre feet of water was recorded as being diverted and used in Division No. 6 during the 1962 irrigation season, with an average daily flow of 2,644 cubic feet per second.

Water Commissioner Reports show a May 1st storage of 17,816 acre feet with a November 1st storage of 6,287 acre feet. The November storage is higher than both the 1960-61 November storage.

The precipitation during the 1962 growing season was much below normal in Division No. 6. The Steamboat Springs weather station for instance showed almost one-half the normal rainfall for the months of May, June, July and August. The irrigated crop production appeared to be above average for most of the Division. With the dry crops being very near average in spite of the dry growing season. This was probably brought about by the terrific amount of soil moisture present

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at the beginning of the growing season.

Probably the biggest detriment to crop production was caused by the early freezes at the last of August and the first of September. These freezes particularly damaged the spring dry land grains. In spite of the early freeze the agriculture production in Division No. 6 was probably a little above average.

The fall moisture is considerably below normal in Division No. 6. As a result of both a dry summer and fall, the soil moisture is very low on the high water sheds as well as the lower agriculture land.

The cooperative operation carried on by the Wyoming Water Commissioner and the Water Commissioner of Water District No. 54 in Colorado along the Little Snake River Compact Area, as per agreement adopted by the State Engineers of both states and put into operation in the 1957 season, is still operating successfully. The City of Cheyenne's Transcontinental Diversion out of the headwaters of the north fork of Little Snake River, which is under construction at the present time, may make future agreements necessary in the Compact Area.

On February 6th the annual meeting of the Pot Creek water users was held in Vernal, Utah. I was present at this meeting representing the State of Colorado. The water administration for 1961 was dis-

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as specified.

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cussed in detail and plans and arrangements for the 1962 season were made. A full report of this meeting along with the minutes as taken by the Utah Water Officials have been forwarded to the Colorado State Engineer's office.

The water commissioner administering Pot Creek water is paid by the Utah water users and the State of Colorado. The Utah water users pay according to the amount of water delivered to them and the State of Colorado pays a predetermined amount. In the past years this has made Colorado pay a higher amount for water delivered Colorado users than that paid by the Utah users. [Possibly it would be wise to have Colorado pay on the same basis as Utah users. This would make Colorado's cost less, also it might increase Utah's desire to deliver water to Colorado.]

During the winter months, a map of Water District NO. 57 was prepared. This map, on a scale of one inch to the mile, shows the drainages, sections, principal roads and locations of all adjudicated ditches and reservoirs. A copy of this map was filed in the State Engineer's Office.

Several of the smaller creeks in the division caused considerable problems in the early spring, as it was the first time in several years that there had been water enough to have administrative problems. One in particular in Water District No. 44 was Good Spring Creek. The decrees were tabulated and the

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priority order was in shape, but no one knew the ditch locations or the ownerships of the various decrees. After a detailed study of old filings and court records, a map was made showing existing ditches and location of various decrees and was furnished the water commissioner. This brought out the need of maps of the type made in District No. 57. It is my plan to make this type of map for every district in the division as soon as time permits.

Copies of most of the decrees of water adjudications that were destroyed in the 1961 fire were received this past spring. These were made by the State Archivist from microfilm copies and, for the most part, are very good reproductions. These decrees will have to be indexed, but it is a big step in replacing the records destroyed by the fire.

Mr. A. Ralph Owens, Deputy State Engineer, visited the Division during the first week of October. During his visit we went over the Hunt Creek drainage where several water problems arose over an oil well development. We saw the Transcontinental Diversion of the City of Cheyenne and the Four Counties Water Users Association. A trip was made during this visit to Pot Creek and all of the water diversions on this creek were inspected.

Mr. Watkins, Water Commissioner in Water District No. 43, made some special readings in some of the main ditches out of White River in cooperation

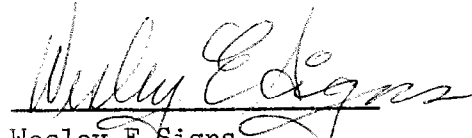
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with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. This is the second year for this work, and it is being done for reconnaissance study on the proposed Yellow Jacket Project.

There are several recreation reservoirs constructed and under construction within the Division. The largest is the Lester Creek Reservoir completed in October by the Colorado State Game and Fish in Water District No. 58. In Water District No. 43, there are two small fishing reservoirs completed by a private concern, and a larger reservoir under construction by the Colorado State Game and Fish.

A new Routt County Court House Annex was completed in October with space for the Irrigation Division No. 6 Office. These quarters were occupied November 1st and are very adequate. The light, heat and all accommodations are very modern and are greatly appreciated. The new building is directly behind the existing Routt County Court House.

