

UPPER MIMBRES WATER MASTER DISTRICT WATER MASTER FIELD MANUAL

MARCH 1st, 2006



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District 3 – Deming, New Mexico

INTRODUCTION

The Mimbres River Stream System is formed by the Snow pack and runoff from 184 square miles of watershed to the north, running through part of Grant County into Luna County where it ends. Stream flow forecasts and Watershed snow pack Analysis can be found at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov> for McKnight Cabin site number 1048, station ID – 07s03s.

The Mimbres River has one gauging station, U.S.G.S gauge 08477110, located between the Kenly #2 and the Heuchling #1 ditches. There are nine ditches upstream of this gauging station. There is one ditch below this gauging station with totalizing measuring devices in place, the San Lorenzo Community Ditch; consisting of two in-line flow meters. All other surface water Points of Diversion currently in use have flumes installed prior to the first farm headgate.

The Mimbres Basin, under Judge Norman Hodges in the Sixth Judicial District of Luna County, New Mexico, was fully adjudicated with a Final Decree entered May 26th 1993. On December 16th, 2005 state engineer John D'Antonio declared the Upper Mimbres Water Master District (see attached map for location and boundaries) and appointed Bryan K. Stevenson as water master of the District. The Mimbres River Water Master is charged with apportionment of the waters in the District.

The amount apportioned annually will be determined by the Water Master utilizing estimates of available water supplies and calculation of the To Be Irrigated (TBI) summaries submitted by each mayordomo. The amount of water apportioned by the Water Master shall not exceed the maximum amount set forth in the Adjudication per acre irrigated.

The Water Master will help develop and implement a set of District Specific Rules for the Upper Mimbres Water Master District.

All waters diverted from the Mimbres River Stream System and/or the Mimbres Underground Water Basin must be put to beneficial use.

WATER MASTER DUTIES

The Water Master will administer water along the Mimbres River in the Upper Mimbres Water Master District to the best of his/her ability using technology and information available. During low flow periods, the Water Master will apportion existing water supplies through alternative administration agreements or priority administration in accordance with the Constitution of the State of New Mexico and New Mexico Statutes.

The Water Master shall follow New Mexico Statutes Annotated, Chapter 72 and Chapter 73, the Rules and Regulations of the New Mexico State Engineer, and a set of basin specific rules to be developed by the Water Master with public input from the District.

The Water Master will assist in holding a meeting between the community ditches in the District on the evening of the first Monday in the month of April every year in accordance with NMSA §73-2-47. During this meeting, the ditches represented may decide on an alternative administration agreement. If no alternative administration agreement is designated, the Water Master shall implement priority administration in times of shortage.

At or before the April meeting, all mayordomos in the District shall complete To Be Irrigated (TBI) forms provided by the Water Master. This form will include the following information: total acreage, different crop types and will include a map delineating acreage to which water will be applied. These forms will be reviewed by the Water Master and checked for accuracy against water rights on file with the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and utilized in the calculation of cubic feet per second (cfs) delivery requirements. If priority administration is required, the Water Master will inform all District ditch mayordomos of their apportionments based on adjudicated and permitted water rights, TBI notifications, Water Master inspections, current flows and past history.

The Water Master shall monitor the flows and changes in the Mimbres River before, during, and after the growing season; keeping accurate records of river flows and water deliveries and actions taken in discharging the duties of the Water Master. The Water Master will, to the best of his/her ability and dependent upon conditions, monitor delivery of water to the District ditches. Once water has been delivered to the headgate of any District ditch, distribution becomes the duty of the mayordomo. The Water Master will document waste of water within any District ditch system, and shall seek injunctions to stop such waste.

The Water Master will work with all District water right owners to assist with questions or problems that shall arise. All statements of aggrievance shall be in writing to the District 3 Office of the State Engineer.

GROWING SEASON

The growing season is based on an agreement between the ditches of the District at a meeting on April 11, 2003. The season is from March 15th through October 5th. These dates can only be changed at the start of a growing season with the agreement of all District ditches.

WATER DELIVERY - GENERAL

The Water Master shall have access to all points of diversion, places of use, measuring devices, gates, and ditches in the District to perform his/her duties.

