

Steamboat Springs, Colorado  
November 26, 1965

Mr. A. Ralph Owens  
Acting Colorado State Engineer  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Owens:

I herewith present my Annual Report for Irrigation Division Number six for the year of 1965.

Attached to the report are tabulations of the Water Commissioner's Reports for 1965 from Water Districts Numbers 43, 44, 54, 57 and 58.

The irrigation season extended over a period from April 1st through November 1st or 215 days. The season varied from April 1st through November 1st, or a period of 215 days, in Water District Number 43 to a period from May 1st through September 29th, or 152 days, in Water District Number 57. A total of 777 ditches were reported in the Division with an average daily flow of 3,094 cubic feet per second. This was an increase of 91 ditches over the amount reported in 1964. A total of 486,900 acre feet was diverted for the irrigation of 138,227 acres. This represents a total use of 3.52 acre feet of water per acre. This varied from 5.85 acre feet of water per acre in Water District Number 43 to 1.99 acre feet per acre in Water District Number 57. The difference in use can probably be attributed to the difference of rainfall and availability of water in the two Districts.

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Water Commissioner Reports show a total of 21,720 acre feet available storage capacity with a May 1st storage of 19,897 acre feet. The difference was caused by some reservoirs being reported that were not used. The November 1st storage was reported as 15,408 acre feet. Very little storage water was used and in most cases what was used was replaced due to the high summer rainfall and runoff.

Most of the depletion in November 1st storage was a result of lowering reservoirs behind earthfill dams for safety during the winter. It is unusual to have these dams full in the fall and in many cases it seemed wise to lower the water level to some extent for safety purposes.

The snow pack was above normal and an April forecast of 130% to 150% above normal stream flow was forecast for the Yampa-White River Drainages. In general, this was correct for the runoff of these rivers. However, no exceedingly high water was experienced, as was expected, because of the slow melting rate of the snow pack.

Precipitation for every month of the growing season was considerably above the average, in many cases as much as 100% above normal.

The high precipitation made the crop production above normal, however, the rainfall continued on through the harvest season causing a crop loss which probably lowered production

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below normal, at least in quality if not in quantity.

Snow fell over the entire Division between the 16th and 19th of September with approximately one-half of the small grain crop in the field, along with approximately one-third of the hay crop. In many cases this was almost disastrous, causing a complete loss in some cases.

Crops were not the only produce hurt by the excess moisture and snow, in many cases the calf and lamb crop were considerably lighter due to shrinkage during these storms.

One redeeming factor was a completely dry October which allowed some salvage of the downed crops and probably in many cases the only chance to do the summer's work.

Interest still runs high in developing the water of the White River in Water District Number 43. As a result of some drilling it has been found that the most of the oil shale deposit is in the Piceance Creek Basin rather than farther south, as was originally thought. This, of course, has raised the interest in the South Fork of the White River, which is the most likely water source for this area.

The fight for this water has left the District Court temporarily and moved to the Federal Power Commission. This was brought about because of the Diversion and Damsite Locations being on Federal Land. Participants in the race to obtain this water are the Rocky Mountain Power Company and the Colorado River

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Water Conservation District along with some major oil companies.

One recreation area was completed in District Number 43, with one more started and nearing completion. The White River Reservoir below Meeker was dedicated and opened for use in the early spring. The Big Beaver Reservoir Dam above Meeker is nearing completion and will make an outstanding recreation area upon completion. Both of these sites are built and financed by the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Department.

The adjudication proceeding is still in progress in Water District Number 43 with over 125 claims entered as of last summer with many controversies and differences to be resolved before the final decree is entered.

Water District Number 44 has a recreation dam just completed by the Colorado State Game, Fish and Parks Department. This is the Freeman Reservoir, some 20 miles north of Craig. While this is a small dam and reservoir, it should make an excellent recreation area.

The Great Northern Conservancy District was formed in Water District Number 44, including a portion of Craig and the Elk Head and Fortification drainages.

The Juniper Conservancy District is being formed and this included the area roughly between Craig and the mouth of the Little Snake River.

The Cheyenne Transcontinental Diversion out of the North Fork of the Little Snake River in Wyoming is completed and

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apparently diverted some water during the past season.

Some money was appropriated for the engineering planning of the Savory Pot Hook Project in Water District Number 54 for the 1966 fiscal year.

The Pot Creek Water User's meeting in Vernal, Utah was attended on March 24, 1965. A report of this meeting with the Utah Water Commissioner's 1964 report was subsequently submitted to the Colorado State Engineer's Office.

The Commissioner report from Pot Creek is normally late because their final reports are not submitted until after the end of the year.

Mr. Robert Guy, Area Engineer with the Utah State Engineer, stated that during the 1965 season generally all of the rights were satisfied. As late as the latter part of August the Colorado reservoirs were full or nearly so. This is an unusual situation for this area, which has been extremely dry until the last two seasons.

The Colorado-Ute Electric Association's Hayden Station Thermo Electric Generating Plant in Water District Number 57 was completed and went on the line during the past summer. The plant was dedicated September 23rd. This plant cost approximately 35 million dollars and generates 150 mega watts. The Salt River addition to this plant, which was to generate 250 mega watts and was slated for immediate construction, was postponed until approximately 1972.

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Most of Water Districts 57 and 58 are to be included in the Upper Yampa Valley Conservancy District. This District is in the final stages of completion.

