

YELLOWSTONE RIVER
COMPACT COMMISSION
FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

1994

YELLOWSTONE RIVER COMPACT COMMISSION
821 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501

Honorable Jim Geringer
Governor of the State of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Honorable Marc Racicot
Governor of the State of Montana
Helena, Montana 59620

Honorable Edward T. Schafer
Governor of the State of North Dakota
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to Article III of the Yellowstone River Compact (Compact), the Commission submits the following forty-third annual report of activities for the period ending September 30, 1994.

Members of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission convened their forty-third Annual Meeting on December 13, 1994 at 1:15 p.m. in Billings, Montana. In attendance were Mr. William F. Horak, Chairman and Federal Representative; Mr. Gordon W. Fassett, Wyoming State Engineer; and Mr. Gary Fritz, Administrator, Water Resources Division, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Also in attendance were Ms. Faye Bergan, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission; Mr. Orrin Ferris, HKM Associates; Ms. Sue Lowry, Wyoming State Engineer's Office; Mr. Joe A. Moreland, U.S. Geological Survey; Mr. Dave Nicolarson, Little Horn Energy; and Mr. Mike Whitaker, Superintendent, Wyoming Water Division III.

Mr. Moreland presented information on budgets for current and future water years. He reported that the stream-gaging program for the Yellowstone River Compact Commission cost \$45,200 in water year 1994. Budget estimates approved at the last meeting set costs for the 1995 program at \$47,500. He noted that the cost for operation of gaging stations for 1995 would actually be \$46,900 and asked if Wyoming and Montana would be agreeable to reduce their contributions for 1995 to \$11,725. Mr. Fritz and Mr. Fassett agreed to the reduced amount. Mr. Moreland noted that costs for water year 1996 would be \$64,300 which includes a one-time charge of \$15,000 to relocate the Tongue River gage to a more suitable site if Montana and Wyoming were still agreeable to the plan. Both State Representatives indicated that funds would be available. Mr. Moreland estimated that gaging station operation costs for water year 1997 would be \$51,600 and costs for 1998 would be about \$54,200.

Mr. Moreland reported that 1994 runoff was 71 percent of average for the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River, 73 percent of average for the Bighorn River, 85 percent of average for the Tongue River, and 99 percent of average for the Powder River. He noted that flows in all tributaries were below average during July, August, and September. All reservoirs in the basin had less water in storage at the end of the 1994 water year than at the end of the previous year.

Mr. Fritz distributed a copy of proposed "Rules for the Resolution of Disputes over the Administration of the Yellowstone River Compact" and asked if other members of the Commission wanted to continue developing a resolution process.

Mr. Horak noted that the Commission began developing a conflict resolution process as a means of resolving disagreements that may arise between Wyoming and Montana during the conduct of Commission business, whether or not the sitting Federal Representative would be willing to ultimately cast a tie-breaking vote. Although the U.S. Geological Survey has a new Director and Chief Hydrologist, there has been no change in the Federal Representative's voting status. He stated the current leadership would welcome the Commission's sincere efforts to minimize the need for tie-breaking votes. He encouraged the Commission to continue the process.

Mr. Fassett stated that he wanted to proceed with development of a conflict resolution process. He noted that elevating issues to the point of conflict would be counterproductive. A conflict resolution process that helped resolve issues before they became intractable would benefit all parties. Mr. Fassett stated that he was prepared to offer suggestions but his comments would only be preliminary until he had input from legal counsel.

Mr. Fritz suggested adding... "The states agree that the issues pursued under this dispute resolution process shall be both substantive and require timely resolution"... to Section II to eliminate the possibility of frivolous issues being brought before the Commission. Mr. Fassett agreed that neither State wanted to waste resources on non-issues.

Mr. Horak asked what forum would be used to conduct the activities outlined in the proposed Rule. If the activities were conducted during regular Commission meetings, would the Federal Representative be expected to chair the discussions? He noted that the USGS would not be comfortable with the Federal Representative serving as chairman of the negotiating process but might agree to serve as facilitator. Mr. Fassett noted that the activity was a two-state process which did not involve the Federal Representative as chairman or facilitator. He noted that the USGS could be asked to name a facilitator if the States could not agree but otherwise would not have a role in the facilitated process.

Mr. Horak stated that the Commission seemed to view the proposed Rule for conflict resolution as a potentially effective means of settling disagreements between Wyoming and Montana so that a vote of the Commission need not be called. He noted, however, that the USGS was expected to pay for one-half of the cost of the facilitation phase of resolving conflicts between the two States. He agreed that the USGS had an obligation to help support the cost of hiring someone to vote on an unresolved issue but that the negotiation process really was a State responsibility.

Mr. Fassett noted that the USGS has an obligation to share in the cost of administering the Compact. Mr. Horak stated that the Compact requires all parties to bear the costs of their participation in the Commission activities. He agreed that the Rule needed to address extraordinary costs associated with hiring a facilitator. He suggested that the USGS should expect to bear the costs of providing a non-USGS employee to substitute for the Federal Representative for the purpose of enabling a 3-party vote by the Commission.

Mr. Horak asked about the status of Montana's Clarks Fork Temporary Preliminary Decree. Mr. Fritz stated that the deadline for filing objections to the Decree passed in June of 1993. The Montana Water Court will issue a list of objections and will invite objectors to provide a notification of intent to appear. Mr. Fassett noted that claims for diversions in Wyoming should have been dismissed and asked if any were still included.

Mr. Fritz stated that he did not know if any inappropriate claims were still included. He said that he would prefer not to raise the issue as a Montana State employee and would rather have the Commission bring the matter to the Court's attention. He felt that Mr. Horak should send a letter to the Montana Water Court explaining the Commission's Rule on interstate ditches. He offered to have Mr. Arrington draft a letter to Judge Loble for the Commission chairman's signature.

Mr. Fassett reported on the Clarks Fork Wild and Scenic Water Right Quantification topic. He noted that the designation was made in 1990 and that the U.S. Forest Service had to file for water rights to protect the Wild and Scenic features. A hearing was held in Cody and most attendees were supportive of the water rights claim. Wyoming plans to reserve the water as an instream right that varies in quantity with rate of flow. About 80-85 percent of natural flow as measured at the downstream point of the designated reach would be reserved with a 1990 priority date. Small stock and domestic uses were protected because the Forest Service right is subordinate to those uses. Mr. Fassett noted that much of the concern over the issue had been eliminated by moving the boundary of the designated reach upstream from a potential reservoir site that could be used to protect existing uses.

Mr. Fassett reported on the status of Wind River Indian Reservation issues. He noted that the last legal challenge had been settled in July 1993 and that there are no legal actions pending. The State and Tribes are discussing issues related to implementing the court decision. The parties are meeting monthly and hope to avoid further legal action. The Department of the Interior has formed an implementation team and has joined with the State and Tribes to work on solutions. Bureau of Reclamation is conducting studies and the Wyoming Water Development Commission is drilling wells. Tribes are not interested in developing new water for agriculture but are interested in other water uses. Mr. Horak asked if there were issues related to outside marketing of water. Mr. Fassett stated that potential markets exist off the Reservation. All rights have been adjudicated but Walton rights issues are still before the Supreme Court. Wyoming State Court ruled against some types of Walton right claims and the claimants have appealed to the Supreme Court. Most of the claims are private and the objectors are private, tribal, or Federal.

Mr. Nicolarson was invited to report on the Little Horn Energy Project. He reported that a utility is interested in the peaking power that would be made available from the facility. He noted that an Environmental Impact Statement has to be completed within two years of filing for the FERC license. Mr. Nicolarson stated that the project would use 15,000 acre-feet of water in a 10-hour period but would only consume about 1,700 acre-feet per year as evaporation. Ms. Lowry noted that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is an intervenor in the FERC water rights application. Mr. Fassett stated that Little Horn Energy has competing water claims and suggested that the Little Horn project might wish to resize and refile water claims with a new priority date.

