# DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES 

DIVISION NO. 6

## 1977 ANNUAL REPORT

I. Introductory Statement ..... 1-3
II. Personnel ..... 4
III. Water Supply
A. Forecast ..... 5
B. Precipitation ..... 5
C. Flooding ..... 5
D. Water Budget 1977 Water Year ..... 6-29
E. Ground Water ..... 30
F. Transmountain Diversions (Transbasin) ..... 30
G. Reservoir Storage ..... 31-37
IV. Agriculture ..... 38
V. Compacts ..... 38
VI. Dams
A. Reservoir Projects ..... 39
B. Stock Dams ..... 39
VII. Water Rights
A. Tabulation ..... 39
B. Referee's Findings and Decrees ..... 39
VIII. Organizations
A. Conservancy Districts ..... 40
B. Ditch Companies and Water and Sanitation Districts. ..... 40
IX. Water Commissioner's Summary ..... 42-49
X. Division Engineer's Summary
A. Direct Flow Diversions. ..... 50
B. Storage Report ..... 51
C. Structures Reported and Observations Made ..... 52
D. Workload and Statistical Indicators ..... 53
XI. Recommendations and Suggestions ..... 54

1977 ANNUAL REPORT

## I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Geographically, Irrigation Division 6 is comprised of high mountains, irrigated valleys, farmed mesas, desert range land, and deep canyons. The area of the Division is the natural drainage of the Yampa, Green, Little Snake, White, and North Platte Rivers. Precipitation varies from seven inches annually in the most westerly regions to over forty inches in the eastern high mountains with an average of twenty inches in the crop producing portions of the Division. The majority of the precipitation is in the form of snow during the winter months, however, some areas do receive adequate rain to permit the growing of small grain crops and dry land hay.

Primarily the irrigation is on mountain meadows producing hay and irrigated pasture. This acreage is approximately as follows for various drainages: Yampa River - 100,000 acres, White River - 30,000 acres, and North Platte 120,000 acres. Dry farming in the North Platte drainage is practically nonexistent due to the short growing season and a minimum elevation of 8,000 feet. The dry crop acreage in the Yampa basin is approximately 131,000 acres and the White River drainage has approximately 17,000 acres. Dry land crops consist of wheat, oats, and barley. The land is generally summer fallowed which, for the most part, means only fifty percent of the land is in production annually.

The population in Division No. 6 is sparse with most of the population being in Craig, Steamboat Springs, and Meeker. As a result of the national energy crisis, the city of craig is presently showing the most rapid growth. Several coal mines are being opened in the Craig area and construction has started on a new fossil fuel power plant. Meeker is located near the two
tracts of land that were recently leased from the Federal Government for oil shale development which is resulting in a slight population growth in that area. Steambat Springs has stabilized to some degree and is not at present experiencing the phenomenal growth that it has had in the past.

Agriculture is the primary industry in the entire Division. Industry, though, particularly coal mining, is rapidly becoming a key source of revenue to Routt and Moffat Counties. Recreational development has stabilized with only one additional project planned. The oil shale industry, as of yet, has not caught fire, although there are several people being employed in making studies and formulating development plans.

The only area to receive substantial increases in population has been Craig. With the planned opening of two additional strip mines and work being in full swing on the power plant, many people have been attracted to the region. Several new trailer parks along with sub-divisions have been started.

This past irrigation season was one of the driest years on record. There was drought experienced throughout the state of Colorado and the Division 6 was no exception. There were many ditches that usually would have had adequate water that did not receive any water this past season and several reservoirs did not fill. As a result of the short water supply, irrigated crop production was down as well as dry land production.

The shortage of water resulted in the installation of several new headgates and measuring devices. The upper end of the Yampa River was severely affected by the drought and at times the first four water rights out of approximately seventy were the only ones with water. Water was released from the State Fish and Game Reservoir, Upper Stillwater, to supply the town of Yampa. The water users of the Stillwater Reservoir which only stored 21 percent of its capacity received 10 days of water through their ditch. All tributaries to the Yampa were similarly affected.

There were times in July and August when a call could have been placed on the entire river system. This occured when the city of Craig was short at its inlets and had to install a diversion dam across the river. As a result, the amount of water that it took to fill the small reservoir behind the dam caused a drop in the river at the Maybell Canal. However, several heavy rains fell within that week and it was not necessary to place a call on the main stem of the Yampa below the town of Yampa. There were many locations along the river where ditches were not receiving their full decree, but these ditches did not have proper headgates, diversion dams, or measuring devices. At the time the Yampa River was becoming quite low, most ranchers were starting to dry up their meadows to harvest hay; consequently, no call was placed on the Yampa River. If the pattern of use were to change and another short supply year occured, a call would be almost certain for the entire Yampa River system.