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley E Signs
Irrigation Division Engineer
Division No. 6

RESERVOIR TABULATION (CONTINUED)

District Number	Average No. Days Water Carried	Average Daily Amount Carried Cubic Ft.	No. of Acre Feet Reservoir Water Carried	Total Acres Irrigated	Remarks
44	31	2.64	1,753.96	1,390	Part of acreage is reported Under Ditches
54	42	4.70	398.20	800	Supplemental water to this acreage
57	46	1.85	1,705.40	1,070	Supplemental water to acreage
58	30	86.60	5,198.00		Water supplemental to Ditches reported
	75	2.60	395.00		Dom. supply Steamboat Sogs.
Total all Districts		98.39	9,450.56	3,260	

RESERVOIR TABULATION (CONTINUED)

District Number	Quantity of Water In Reservoir May 1, 1962		Quantity of Water In Reservoir Nov. 1, 1962		First Day Water Used From Reservoir	Last Day Water Used From Reservoir
	Cubic Feet	Acre Feet	Cubic Feet	Acre Feet		
44 Irrig.	90,601,685	2,079.9	3,300,000	75.7	5-15	8-16
Stock	1,054,400	24.2	300,000	6.9		
Fish	12,092,256	277.6	12,092,256	277.6		
Not Used	6,656,000	152.8	6,656,000	152.8		
Total	110,404,341	2,534.5	22,348,256	513.0		
54 Irrig.	17,345,000	398.2	0.0	0.0	7-27	9-21
Stock	1,436,000	33.0	1,000,000	23.0		
Total	18,781,000	431.2	1,000,000	23.0		
57 Irrig.	84,638,508	1,943.0	--	--	5-19	9-17
Stock	26,807,121	615.4	--	--		
Dom.	30,975,295	711.1	--	--		
Total	142,420,924	3,269.5	--	--		
58 Irrig.	436,059,323	10,010.5	199,333,349	4,576.1	5-31	10-12
Dom.	68,436,160	1,571.1	51,201,295	1,175.4	8-15	11-15
Total	504,495,483	11,581.6	250,534,644	5,751.5		
Total All Districts	776,101,748	17,916.8	273,882,900	6,287.5	5-15	11-15

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR
REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1962

District Number	Use of Water	No. of Reservoirs Reported	Area of H.W.L. Acres	Capacity in Cubic Feet	Capacity in Acre Feet
44	Irrigation	16	426	91,306,685	2,096.11
	Stock Water	3	19	1,054,400	24.20
	Fish & Recreation	1	35	12,092,256	277.60
	Not Used	1	20	6,656,000	152.80
	Total	21	500	111,109,341	2,550.71
54	Irrigation	1	30	17,345,000	398.20
	Stock Water	1	10	1,436,000	33.00
	Not Used	1		1,700,000	39.00
	Total	3	40	20,481,400	470.20
57	Irrigation	7	181	102,975,698	2,364.00
	Stock Water	2	30	26,807,121	615.40
	Not Used	5	26	11,496,961	263.90
	Domestic	1	33	30,975,295	711.10
	Total	15	270	172,255,075	3,954.40
58	Irrigation	14	498	515,231,272	11,828.10
	Domestic	2	120	68,436,160	1,571.10
	Totals	16	618	583,667,432	13,399.20
Total All Districts Reported		55	1,428	887,513,248	20,374.50

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL
DITCH REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1962

DISTRICT NUMBER	NO. OF DITCHES REPORTED	AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATION CUBIC FEET PER SECOND	CAPACITY OF DITCHES CUBIC FEET PER SECOND	FIRST DAY WATER WAS USED	LAST DAY WATER WAS USED
43	52	771.67	1,121.00	4-1	10-20
44	125	519.45	784.00	4-23	8-21
54	73	368.99	522.00	4-15	10-28
55 & 56	NO WATER COMMISSIONER OR REPORT				
57	60	337.12	392.18	5-6	9-28
58	300	1,793.10	1,915.00	4-1	11-1
TOTAL	610	3,790.33	4,734.18	4-1	11-1

DISTRICT NUMBER	AVERAGE NO. DAYS WATER CARRIED	AVERAGE DAILY AMOUNT CARRIED IN SEC. FEET	NUMBER OF ACRE FEET USED	TOTAL NO. ACRES IRRIGATED
43	103	551.67	126,617.74	19,916
44	36	511.41	57,839.90	21,588
54	78	242.90	51,045.28	9,785
57	64	235.20	44,728.56	14,115
58	73	1,103.20	170,061.30	54,567
TOTALS	354	2,644.38	450,292.78	119,971

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REPORT

TO: Wesley E. Signs
Irrigation Division Engineer
P.O. Box 95
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

FROM: David R. Rasmussen

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF COMMISSIONER'S ACTIVITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF POT
CREEK WATERS, 1962

Distribution of water on Pot Creek for 1962 was a different experience for me in that we had, for a time, ample water flowing down the stream bed. According to the U. S. G. S. Preliminary Records, taken from automatic recorders located on the creek, we had in the area of 7,410 acre feet flow past the upper station. This run-off reached a peak during the middle of April and gradually tapered off to nothing by June 15.

As a result of the above-mentioned volume of water, the Matt Warner Reservoir filled and overflowed for the first time since I became Commissioner. In fact, during the early part of May, I was called upon by Zeph Calder, owner of the Matt Warner Reservoir, to open the headgates and release part of the over-flow of water through the Matt Warner Reservoir. This was done in an effort to save extensive erosion below the spillway, as well as to lower the level of water to the spillway elevation. Mr. Calder was planning to plant some fish in the Matt Warner Reservoir and he did not want them going over the spillway.