Ms. Bergan reported on the status of negotiations between the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission and the National Park Service on reserved water rights for the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area and the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Final agreements have been negotiated for both areas and are ready for legislative approval. About 85 acre-feet per year has been reserved for use for administrative purposes on the Battlefield. Priority date for administrative uses is 1886. An instream flow reservation of 51 cubic feet per second has a priority date of 1946. The agreement also reserves maintenance flows for a 15-day period. The Bighorn National Recreation Area has a reservation of 251 acre-feet per year for administrative uses. Instream flows were reserved for tributary streams that arise in the Recreation Area. All National Park Service reservations are subordinate to existing rights. Mr. Fassett asked if the reserved rights come from Montana's allocation from the Yellowstone River Compact? He wondered if the reserved rights would burden Wyoming water users. Ms. Bergan stated that she was not sure if the negotiated settlement specifically refers to Wyoming water rights but the consumptive uses were very small and probably would not affect Wyoming water users.

Ms. Bergan reported that agreement had also been reached on reserved water rights and protection of geothermal features in Yellowstone National Park. She noted that the Old Faithful Protection Act was not passed by Congress but that Montana and the National Park Service have an agreement to administer the Yellowstone Water Rights Compact. The National Park Service has agreed to provide funds to Montana to administer the Compact. Ms. Lowry asked if the Congressional approval of the Compact means that the agreement is considered a Federal law? The Compact states that additional storage in the Little Bighorn is not allowed. She asked if that meant that Wyoming can not develop additional storage in Wyoming? Ms. Bergan responded that the Compact is only between Montana and the National Park Service. Wyoming is not bound by the agreement.

Ms. Bergan reported that the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission is beginning to negotiate reserved water rights for the Crow Reservation. The negotiators are working on rules to be used in the process and dealing with media issues. Land ownership surveys are being conducted. There are unresolved issues about treatment of fee lands. Montana and the Crow Tribe have agreed to exchange technical information and legal issues are being identified. Montana feels that the negotiation will be a long process. Mr. Fassett commented that Wyoming is nervous about the process. While Wyoming is supportive of Montana's efforts to negotiate a settlement with the Crow Reservation, it recognizes that the agreement could impact Wyoming water users. Wyoming does not want to disrupt the negotiations but does have a responsibility to protect Wyoming water users from ricocheting issues. Ms. Bergan stated that Wyoming will be kept informed.

Mr. Fritz provided an update on the Tongue River Dam Rehabilitation Project. He reported that the Compact with the Northern Cheyenne Reservation was approved by Congress. The loan agreement with the Tribe has also been approved by all parties. An MOU between Montana, Department of the Interior, and Northern Cheyenne Reservation has been signed. Hiring preference issues were resolved. The Bureau of Reclamation has an obligation to fund environmental mitigation. A Draft EIS will be completed in mid-April with a final version completed in spring of 1996. Montana is writing qualification statements for final design and construction bids. The project will not be completed before December of 1997 which is the completion date in the Compact. Funding arrangements will have to be extended past 1997.

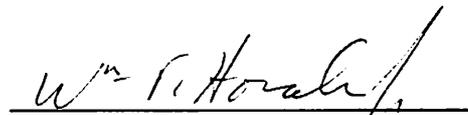
Mr. Fassett reported on the Sheridan and Buffalo water supply projects. He reminded the Commission that both projects have been delayed by controversy over wetlands. The difficulties in resolving issues related to issuance of 404 permits have been very frustrating to Wyoming.

Mr. Horak suggested that the Commission continue working on the rules for conflict resolution and plan to meet when a new draft was ready for review. Mr. Fassett suggested that the next annual meeting be held in Wyoming.

Having no other business to discuss, the Commission adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.


Gordon W. Fassett
Commissioner for Wyoming


Gary Fritz
Commissioner for Montana


William F. Horak
Federal Representative

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GENERAL REPORT

Cost of operation and budget

The work funded by the Yellowstone River Compact Commission, which to date has been primarily concerned with the collection of required hydrologic data, has been financed through cooperative arrangements whereby Montana and Wyoming each bear one-fourth of the cost and the remaining one-half is borne by the United States. The salaries and necessary expenses of the State and U.S. Geological Survey representatives, and the cost to other agencies of collecting hydrologic data, are not considered as expenses of the Commission.

The expense of the Commission during fiscal year 1994 was \$45,200, in accordance with the budget adopted for the year.

The budgets for fiscal years 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 were tentatively adopted subject to the availability of appropriations.

The budgets for the five fiscal years are summarized as follows:

October 1, 1993, to September 30, 1994 (fiscal year 1994):

Continuation of existing stream-gaging programs	\$45,200
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October 1, 1994, to September 30, 1995 (fiscal year 1995):

Continuation of existing stream-gaging programs	\$46,900
---	----------

October 1, 1995, to September 30, 1996 (fiscal year 1996):

Estimate of continuation of existing stream-gaging programs and relocation of Tongue River gage	\$64,300
---	----------

October 1, 1996, to September 30, 1997 (fiscal year 1997):

Estimate of continuation of existing stream-gaging programs	\$51,600
---	----------

October 1, 1997, to September 30, 1998 (fiscal year 1998):

Estimate of continuation of existing stream-gaging programs	\$54,200
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Stream-gaging-station operation

Gaging stations at the measuring sites specified in the Yellowstone River Compact were continued in operation and satisfactory discharge records were collected at each station. Locations of gaging and reservoir stations are shown on a map of the Yellowstone River Basin at the end of the report.

During water year 1994, annual streamflow was less than normal¹ in two of the four tributaries of the Yellowstone River as given in the following table:

<u>Station number</u>	<u>Measurement site</u>	<u>Percent of average</u>
06208500	Clarks Fork Yellowstone River at Edgar, Mont., minus diversions to White Horse Canal	71
06294500	Bighorn River above Tullock Creek, near Bighorn, Mont., minus Little Bighorn River near Hardin, Mont. Adjusted for change in contents in Bighorn Lake	73
06308500	Tongue River at Miles City, Mont.	85
06326500	Powder River near Locate, Mont.	99

Tabulation of streamflow data for water year 1994 and graphical comparisons with average flows for the preceding year and for selected base periods are given in the section "Summary of discharge for Compact stream-gaging stations."

Diversions

No diversions were regulated by the Commission during the year. The Commissioners considered the need to develop procedures to administer water in accordance with the provisions of the Compact.

Storage in reservoirs

Reservoirs completed after January 1, 1950

Bighorn Lake, a Bureau of Reclamation project on the Bighorn River, and the largest storage project in the basin, contained 1,039,000 acre-feet at the beginning of the year and 775,100 acre-feet at the end of the year. Contents ranged from 747,400 acre-feet on September 13, 1994, to 1,066,000 acre-feet on October 14, 1993. Boysen Reservoir, located on the Wind River and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, began the year with 677,200 acre-feet in storage and ended the year with 444,200 acre-feet. Storage figures are listed as usable acre-feet. Monthend and yearend contents and a description of these reservoirs are given in the section "Monthly summary of contents for Compact reservoirs completed after January 1, 1950." The Commission is cognizant of other reservoirs in the Yellowstone River basin and considers their aggregate effect to be insufficient to warrant the collection of storage data at this time.

Reservoirs existing on January 1, 1950

As a matter of record and general information, monthend contents are given later in the report for reservoirs in existence upstream from the points of measurement on January 1, 1950. These data are pertinent to allocation under Article V, Section C, Item 3 of the Compact.

¹The "normal" range is 80 to 120 percent of average.

