

Steamboat Springs, Colorado  
November 19, 1963

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

Dear Mr. Whitten:

I herewith present my Annual Report for Irrigation  
Division No. 6 for the year 1963.

Attached are the tabulations of the Water Commissioners'  
Ditch and Reservoir Reports from Water Districts 43, 44, 54,  
57 and 58.

The first water recorded for direct irrigation in Div-  
ision No. 6 was February 5, out of Piceance Creek in Water  
District No. 43, and the last day was November 4 out of the  
Little Snake River in Water District No. 54.

The irrigation season extended over a period of 272  
days in Division No. 6. The length of irrigation season  
varied from 157 days in Water District 44 to 270 days in  
Water District No. 43.

The stream flow was considerably below normal and caused  
shortage in some areas. In some instances late priority  
ditches were never allowed to run.

Water Commissioner Reports show a total of 20,514 acre  
feet of reservoir storage capacity in Division No. 6 with  
a May 1<sup>st</sup> storage of 13,453 acre feet. This is 13 per cent  
decrease from the 1962 May 1<sup>st</sup> storage. The November 1<sup>st</sup>  
storage was reported as 3,811 acre feet, about 50% of the  
1962 carry-over storage.

Precipitation during the fall of 1962 and the winter of 1963 was below normal; and this, coupled with low rainfall during the growing season, resulted in a crop yield that was below average, particularly for the dry land grain and hay. ~~throughout~~ the Division.

The Wyoming Water Commissioner and the Colorado Water Commissioner in Water District No. 54 are successfully carrying out the agreement along the Little Snake River Compact area which ~~agreement~~ was adopted by the State Engineers of both states and put into operation during the 1957 season.



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A total of 430,110 acre feet was reported diverted in Division No. 6 for the irrigation of 119,562 acres, or an average of 3.59 acre feet per acre for the season.


The below-normal precipitation for the fall of 1962 and winter of 1963, coupled with a below-normal rainfall during the growing season, made a below-normal crop yield, particularly on the dry land grain and hay throughout the Division.

The precipitation for the month of August was above normal which hampered harvest of small grain and hay, reducing the quality of the crops.


The temperatures were above normal, and probably one of the longest frost-free periods that ever has been recorded was experienced during the past season.

The months of September and October were dry and the soil moisture is low, and the snow pack in the high elevations is to date practically non-existent.

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 Cheyenne Transcontinental Diversion out of the headwaters of the North Fork of the Little Snake in Wyoming is nearing completion and may possibly divert water in the spring of 1964.



Lester Creek and Hahns Peak Reservoirs,  
which are owned by the State Game, Fish,  
and Parks Department, were inspected the  
morning of May 29.



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The Pot Creek flow was such, due to the lack of winter moisture, that no water was delivered to the Colorado users. No notice was given the Division office as to a 1963 meeting on the administration of Pot Creek.

The Decrees were indexed for Irrigation District No. 44, and there was a deficiency of some 30 Decrees between those recorded with the Division office and the State Engineer's office. The county commissioners of Moffat County were contacted and they agreed to pay for the copying of the Decrees so they could be sent to the State Engineer's office and the Division Engineer's office.

Mr. Reese Brooks, Senior Construction Engineer, visited the Division May 29th and June 6th and 7th. The State Game, Fish and Parks, Lester Creek Reservoir and the Hahns Peak Reservoir were inspected the morning of May 29th. It was determined that some repair work should be done on the spillway of the Hahns Peak Reservoir. The Forest Service requested the bulk of the repair.

The proposed Fortification Reservoir of the State Game, Fish and Parks was inspected the afternoon of May 29th.

The Sheriff, Rams Horn, and Stillwater Reservoirs in Water Districts 57 and 58 were inspected on the 6th and 7th of June.

The State Game, Fish and Parks continued work on the Johnson Dam in Water District 43 and started construction on the Fortification Reservoir in District No. 44. Both projects are nearing completion.

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The town of Steamboat Springs constructed the Steamboat Reservoir No. 2, a small earth fill dam, and started to fill it October the 7th without obtaining permission from the State Engineer.

About 11 a.m. October the 8th, the dam failed with approximately 10 feet of storage. No damage was done below the reservoir as only approximately 10 acre feet of water was released.

Mr. Brooks inspected the reservoir October the 11th and instructed the engineers and contractors on how the dam should be rebuilt. Failure apparently was due to poor compaction in the vicinity of the outlet pipe.

The dam was reconstructed and is being filled at the present time under Mr. Brooks' recommendations.

The Colorado-Ute Electric Association started construction of a 36 million dollar steam generating plant in Water District No. 57 near Hayden, Colorado. Water rights for the plant were purchased from the Colorado Utilities plant at McGreagor, Colorado and a small irrigation right in water District 44, below Craig, Colorado. Proceedings for the change of point of diversion are in district court at the present time and are apparently being contested by several different interests.

