

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

WATER DIVISION FOUR

Office of the State Engineer
Department of Natural Resources

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Overland Ditch and Reservoir Co.
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Overland Ditch and Reservoir administration:

Overland Reservoir:

This is an information letter in regards to the administration of the Overland decrees as of the year 2010. The Overland Reservoir fills in priority from the most senior 1920 to the more junior 1954. The 1920 conditional decree for 970.73 af was made absolute the past year with the understanding that 970.73 af of the most junior water, 1954 could be abandoned if the reservoir is not enlarged to accommodate this extra water. That would not happen until the next abandonment which is 2020. Most years this reservoir fills on a free river system. There was no call on the North Fork River this year during the spring fill season, requiring the Reservoir to make a call for the fill decrees.

Overland Ditch:

The ditch starts the year by calling and using the stock decree from Leroux Creek. Ice in winter months can be a problem to keep the ditch running. The Overland Ditch stock decree is No 5 in line on Leroux Creek in the winter season for 3.00 cfs. Stock decrees are recognized from Nov. 1 to April 1.

The first irrigation decree is water called from Leroux Creek 1908 for 24.72 cfs. When this irrigation right is used there is some flow from Roatcap Creek to add in the ditch, this Roatcap water is a 2009 decree for 50.00 cfs. The main decree for the ditch is the 1914 for 75.00 cfs from 13 points of diversion; from upper Cow Creek to and including Leroux Creek, but does not include the Roatcap drainage.

As the flow in Leroux Creek and Roatcap Creek diminishes the upper ditch is supplied by Terror Creek and Hubbard Creek then up to Cow Creek. Overland enjoys the use of any and all water from these sources under the 1914 priority. When the streams supplying water into the Overland system drop in total flow, there are downstream senior decrees that will call for curtailment of Overland's decree.

Terror Creek:

The downstream senior decrees on the Terror Creek drainage will be; Pitkin Mesa P.L. 1889, Holybee Ditch 1889, Fawcett Ditch 1889, the Terror Creek Ditch 1901. When these diversions run short they call for Terror Creek water to be pulled past the Overland Ditch, the first quantity available is about 2.00 cfs to 2.50 cfs.

The accumulative flow into the Terror Creek drainage is visually estimated by the Water Commissioner and the required amount available to the downstream call is turned through one headgate and measured at the West Terror diversion box. This turn is made twice a week on Monday and Thursday. The undershots are not used. There is a new weir plate with staff gages in this box and a new discharge table has been built to correspond to the width of the box.

In the early spring snowmelt the Terror Creek drainage will bring up to 60.00 cfs into the Overland Ditch, then drops to less than 1.00 cfs in the later part of the season. This call would include any water from West Terror to East Terror.

Hubbard Creek:

The Terror Creek Ditch is decreed 1901 for 6.00 cfs from all Terror Creek sources. A part of that 6.00 cfs is supplied by the Terror Ditch Ext. 1901 on West Hubbard Creek. This Terror Creek Ditch Ext. call will include any water from Little Alder to West Hubbard Creek. The Terror Creek Ditch Ext. is 1901 for 5.00 cfs which includes; 3.00 cfs coming from West Hubbard Creek and 1.00 cfs from Little Alder and 1.00 cfs from Big Alder. The accumulative flow into the Hubbard Creek drainage is visually estimated by the Water Commissioner and the required amount available to the downstream call is turned through one headgate and measured at the West Hubbard diversion box. This turn is made twice a week on Monday and Thursday. The Hubbard Creek undershots are not used. There is a new weir plate with staff gages in this box and a new discharge table has been built to correspond to the width of the box.

Deertrail Ditch with 1901 for 2.30 cfs can and does call all of the West Hubbard, Middle Hubbard and Main Hubbard sources. This is senior to the Terror Ditch Ext., but does not affect the Terror Creek Ditch or any flow on Terror Creek. All Hubbard Creek water called to serve the Deertrail Ditch is turned and measured at the West Hubbard box.

Cow Creek:

Cow Creek is tributary to West Muddy Creek. The Overland Reservoir is built on the Cow Creek drainage and uses the flow in Cow Creek in the 1914 decree until there is a senior call on the North Fork River. That call is usually the 1904 priority in the Fire Mountain Canal. When that call occurs the flow goes through the reservoir into the ditch and is turned and measured out into Cow Creek just before the first Parshall flume on the ditch.

Below the reservoir, Cow Creek is running less than 1.00 cfs through the summer until the downstream call pulls water through the reservoir into Cow Creek. The extra water in Cow Creek after this call allows three downstream ditches: Larson, Larson No2., and Twin Spruce to pull exchange water from the Ragged Mountain Water Users. This is Paonia Reservoir project water and is utilized by exchange to any of the members in the exchange pool as long as there is water available at the respective headgates, up to an accumulative total of 2000 af. There is water court approval by decree for this exchange, identifying each ditch and the amounts allowed to be diverted. These three ditches can divert by exchange until the total in the pool is reached, then they will be shut off. After the North Fork call is off, these ditches could be diverting under their original decrees before the Overland Reservoir can do any refilling. The reservoir is entitled to a one fill per season on the total reservoir capacity. November 1 starts a new irrigation year and after that date Overland can exercise it's decrees to begin filling for the new year.

Please call if you have
questions. State Water
Commissioner