06208500 CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE RIVER AT EDGAR, MONT.
 (Minus diversions to White Horse Canal)

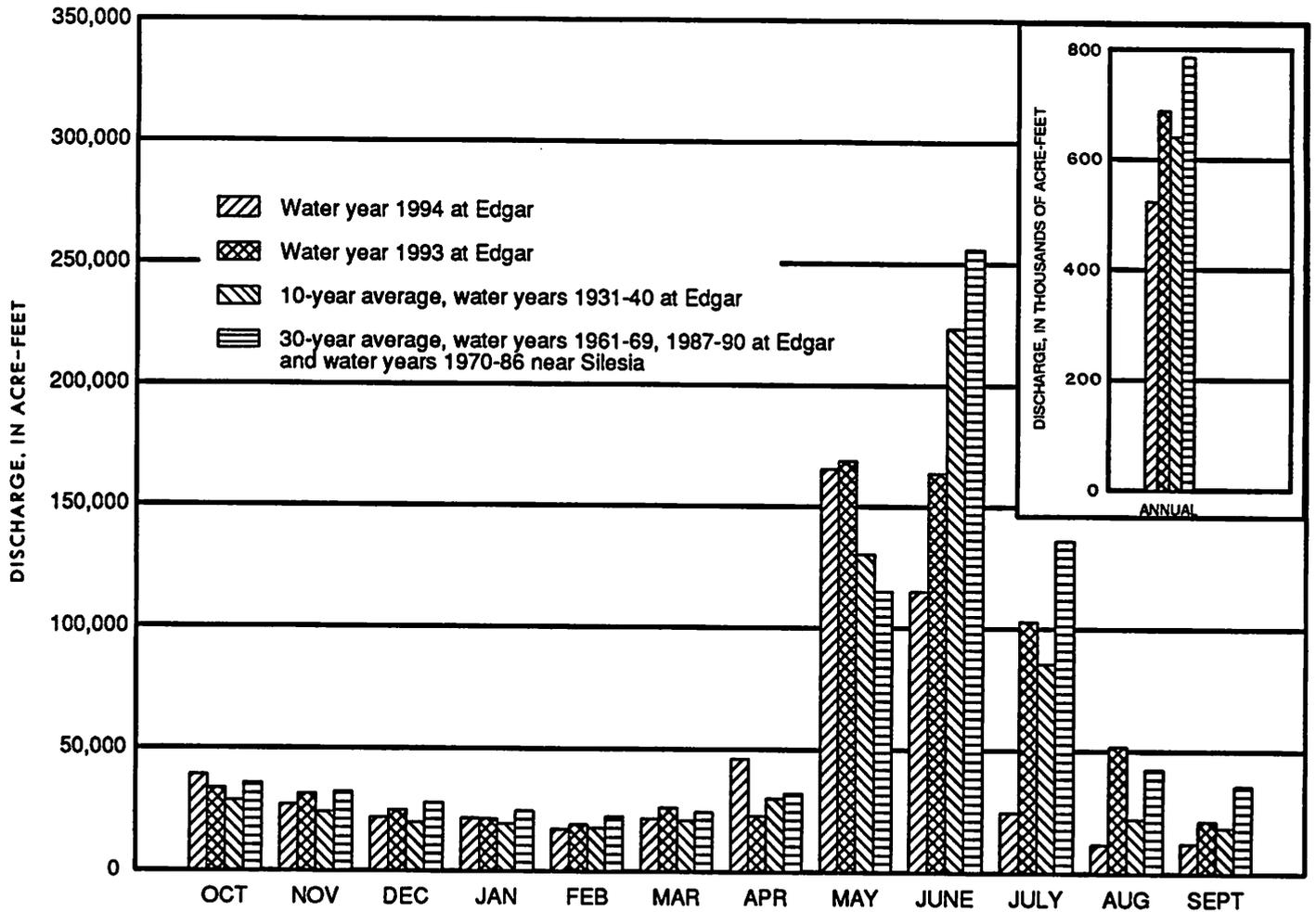


Figure 1.--Comparison of discharge of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River during water year 1994 with discharge during water year 1993 and with 10-year and 30-year average discharges.

06294500 Bighorn River above Tullock Creek, near Bighorn, Mont.---Continued

SUMMARY STATISTICS	WATER YEARS 1946 - 1961*		WATER YEARS 1967 - 1994**	
ANNUAL MEAN	3358		3874	
HIGHEST ANNUAL MEAN	5501	1947	5415	1975
LOWEST ANNUAL MEAN	1623	1961	1999	1989
HIGHEST DAILY MEAN	25700	Jun 23 1947	50000	May 20 1978
LOWEST DAILY MEAN	462	May 12 1961	400	Apr 4 1967
ANNUAL SEVEN-DAY MINIMUM	528	May 6 1961	843	Nov 18 1977
INSTANTANEOUS PEAK FLOW	f26200	Jun 24 1947	59200	May 20 1978
INSTANTANEOUS PEAK STAGE	b10.65	Mar 20 1947	14.15	May 20 1978
INSTANTANEOUS LOW FLOW	d275	Nov 15 1959		
ANNUAL RUNOFF (AC-FT)	2578000		2806000	
10 PERCENT EXCEEDS	6200		6060	
50 PERCENT EXCEEDS	2810		3460	
90 PERCENT EXCEEDS	1500		2010	

*--Prior to construction of Yellowtail Dam.

**--After completion of Yellowtail Dam.

a--Gage height, 4.01 ft.

b--Backwater from ice.

c--Gage height, 14.15 ft.

d--About, result of freezeup.

e--Estimated.

f--Gage height, 8.79 ft.

06294500 BIGHORN RIVER ABOVE TULLOCK CREEK, NEAR BIGHORN, MONT.
 (Adjusted for change in contents in Bighorn Lake minus
 Little Bighorn River near Hardin, Mont.)