The Elk River flow held up longer and everyone on it received enough water to raise good crops and no call was required.

The White River was put under administration in early July from Old Agency Headgate upstream. The Highline Ditch called for water and consequently all rights junior to it were shut off and water was delivered to supply it. The return flow from the Old Agency and Highline was enough to supply the irrigation downstream. The town of Rangely had to do extensive work on its diversion dam to keep water at its pumps. A plan was developed where water could be released from Johnny Johnson Reservoir if necessary to supply Rangely.

The North Platte drainage had several streams under administration, some of them for the first time in over thirty years. Only the main stem of the North Platte, the Canadian River, and Big Creek were not administered. Most of the reservoirs did not fill and the hay production, on the average, was estimated at fifty percent.
II. PERSONNEL

FY 76-77
Months
FY 76-77
Name
Position District Worked Budgeted Mileage

| Wesley E. Signs | Division Engineer |  | Full Time |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Daries C. Lile | Asst. Division Engineer |  | 1256 |
| W. Kent Holt | Hydrographer | Full Time | 524 |
| Linda L. Fox | Secretary | Full Time | 296 |
| Karen McPherren | Secretary | F | 12 |
| Roy D. Steffen | lo42 Water Commissioner |  | 1 |

[^0]III. WATER SUPPLY

## A. Forecast

Drought was throughout the Division with streamflow being at a thirtyyear low. Runoff at key gaging stations was as follows:

## Station

Yampa River at Steamboat Springs Elk River at Clark
Yampa River at Hayden
Yampa River at Maybell
Little Snake near Slater
Little Snake near Lilly Park
South Fork of White River near Buford
North Fork of White River near Buford
White River near Meeker
Piceance Creek below Ryan Gulch
White River above Rangely
White River near Watson, Utah Michigan River near Cameron Pass North Fork Michigan River near Gould North Platte River near Northgate

Acre Feet Average No. of Years
$125.400 \quad 37 \quad 68$
$87.490 \quad 36$
$236,000 \quad 30 \quad 10$
$345,70031 \quad 59$
$62.490 \quad 38$
103,200 . 254
94,260 5125
113.4005030

198,600 44 71
9,220 $68 \quad 11$
226,000 -- --
$233.100 \quad 4452$
1.420 -- --

6,490 51 26
$89,910 \quad 69$
B. Precipitation

Precipitation for selected stations in Division 6:

|  | Steamboat Springs | Hayden | Walden |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| November | .54 | .12 | .11 |
| December | .70 | .39 | .21 |
| January | 1.02 | .66 | .14 |
| February | 1.29 | .45 | .42 |
| March | 1.22 | .60 | .49 |
| April | 1.50 | 1.03 | .47 |
| May | 2.38 | 1.20 | 2.00 |
| June | 1.72 | .05 | .11 |
| July | 2.79 | 1.91 | 1.54 |
| August | 1.02 | 1.99 | 2.42 |
| September | 1.44 | .65 | 1.02 |
| October | 15.84 | -90 | 1.44 |
| Totals |  | 9.95 | 10.37 |

66\% of normal $62 \%$ of normal $103 \%$ of normal
C. Flooding

As a result of the drought in the Division, there was no high water in the spring. However, slight flooding did occur on the Yampa drainage in mid August as a result of severe thunder storms. Several diversion dams were washed out as well as one county road bridge.
D. Water Budget

The 1977 Water Budget was compiled using the computer program designed last year with minor changes made to improve the end product. Because of the drought this season, it became necessary to add more subunits within each district to more accurately describe the water supply for each hydrologic unit. Where last year the North Platte drainage was computed as one subunit, this year's output was derived using ten subunits and two additional weather stations. Each of these subunits will reflect the acreage, irrigation season, and local climate for that subunit so that the actual irrigation depletion estimates are improved. Better reservoir surface area inputs were also included this year, primarily due to additional investigation of capacity-area relationships for most major reservoirs in Division 6.



WATER DISTRICT 47


WATER DISTRICT 54
54 WATER DISTRICT
**************************************************************************** MONTH EVAPORAIION(INCHES) NET DEPLETION(AF,


EVAPORATIONIINCHESI NEI DEPLETION(AF-)
0.


 - 9LSE STV101 E8*LC




MONTH DEPLETION (INCHES)
4.15
${ }_{3.23}$ N .2


SUMMARY FOR WATER DISTR 47 IN ACRE-FT
IRRIGATION DEPLETION 61709.
RESERVOIR EVAPORATION 5767.
$-14960$
680.
100.
600.

