

REPORT OF WATER COMMISSIONER

WATER DIVISION IV; DISTRICT 14

WATER YEAR 2005

**TODD COVOLO
LYMAN, WYOMING**

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Henry's Fork is administered by the Colorado River Compact. This report includes Utah and Wyoming issues and references.

This year started out with excellent snow pack in the high country. The snow pack turned out to be even better than expected with excellent flows of water most of the summer. The only approved request for regulation was on Burnt Fork and lasted most of the summer. Unlike the past two summers of droughts, most of the ditches were able to stay on long enough for most people to raise a crop.

Depth of Regulation	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Beaver Creek										
Depth of Regulation (priority)	1908	1908	1967	1908	1899	1908	1899	1899	1899	N/R
Date when that priority was hit	7-19	7-23	8-1	7-20	7-10	7-16	8-1	10-1	8-10	N/R
Burnt Fork										
Depth of Regulation (priority)	1902	1901	1902	1909	1899	1902	1895	1899	1899	1901
Date when that priority was hit	7-16	7-16	7-21	8-20	7-5	7-5	7-20	10-1	9-14	10-1
Lower Henry's Fork										
Depth of Regulation (priority)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1899	N/A	1899	N/R
Date when that priority was hit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7-20	N/A	7-20	N/R

N/R – Not Regulated E – Estimated N/A – Not Available Stock – Stockwater Futile

Reservoir Carryover Percentage	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Hoop Lake (4026.5 AF)	N/A	N/A	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	20	5	71
Beaver Meadows (2461 AF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	45
Island Lake (778 AF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2005 the Interstate Canal Company was able to get a staff gage and a rating table on Island Lake. This will be helpful and was needed to quantify the water in the lake and to determine a delivery into the Interstate Canal that is fair to both the Canal and the creek water rights.
- I was able to finish GPS readings on Burnt Fork and Beaver Creek with pictures of the headgates and measuring devices for future use.
- With the help of Lyman Grazing (John Eyre), I was able to put to rest the down ditch delivery of water between Jack Hickey and Lyman Grazing.
- The Kirkendall Ditch was able to get the stem replaced on headgate.

- On the Gregory Basin Canal, with the help and influence of Gino Foianini, the correct amount of water and dates were delivered into the headgate.
- With a full day of creek visits with Jade and John on Burnt Fork, I was able to get on the same page and discuss the major issues with Burnt Fork deliveries.

PROBLEM AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The control of water on Burnt Fork where it splits is a problem that needs to be managed by the Water Commissioner and the owner of the property, to ensure proper splitting of the water down each of the branches. As long as the owner and the Commissioner can get along, the current way of regulating the creek is fine. There is no need for anyone else making adjustment to the split of the creek. Then there is no need for an expensive and high maintenance structure to keep the flow of water going down the right branch.

The users in Beach Desert Ditch need to work together and try to eliminate ditch loss down the ditch to get more of their water to their points of use.

The users need to remember the need to have a locking headgate and properly maintained measuring device. This is an ongoing need due to high water every year eroding the hard work of the users on the creeks.

Communications on the creeks are good. However, the need for each ranch to maintain one spokesperson as a daily contact person is a must.

CONCLUSION

This water year was a good one, if not a record one, for how long all ditches were able to have water and the need for regulation was limited with easy success when called upon.

I feel that all users had water to work with and all users were treated fairly when regulation was called upon. I hope that all water years turn out to be as productive as 2005 was to all users.

HENRY'S FORK BASIN
Water Division IV; District 14 (Wyoming)
Eastern Region; Area 41 (Utah)

Records by

Todd Covolo
Joint Water Commissioner
Mountain View, Wyoming

John A. Yarbrough
Lead Hydrographer-Commissioner
Lyman, Wyoming

Headwaters of the Henry's Fork basin primarily originate in Utah on the north slopes of the Uinta Mountains, flowing into Wyoming and on to Flaming Gorge Reservoir. The most heavily regulated tributaries in the basin are Burnt Fork and Beaver Creek, with irrigated lands in both states and limited storage in Hoop Lake, Island Lake, and Beaver Meadows reservoirs all located in Utah. The Upper Colorado River Basin (interstate) Compact directs that both states' pre-1948 water rights in the Henry's Fork basin will be administered on the basis of priority and water requirement of the land, without regard to the state line that politically divides the basin between Wyoming and Utah. The Water Commissioner is therefore appointed by both states, and jointly regulates both Utah and Wyoming headgates. But the combined delivery schedule is made tentative by overlapping rights and varying duties of irrigation.

2005 ADJUSTMENTS AND REGULATIONS

Date	Depth of Regulation	Hoop Lake Inflow	Hoop Lake Outflow	Reservoir Capacity (%)
July 5	For Hoop Lake only	0	10	93
July 12		10	10	87
July 19		15	15	71

Date	Depth of Regulation	Island Lake Inflow	Island Lake Outflow	Reservoir Capacity (%)
July 12	1923	EST 15	EST 50	100
July 20	1923	EST 15	EST 30	10
July 22	1923	EST 15	EST 15	0

Date	Depth of Regulation	Beaver Meadows Inflow	Beaver Meadows Outflow	Reservoir Capacity (%)
May 23	1939	80	80cfs to Lost Creek	100
May 28	1939	35	35	100+
June 3	1939	23-24	23-24	100+
June 13	1939	12	50	100
June 19	1939	10	0	100
July 11	1939			97
July 23	1923		30	81
July 29	1923		30	75
August 3	1923		30	66
August 8	1923		30	55
August 12	1923		0	45