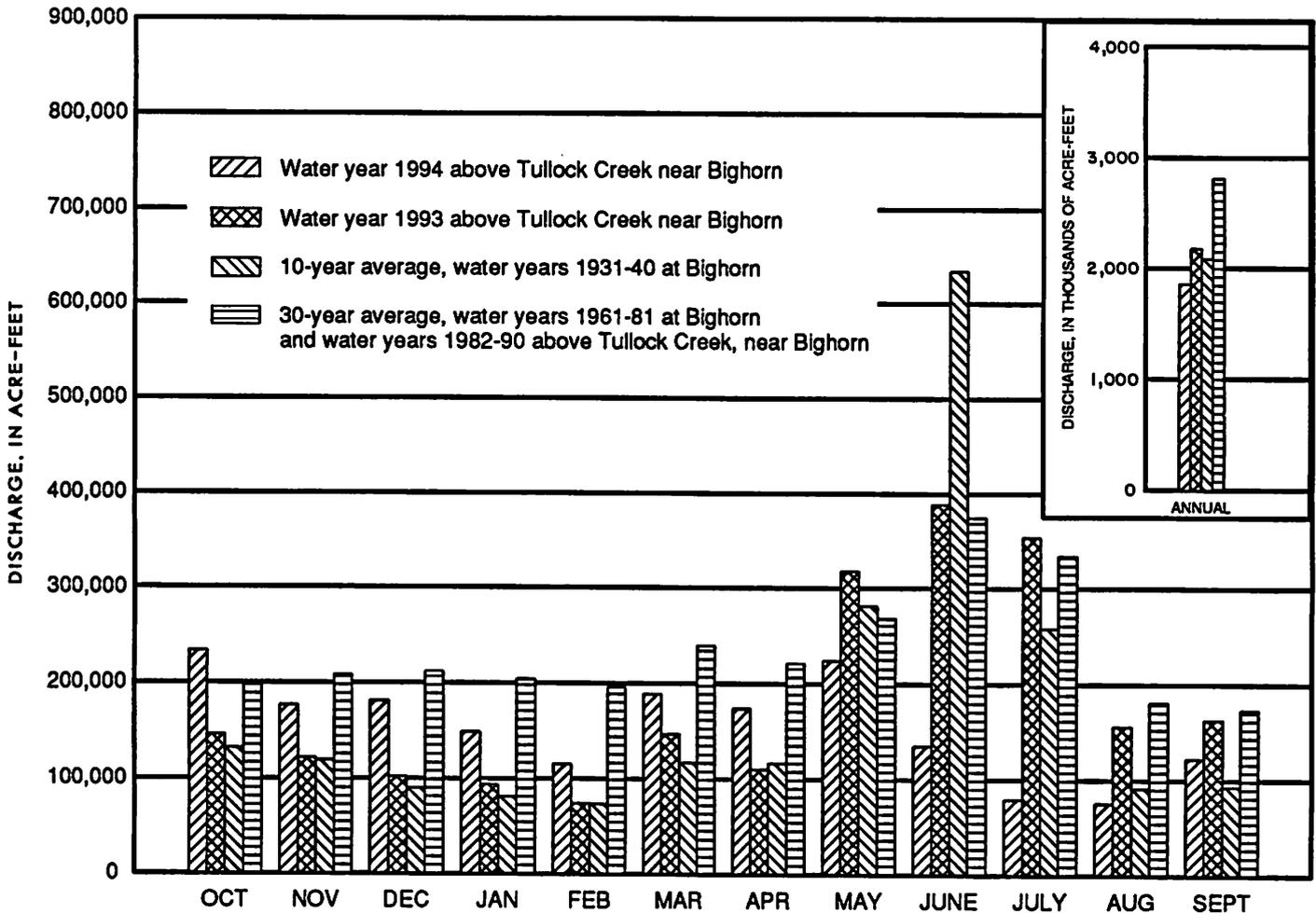


Figure 2.--Comparison of discharge of the Bighorn River during water year 1994 with discharge during water year 1993 and with 10-year and 30-year average discharges.

06308500 TONGUE RIVER AT MILES CITY, MONT.

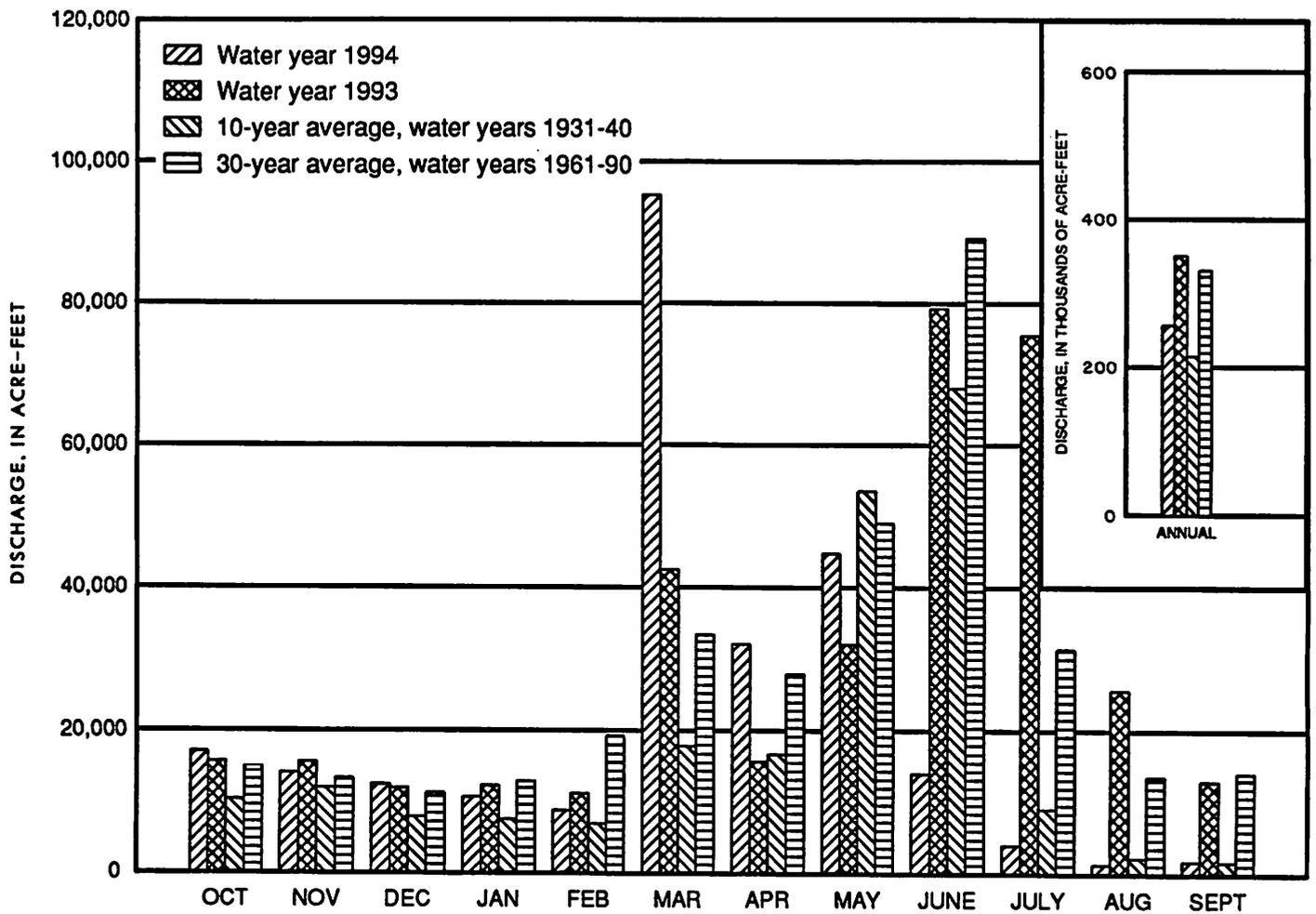


Figure 3.--Comparison of discharge of the Tongue River during water year 1994 with discharge during water year 1993 and with 10-year and 30-year average discharges.

