

1946

Durango, Colo.
March 4, 1947.

Mr. M. C. Hinderlider,
State Engineer,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

This is to submit the Annual Report of Division
Engineer, Irrigation Division Number 7 for the year of
1946.

Respectfully yours,

J. R. Williams

J. R. Williams
Irr. Division Engineer.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
DIVISION ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION NUMBER 7.

1946.

WATER SUPPLY.

The accumulated snow depths and water content of the same on the San Juan River Drainage as of March 1st. was thirty six percent of the average for that time of year. As of April 1st. the water content was 29 percent and on May 1st. thirty seven percent. At this date there was snow recorded only at high elevations. There was no snow remaining at Silverton, Cascade or at Granite Peaks. The situation was similar on the Dolores River, snow being recorded only on Lizard head Pass.

As a consequence of there being no snow cover at low or average elevations the foothill streams produced very little runoff.

Discharge of the Animas River at Durango for the April-July period was 294.6 thousand acre feet which was sixty two percent of the long time average. For the water year the total was 421.7 thousand acre feet which was sixty four percent of the mean. The La Plata River at Hesperus discharged about 15 thousand acre feet or about forty percent of the average.

Precipitation was in excess of the mean during May. It snowed nearly all month on the higher hills. It was dry in June but wetter than usual during July and August.

Temperatures were above average in April, deficient in May but warmer from June thru September.

Crops.

Owing to the lack of water early for most areas and to adverse weather during April and May there was a large loss of crops. The wind

blew in the daytime and it was cold at night. Even where there was a sufficient water supply such as in the Pine River District there were crop losses from drouth and freezing. The latest frost occurred on May 31st. but prior to that time alfalfa was so badly damaged that much of it was cut to allow new growth. The wheat yield was below average and in some areas a total loss. First cuttings of alfalfa varied from failure to about sixty percent. Late spring plantings of small grains made excellent crops due to the favorable temperatures and rains of July and August. Second crops of alfalfa in areas having storage water for irrigation were heavy.

Use of Water.

There was a total of 504 thousand acre feet of water applied to 152,000 acres of which about fifty percent had adequate supply from storage supplementing natural flow.

Repairs, Improvements and New Construction.

Lack of material and labor coupled with high costs continued to restrict development an all but necessary repairs. The Jackson Gulch Dam near Mancos was not completed nor was anything done except to advertize for bids. Higher cost estimates for this project have made it necessary for the water users to contract for repayment over a period of sixty years rather than forty years as at first planned.

The Redmesa dam was completed in accordance with plans to a height of fifty four feet but water was not available for storage to the capacity thus afforded .

There was some installation of new headgates and other structures and some necessary enlarging and cleaning of canals. The Soil Conservation Service operating in the vicinity of Mancos completed the Bauer Dams and cleaned some ditches for the owners thereof. Work was continued by the Western Colo. Power Company in repairing the plank face at Cascade Dam.

Irrigation Division Number 7

Tabulated Statement of Water Commissioners Annual Ditch Reports for 1946.

Dist. No.	Amount in S. F.	Capacity in S. F.	First Day	Last Day	Number of Days	Water Was Used From
29	* 589	* 639				
30	590	935	Apr. 1	Nov. 15	229	
31	764	881	Apr. 25	Oct. 31	190	
33	270	367	Apr. 1	Sept. 30	169	
34	805	840	Mar. 10	Nov. 3	238	
69	114	117	Apr. 5	Sept. 24	172	
Total	3132	3779	Mar. 10	Nov. 15	250	

Continued:

Dist. No.	Average Daily Amount Used (S.F.)	Number of Acre Feet	Number of Acres That Can Be Irrigated	Alfalfa	Natural Grass	Cereals	Orchards
29	*	75,000	43,000				
30	194.5	89,070	60,670	9,993	4,160	6,761	925
31	463	175,990	62,062	11,232	22,845	8,951	162
33	36.7	13,400	21,097	3,482	941	2,719	29
34	293	139,630	51,054	12,872	14,684	8,797	841
69	16.4	5,640	3,470	830	670	455	5
	997	498,730	241,353	38,409	43,300	27,683	1,962

* No Report. Estimated by Division Engineer.

Continued:

Dist. No.	Crops Irrigated (Acres)						Total
	Gardens	Potatoes	Beans	Seed	Idle	Other	
29	:	:	:	:	:	:	* 25,000
30	13	450	300	:	:	:	22,602
31	67	48	38	1,059	1,179	1,117	46,698
33	58	21	:	:	:	:	7,250
34	4	582	3,000	:	:	294	41,074
69	:	55	:	:	:	98	2,113
Total	142	1,156	3,338	1,059	1,179	1,509	144,737

* Estimated by Division Engineer.

Tabulated Statement of Water Commissioners Annual Reservoir Reports.

1946

Dist. No.	Number of Reservoirs in District	Area of High Water Line (Acres)	Capacity in Acre Feet	Amount in Storage on May 1st (Ac.Ft.)	Amount in Storage on Nov. 1st	First Day Water Was Used	Last Day Water Was Used
29	3	620	:	:	:	:	:
			* 765				
30	3	899	**23,380	5,510	1,750	July 10	July 30
31	2	3,077	128,050	58,670	49,760	May 12	Oct. 12
33	1	50	1,170	210	0	May 16	July 27
34	7	980	16,184	13,500	1,860	Apr. 3	Oct. 15
69	2	672	21,906	12,250	8,420	June 25	Sept. 19
Total	18	6,298	191,305	90,140	61,790	Apr. 3	Oct. 15

* For Irrigation ** For Hydroelectric Use.

Reservoir Reports Continued:

Dist. No.	Number of Days Water Was Used	Average Daily Amount Used	Number of Ac. Feet Used	Crops Irrigated- Acres.			
				Alfalfa	Natural Grass	Cereals	Orchards
30	20	6.0	240	290		270	19
31	130	167.9	43,660	Same crops as reported under ditches.			
33	25	4.0	197	95		55	18
34	113	81.1	18,330	*2,450	725	2,238	253
69	62	0.8	99	Same crops as under ditch report.			
Total	130	239	62,226	2,835	725	2,563	290

* Irrigated from storage only.

Continued:

Dist. No.	Crops Irrigated- Acres.			
	Gardens	Potatoes	Beans	Total
30		10		589
31	Same as under ditch report.			
33	13	2		
34		115	650	
69				
Total	13	127	650	7,203