Mr. Watkins, Water Commissioner, Water District No. 43, again made several readings in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation on some of the main ditches out

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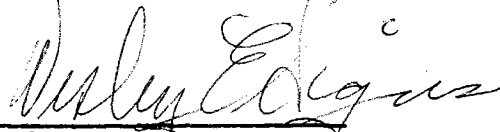
of the White River. This work is for the reconnaissance study on the proposed Yellow Jacket Project.

Apparently there is much interest in the huge oil shale deposits in Rio Blanco County, and requests have been made as to the availability of water in this area for manufacturing purposes.

Water Districts<sup>n</sup> 43, 54, 56 and 58 have adjudication proceeding pending and apparently there has been considerable activity in adjudicating water in these Water Districts.

I wish to thank the Water Commissioners of Division No. 6 for doing a very good job during the 1963 water season. I also wish to thank the State Engineer's office and staff for their cooperation in all requests made by the Division.

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley E. Signs  
Irrigation Division Engineer  
Division No. 6



TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL  
DITCH REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1963

District No.	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	50	784.65	953.00	2-5	11-1
44	143	569.32	799.00	4-9	9-12
54	74	176.73	553.50	4-11	11-4
55 & 56	No Commissioner Report				
57	64	329.16	422.50	4-3	10-25
58	297	1620.96	1884.0	4-1	11-1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>3480.82</b>	<b>4612.00</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>11-4</b>

District No.	Average No. Days Water Carried	Average Daily Amount Carried Cubic Feet Per Second	No. of Acre Feet Used	Total Number of Acres Irrigated	Water Use Acre Feet Per Acre
43	113	370.67	104,747.86	19,504	5.37
44	48	532.33	70,820.8	22,093	3.20
54	86	204.71	44,845.8	10,160	4.41
55 & 56	No Commissioner Report				
57	66	232.51	50,332.3	14,465	3.47
58	67	1069.10	159,365.6	53,540	2.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>2409.32</b>	<b>430,110.36</b>	<b>119,562</b>	<b>3.59</b>

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR  
REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1963

District No.	Use of Water	No. of Reservoirs Reported	Area of H.W.L. Acres	Capacity in Cubic Feet	Capacity in Acre Feet
44	Irrigation	15	375	85,163,301	1,955.08
	Stock Water	3	5	6,315,920	144.99
	Fish & Recreation	1	35	12,092,256	277.60
	Not Used	2	35	13,451,360	308.80
	Total	21	450	117,022,837	2,686.47
54	Irrigation	1	30	17,345,000	398.20
	Stock Water	1	10	1,436,400	33.00
	Total	2	40	18,781,400	431.20
57	Irrigation	6	215	89,556,846	2,055.94
	Stock Water	5	46	30,715,535	705.13
	Domestic	1	33	30,975,295	711.10
	Not Used	4	25	21,887,687	502.47
	Total	16	319	173,135,363	3,974.64
58	Irrigation	14	498	516,231,772	11,851.05
	Domestic	2	120	68,436,160	1,571.10
	Total	16	618	584,667,932	13,422.15
Total All Districts Reported		55	1,427	893,607,532	20,514.46

RESERVOIR TABULATION (CONTINUED)

District No.	Quantity of Water In Reservoir May 1, 1963		Quantity of Water In Reservoir November 1, 1963		First Day Water Used From Reservoir	Last Day Water Used From Reservoir
	Cubic Ft.	Acre Ft.	Cubic Ft.	Acre Ft.		
44 Irrig.	27,651,716	634.79			4-24	7-27
Stock	3,440,000	78.97				
Fish	12,092,256	277.60	12,092,256	277.60		
Total	43,183,972	991.36	12,092,256	277.60		
54 Irrig.	914,760	21.00			7-15	7-18
Stock	1,436,400	33.00				
Total	2,351,160	54.00				
57 Irrig.	63,502,123	1,457.80	9,591,580	220.19	5-2	9-25
Stock	30,715,535	705.13	15,360,000	352.61		
Dom.	30,975,295	711.10	6,687,766	153.53		
Total	125,192,953	2,874.03	31,639,346	726.33		
58 Irrig.	346,863,759	7,962.90	78,630,860	1,805.12	5-10	11-1
Dom.	68,436,160	1,571.10	43,670,065	1,002.52		
Total	415,299,919	9,534.00	122,300,925	2,807.64		
Total All Districts	586,028,004	13,453.39	166,032,527	3,811.57	4-24	11-1

## RESERVOIR TABULATION (CONTINUED)

District No.	Average No. Days Water Carried	Average Daily Amount Carried Cubic Ft.	No. of Acre Feet Reservoir Water Carried	Total Acres Irrigated	Remarks
44	24	1.93	1,112.08	1,530	Part of Acreage is Reported Under Ditches
54	3	3.50	21.00	800	Supplemental Water to This Acreage
57	57	2.32	1,422.39	1,285	Supplemental Water to this Acreage
58	52	65.16	7,531.00		Water Supplemental to Ditches Reported
Total		72.91	10,086.47	3,615	