

REPORT OF WATER COMMISSIONER

WATER DIVISION IV; DISTRICT 14

WATER YEAR 2010

**TODD COVOLO
LYMAN, WYOMING**

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Henry's Fork Basin is administered by the Upper Colorado River Compact. This report includes Utah and Wyoming issues and references. As described by the compact, the Water Commissioner is appointed by both states.

This report is also used for the annual water users meeting and is submitted to the Wyoming State Engineer, and the Utah Division of Natural Resources.

2010 started with below average snowpack in the mountains. The month of May was colder than normal with little run-off appearing. Once it did warm up there was higher than normal flows with up to 1500 CFS at the Henry's Fork gage near Manilla.

Burnt Fork was called into regulation on May 20th. The first part of June flows came up and went out of regulation until the flow receded. Regulation was restarted as high water flows dropped and was kept in regulation until Utah users shut off on October 15th. Problems and issues are included in the Problem Areas and Recommendations of this report. High water flows damaged many diversion as well as the split of the creek. Repairs to the split were made as well as some of the ditch diversions being repaired. Some of the ditch repairs were satisfactory to make it through the season but will require maintenance prior to the 2011 irrigation season.

Beaver Creek was regulated for the Nielson Ditch with a 1908 water priority, West Beaver Creek was not included in this. The creek was cut to a priority of 1889, and in juniors to this priority were able to continue irrigating with Hoop Lake Reservoir storage water deliveries. The Nielson ditch users made a diversion dam across Beaver Creek interfering with downstream ditches getting their entitled water. The users in this ditch need to get together and build a structure at the Nielson to allow water pass the Nielson. The Middle Beaver Creek and East Beaver Creek road was washed out. The land owner and water user of the ditch that washed out worked with the Forest Service to repair the ditch and the road.

Over the past 10 years the depth of regulation and the day that priority was hit are shown in the table below, as well as year-end storage carryover.

Depth of Regulation	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Beaver Creek										
Depth of Regulation (priority)	1908	1899*	1899*	1899*	N/R	1908	1899*	1889	1908	1889*
Date when that priority was hit	8-1	10-1	8-10	N/R	6/21	7/10	7-10	7-10	6-20	8-4
Burnt Fork										
Depth of Regulation (priority)	1902	1895	1899	1899	1901	1899	1882	1895	1882	1882
Date when that priority was hit	7-5	7-20	10-1	9-14	10-1	10-1	7-11	7-21	10-15	10-15
Lower Henry's Fork										
Depth of Regulation (priority)	N/A	1899	N/A	1899	N/R	1899	1899**	N/R	N/R	NR
Date when that priority was hit	N/A	7-20	N/A	7-20	N/R	9-1	7-1	N/R	N/R	NR

N/R – Not Regulated

E – Estimated

N/A – Not Available

Stock – Stockwater

Futile

*This priority is on West Beaver Creek tributary.

**The Lower Henry's Fork call went unusually all the way to the upper end of the main stem.

Reservoir Carryover Percentage	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Hoop Lake (4026.5 AF)	N/A	0	20	5	71	5	18	26	55	45
Beaver Meadows (2461 AF)	0	0	20	0	45	0	5	10	24	0
Island Lake (778 AF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Carryover Amount divided by Permitted Total Capacity on about September 30. E – Estimated N/A – Not Available

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- The Burnt Fork users on Interstate Canal and Thompson Creek Canal repaired their headgates.
- I was able to educate Birch Creek users to understand and follow their water rights without going into regulation.
- Talked to users on Beaver Creek and Burnt Fork in regards to telemetry installations. This new telemetry system will provide information to the irrigators as well as a help the Water Commissioner to regulate the creeks by having stream flow data. .
- Visited all Utah diversions on Beaver Creek with Bob Leak and Ben Anderson.

PROBLEM AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The control of water on Burnt Fork at the split needs to be managed by the Water Commissioner. Repairs at the split may be requested by the water commissioner. Maintenance at this split has worked well over the years with the cooperation of the land owner. The cooperation of the land has become necessary to prevent other users from causing any unnecessary damages to this land. . If other users feel that adjustment of the split needs to be made at any time, they are to call the Water Commissioner to get this done.

Gregory Basin Ditch (East Beaver) needs to comply with the Utah order to fix the headgates in laterals down the Gregory Basin. The main problem here is when Hoop Lake water is released and sent down the ditch the water is not being sent past to Burnt Fork. . This problem needs to be resolved and the water needs to be passing through as explained by Utah water law. There is also an order to work on this Ditch's Middle Beaver Creek diversion. The times and dates will need to be complied with, or heagate will be locked shutting the water off until the order is complied with.

Baldy Spring users need work together to deliver their water down the ditch. Any user feeling that they need to have the Water Commissioner help locking headgates and measuring devices will be required on each lateral down the ditch. The bypass structure needs to be installed to regulate the water properly. This will be expensive and required before the Water Commissioner will go down ditch to deliver water down the ditch. , All expenses for the Water Commissioner's time and mileage will be billed to users according to the share of water in the ditch.

Irrigators opening their headgates prior to any regulation need to be considerate of water needs for downstream users.

The need to have a locking headgate and properly maintained measuring device is necessary and orders to replace or repair may be issued.. Headgates and measuring devices should be maintained annually or as often as necessary. Headgates and measuring devices should be getting the same attention as any other piece of machinery used for ranching.. As Water Commissioner of Henry's Fork users are reminded that headgates and measuring devices need to be installed or in satisfactory working condition prior to the creek going into regulation. All headgates and measuring devices installations will be approved by the water commissioner As water commissioner I will work with all ditch owners in advising them of headgate and measuring devices. If the users fail to install or correct the problem in a timely manor or to the satisfaction of the water commissioner, an order to do so will be issued. Failure to comply with the order will result in the locking or prevention of water use within that ditch. Henry's Fork goes into regulation, and the headgate and measuring device is not in proper working condition order to fix the problem will be issued.

Communications on the creeks is good. However, the need to maintain one spokesperson per diversion for a daily contact is a must during regulation.

CONCLUSION

This water year was a good year for water run-off, but on the other hand crop yields suffered due to cooler than usual temperatures occurring in the early summer months.