## NOIIdWNSNOS 7VIYISNONI +7甘dIDINNW

MISC. USE OR CORRECTIONS
N01137d30 78101


## SUMMARY FOR WATER DISTA 54 IN ACRE-FT

$$
\begin{array}{r}
7020 . \\
\hline 195 \\
-8 . \\
0 . \\
\hline 0 . \\
50 .
\end{array}
$$

7258. 

|  |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| IRRIGATION DEPLETION | 3762. |
| RESERVOIR EVAPORATION | 116. |
| CHANGE IN RESERVOIR STORAGE | -92. |
| OUT OF BASIN DIVERSIONS. | 0. |
| MUNIGIPAL+INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION | 0. |
| MISG. USE OR CORRECTIONS | 0. |

## 3829. <br> TOTAL DEPLETION


IRRIGATION SUMMARY COMPARISON OF $1976 \& 1977$ WATER YEARS


## E. Ground Water

The dry weather conditions produced a high demand for ground water in the Division. Well permits for the construction of new wells were being asked for daily. Replacement permits for existing wells that were going dry were also being processed at a greater number than ever before. The requests for these additional permits caused a back-log to occur in the Denver Ground Water Section and often verbal approval had to be given for the construction of the wells.

Although the majority of the ground water being used in the Division is in shallow alluvium aquifers, the exploration for coal has uncovered possibilities of new deeper aquifers of ground water. One of these is the Twenty Mile Sandstone which is producing artesian flow of 50 gpm to 450 gpm . New ground water supplies are also being reported in the North Park Basin with some shallow wells (60 feet) producing artesian flows. Work needs to be done in the North Park area to further define these potential sources of ground water.

The exploration for coal has also caused some problems in the Division with unplugged exploration holes being drilled. Several coal companies are doing extensive exploration work in the area and often test holes are left open without proper casing or plugging measures.
F. Transmountain Diversions (Transbasin)

## Structure

Stillwater Ditch
Sarvis Ditch
Rich Ditch
Morgan Creek Dome Creek
Michigan Ditch
Cameron Pass Ditch

Acre Feet
644.0
0.0
1303.0
148.0
24.8
466.0
214.0

Total water exported from Yampa River to Colorado River Drainage: 668.0 Total water exported from N. Platte River to S. Platte Drainage: 680.0
III. Water Supply
TOTALS (All Figures in Acre Feet)
TOTAL

FILL


$$
15,991.36 \quad 525.44 \quad 978.99 \quad 15,537.81-453.55
$$

AMT. IN STORAGE DURING


,

$\dot{\circ} \dot{\circ} \dot{\sim} \dot{\sim}$
~i $\dot{\sim}$


 | Buffalo Creek |
| :--- |
| Beaver Creek |
| T. Beaver Creek |
| Big Creek |
| Lake Creek |
| T. N. Fk. North Platte |
| Buffalo Creek |
| Burns Draw |
| Roaring Fork |
| Michigan River |
| Illinois River |
| Illinois River |
| Illinois River |
| Buffalo Creek |
| Michigan River |
| Arapahoe Creek |
| Seepage T. Michigan River |
| Cow Creek |
| Little Grizzly River |
| Three Mile Creek |
| Buffalo Creek |
| Arapaho Creek |
| Spring Creek |
| Three Mile Creek |
| Dry Creek |
| NewComb Creek |
| Lake Creek |
| Howd Creek |
| Roaring Fork |
| Illinois River |
| Middle Fork Mexican Creek |
| Mexican Creek |
| T. Grizzly Creek |
| Ninegar Creek |
| North Fk. Michigan Creek |
| Unnamed T. Little Grizzly |
| Mexican Creek |