06326500 POWDER RIVER NEAR LOCATE, MONT.

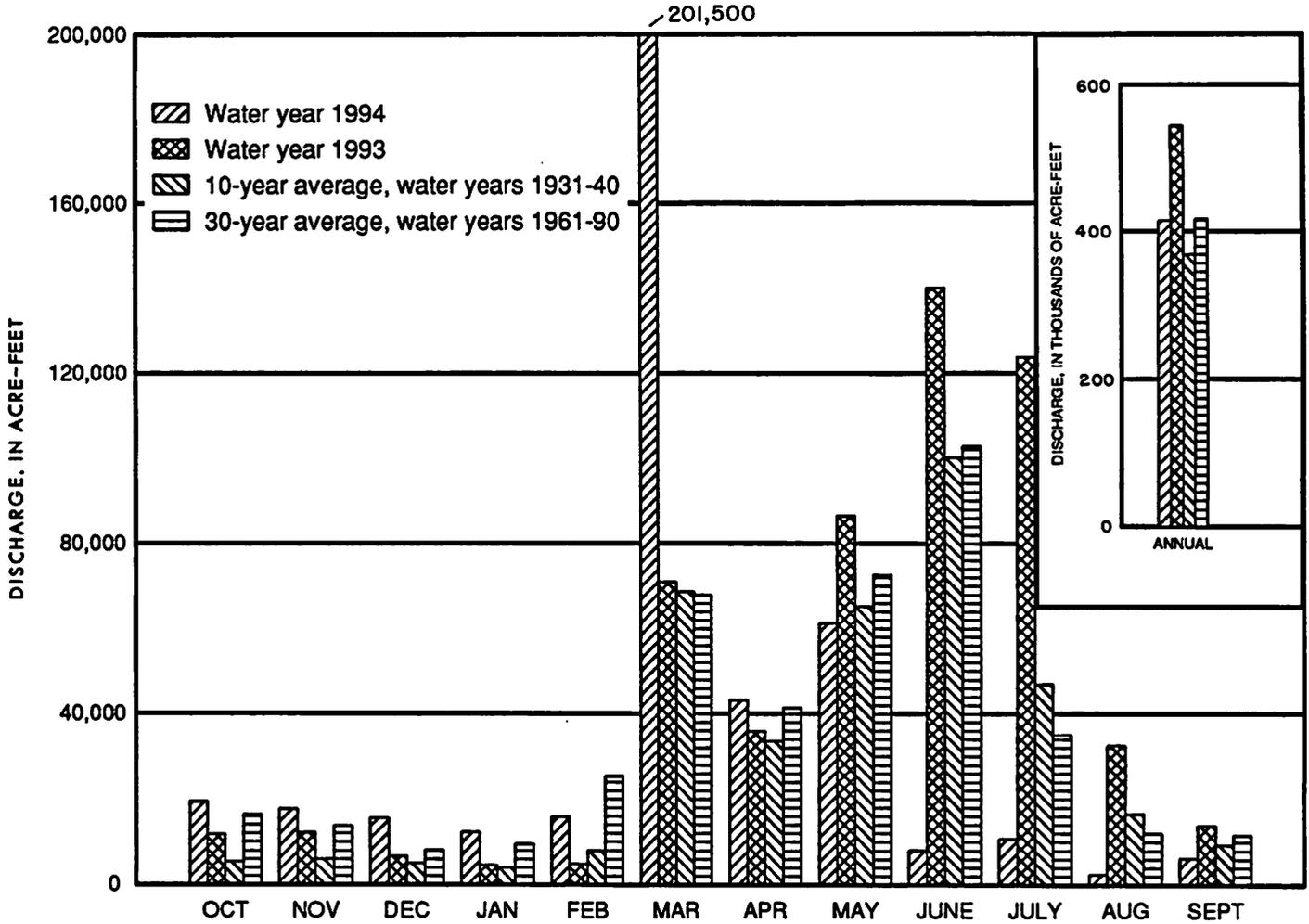


Figure 4.--Comparison of discharge of the Powder River during water year 1994 with discharge during water year 1993 and with 10-year and 30-year average discharges.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF CONTENTS FOR COMPACT RESERVOIRS COMPLETED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1950

06258900 Boysen Reservoir, Wyo.

LOCATION.--Lat 43°25'00", long 108°10'37", in NW1/4 NW1/4 sec. 16, T.5 N., R.6 E., Fremont County, Hydrologic Unit 10080005, at dam on Wind River and 13 mi north of Shoshoni, Wyoming.

DRAINAGE AREA.--7,700 mi².

PERIOD OF RECORD.--October 1951 to current year (monthend contents only).

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder. Datum of gage is feet above sea level (levels by Bureau of Reclamation).

REMARKS.--Reservoir is formed by rock-fill dam completed in October 1951. Storage began Oct. 11, 1951. Usable capacity, 742,100 acre-ft between elevation 4,657.00 ft, invert of penstock pipe, and 4,725.00 ft, top of spillway gate. Dead storage, 59,880 acre-ft below elevation 4,657.00 ft. Prior to Jan. 1, 1966, usable capacity was 757,800 acre-ft and dead storage was 62,000 acre-ft at same elevations. Crest of dam is at elevation 4,758.00 ft. Figures given herein represent usable contents. Water used for irrigation, flood control, and power development.

COOPERATION.--Elevations and capacity table furnished by Bureau of Reclamation.

EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.--Maximum daily contents, 862,500 acre-ft, July 6, 7, 1967, elevation, 4,730.83 ft; minimum daily contents since normal use of water started, 191,900 acre-ft, Mar. 18, 19, 1956, elevation, 4,684.18 ft, capacity table then in use.

EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR.--Maximum daily contents, 676,100 acre-ft, Oct. 1, elevation, 4,721.52 ft; minimum daily contents, 444,200 acre-ft, Sept. 30, elevation, 4,707.21 ft.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Water-surface elevation, in feet</u>	<u>Usable contents, in acre-feet</u>	<u>Change in usable contents, in acre-feet</u>
September 30, 1993.	4,721.58	677,200	---
October 31.	4,720.06	649,600	-27,600
November 30	4,718.94	629,600	-20,000
December 31	4,717.51	604,800	-24,800
January 31, 1994.	4,716.23	583,100	-21,700
February 28	4,715.88	577,200	-5,900
March 31.	4,715.49	570,800	-6,400
April 30.	4,715.68	573,900	+3,100
May 31.	4,716.43	586,400	+12,500
June 30	4,714.81	559,600	-26,800
July 31	4,711.52	507,800	-51,800
August 31	4,708.63	464,700	-43,100
September 30, 1994.	4,707.21	444,200	<u>-20,500</u>
1994 water year			-233,000

06260300 Anchor Reservoir, Wyo.

LOCATION.--Lat 43°39'50", long 108°49'27", in sec. 26, T.43 N., R.100 W., Hot Springs County, Hydrologic Unit 10080007, at dam on South Fork Owl Creek, 2 mi downstream from Middle Fork, 3 mi southeast of Anchor, and 32 mi west of Thermopolis.

DRAINAGE AREA.--131 mi².

PERIOD OF RECORD.--November 1960 to current year (monthend contents only).

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder. Datum of gage is feet above sea level (Bureau of Reclamation benchmark).

REMARKS.--Reservoir is formed by concrete arch dam completed in 1960. Usable capacity, 17,160 acre-ft between elevation 6,343.75 ft, invert of river outlet, and 6,441.00 ft, spillway crest, including 68 acre-ft below elevation 6,343.75 ft. Prior to Oct. 1, 1971, usable capacity was 17,280 acre-ft, including 149 acre-ft below the invert. Figures given herein represent usable contents. Water is used for irrigation of land in Owl Creek basin.

COOPERATION.--Records furnished by Bureau of Reclamation.

EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.--Maximum daily contents, 9,250 acre-ft, July 4, 1967, elevation, 6,418.52 ft; no usable storage on many days some years.

EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR.--Maximum daily contents, 821 acre-ft, May 12, elevation, 6,368.50 ft; minimum daily contents, 34 acre-ft, Sept. 1-7, 22-30, elevation, 6,340.00 ft.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Water-surface elevation, in feet</u>	<u>Usable contents, in acre-feet</u>	<u>Change in usable contents, in acre-feet</u>
September 30, 1993.	6,343.50	64	---
October 31.	6,342.00	51	-13
November 30	6,344.00	68	+17
December 31	6,343.00	59	-9
January 31, 1994.	6,343.00	59	0
February 28	6,356.30	292	+233
March 31.	6,355.00	254	-38
April 30.	6,365.60	659	+405
May 31.	6,347.70	116	-543
June 30	6,344.20	70	-46
July 31	6,344.00	68	-2
August 31	6,344.00	68	0
September 30, 1994.	6,340.00	34	<u>-34</u>
1994 water year			-30

06286400 Bighorn Lake near St. Xavier, Mont.

LOCATION.--Lat 45°18'27", long 107°57'26", in SW1/4 SE1/4 sec. 18, T.6 S., R.31 E., Big Horn County, Hydrologic Unit 10080010, in block 13 of Yellowtail Dam on Bighorn River, 1.3 mi upstream from Grapevine Creek, 15.5 mi southeast of St. Xavier, and at river mile 86.6.

DRAINAGE AREA.--19,626 mi².

PERIOD OF RECORD.--November 1965 to current year (monthend contents only). Prior to October 1969, published as "Yellowtail Reservoir."

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder in powerhouse control room. Datum of gage is feet above sea level (levels by Bureau of Reclamation).

REMARKS.--Reservoir is formed by thin concrete-arch dam; construction began in 1961; completed in 1967. Storage began Nov. 3, 1965. Usable capacity, 1,356,000 acre-ft between elevation 3,296.50 ft, river outlet invert, and 3,657.00 ft, top of flood control. Elevation of spill-way crest, 3,593.00 ft. Normal maximum operating level, 1,097,000 acre-ft, elevation, 3,640.00 ft. Minimum operating level, 483,400 acre-ft, elevation 3,547.00 ft. Dead storage, 16,010 acre-ft below elevation 3,296.50 ft. Figures given herein represent usable contents. Water is used for power production, flood control, irrigation, and recreation.