Based on stream flow and snow pack information, the Water Master will estimate the water flow which will be available for the upcoming irrigation season. The Water Master may rely on OSE staff, publications and information provided by other state and federal agencies in estimating runoff and projected stream flow for the coming year.

Initial water deliveries will be requested in writing to the Water Master on TBI forms supplied by the Water Master prior to the start of the irrigation season.

At any time during the irrigation season, the Water Master may adjust apportionments based on changes in the flow of the river, to meet water delivery requirements.

When water from Bear Canyon Reservoir is properly requested by the San Lorenzo Community Ditch Association, the Water Master will notify the Department of Game and Fish of the schedule for opening and closing of the gate. Accurate records will be kept of all water entering into Bear Canyon Reservoir and all water released by the Water Master from Bear Canyon Reservoir during the irrigation season.

STORAGE WATER ADMINISTRATION

When junior storage water from Bear Canyon Reservoir is properly requested by the San Lorenzo Community Ditch Association, the Water Master will determine if the request is necessary based on existing flows in the Mimbres River and project requirements determined by TBI summaries and verification.

Upon determination of a valid need for the release of storage water, the Water Master will provide times and amounts of releases and monitor deliveries. The Water Master will insure the amount delivered does not exceed the amount adjudicated to the San Lorenzo Community Ditch Association under Subfile 718, Cause 6326.

Bear Canyon Reservoir storage water can only be called for when the flow in the Mimbres River within the District is less than the amount calculated by the Water Master as the minimum required delivery of the San Lorenzo Community Ditch.

DIRECT FLOW ADMINISTRATION

1. The Water Master shall require the mayordomo of each ditch to complete and submit, at least 10 days prior to any irrigation, a TBI summary. The TBI shall include the total amount of acreage to be irrigated within the ditch and crop types. Each TBI shall include maps clearly indicating the location of the irrigated lands with crop types for each field.
2. The Water Master will estimate water supplies for the District utilizing available data.
3. The Water Master will determine initial delivery requirements based on calculations from the TBI summaries.
4. If the calculated deliveries exceed estimated supplies, the Water Master will verify that lands listed in the TBI summaries are capable of placing water to beneficial use.
5. Initial delivery calculations will be adjusted based on field observations of the Water Master. Adjustments will be based on irrigability of lands and condition of ditches.
6. If adjusted delivery calculations are less than available supplies, the Water Master will deliver those amounts.
7. If adjusted delivery calculations exceed current supplies, the Water Master will notify the mayordomos of junior ditches that their requests cannot be granted.
8. The Water Master will continually adjust deliveries based on field observations and flow measurements.

PRIORITY CALL

1. Priority administration may only be requested by the San Lorenzo Community Ditch after all junior storage water has been placed to beneficial use.
2. District ditches entitled to receive water in priority will be identified by adjudicated priority dates.
3. District ditches with the same priority date shall agree to a water shortage-sharing plan or rotation schedule if the flow is not sufficient to meet their calculated needs. Each respective mayordomo and/or the three ditch commissioners shall sign this document.
4. The Water Master shall calculate required deliveries to the headgate of the ditch with the oldest priority date, based on the information furnished on the TBI summary. The junior ditches shall adjust their gates or diversions so as not to diminish the required deliveries determined by the Water Master to the senior priority ditch. As the Mimbres River flow changes within the District, so shall the amounts diverted by the junior ditches.
5. A record of daily diversions will be kept by the Water Master to insure amounts do not exceed permitted/adjudicated rights.

ALTERNATIVE ADMINISTRATION

1. The District ditches shall deliver to the Water Master any proposed alternative administration agreement within two weeks of the desired start date. Upon approval by the State Engineer of the agreement, the Water Master will develop the schedule of water deliveries and issue his/her Order one week thereafter.
2. Starting the day after the issuance of the Water Master Order, the Water Master will start recording the District ditches compliance with the agreement.
3. The ditches shall open and close their gates or diversion according to the Water Master's schedule. Any violations of the Water Master schedule may result in nullification of the alternative administration agreement or adjustment of the apportionment to the violating ditch.
4. If the flow in the Mimbres River within the District changes such that the Water Master schedule needs to be adjusted, the Water Master shall make necessary adjustments and provide notice to all parties under the agreement.
5. If the alternative administration agreement fails, the Water Master may issue an Order instituting priority administration.

