

WATER DISTRICT #32-C

1995 REPORT

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The 1995 water year was definitely one that has only been experienced one other time in this watermaster's term of 41 years. The 1984 water year was very similar with very high flows and a lot of channel and structure damage. The massive erosion was much more important this season but the flows were totally more in 1984. I don't think we had a U.S.G.S. station recorder on Medicine Lodge in 1984, but all the flows of Camas Creek, Beaver Creek and Mud Lake far exceed 1995 flows as is proven by data collected from these stations. Water was diverted from the Lone Tree Diversion on Camas Creek for most of the summer as well as pumping to the desert on the INEL from Mud Lake took place for several months in 1984. So we need to presume the flows on Medicine Lodge were below the '84 record breaking year. Water did flow past the overflow at the Woodfield Diversion for most of the season.

We have attached to this report some of the 1984 annual water report to show similarities to the two exceptional run off years.

1995 WATER USE

A total of 37,768 A.F. of water was diverted and used as compared to 15,392 A.F. of water use during a very bad drought year in 1994. This compared to 44,882 in '93 and 16,332 A.F. in '92.

A lot of this above water was estimated flows in ditches as there was excess water at all times and weirs were not used for some periods for some users. A year like last with high flows silts weir ponds in rapidly.

The biggest job for most of early spring was removal of debris, trash, trees, and silt form control structures and main diversion dams. It was important however to record the flows of diverted waters from natural streams as required by law. Many license rights which have not been recorded were valid again this year as licenses were delivered for most of the year.

Water assessment charges directly in reverse of water charges for delivery in a drought year, those who have not been using water due to drought will now have a very rapid rise in their assessment because most of the 5 year average will have played out and in addition to a big charge during 1995. The '96 proposed budget will be way out of proportion causing you some concern, but will work its way out to a level in time. What were trying to say is those who paid most of the '95 budget will in turn in '96 get a big credit while those of you who did not pay any budget or a small budget will end up with a big debit on the watermaster report.

NEW WATER USERS

G & L Ranch purchased the Ned Gneiting property this last summer.

NEW MEASURING DEVICES

G & L Ranch installed two new weirs on the Gneiting Ranch and George Whittaker installed a new weir on his upper ditch which is fed from the Spring in Gneitings.

BEAVER DAM PROBLEMS

After a lengthy letter writing battle with the Corps. of Engineers and their directives to not remove any beaver dams they did change their policy to allow removal of any beaver dam that is not a year old. Part of the latest directives allowing this removal is attached to this report in a copy of the letter sent that last summer for the Corps. of Engineers, whether it is flooding your property, crops or affecting your water right delivery. They will be the ones who decide whether you will remove these obstructions to your water flows if these dams are over a year old.

WHITTAKER LIVESTOCK WATER CONTROVERSY

Without needing to detail again the same report in last years water report and meeting we will only state that we were frustrated with the results of last years annual meeting after hearing no protest to this historical use right only to find out after this meeting that protests were revived. If someone has a problem with this right then it should be brought up and discussed in this Water District Annual Meeting.

We received a letter from the IDWR supporting this continued delivery. This well known historical diversion has been allowed by the water users for many many years and has been accepted and approved in meetings and delivered each and every year.