

Steamboat Springs, Colorado
November 27, 1964

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 1964.

Attached are the tabulations of the Water Commissioner
Ditch and Reservoir Reports for 1964 from Water Districts
43, 44, 54, 57 and 58.

The first water diverted for direct irrigation in Divi-
sion No. 6 was April 15th, out of Piceance Creek in Water
District No. 43, and the last day was November 15th out of
Nimerick Creek in Water District No. 43. Diversions for
Municipal uses were reported as of April 1st in Water District
No. 58.

The irrigation season extended over a period of 228
days in Division No. 6. The length of season varied from
166 days in Water District No. 44 to 214 days in Water District
No. 43. A total of 686 ditches were reported in the Division
carrying an average daily flow of 2,718 cubic feet of water
per second. There was 452,303 acre feet of direct flow water
applied for irrigation to 126,372 acres. The average use of
water per acre irrigated for the season was 3.58 acre feet.

Water Commissioner Reports show a total of 21,643 acre
feet of available storage capacity with a May 1st storage

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of 16,769 acre feet. This amounted to approximately 25% increase over the 1963 May 1st storage. The November 1st storage was reported as 6,121 acre feet or an increase of approximately 60% over the 1963 carry-over storage.

The early snow pack was below normal and a limited shortage was forecast in January and February. The snow pack increased during March to the point that the forecast predicted near normal snowfall with generally adequate water supply.

The forecast was generally correct for Division No. 6. The snow held in the high mountains much later than usual, which caused a better flow at the time it was needed.

The precipitation for the month of June was above normal for most of the Division. This made an average to above average dry-land hay crop. The above condition also increased the production of the dry-land small grains in the Division. This increased precipitation in June also relieved the water use on some of the smaller drainages that usually cause trouble during this month.

Above-average precipitation during the month of August made it difficult for most harvesting and haying. Much of the produce was of a lower quality due to this excess precipitation.

Temperatures for the irrigation season were near normal. Heavy frosts were experienced in approximately half of the Division during the last week of August. These frosts did

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considerable damage to spring planted small grains.

The months of September and October were extremely dry. However, some snow has fallen on most of the watersheds in Division No. 6 during the month of November, thus making the prospects for the coming year more favorable in spite of a dry soil moisture condition.

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

Oil companies have purchased several ranches in Water District No. 43. The purchases apparently are for the water rights for the future development of oil shale. Presently these are rented back to the past owners for the County taxes. The bulk of these sales are on Piceance Creek, however, some have been on main White River.

Humble Oil Company has drilled on Piceance Creek to attempt to produce oil from the shale. The process involved is somewhat secret but apparently it is a move to develop the oil sale.

The State Game, Fish and Parks Department have started construction work on the first phase of the Big Beaver Recreation Reservoir above Meeker in Water District 43.

The Water District 43 adjudication proceeding is still in progress in the Rio Blanco County District Court.

Some thirty decrees for Water District No. 44 that apparently had never been sent to the State Engineer's Office were completed and sent to both the Division Engineer and the State Engineer's Office. The Moffat County Commissioners paid for the expense involved in copying these decrees.

The Field Draft of the map of all ditches and reservoirs in Water District No. 44 has been completed and the final draft is approximately 50% complete.

The Savory-Pot Hook Project in Wyoming and Water District No. 54 in Colorado has been approved. All that remains before construction is the appropriation, which is expected this coming summer. This is a Participating Project which will put a good many acres under irrigation in Water Districts 54, 55 and possibly 44.

The Cheyenne Transcontinental Diversion out of the Little Snake River in Wyoming is nearing completion and may divert water this coming season.

Adjudication Proceedings were closed in Moffat County District Court for Water District No. 54, and the Decrees should be sent to the Division Engineers and State Engineers Office in the near future.

A Decree for Water District No. 56 containing several ditches was signed October 9, 1964, and sent to the Division Engineer's Office. This Decree contained the ditches and rights on Pot Creek that are covered in the agreement with the Utah State Engineer's Office.

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The Pot Creek Water Users' meeting was attended March 9, 1964. After much debate among the water users it was decided to postpone the meeting to a later date.

There was an attempt to put several Utah drainages, including Pot Creek, under one water commissioner and out of the jurisdiction of the Utah State Engineer's Office. Apparently this was done later, with the exception of Pot Creek. The Court would not include this creek due to the type of decrees involved.

As a result of the above action, Mr. Robert Guy, area Engineer for the Utah State Engineer's Office, administered the water on Pot Creek instead of David Rasmussen who has administered it in the past.

The above action must have been satisfactory as there were no complaints from the Colorado water users.

