

Water Admin. Sum.

Water Administration and Work Summary.
Republican River Basin 2005-2006
(Brad Edgerton August 10, 2006)

Water administration during the 2005 irrigation season was an abbreviated version of our historic administration. Culbertson Canal began diverting the natural flow from Frenchman Creek on March 29, 2005; all permits upstream of Culbertson Canal were regulated to their legal limit.

Superior Canal began diverting the natural flow from the Republican River on June 6, 2005; at that time the flows were sufficient to satisfy the total grant of their natural flow permits.

On June 19th storage releases began from Harry Strunk Reservoir; this storage water was protected while in transit to the Cambridge Diversion Dam. All natural flow permits upstream of Cambridge Canal were regulated to their legal limit.

On June 25, 2005 all natural flow permits between Harlan County Dam and the Guide Rock Diversion Dam junior to February 28, 1948 were closed and all senior natural flow permits were regulated to their legal limit; these permits remained closed until August 23, 2005. Storage water was not released from Harlan County Lake in 2005.

During the 2005 irrigation season nearly all surface water diversion locations were visited and inspected for compliance with the provisions of their permits.

In October surface water use report forms were mailed to the owner and were due back by Dec. 31, 2005. The response continues to improve each year; however the Department is looking at implementing a stiffer penalty for delinquent reports.

To date, water administration in 2006 is very similar to 2005 with two additional reservoirs making releases, Hugh Butler is releasing storage water to Bartley Canal and Harlan County Reservoir released to Kansas Bostwick. Frenchman Valley I.D. (Culbertson Canal) through negotiations with the State has elected not to divert in 2006 which may be the first time since 1890. This is also the first year since the project was completed that Superior Canal has not diverted.

In addition, Riverside Canal Company negotiated with the State and elected not to divert water in 2006.

On July 12th we received a call for water administration below Guide Rock Diversion Dam which resulted in all permits upstream of Superior Nebraska junior to August 26, 1940 being closed for a brief time; we had to repeat this administration on July 30th when the flow in the Republican River at Superior Nebraska once again dropped below 400 gpm. All junior permits below Harlan County Reservoir were opened on August 8, 2006.