



**TRI-COUNTY  
WATER**

CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

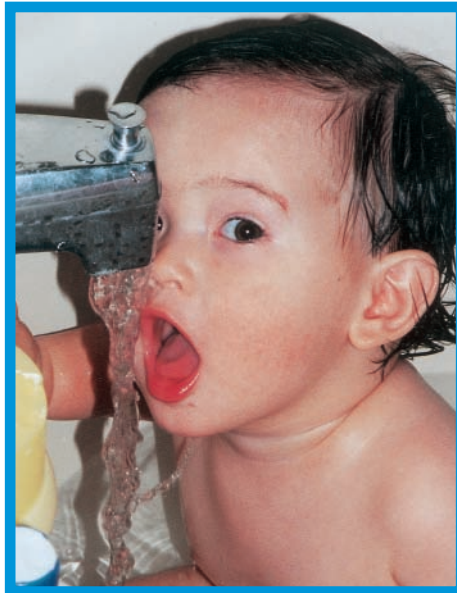
P.O. Box 347  
Montrose, Colorado 81402

## Water Management & Conservation Program

Water management and conservation has always been a topic near and dear to the hearts of those who live in the arid west. Management and conservation of our finite and precious resource, WATER, is high on the priority list at Tri-County Water.

The US Bureau of Reclamation and Tri-County Water have recently teamed up to prepare a plan to insure that our water supplies are managed to provide water of optimum quantity and highest quality. The plan will outline goals and guidelines that the District will adopt to help manage our resources. The District needs your input!

Enclosed is a survey that we would like our



**The District needs your input!**

customers to fill out. In return for your efforts and the postage required to return this survey, you will receive a \$1.00 credit on your next water bill. We would like to know what you think so we can incorporate these concerns in the management plan. Please fill out the survey and return it to Tri-County at PO Box 347, Montrose, Colorado 81402.

Thank you for your time and effort in providing us this valuable feedback!

# Tri-County Water *Connections* Conservancy District

## *Cost of Service Update*

The District has recently dusted off the Cost of Service (COS) Study that was prepared last year and is again considering water rates and fees for 2002. We mentioned last December that it was the goal of this District to charge customers appropriate charges for water to offset the expenses incurred for providing the domestic water service to more than 250 square miles of area. In looking at the numbers, we discovered that our cost of service has not changed to any significant degree which is an indication that expenses are under control, water sales are growing, and the District is doing what it can to keep prices for our services steady.

Our current average water rate was calculated to be \$2.15 per 1000 gallons. The District decided last year to adjust rates to the COS over a 3 year period for which 2002 will be the second year in this effort. Our goals are to minimize the tiers in our rate structure and to make rates as fair and equitable as possible to all customers.

In 2002, the Board is considering moving from a "5 tier" to a "2 tier" declining rate structure which would put water rates somewhere in the neighborhood or range of \$1.75 to \$2.40 and increasing the minimum charge, which has not changed since 1996, from \$21.60 to \$24.00 for 6000 gallons of water. "Availability of service" charges will remain the same in 2002 at \$12.00 per 56 day period.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss the proposed changes to our water rates, please give us a call at the District office.

## *Makin' life a little easier!*

We have received numerous requests to provide electronic funds transfer (EFT) service in which TCW collects the payment for the water billing electronically. We have this service set up and ready to go!

We will send bills to you as regularly scheduled. Funds will then be transferred from your designated account when the bill comes due. A notation will appear on the bill if it is to be paid through EFT.

If you want to sign up for this service, please contact the District to make arrangements. All you need to do is fill out a form and give us your account information and we will handle the rest!



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P.O. Box 347  
Montrose, Colorado 81402

970-249-3369  
970-249-8277 Fax  
tcw@montrose.net

Please write, call, or fax Tri-County Water with any questions, concerns, comments, or helpful hints.  
**WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!**

## Reflections

*A continuing series of the history and development of the Tri-County Water Conservancy District.*

As advanced planning continued, consideration was given to a plan for providing 24,000 acre-feet of industrial water from Ridgway Reservoir each year to Kemmerer Coal Co. for use in developing energy from coal.

The company held large leases of land in the Tongue Mesa Coal Field on Cimarron Ridge and proposed to put together a package deal of coal and water to sell to an energy-producing entity. A steam-electric generating plant was proposed, but there was also a possibility of coal gasification.

This proposal was dropped from consideration as it drew objections from some environmental groups, area residents, and Governor of Colorado.

In March of 1976, a Draft Environmental Statement for the Dallas Creek Project was published and distributed by the Bureau of Reclamation. The statement presented a new plan, one of which would increase the amount of municipal water but decrease the amount of irrigation water to be provided by the project.