| $0 \cdot 9$ | － | 0.0 | $\varepsilon 8 \cdot 9$ | $\varepsilon 8^{\circ}$ | $0 \cdot 9$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $0^{*}$ T | － | $0^{\circ} 0$ | 0＊$\tau$ | 0＊0 | 0＊T |
| －¢ ¢ ¢ | $+$ | －¢ ¢ \％ | て＊8T9 | $\varepsilon * T 96$ | 0＊28 |
| 0＊0 |  | $0 \cdot 0$ | $6^{\circ} 01$ | ＊＊0T | $0 \cdot 0$ |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | $+$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | $0^{\circ} 0$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | $0 \cdot 0$ |
| $0 \cdot 8$ | － | $0^{\circ} 0$ | $0 \cdot 8$ | $0 \cdot 0$ | 0＊8 |
| $0 \% 0$ |  | $0^{\circ} 0$ | ＊＊9 | ＊${ }^{\text {－}}$ | $0 \cdot 0$ |
| 0．0tt | ＋ | 0\％0ts | $0^{*}$ E8T | 0＊$\varepsilon 6 Z$ | $0 \cdot 0$ |
| $0 \cdot 097$ | － | $0^{\circ} 00$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{ZOE}$ | $0^{\circ}$ ても | 0．00\％ |
| 9＊¢8 | － | $0^{\circ} 0$ | $9^{*}$ ¢8乙 | $0 \cdot 007$ | $9^{\cdot 1} \mathrm{~EB}$ |
| 0＊8 | $+$ | 0．82 | $0^{\circ} 0$ | 0．82 | $0^{\circ} 0$ |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{LE}$ | － | －0 | $0^{\circ}$ Tも¢ | 0＊＊OE | $0^{\circ} \angle \varepsilon$ |
| $0^{\circ} 0$ |  | － 0 | 0＊L\％T | 0＊ $2 \boldsymbol{\text { ¢ T }}$ | － 0 |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{\varepsilon}$ ¢ | $+$ | 0＊\＆g | － 0 | 0＊ESZ | － 0 |
| $0^{\circ} 0$ |  | － 0 | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Tz}$ | 0＊TZ | － 0 |
| $0{ }^{\circ} 0$ |  | － 0 | TL＊ 2 | TL＊${ }^{\circ}$ | － 0 |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | ＋ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | － 0 | 0＊$\tau$ | － 0 |
| 8G＊ 8 | － | $0^{\circ} \varepsilon$ | $85^{\circ} 8$ | － 0 | $8 S^{\circ} \tau T$ |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{E} 9$ ¢ | ＋ | 0＊$¢ 97$ | － 0 | O＊と9Z | － 0 |
| $0^{\circ} 0 \varepsilon$ | ＋ | － $0 \varepsilon$ | － 0 | － $0 \varepsilon$ | － 0 |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | ＋ | $0^{*} 2$ | － 0 | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | $0 \cdot 0$ |
| $0^{\circ} 0$ |  | て・てT | － 0 | － 0 | て＇てT |
| 08＊9 | － | $0 \cdot 08$ | 8．9ع | － 0 | 8＊9TT |
| $0^{\circ} 0$ |  | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{O}$ | － 0 | $0^{*} \mathrm{Z}$ |
| $87^{\circ} 0 \varepsilon$ | － | $0 \cdot 0$ |  | 96＊ $0^{\circ} \mathrm{T}$ | $8 \square^{*} 0 \varepsilon$ |
| $0^{\circ} 0$ |  | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{T}$ | ¢ $8^{\circ} \mathrm{G}$ | $68^{\circ} \mathrm{S}$ | $0^{*}$ T |
| て＇T9 | － | $\varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \tau$ | $00^{*} 8 L$ | て．LT | $5 \cdot \square L$ |
| 0．90S | ＋ | 0＊90s＊T | －LOG | 00＊とT0＊T | － 0 |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | ＋ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | $00^{*} \varepsilon$ | $00^{\circ} \mathrm{S}$ | － 0 |
| てE＊66 | － | 0＊ 49 | で＊Lてて | T•8てT | 2E•99T |
| $0 \cdot 6 \varepsilon$ | － | $0 \cdot 52$ | $0 \cdot 9 Z T$ | 0.98 | 0＊89 |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ | － | － 0 | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{T}$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{Z}$ |
| $0^{*}$ \％ | － | － 0 | $0^{\prime} z$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{T}$ | $0^{\circ} \mathrm{L}$ |
| 99vzo | als | LL／TE／OT | NOIJWYOdY ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | NOSYES | 9L／T／TT |
| NI GSNEHD TYLOL |  | 玉ฺษ\％OLS | ＋GSVETITM | 9NIGAa | 9ロviols |
|  |  | NI • $W W \%$ |  | I＇IIA | NI • LW\％ |

