

Explanation of LCWUA Prorated water

Before the Paonia Project, which is composed of the Paonia Reservoir and the Fire Mountain Canal, was completed, a number of decrees on Leroux Creek were delivered to ditches some of which ran water onto Rogers Mesa. As the Paonia Project was nearing completion and during a trial period after completion, the owners of these decrees had the option of trading some or all of their holdings into the LCWUA and in return receive shares of Fire Mountain stock. The water traded in which is now owned by the LCWUA was available for landowners above the Fire Mountain Canal to subscribe to similarly to the water from the Paonia Reservoir to landowners below the Canal. This water is what makes the LCWUA class B-1 and B-2 shares. The water was moved upstream on Leroux Creek to irrigate lands above the Fire Mountain canal through a complex decree, Civil Action No. 5091, that allows the point of origin of the decrees to be moved for the benefit of the stockholders of the water. The class B-2 shares represent early season water which runs from the junior decrees traded into the LCWUA and run until Leroux Creek drops down to 61.35 cfs at which point the water year changes to late season. At the change, the B-2 is out and water being delivered to B-2 shares is shut off. At this point, reservoir orders can be placed for stockholders of A-1 and B-1 shares of the LCWUA. The A-1 shares represent original reservoir water before the Paonia Project and the B-1 shares represent reservoir water derived from the project. There are senior decrees owned by the LCWUA which came from the trade discussed above that are still running water after the late season change. As all of the LCWUA reservoirs should be full at this time and the association owns some of the flow in Leroux Creek, the flow water must be turned somewhere and is first used to fill any orders at the time. For most years, there is more flow available than needed to fill orders for at least the first few turns of the season and the difference becomes the "Pro Rated" water. This water is delivered on a prorated basis to all owners of A-1 and/or B-1 shares who have not placed an order for reservoir water. When the flow in Leroux Creek drops to a point where there are more orders than flow, water is turned from the reservoir system to make up the difference and the "Pro Rated" water is done for the year. The amount of pro rated water run is deducted from members' accounts but is considered when the Board sets the total percentage for the season. Depending upon the moisture conditions of the year, some of these decrees run well into the summer and are used to fill reservoir orders which increases the percentage.