On May 23, I checked to see if the water was still going over the

Spillway. There was still a small amount spilling over, but most of the 9.0 c.f.s. still running in Pot Creek was going through the lower headgate in the dam. By May 27, the water was down to spillway elevation, and only 6.0 c.f.s. was going through the headgate and on down Pot Creek.

On June 5, 1962, the reservoir gauge read 107.4. The inflow of approximately 3.0 c.f.s., was going on through the reservoir and down to lower users on Pot Creek.

As mentioned before, the users of Pot Creek all had the opportunity to fill their storage reservoirs, as well as to use what water they needed during the period of run-off. The Crouse Reservoir filled to capacity. Some of the smaller reservoirs, belonging to the Colorado users, washed out and had to be repaired to take advantage of the excess water.

On June 12, I visited the Pot Creek area. The Matt Warner Reservoir gauge showed 107.3, with approximately 3.0 c.f.s. being released and near that amount running in. Due to the filling of the Matt Warner Reservoir, the U.S.G.S. measuring facilities above the Matt Warner Reservoir was rendered useless to me, due to the backing up of water into the control area. On this date, I dammed off both of Shiner Bros. diversion ditches and dammed off Pot Creek in an effort to turn the flow down to Bill Allen in Brown's Park. There was approximately 2.5 c.f.s. running at this point of diversion.

On June 16, 1962, I received a call from Bill Allen stating that he was not receiving the water turned to him on the 12. I went to the Pot Creek area and found his diversion dam still in place, but no water. At his instructions, I released 2.71 c.f.s. from the Crouse Reservoir. The Reservoir was at level 21.5 or spillway level. Shiner Bros. had removed one dam out of their ditch since the 12. This was replaced.

I found that Zelph Calder had dammed off Pot Creek at his point of diversion and was taking all of the flow of the creek. I met with him on June 12, and he assured me that he would not divert until the natural flow of Pot Creek had ceased. Pot Creek was still flowing approximately 2.0 c.f.s.

On June 17, I returned to the Matt Warner Reservoir and removed Zelph Calder's locks and placed state locks on the headgates. There was approximately 3.0 c.f.s. being released. The reservoir gauge read 107.2. I removed part of the Zelph Calder diversion dam and split the water at this point, 1.5 c.f.s. going to each user. I then notified Zelph Calder that he must allow Bill Allen's portion of the stream to continue on down the creek.

At Zelph Calder's request, I visited Pot Creek on June 22. He had installed a 3 ft. rectangular weir above the Matt Warner Reservoir. It appeared to be level and installed properly. A staff gauge reading of 0.21 was obtained. This gave a flow of 0.95 c.f.s. Pot Creek had again been dammed off completely and all the flow was going into the Calder Ditch. I cut the dam and sent 0.80 c.f.s. on down the channel to Bill Allen.

On June 25, I met with Zelph Calder in the Vernal Branch of the State Engineer's Office. A call was placed to Salt Lake City, Utah in an effort to receive approval to turn the Matt Warner Reservoir over to Mr. Calder, since the flow of Pot Creek had dropped to such a minor amount. That evening, June 25, Mr. Robert F. Guy, District Engineer, and I went to the Matt Warner Reservoir and removed the state locks. The inflow was 0.41 c.f.s., the release was 3.42 c.f.s., and the reservoir gauge read 107.0.

A final visit was made to the Matt Warner Reservoir on October 30, 1962, and the reservoir gauge read 101.75, a storage hold-over of 1450 acre feet.

Mr. Calder has informed me that his fish are doing well and he plans to hold them over until 1963.

The total distribution went very well, except for some difficulty experienced toward the end of the month of June, when it seemed almost impossible to get Bill Allen's share of water on down to his diversion point. Most of this problem could be solved by installing a locking-type, screw-type headgate at the Zelph Calder diversion point.

The Colorado users, Bill Karren and the Massey Bros., had the opportunity to use more water than has been available for years. It might be worthwhile to suggest that improvements should be made on the existing storage reservoir and also that new ones might be planned. Due to the limited storage space available, it is almost certain that most of the water available went on down into Green River and was lost as far as the Pot Creek users are concerned.

Because of the fact that both the major reservoirs, Matt Warner and Crouse, filled to capacity, the distribution of the Colorado rights was simply a matter of the excess over-flow going on down Pot Creek. Bill Allen's late call for water from Pot Creek also assured the Colorado users of receiving their full rights, since he did not call for the water until after Pot Creek was below 5.0 c.f.s.

A copy of the U.S.G.S. Preliminary Records will accompany this report. As mentioned above, the recorder was limited without the proper correction and their report shows Pot Creek's flow stopped on June 15. Actual measurement taken by Robert Guy and myself, show that the creek actually flowed a measurable amount until June 26, 1962. Since the Preliminary Records are subject to revision, this may explain the difference in flows recorded by the U.S.G.S. and the measurements taken by me.

This report is respectfully submitted on November 13, 1962 by:

David R. Rasmussen (signed)
Water Commissioner
Ashley Creek, Brush Creek, and
Pot Creek