DISTRICT NO． 57
TOTALS（All Figures in Acre Feet）
TONALS（All Figures in Acre Feet）
Haunted Spring Reservoir Haunted Spring Gulch Flynn Spring Pot Creek
$\qquad$
Offield Reservoir


| District 56 Cont． |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Haunted Spring Reservoir | Haunted Spring Gulch |
| Massey Reservoir | Flynn Spring |
| Offield Reservoir | Pot Creek |
| TOTALS（All Figures in Acre Feet） |  |
| DISTRICT NO． 57 |  |


|  | AMT. IN STORAGE 11/1/76 | FILL DURING SEASON | RELEASE + EVAPORATION | AMT. IN STORAGE 10/31/77 | $\qquad$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 611.0 | 602.0 | 1.169.0 | 44.0 | - 567.0 |
|  | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
|  | 80.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 80.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 0.0 | 30.0 | 30.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 3.0 | 7.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
|  | 50.0 | 203.0 | 243.0 | 10.0 | 40.0 |
|  | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 1,637.0 | 205.0 | 312.0 | 1.530.0 | - 107.0 |
|  | 35.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 35.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 728.0 | 0.0 | 726.0 | 2.0 | - 726.0 |
|  | 2.43 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.43 | 0.0 |
|  | 600.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 600.5 | 0.0 |
|  | 5.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 |
|  | . 4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | . 4 | 0.0 |
|  | 261.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 261.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 77.0 | 0.0 | 77.0 | 0.0 | 77.0 |
|  | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
|  | 2,742.0 | 1,658.0 | 0.0 | 4,400.0 | +1,658.0 |
|  | 396.6 | 297.92 | 297.92 | 396.6 | 0.0 |
|  | 10.0 | 55.0 | 60.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
|  | 6.0 | 19.0 | 19.0 | Est. 6.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 30.0 | 60.0 | 90.0 | 0.0 | 30.0 |
|  | 0.0 | 20.85 | 20.85 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| Est. | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Est. 100.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 0.0 | 122.0 | 0.0 | 122.0 | + 122.0 |
|  | 8.21 | 11.79 | 20.0 | 0.0 | 8.21 |
|  | 45.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 45.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
|  | 7.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 0.0 |
|  | 6.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.8 | 0.0 |
|  | 361.0 | 284.0 | 525.0 | 120.0 | 241.0 |
|  | 0.0 | 1,676.9 | 1,655.95 | 20.95 | + 20.95 |
|  | 1.74 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.74 | 0.0 |
|  | 4.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.6 | 0.0 |


| AMT. IN | FILL |  | AMT. IN | TOTAL |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| STORAGE | DURING | RELEASE + | AMT. <br> STORAGE | CHANGE IN |
| II/1/76 | SEASON | EVAPORATION | IO/31/77 | STORAGE |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 0.0 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 0.0 | 0. |
| 5.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 0.0 |
| 35.0 | 40.0 | 75.0 | 0.0 | -35.0 |
| 620.0 | 324.9 | 617.5 | 327.4 | -292.6 |
| $23,604.0$ | 0.0 | 0.0 | $23,604.0$ | 0.0 |
| 37.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 37.0 | 0.0 |
| 390.0 | 34.0 | 350.0 | 74.0 | -316.0 |
| 1.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | - |
| 15.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 15.0 | 0.0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| $32,529.38$ | $5,663.36$ | $6,319.22$ | $31,873.52$ | -655.86 |

## IV. AGRICULTURE

Crop production throughout the Division 6 area was below average as a result of the dry weather conditions. However, those irrigated crops that were supplied with adequate water on the White and Yampa Rivers did produce good crops as a result of the longer growing season.

Some drainages on the Yampa that did not supply enough water were the Yampa above the town of Yampa, Elkhead Creek, Fortification Creek, and Morapas Creek. Crops in these areas were estimated to be as low as twenty percent of normal production.

The White River, although being short above Meeker, did supply enough water to raise near average hay production. The North Platte drainage as a basin produced approximately sixty percent of the normal hay crop.

Dry land crop production was very poor with wheat production being as low as twenty percent in some areas. Also grass-fattened cattle as a whole were not as heavy this fall as previous years.

## V. COMPACTS

Preliminary gaging station records show $345 ; 700$ acre feet at the Maybell gage on the Yampa River for the past water year. Although this is less than 500,000 acre feet, it is still within the requirements of the Upper Colorado River Compact with the ten year consecutive average being $1,099,258$ acre feet per year for the Yampa River flow at Maybell.

The Nebraska VS Wyoming Supreme Court stipulations were met with 10,973 acre feet for irrigation purposes being stored, 110,481 acres of land irrigated, and 680 acre feet of water being transported out of the North Platte River basin.

The operation of Pot Creek this past season was relatively easy since no water was available for Colorado. The majority of the water that was received by the water rights in Colorado was the result of a reservoir release being
made by Utah of water that was stored the previous year. The total flow for Pot Creek at the Colorado State line was 65 acre feet with the reservoir release accounting for 56 acre feet.

## VI. DAMS

A. Since the past irrigation season was one of the driest on record, many reservoirs did not fill and there was no major problems developed by any of the reservoirs during the year.