COOPERATION.--Elevations and capacity table furnished by Bureau of Reclamation.

EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.--Maximum daily contents, 1,346,000 acre-ft, July 6, 1967, elevation, 3,656.43 ft; minimum daily contents since first filling, 641,900 acre-ft, Apr. 14, 1989, elevation, 3,583.30 ft.

EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR.--Maximum daily contents, 1,066,000 acre-ft, Oct. 14, elevation, 3,640.93 ft; minimum daily contents, 747,400 acre-ft, Sept. 13, elevation, 3,603.35 ft.

Month	Water-surface elevation, <u>in feet</u>	Usable contents, in <u>acre-feet</u>	Change in usable contents, <u>in acre-feet</u>
September 30, 1993	3,638.82	1,039,000	---
October 31	3,635.65	1,002,000	-37,000
November 30.	3,627.60	921,100	-80,900
December 31.	3,623.22	883,200	-37,900
January 31, 1994	3,614.52	817,300	-65,900
February 28.	3,608.19	775,900	-41,400
March 31	3,609.38	783,300	+7,400
April 30	3,613.37	809,400	+26,100
May 31	3,620.26	859,600	+50,200
June 30.	3,615.00	820,700	-38,900
July 31.	3,608.77	779,500	-41,200
August 31.	3,604.14	751,900	-27,600
September 30, 1994	3,608.06	775,100	+23,200
1994 water year			-263,900

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF CONTENTS FOR COMPACT RESERVOIRS EXISTING ON JANUARY 1, 1950

The extent, if any, of the use of reservoirs in this section which may be subject to Compact allocations was not determined. As a matter of hydrologic interest the monthend contents in acre-feet of four reservoirs are given. The first three reservoirs are in the Bighorn River basin, Wyoming, and data on contents were furnished by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Tongue River Reservoir in Montana is operated under the supervision of the Water Resources Division of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, which furnished the water level data.

Contents, in acre-feet

Month	06224500 a/Bull Lake	b/Pilot Butte Reservoir	06281500 c/Buffalo Bill Reservoir	06307000 d/Tongue River Reservoir
September 30, 1993. . .	94,740	14,750	417,900	24,440
October 31.	89,570	27,410	406,400	21,320
November 30	88,730	27,810	393,000	21,300
December 31	87,850	27,680	384,300	20,450
January 31, 1994. . . .	86,690	27,490	374,600	19,200
February 28	85,450	27,370	364,300	14,260
March 31.	84,530	27,280	360,000	30,220
April 30.	85,520	27,600	357,000	28,730
May 31.	105,100	18,310	412,400	45,680
June 30	107,800	19,810	429,100	43,740
July 31	75,910	10,260	358,400	32,000
August 31	53,380	10,370	271,900	18,940
September 30, 1994. . .	42,940	7,760	209,100	14,490
Change in contents during water year. . .	-51,800	-6,990	-208,800	-9,950

a/ Usable contents, from revised capacity table effective October 1, 1965. Dead storage is 722 acre-ft.

b/ Usable contents. Dead storage is 5,360 acre-ft.

c/ Usable contents, from revised capacity table based on survey of 1959. Usable contents prior to October 1960 based on survey of 1941. Dead storage is negligible.

d/ Usable contents. Dead storage is 1,400 acre-ft. Contents based upon sedimentation surveys of October 1948.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF
THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER COMPACT

A compact, known as the Yellowstone River Compact, between the States of Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota, having become effective on October 30, 1951, upon approval of the Congress of the United States, which apportions the waters of certain interstate tributaries of the Yellowstone River which are available after the appropriative rights existing in the States of Wyoming and Montana on January 1, 1950 are supplied, and after appropriative rights to the use of necessary supplemental water are also supplied as specified in the Compact, is administered under the following rules and regulations subject to the provisions for amendment revision or abrogation as provided herein.

Article I. Collection of Water Records

A. It shall be the joint and equal responsibility of the members of the States of Wyoming and Montana to collect, cause to be collected, or otherwise furnish records of tributary streamflow at the points of measurement specified in Article V (B) of the Compact, or as near thereto as is physically or economically feasible or justified.

1. Clarks Fork

The gaging station known as Clarks Fork near Silesia, Montana and located in NW1/4 SE1/4 sec. 1, T. 4 S., R. 23 E., shall be the point of measurement for the Clarks Fork.

2. Bighorn River (exclusive of Little Bighorn River)

The gaging station known as the Bighorn River above Tullock Creek, near Bighorn, Montana, and located in SE1/4 SE1/4 NE1/4 sec. 3, T. 4 N., R. 34 E., shall temporarily be the designated point of measurement on that stream. The flow of the Little Bighorn River as measured at the gaging station near Hardin, Montana, and located in SE1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4 sec. 19, T. 1 S., R. 34 E., shall be considered the point of measurement for that stream, except that if or when satisfactory records are not available, the records for the nearest upstream station with practical corrections for intervening inflow or diversion shall be used.

3. Tongue River

The gaging station known as the Tongue River at Miles City, Montana, and located in NE1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4 sec. 23, T. 7 N., R. 47 E., shall temporarily be the point of measurement for that stream.

4. Powder River

The gaging station known as the Powder River near Locate, Montana, and located in NW1/4 SW1/4 sec. 14, T. 8 N., R. 51 E., shall temporarily be the designated point of measurement for that stream.

- B. Records of total annual diversion in acre-feet above the points of measurement designated in the Compact for irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses developed after January 1, 1950, shall be furnished by the members of the Commission for their respective States, at such time as the Commission deems necessary for interstate administration as provided by the terms of the Compact. Providing that if it be acceptable to the Commission, reasonable estimates thereof may be substituted.
- C. Annual records of the net change in storage in all reservoirs, not excluded under Article V (E) of the Compact, above the point of measurement specified in the Compact and completed after January 1, 1950, and the annual net change in reservoirs existing prior to January 1, 1950, which is used for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes developed after January 1, 1950, shall be the primary responsibility of the member of the Commission in whose State such works are located; providing such data are not furnished by Federal agencies under the provisions of Article III (D) of the Compact, or collected by the Commission.

Article II. Office and Officers

- A. The office of the Commission shall be located at the office of the Chairman of the Commission.
- B. The Chairman of the Commission shall be the Federal representative as provided in the Compact.
- C. The Secretary of the Commission shall be as provided for in Article III of these rules.
- D. The credentials of each member of the Commission shall be placed on file in the office of the Commission.

Article III. Secretary

- A. The Commission, subject to the approval of the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall enter into cooperative agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey for such engineering and clerical services as may reasonably be necessary for the administration of the Compact. Said agreements shall provide that the Geological Survey shall:

1. Maintain and operate gaging stations at or near the points of measurement specified in Article V (A) of the Compact.
 2. Assemble factual information on stream flow, diversion, and reservoir storage for the preparation of an annual report to the Governors of the signatory States.
 3. Make such investigations and reports as may be requested by the Commission in aid of its administration of the Compact.
- B. The Geological Survey shall act as Secretary to the Commission.

Article IV. Budget

- A. At the annual meeting of each even-numbered year or prior thereto, the Commission shall adopt a budget for operation during the ensuing biennium beginning July first. Such budget shall set forth the total cost of construction, maintenance and operation of gaging stations, the cost of engineering and clerical aid, and other necessary expenses excepting the salaries and personal expenses of the Commissioners. On odd-numbered years revisions of the budget shall be considered.
- B. It shall be the obligation of the Commissioners of the States of Montana and Wyoming to endeavor to secure from the Legislature of their respective States sufficient funds with which to meet the obligations of this Compact, except insofar as provided by the Federal government.

Article V. Meetings

An annual meeting of the Commission shall be held each November at some mutually agreeable point in the Yellowstone River Basin for consideration of the annual report for the water year ending the preceding September 30th, and for the transaction of such other business consistent with its authority; provided that by unanimous consent of the Commission the date and place of the annual meeting may be changed. Other meetings as may be deemed necessary shall be held at a time and place set by mutual agreement, for the transaction of any business consistent with its authority.