The Colorado State Game, Fish and Parks Department are building a recreation reservoir, called the Upper Stillwater, high on the Yampa River drainage in Water District Number 58. This project has had many problems, due to the extremely wet summer. Work has been stopped on this project until next season. The pipe and the base of the dam is all that is completed.

The Weather Modification Project that the Bureau of Reclamation started last season is being carried on by Polley and Associates Incorporated, the Soil Conservation Service and United States Geological Survey.

Eighteen new snow courses have been established; <sup>nine</sup>~~eight~~ in the Yampa Valley itself and <sup>nine</sup>~~eight~~ on the continental divide east of Steamboat Springs. Snow pillows that continuously record the snow fall are located at six of the higher courses. These will be equiped with radio transmitters next year so that the snow depth can be read from a laboratory in Steamboat Springs.

A radar storm tracking station has been completed a few miles east of Hayden. This is to be used to study the clouds and determine which ones to seed. Silver Iodide generators will be used to seed the clouds. It is hoped that the snow pack on the continental divide can be increased by this method.


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The United States Geological Survey are installing several stream gaging stations in an attempt to evaluate the runoff. Local snow bound residents and ranchers view the project with much apprehension.

After completing one of the best water years in the past number of years it would appear that the water sheds of Division Number Six are in excellent condition for the coming year. Continuous moisture throughout the season along with recent snows should have the soil moisture near its maximum, so that even a moderate snow pack would make the water situation good for the 1966 season.

I wish to thank the Water Commissioners of Division Number Six for their cooperation and for doing an excellent job during the past irrigation season. I would also like to thank the State Engineer's Office for their cooperation in all requests made by the Division.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Wesley E. Siggs  
Irrigation Division Engineer  
Division Number Six

TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL  
DITCH REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1965

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	145	1,159.15	1,311.76	4- 1	10-31
44	179	770.48	929.81	4-13	10- 6
54	74	164.95	630.68	4-19	11- 1
55 & 56		No Water Commissioner Report			
57	66	409.14	562.60	5- 1	9-29
58	313	1,736.70	1,906.00	4-25	10-31
TOTALS	777	4,240.42	5,340.85	4- 1	11- 1
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	112	763.04	187,782	32,054	5.85
44	32	567.11	61,393	27,088	2.26
54	82	285.30	65,057	11,775	5.52
55 & 56		No Water Commissioner Report			
57	44	221.93	34,183	17,205	1.99
58	54	1,257.00	138,485	50,105	2.76
TOTALS	61	3,094.38	486,900	138,227	3.52



TABULATION OF WATER COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL RESERVOIR  
REPORTS FOR IRRIGATION SEASON OF 1965

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	21	313	99,762,607	2,290.2
	Stock Water	3	6	666,000	15.3
	Fish & Recreation	2	127	38,436,941	882.4
	Not Used	2	30	7,982,000	183.4
	TOTAL	28	476	146,853,548	3,371.3
54	Irrigation	2	30	17,345,000	398.2
	Stock Water	3	14	2,103,739	48.3
	Not Used	1	—	1,700,000	39.0
	TOTAL	6	44	21,148,739	485.5
57	Irrigation	9	312	118,777,002	2,726.7
	Domestic	1	33	30,975,295	711.1
	Not Used	6	78	47,244,191	1,084.6
	TOTAL	16	423	196,996,488	4,522.4
58	Irrigation	13	488	512,701,649	11,770.0
	Domestic	2	120	68,436,160	1,571.1
	TOTAL	15	608	581,137,809	13,341.1
TOTAL ALL DISTRICTS REPORTED		65	1,551	946,136,584	21,720.3

RESERVOIR TABULATION (CONTINUED)

District No.	Quantity of Water In Reservoir May 1, 1965		Quantity of Water In Reservoir November 1, 1965		First Day Water Used From Reservoir	Last Day Water Used From Reservoir
	Cubic Ft.	Acre Ft.	Cubic Ft.	Acre Ft.		
44 Irrig.	99,762,607	2,290.2	13,046,708	299.5	6-2	8-25
Stock	666,000	15.3	————	————		
Fish	38,436,941	882.4	38,436,941	882.4	————	————
TOTAL	138,865,548	3,187.9	51,483,649	1,181.9	6-2	8-25
54 Irrig.	17,345,000	398.2	17,345,000	398.2	————	————
Stock	2,103,739	48.3	2,103,739	48.3		
Not Used	1,700,000	39.0	1,700,000	39.0		
TOTAL	21,148,739	485.5	21,148,739	485.5		
57 Irrig.	118,777,002	2,726.7	47,554,325	1,091.7	5-1	8-13
Dom.	30,975,295	711.1	30,975,295	711.1		
Not Used	47,244,191	1,084.6	47,244,191	1,084.6		
TOTAL	196,996,488	4,522.4	125,773,811	2,887.4	5-1	8-13
58 Irrig.	441,267,284	10,130.1	404,397,167	9,282.3	6-10	8-1
Dom.	68,436,160	1,571.1	68,436,160	1,571.1	————	————
TOTAL	509,703,444	11,701.2	472,833,327	10,853.9	6-10	8-1
TOTAL ALL DISTRICTS	866,714,219	19,897.0	671,199,586	15,408.7	5-1	8-25

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	19	19.64	1,460.0	2,650	Part of Acreage is Reported Under Ditches
54	—	—	—	—	No Storage Used in 1965
57	67	7.05	969.3	1,535	Supplemental Water to This Acreage
58	18	28.25	1,083.0		Water Supplemental to Ditches Reported
TOTAL	35	54.94	3,512.3	4,185	