The plan in the Draft Environmental Statement would have increased present usable water supplies in the project area by an average of 52,100 acre-feet annually. Of the total supply, 19,100 acre-feet would have been allocated to irrigation, 27,500 acre-feet to municipal use, and 5,500 acre-feet to light industrial use.

The water supply would have been developed by storage in Ridgway Reservoir at the new site, and in Dallas Divide Reservoir on Pleasant Valley Creek as in the feasibility plan. Ridgway Reservoir capacity would have been 125,000 acre-feet to provide storage for water to replace that diverted to Log Hill Mesa. Releases would have been made from Dallas Divide Reservoir to Pleasant Valley Creek for irrigation in the Dallas Creek area and to the 9.4 mile-long Log Hill Mesa Conduit for conveyance to Log Hill Mesa.

Water for municipal use would have been released from the conduit about midway along its course while the irrigation water would be conveyed to a closed pipe distribution system to provide pres-

sure for sprinkler irrigation.

A pumping system, consisting of two electrically operated pumping plants and a conduit, would have provided additional water from the Uncompahgre River to lands and residential areas near Ridgway and on Log Hill Mesa.

The plan would have included acquisition of about 6,000 acres of land for mitigation of wildlife habitat losses, about 5,000 acres more than in the proposed plan.



*Aerial view looking southeast across Log Hill Mesa towards Pinon Ridge & McKenzie Butte.*

### OBJECTIONS

Several objections to this plan were voiced by environmental interests and some of the local residents.

One feature drawing criticism was the Dallas Feeder Canal which would have traversed the base of the scenic San Juan Mountain Range. In addition to aesthetically scarring the landscape, it would have acted as a barrier to small wildlife and disrupt migration routes of larger animals despite the provision in the plan for numerous game crossings.

There was also considerable criticism voiced over the proposal to provide irrigation water to new lands on Log Hill Mesa. Wildlife interests felt that this area was too valuable as wildlife habitat to be broken out for farm land. These objections coupled with a reduction in the demand for municipal water on Log Hill Mesa prompted the entire Dallas Divide-Log Hill Mesa increment being dropped from the plan. This being done, it was no longer necessary to maintain Ridgway Reservoir at the 125,000 acre-foot capacity. It was reduced to 80,000 acre-feet and Ridgway Reservoir became the central feature of the final plan.



## Water Chat

### ◆ I need my service line located.

*Occasionally, we receive calls from customers requesting their service lines be located. Unfortunately, we can not provide this service. The service line from the meter to the residence is installed by the property owner. The District maintains service to the meter. We do not have any information on the location of service lines and therefore can not locate them.*

### ◆ What is that white stuff in my coffee pot and on my showerhead and glass shower door? How can I get rid of it?

*Minerals dissolved in water tend to settle out when water is heated or are left behind when it evaporates. These minerals are white and accumulate in coffee pots and on showerheads and glass shower doors.*

*To remove these minerals, fill the coffee pot with vinegar and let it sit overnight, or soak the showerhead overnight in a plastic bowl filled with vinegar. Slowly adding 1 tablespoon of muriatic acid to 1 quart of vinegar will help but is not necessary. Be careful not to spill this mixture. When you are done, carefully discard the contents of the plastic bowl down a drain, and flush the container and sink drain with plenty of water. Note: Rinse the coffee pot or showerhead thoroughly after treatment and before use. Pouring the excess hot liquid out of your coffee pot when you are finished with it will help somewhat in preventing this problem.*

*White spots on glass shower doors are difficult to remove with vinegar because the spots dissolve very slowly. A better idea is to prevent the spots from forming by wiping the glass door with a damp sponge or towel after each shower.*



### Vandalism Note

We are asking you, our customer, for information regarding the vandalism of the Uncompahgre and South Canal tanks. Someone has damaged these tanks with a high powered rifle.

When tanks are damaged, it affects you in many ways. Storage tanks ensure water pressure and water volume even if the electricity that runs the pumps is off. These storage tanks provide an extra source of drinking water during the day, when water use is high. The tanks are refilled at night when water use is low. Lack of water in storage tanks also affects what is available for fire protection.

If we are not able to find the person or persons responsible for the damages, the cost of repairing the tanks is paid by the customers. Any time you see any vandalism taking place to Tri-County Water's system, please contact us or the appropriate law enforcement agency with the information. The more we can cut down on this loss or acquire information that enables us to collect from the responsible party, the less it will cost the customer for water. Thank you!