Construction is 95 percent complete on Lake Catamount Reservoir on the main stem of the Yampa River. This reservoir will be allowed to fill as soon as the final inspection has been approved.

Lester Creek Reservoir has still not been completely filled, primarily due to lack of water availability. The Forest Service as yet has not allowed the construction of a permanent road to the dam and this could possibly cause problems for any future maintenance work that may be needed.
B. The construction of stock dams has been increasing as a result of the drought and assistance monies being made available through the Soil Conservation Service. There was a total of sixteen new stock dams approved during 1977.

## VII. WATER RIGHTS

A. During the month of August, Water Referee hearings were held by the Division 6 Water Referee. Cases heard were those that had been objected to and the referee was hearing them in an attempt to resolve differences of the parties involved so that a full hearing before the Court would be avoided. In most cases, this was possible; however, those cases involving the Federal Government and a case involving the claim to a spring were not resolved.
B. Consultations with the water referees are made upon their request and are up-to-date. All water cases are field checked by a member of the Division

6 staff with the water referee unless both parties have previous knowledge of the case or the case is a conditional water right for which there would be no advantage in seeing.

|  | Applications | Rulings | Decrees |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Underground | 45 | 35 | 37 |
| Change of Water Right | 25 | 15 | 19 |
| Plan of Augmentation | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Water Right | 118 | 95 | 86 |
| Diligence | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Water Storage | 52 | 15 | 14 |
| Applications received in Water Court | 246 |  |  |
| Number of Referee Consultations | 163 |  |  |

## VIII. ORGANIZATIONS

A. Colorado River Water Consaxvation District, Glenwood Springs, Colorado - Mr. Roland C. Fischer, Secretary-Engineer

Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado - John Fetcher, Secretary; Jim Funk, President

Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District, Meeker, Colorado Frank Cooley, Attorney

Pot Hook Conservancy District, Baggs, Wyoming Darwin Dunn, President

Lower Yampa Conservancy District, Craig, Colorado Tony Angelo, Chairman

Great Northern Conservancy District, Craig, Colorado Tony Angelo, Chairman

Northwest Colorado Water Council, Craig, Colorado Tony Angelo, Chairman

Jackson County Water Conservancy District, Walden, Colorado Lloyd Hampton, Secretary
B. Bear River Reservoir Company, Yampa, Colarado

Stillwater Ditch Company, Yampa, Colorado
Maybell Irrigation District, Maybell, Colorado
Miller Creek Ditch Company, Meekex, Colorado

Woodchuck Ditch Company, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Mt. Werner Water and Sanitation District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Morrison Creek Water and Sanitation District, Oak Creek, Colorado
Steamboat Lake Water District, Clark, Colorado
Riverside Water and Sanitation District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Steamboat II Water and Sanitation District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Tree Haus Water and Sanitation District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
IX. WATER COMMISSIONER'S SUMMARY
Water District No. 4 ..... 43
Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation ................... 264, 332 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin ..... 0
Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal \& Domestic. ..... 1.148 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 5,272 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses 14.111 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS 284,863 AF
Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 8,066 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... $7,919 \mathrm{AF}$
Net Change in Storage ..... 147 AF
Fill During Season ..... 1,416 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... $1,562 \mathrm{AF}$
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... 264,332 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 146 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION ..... 264,478 AF
Total Acres Irrigated 24,371 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation10.8 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 431
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 23
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 230
Number of Active Wells Oioserved ..... 10
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 134
TOTAL STRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 828
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 231
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 5,891
Water District ..... 44
Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation ..... 148,486 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin ..... 148 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal \& Domestic. ..... $1,810 \mathrm{AF}$
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 0
Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses ..... 523 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS ..... $150,967 \mathrm{AF}$
Reservoir Storage (11/l/76) ..... 15,991 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... 15,538 AF
Net Change in Storage ..... 454 AF
Fill During Season ..... 525 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 979 AF
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... 148,486 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 114 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION $148,600 \mathrm{AF}$
Total Acres Irrigated 21.496 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation6.9 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 225
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 49
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 29
Number of Active Wells Oiserved ..... 3
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 87
TOTAL STRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 393
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 55
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 1,675

## Water District

Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation ..... 206,986 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin ..... 680 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal \& Domestic ..... 368 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 0
Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses 4,466 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS 212,500 AF
Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 15,614 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) 14,118 AF
Net Change in Storage ..... $1,496 \mathrm{AF}$
Fill During Season ..... 11,647 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 13,143 AF
Direct Diversions to Irrigation 206,986 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... $4,537 \mathrm{AF}$
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION $211,523 \mathrm{AF}$
Total Acres Irrigated 110,481 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation ..... 1.9 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 222
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 35
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 1
Number of Active Wells Onserved ..... 2
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 41
TOTAL STRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 301
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 165
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 1,214

| Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation | 22,232 AF |
| :---: | :---: |
| Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin | 0 |
| Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal | 118 AF |
| Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial | 0 |
| Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses | 590 AF |
| TOTAL DIVERSIONS | 23,340 AF |

Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 462 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... 454 AF
Net Change in Storage ..... 8 AF
Fill During Season ..... 398 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 406 AF
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... $22,232 \mathrm{AF}$
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 400 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION ..... 22,622 AF
Total Acres Irrigated 10,960 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation 2.1 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 65
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 7
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 3
Number of Active Wells Onserved ..... 0
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 24
TOTAL S'TRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 99
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 65
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 230
Water District No. ..... 55
Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation ..... 9.387 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin ..... 1
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 0
Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses ..... 130
TOTAL DIVERSIONS ..... 9.518 AF
Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 0
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... 0
Net Change in Storage ..... 0
Fill During Season ..... 0
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 0
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... 9,387 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 0 TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION ..... 9,387 AF
Total Acres Irrigated 1,368 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation ..... 6.9 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 11
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 0
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 20
Number of Active Wells Oinserved ..... 5
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 8
TOTAL STRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 44
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 0
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 126
Water District No. ..... 56
Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation ..... $11,454 \mathrm{AF}$
Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin ..... 0
Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal ..... 279 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 0
Direct Flow Dive
TOTAL DIVERSIONS 14,452 AF
Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 166 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... 67 AF
Net Change in Storage ..... 99 AF
Fill During Season ..... 128 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 227 AF
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... 11,454 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 248 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION ..... 11,702 AF
Total Acres Irrigated 2,335 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation ..... 5.0 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 33
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 8
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 65
Number of Active Wells Oinserved ..... 4
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 25
TOTAL STRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 135
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 0
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 502
Water District No. ..... 57

Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal \& Domestic. ..... 915 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 4.520 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses $\frac{2,054 \mathrm{AF}}{63,456 \mathrm{AF}}$ TOTAL DIVERSIONS
Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 1.165 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... 2.174 AF
Net Change in Storage ..... $+1,009 \mathrm{AF}$
Fill During Season ..... 3,622 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 2,613 AF
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... 54,895 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 538 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION ..... 55.433 AF
Total Acres Irrigated 9.564 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation ..... 5.6 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 71
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 30
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 107
Number of Active Wells Onserved ..... 6
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 75
TOTAL S'TRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 291
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 28
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 716
Water District No. ..... 58
Direct Flow Diversions to Irrigation 97,106 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Transbasin ..... 25 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Municipal \& Domestic. ..... 2,998 AF
Direct Flow Diversions to Industrial ..... 0
Direct Flow Diversions to Other Uses ..... 946 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS 101,075 AF
Reservoir Storage (11/1/76) ..... 32,529 AF
Reservoir Storage (10/31/77) ..... 31,874 AF
Net Change in Storage ..... 655 AF
Fill During Season ..... 5,663 AF
Release + Evaporation During Season ..... 6,319 AF
Direct Diversions to Irrigation ..... 97,876 AF
Diversions from Storage to Irrigation ..... 3,620 AF
TOTAL DIVERSIONS TO IRRIGATION 101,496 AF
Total Acres Irrigated 30,499 Acres
Average Demand for Irrigation ..... 3.3 AF/Acre
Number of Active Ditches Observed ..... 351
Number of Active Reservoirs Observed ..... 44
Number of Active Springs Observed ..... 225
Number of Active Wells Oiserved ..... 30
Number of Inactive Structures Observed ..... 160
TOTAL STRUCTURES OBSERVED ..... 810
Total Number of Structures Regulated ..... 127
Total Number of Field Observations Made ..... 3,374

Table A

Reported on in Dist.

Total Diversions A.F.

Transbasin/Transmen. Diversions A.F.

Recreational \& Other Uses A.F.

Municipal \& Domestic A.F.

Industrial Use A. F.
A.F. per Acre

No. of Acres Irrigated

Total Diversions for Irrigation A.F.

Total Inactive Ditches Reported Active
Delivered to Compact Commitment A. F.

