



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Western Colorado Area Office
445 West Gunnison Avenue, Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WCG-LWarner
2.2.4.21

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Mike Berry
General Manager
Tri-County Water Conservancy District
P.O. Box 347
Montrose, CO 81402
mike@tricitywater.org

Subject: Ridgway Dam and Reservoir Operations, Dallas Creek Project, Colorado

Dear Mr. Berry:

In your letter dated, August 4, 2022, you requested guidance from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) concerning the operations criteria for Ridgway Dam and Reservoir of the Dallas Creek Project. We offer the following in reply to your request.

Active Storage Fill Priority

The Active Storage Allocation (59,396 acre-feet) is comprised of the Contract Pool (39,400 acre-feet) and Administrative Pool (19,996 acre-feet). These allocations are further defined in **Attachment 1**. It is Reclamation's understanding that, within a given water year, the Contract Pool fills prior to the Administrative Pool.

Within the Contract Pool, each of the three pools—municipal and industrial, irrigation, and recreation—fills with equal priority. Further, each of the three pools will begin the water year with a proportion of their full allocation based on the Active Storage carryover from the previous water year. Any Active Storage carryover, as of November 1st, will be proportionally distributed among the Contract Pool participants in Ridgway Reservoir.

Administrative Pool Purpose

Non-contracted water from the Administrative Pool will be the first to spill or be released for flood control purposes. The Administrative Pool may also be used to support short-term water use agreements with Reclamation. Any volume remaining in the Administrative Pool at the end of the year will be used to benefit carryover storage for the following year, as described above.

There shall be no refill of water to any pool in the Active Storage Allocation within the water year, and use of water from each pool shall be limited to that pool's annual allocation.

Exchange Credits

Along with the provisions described in the agreement for the exchange of water between the Uncompaghre and Dallas Creek Projects (Contract 1-07-40-R1300), credits available for use from the Exchange pool will be based on the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Water Division 4, Division Engineer's projection of total available Exchange credits for the water year, providing that any overuse of actual Exchange credits available is then reconciled by applying that use to the Irrigation pool credits.

I hope this addresses your questions. If you need further assistance, please contact me at (970) 248-0654 or email LWarner@usbr.gov. For the hearing impaired please call the Federal Relay System at (800) 877-8339 (TTY).

Sincerely,

Ed Warner
Area Manager

Enclosure

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