Mr. Guy informed the Division Office that 106.2 acre feet were delivered to the Colorado-Utah state line for the use of the Colorado users during the irrigation season. The Utah Water Commissioner Reports are completed at a later date, upon receiving this a complete report will be forwarded to the Colorado State Engineer's Office.

The first unit of the Colorado-Ute Electric Association's Steam Generating Plant at Hayden, in Water District No. 57, is nearing completion. It is expected to have a trial run early in 1965. The transfer of water to this station from the old McGreagor Plant and the small irrigation right from

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Water District No. 44 was completed with an agreement out of court between Colorado-Ute and the Protestants.

A Decree for Water District No. 58 was received containing a large number of ditches. This Decree was signed October 9, 1964, from the Routt County District Court.


The State Game, Fish and Parks Department has started construction on the Upper Stillwater Reservoir on the headwaters of the Yampa River. This reservoir is situated in an area of short water supply and could well cause some controversy during the irrigation seasons.

The Bureau of Reclamation has received funds to attempt to increase the snowfall on the headwaters of the Yampa River. The Bureau has contracted Bollay and Associates, Incorporated to set up snow courses and radar storm tracking devices. Manual snow courses are being used this winter. Plans are to place automatic snow pillows that will radio the snowfall automatically.

Cloud seeding will be used to attempt to increase the snowfall. This may be tried on some of the late season storms next spring if the equipment can be installed in time.

I wish to thank the Water Commissioners of Division No. 6 for doing an excellent job during the 1964 water season. I would also like 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 1964

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	95	982.2	1181.9	4-15	11-15
44	151	548.2	754.0	4-23	10-6
54	74	193.1	602.5	5-1	11-6
55 & 56		No Commissioner Report			
57	66	357.9	382.0	4-23	11-2
58	300	1657.3	1819.0	4-1	11-1
TOTAL	686	3738.7	4739.4	4-1	11-15

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	71	501.30	110,492.1	26,546	4.16
44	41	536.35	64,782.9	20,578	3.15
54	83	278.67	62,386.6	11,363	5.49
55 & 56		No Commissioner Report			
57	62	247.81	48,924.6	12,861	3.80
58	65	1154.00	165,716.9	55,024	3.01
TOTAL	62	2718.13	452,303.1	126,372	3.58

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR
REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1964

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	18	320	89,424,082	2,052.9
	Stock Water	3	5	6,415,920	147.3
	Fish & Recreation	2	127	38,436,951	882.4
	Not Used	3	39	7,336,842	168.4
	Total	26	491	141,613,795	3,251.0
54	Irrigation	1	30	17,345,000	398.2
	Stock Water	3	22	3,135,400	72.0
	Total	4	52	20,480,400	470.2
57	Irrigation	11	353	137,881,796	3,165.3
	Domestic	1	33	30,975,295	711.1
	Not Used	3	37	28,139,397	646.0
	Total	15	423	196,996,488	4,522.4
58	Irrigation	14	498	515,231,772	11,828.1
	Domestic	2	120	68,436,160	1,571.1
	Total	16	618	583,667,932	13,399.2
Total All Districts Reported		61	1,584	942,758,615	21,642.8

RESERVOIR TABULATION (CONTINUED)

District No.	Quantity of Water In Reservoir May 1, 1964		Quantity of Water In Reservoir November 1, 1964		First Day Water Used From Reservoir	Last Day Water Used From Reservoir
	Cubic Ft. ✓	Acre Ft.	Cubic Ft. ✓	Acre Ft.		
44 Irrig.	72,958,477	1,674.8			6-20	9-5
Stock	6,415,920	147.3				
Fish	38,436,951	882.4	38,436,951	882.4		
Total	117,811,348	2,704.5	38,436,951	882.4	6-20	9-5
54 Irrig.	17,345,000	398.2			7-30	9-10
Stock	3,135,400	72.0				
Total	20,480,400	470.2			7-30	9-10
57 Irrig.	74,733,545	1,715.6	3,750,989	86.1	5-12	10-14
Dom.	30,975,295	711.1	17,894,448	410.8		
Total	105,708,840	2,426.7	21,645,437	496.9	5-12	10-14
58 Irrig.	418,014,817	9,596.3	155,330,076	3,565.9	5-19	10-13
Dom.	68,436,160	1,571.1	51,201,295	1,175.4		
Total	486,450,977	11,167.4	206,531,371	4,741.3	5-19	10-13
Total All Districts	730,451,565	16,768.8	266,613,759	6,120.6	5-12	10-14

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	29	4.00	2,515.9	2,040	Part of Acreage is Reported Under Ditches
54	43	3.00	258.0	800	Supplemental Water to This Acreage
57	39	2.07	1,048.1	1,535	Supplemental Water to This Acreage
58	30	60.73	6,465.0		Water Supplemental to Ditches Reported
Total	35	69.80	10,287.0	4,375	