Water District

| Table A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  3 0 0 0 H. B | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ho } \\ & \text { W. } \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { En } \\ & 0 . \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & \sim \\ & \sim \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ |  |  | Recreational \& Other Uses A.F. | $\begin{aligned} & 0.9 \\ & 0 . \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |
| 43 | 431 | 134 | 264,478 | 24,371 | 10.8 | 5,272 | 1,148 | 14,111 | 0 | 284,863 | 828 | 0 |
| 44 | 225 | 87 | 148,600 | 21,496 | 6.9 | 0 | 1,810 | 523 | 148 | 150,967 | 393 | 0 |
| 47 | 222 | 41 | 211,523 | 110,481 | 1.9 | 0 | 368 | 4,466 | 680 | 212,500 | 301 | 0 |
| 54 | 65 | 24 | 22,622 | 10,960 | 2.1 | 0 | 118 | 590 | 0 | 23,340 | 99 | 0 |
| 55 | 11 | 8 | 9,387 | 1,368 | 6.9 | 0 | 1 | 130 | 0 | 9,518 | 44 | 0 |
| 56 | 33 | 25 | 11,702 | 2,335 | 5.0 | 0 | 279 | 2,719 | 0 | 14,452 | 135 | 0 |
| 57 | 71 | 75 | 55,433 | 9,564 | 5.6 | 4,520 | 915 | 2,054 | 1,072 | 63,456 | 291 | 0 |
| 58 | 351 | 160 | 101,496 | 30,499 | 3.3 | 0 | 2,998 | 946 | 668 | 101,075 | 810 | 0 |
| totals | 1,409 | 554 | 825,241 | 211,074 | $\begin{gathered} 3.9 \\ (\text { Avg. }) \end{gathered}$ | 9,792 | 7,637 | 25,539 | 2,568 | 860,171 | 2,901 | 0 |


DIVISION ENGINEER'S SUMMARY
Table $C$
STRUCTURES REPORTED AND OBSERVATIONS MADE
 Reported

| 43 | 240 | 23 | 431 | 134 | 828 | 5,891 | 231 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 44 | 32 | 49 | 225 | 87 | 393 | 1,675 | 55 |
| 47 | 3 | 35 | 222 | 41 | 301 | 1,214 | 165 |
| 54 | 3 | 7 | 65 | 24 | 99 | 230 | 65 |
| 55 | 25 | 0 | 11 | 8 | 44 | 126 | 0 |
| 56 | 69 | 8 | 33 | 25 | 135 | 502 | 0 |
| 57 | 115 | 30 | 71 | 75 | 291 | 716 | 28 |
| 58 | 255 | 44 | 351 | 160 | 810 | 3,374 | 127 |
| TOTALS | 742 | 196 | 1,409 | 554 | 2,901 | 13,728 | 671 |

## X. DIVISION ENGINEER'S SUMMARY

## Table D

## WORKLOAD AND STATISTICAL INDICATORS

Acre Feet Water Used ..... 860,171
Acre Feet Diverted for Agricultural Use ..... 825,241
Acre Feet Diverted for Industrial Use ..... 9,792
Acre Feet Diverted for Recreation Use ..... 25,539
Acre Feet Diverted for Domestic \& Municipal Use ..... 7,637
Acre Feet Diverted to Compact Commitment ..... 0
Acre Feet Water Stored (10/31/77) ..... 47,380
Acre Feet Water Transbasin Diversion ..... 2,568
Acres Irrigated ..... 211,074
Total Structures Administered ..... 671
Total Daily Observations ..... 13.728
Total Structures Observed or Reported ..... 2,899

## XI. RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After a record year of water shortages, the continued need for storage becomes even more evident. With the national attitude on storage being what it is, it becomes even more important for the State to concentrate on a program of its own. The future of Colorado and its well being is going to depend on a good water supply. Especially on the Western slope, storage is the only practical way that this can be accomplished.

The revolving fund that is in existance is probably a start, but is terribly inadequate to complete the jow that needs to be done.

The age-old problem of keeping water comissioner jobs upgraded to compete with local employment is becoming more of a problem. The increasing job openings in the energy related fields in Northwestern Colorado make it harder than ever to keep personnel: Jobs in new coal mines and power plants pay ever increasing wages in non-skilled and semi-skilled fields. This makes many commissioners, particularly the younger men, wonder if it is wise to continue working for the state. It would be well if the commissioners could be upgraded to compete with non-state employment. State-furnished transportation would also be a help. With the increasing fuel costs, many men are subsidizing the State through transportation, as well as being in the lower pay scale brackets.

Ownership of water rights also continues to be a problem. Water rights, for the most part, are well defined. The problem lies in a clear-cut definition as to who owns the water. In cases where the parties involved agree to amounts of water owned by each, it seems like an application under a water case showing ownership might be an easy, inexpensive way to clarify this situation.


[^0]:    *Additional time above budget allotment was paid for with Piceance Basin Study funds.