No action of the Commission shall be effective until approval by the Commissioners for the States of Wyoming and Montana.

Article VI. Amendments, Revisions and Abrogations.

The Rules and Regulations of the Commission may be amended or revised by a unanimous vote at any meeting of the Commission.



Gary Fritz
Commissioner for Montana



George L. Christopoulos
Commissioner for Wyoming

ATTESTED:



L. Grady Moore
Federal Representative

Adopted November 17, 1953
Amended December 16, 1986

RULES FOR ADJUDICATING WATER RIGHTS ON INTERSTATE DITCHES

Article I. Purpose

The purpose of this rule is to determine and adjudicate, in accordance with the laws of Montana and Wyoming, those pre-Compact (January 1, 1950) water rights diverting from the Powder, Tongue, Bighorn and Clarks Fork Rivers and their tributaries where the point of diversion is in one State and the place of use is in the other State which have not yet been adjudicated.

Article II. Authority

In accordance with the Yellowstone River Compact, the State of Montana and the State of Wyoming, being moved by consideration of interstate comity, desire to remove all causes of present and future controversy between the States and between persons in one State and persons in another State with respect to these interstate ditches. Article III (E) of the Compact provides the Yellowstone River Compact Commission with the authority "...to formulate rules and regulations and to perform any act which they may find necessary to carry out the provisions of this Compact...."

Article III. Definitions

The terms defined in the Yellowstone River Compact apply as well as the following definitions:

1. "Acre-feet" means the volume of water that would cover 1 acre of land to a depth of 1 foot.
2. "Cfs" means a flow of water equivalent to a volume of 1 cubic foot that passes a point in 1 second of time and is equal to 40 miners inches in Montana.
3. "Interstate Ditches" shall include ditches and canals which convey waters of the Bighorn, Tongue, Powder, and Clarks Fork Rivers and their tributaries across the Wyoming-Montana State line where the water is diverted in one State and the place of use is in the other State.
4. "Department of Natural Resources and Conservation," hereafter called the "Department," means the administrative agency and Department of the Executive Branch of the Government of Montana created under Title II, Chapter 15, MCA which has the responsibility for water administration in that State.

5. "Water Court" means a Montana District Court presided over by a water judge, as provided for in Title III, Chapter 7, MCA.
6. "State Engineer" shall be the current holder of the position created by the Wyoming Constitution as Chief Water Administration Official for the State of Wyoming.
7. "Board of Control," hereinafter called the "Board," is defined as the constitutionally created water management agency in Wyoming composed of the four Water Division Superintendents and the State Engineer.
8. "Superintendent" is the member of the Board who is the water administration official for the Water Division where the interstate ditch is located. (The two Water Divisions in the Yellowstone River drainage are Water Division Numbers Two and Three.)
9. "Date of Priority" shall mean the earliest date of actual beneficial use of water, unless evidence and circumstances pertaining to a particular claim establish an earlier date.
10. "Point of Diversion" is defined to be the legal land description by legal subdivision, section, township, and range of the location of the diversion structure for an interstate ditch from a natural stream channel.
11. "Place of Use" is defined to be the legal land description (legal subdivision, section, township, and range) of the lands irrigated by an interstate ditch.
12. "Person" is defined as an individual, a partnership, a corporation, a municipality or any other legal entity, public or private.
13. "Claimant" is defined as any person claiming the use of water from an interstate ditch as herein defined.

Article IV. Procedures

The procedures for determining and adjudicating water rights associated with interstate ditches shall be categorized as follows: (A) Where the point of diversion is in Wyoming and place of use in Montana, and (B) Where the point of diversion is in Montana and place of use in Wyoming.

A. Wyoming Procedure

1. The Yellowstone River Compact Commission will provide a claim form to be completed by the claimant that will describe the location and point of diversion and land being irrigated, the priority date claimed, method of irrigation and such other information required to describe the claim. (A sample form for this purpose is attached.)
2. The Yellowstone River Compact Commission will send the claim form to water users on the interstate ditches.
3. Water users will complete the claim form and file it with the Yellowstone Compact Commission, which, when found to be correct and complete, will be forwarded to the Board for verification.
4. Upon receipt of the form, the Board shall forward it to the appropriate Superintendent, who, in cooperation with the Department, will validate the information including the use that has been made of the water, the number of acres and location of lands being irrigated, the priority date, and all other relevant information. The Superintendent and the Department will utilize aerial photography and other information to have prepared a reproducible map showing the location of the ditch system, lands irrigated, point of diversion, etc., of the claim.
5. After the validation procedure, the Superintendent will hold a hearing, after appropriate notice and advertisement, at which time the claimant shall describe, in detail, the use that has been made of the water and the lands that are being irrigated, establish a priority date, etc. Costs incurred in advertising shall be paid by the claimant. If a single hearing is held to consider several claims, the costs of advertising shall be shared equally among the claimants. Anyone who opposes the claim shall appear and state the reasons, if any, for opposition to the claim. If there is no opposition to the claim, cost incurred in holding the hearing shall be paid by the claimant. If protestants do appear and oppose the claim, hearing costs will be paid 50 percent by the claimant and 50 percent by the protestant, or if there is more than one protestant, the remaining 50 percent shall be shared equally among the protestants.
6. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Superintendent shall forward the record to the Yellowstone River Compact Commission with his findings and recommendations. The Yellowstone River Compact Commission will make the

determination of the amount of the right, the location, and the priority date, and then send the record to the Board.

7. The Board shall review the record and integrate it into its water rights system. Upon entry of the record by the Board, the information shall be forwarded to the Department and the Chairman of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission.
8. Upon the entry of the right into the Board's records, it will have the following attributes:
 - a. The right will be a Wyoming water right with a priority date as established by this procedure.
 - b. The amount of the right will be determined as provided by Wyoming law.

B. Montana Procedure

1. The Yellowstone River Compact Commission will provide a claim form to be completed by the claimant that will describe the location and point of diversion and land being irrigated, the priority date claimed, method of irrigation and such other information required to describe the claim.
2. The Commission will send the claim form to water users on the interstate ditches.
3. Water users will complete the claim form and file it with the Yellowstone River Compact Commission, which, when found to be correct and complete, will be forwarded to the Department for verification.
4. Upon receipt of the form, the Department, in cooperation with the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, will validate the information, including the use that has been made of the water, the number of acres and location of lands being irrigated, the priority date, and all other relevant information. The appropriate Superintendent and the Department will utilize aerial photographs and other information to have prepared a reproducible map showing the location of the ditch system, land irrigated, point of diversion, etc., of the claim.

5. The Department will then forward the record to the Yellowstone River Compact Commission with its findings and recommendations. Upon approval by the Commission, the record shall be submitted to the Montana Water Court for adjudication. A duplicate record will be forwarded to the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, the Board, and the Chairman of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission upon adjudication.
6. Upon adjudication of the right by the Montana Water Court, it will have the following attributes:
 - a) The right will be a Montana water right with a priority date as established by this procedure.
 - b) The amount of the right will be determined as provided by Montana law.

Article V. Exclusions

- A. These rules recognize the limitation in Article VI of the Yellowstone River Compact regarding Indian water rights.
- B. These rules shall not be construed to determine or interpret the rights of the States of Wyoming and Montana to the waters of the Little Bighorn River.

