SJ-23
SJ River Admin

Whipple, John J., OSE

From: Whipple, John J., OSE **Sent:** Thu 1/22/2009 9:01 AM
To: shb00@hampshire.edu
Cc:
Subject: RE: Question related to the San Juan River Operations and Administration Agreement
Attachments:

Sara:

Answers to your questions --

1. yes.
2. yes - the variations reflect some planned growth and some actual ditch hydraulics issues that arose.
3. yes - some ditches delayed the start of irrigation diversions by 1-2 weeks one year based on projections of a small percentage shortage, but the shortage that was projected early in the year dissipated as snowpack improved and runoff materialized. The process worked smoothly and as anticipated.
4. no.
5. The agreements have worked from the standpoint of ditches self-regulating their diversions within limits that they agreed to. The fact that no real or significant shortages have occurred is an outcome more of the hydrology experienced after 2002 than of the agreements. Should years of extreme low flows such as 2002 repeat themselves and Navajo Reservoir active storage again decline to low levels, the shortage sharing provisions in the agreements are intended to be instituted in lieu of priority calls. How well or smoothly the agreements would work in the event of significant shortages, and how satisfied the parties to the agreement would be in such circumstances, has not been tested. I believe that the parties to date generally have been satisfied with the agreements and the cooperation shown by all involved.

John Whipple

From: shb00@hampshire.edu [mailto:shb00@hampshire.edu]
Sent: Wed 1/14/2009 1:30 PM
To: Whipple, John J., OSE
Subject: RE: Question related to the San Juan River Operations and Administration Agreement

Thanks that helps clear things up. Here's a few more questions. The first couple pertain to things that I want to make sure I'm portraying accurately in my professional project, while the last few are opinion questions about how you feel various aspects of the agreement are working. For these opinion questions please let me know if your comfortable being quoted. Thanks again for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer these.

1. Would it be accurate to say that you assist the parties with the negotiations for the San Juan agreement?

2. Would it be accurate to say that that the agreement has mostly varied from year to year by small variations in how much water each party gets?

3. Have the shortage sharing procedures outlined in section 3 of agreement (either for this most recent agreement or for past years agreements) had to be used at any point? If so, has the process of doing so been smooth?

4. Have the provisions outlined in section 4 of the agreement on transferring or brokering water between parties (either for this most recent agreement or for past years agreements) been used at any point? If so, has the process of doing so been smooth?

5. Finally, what would be your overall assessment of how the agreement(s) are working? From my research, it appears there have not been any priority calls on the San Juan, so in that respect its working. Do you feel like all the parties involved are satisfied with the agreement? How do you think the agreement(s) have worked out?

Sincerely,
Sara H. Brosnan