Article VI. Claim Form Submission Period

All claims must be submitted to the Yellowstone River Compact Commission, c/o District Chief, United States Geological Survey, 821 E. Interstate, Bismarck, ND 58501, within 90 calendar days after the claimant has received the claim form from the Commission. The blank claim form will be sent certified mail to the water user and the submission period of 90 calendar days will begin with the next day following receipt of the form, as evidenced by the certified mail receipt card. For good cause shown in writing, an extension of time beyond the 90 days for submittal may be obtained from the Commission.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER COMPACT COMMISSION

WYOMING

GORDON W. FASSETT
STATE ENGINEER
HERSCHLER BUILDING
4TH FLOOR EAST
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002
(307) 777-7354

UNITED STATES

WILLIAM F. HORAK
CHAIRMAN
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
821 E. INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501
(701) 250-4601

MONTANA

GARY FRITZ
ADMINISTRATOR, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION
1520 EAST SIXTH AVENUE
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
(406) 444-6603

YELLOWSTONE RIVER COMPACT COMMISSION

CLAIM FORM FOR INTERSTATE DITCHES

1. Name of ditch or canal: _____
2. Source of water supply: _____
Tributary of _____
3. Name of claimant: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone No. _____ Business Phone No. _____
4. Person completing form: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone No. _____ Business Phone No. _____
5. Method of irrigation: _____
6. Point of diversion: County _____ State _____
Headgate located in the $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$, Section _____, T. _____ R. _____

(a) Description of headgate: (Briefly describe the materials and general features, date constructed or last known work, general condition.) _____

9. Describe any additional uses of water claimed from the ditch:

10. Date of first beneficial use of water (priority date) on lands described above for _____ Ditch is _____
(mo/day/yr)
and shall be the same for all lands claimed on this form.
11. Has irrigation water been diverted onto all lands shown in the above tabulation each year since completion of works?__
If not, state exceptions and reasons therefore: _____

12. Attach documentary evidence or affidavits showing your ownership or control of the above lands, as well as the historic use of water on these lands. _____

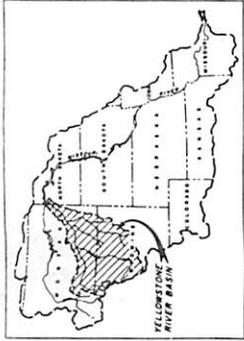
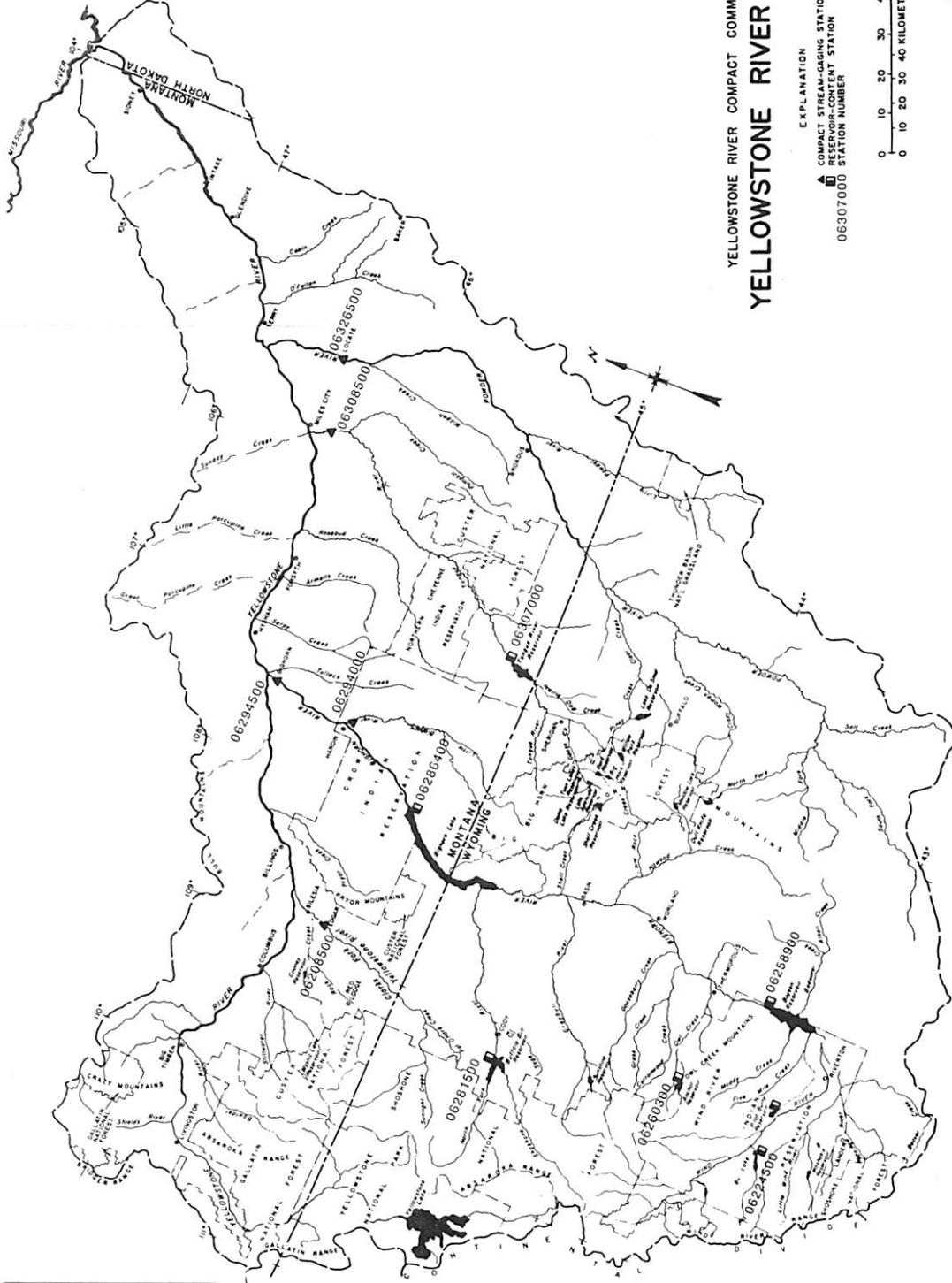
13. What permit or claim numbers have been assigned to known records filed with either the Wyoming State Engineer's Office or the Montana Department (DNRC) for irrigating the above lands? _____

14. Have personnel in the Wyoming State Engineer's Office or the Montana Department (DNRC) been contacted to obtain the information given in No. 13? () Yes () No
15. Describe any flumes or pipelines in the ditch conveyance system: _____

CONVERSION TABLE

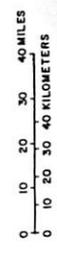
<u>Multiply inch-pound units</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>To obtain SI units</u>
<i>Length</i>		
feet (ft)	0.3048	meters (m)
miles (mi)	1.609	kilometers (km)
<i>Area</i>		
acres	4,047	square meters (m ²)
	0.4047	*hectares (ha)
	0.4047	square hectometer (hm ²)
	0.004047	square kilometers (km ²)
square miles (mi ²)	2.590	square kilometers (km ²)
<i>Volume</i>		
cfs-day or second-foot day (ft ³ /s-day)	2,447	cubic meters (m ³)
	0.002447	cubic hectometers (hm ³)
cubic feet	0.02832	cubic meters
acre-feet (acre-ft)	1,233	cubic meters (m ³)
	0.001233	cubic hectometers (hm ³)
	0.000001233	cubic kilometers (km ³)
<i>Flow</i>		
cubic feet per second (ft ³ /s)	28.32	liters per second (L/s)
	28.32	cubic decimeters per second (dm ³ /s)
	0.02832	cubic meters per second (m ³ /s)
acre-feet per year (acre-ft/yr)	1,233	cubic meters per year (m ³ /yr)
	0.001233	cubic hectometers per year (hm ³ /yr)
	0.000001233	cubic kilometers per year (km ³ /yr)

*The unit hectare is approved for use with the International System (SI) for a limited time. See National Bureau of Standards Special Bulletin 330, p. 12, 1977 edition.



YELLOWSTONE RIVER COMPACT COMMISSION
YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

EXPLANATION
 ▲ COMPACT STREAM-GAGING STATION
 □ RESERVOIR-CONTENT STATION
 06307000 STATION NUMBER



MAP SHOWING LOCATIONS OF COMPACT STREAM-GAGING AND RESERVOIR-CONTENT STATIONS