DOMESTIC WELL ADMINISTRATION

RESERVED

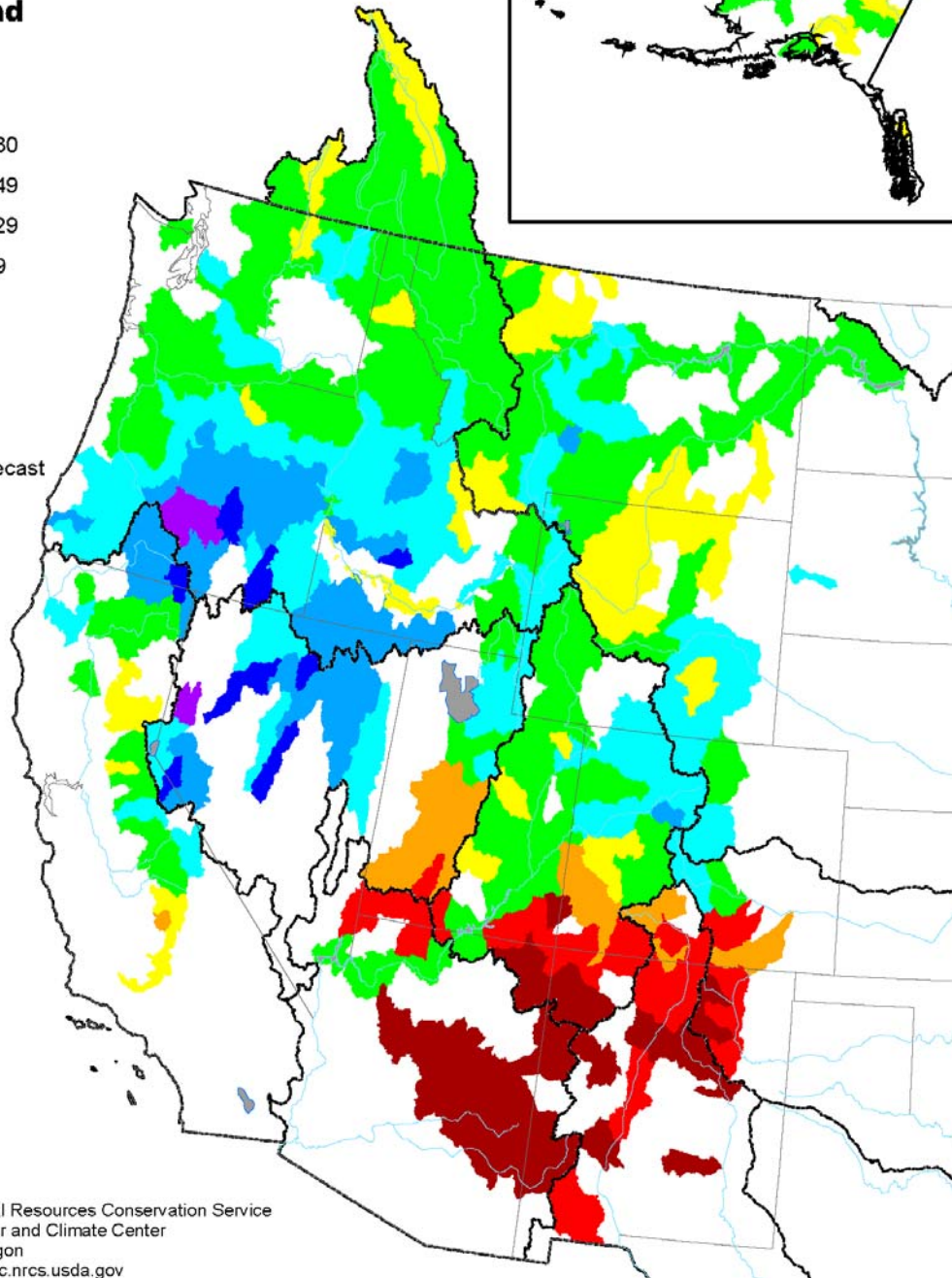
WATER MASTER RULES FOR
THE MIMBRES RIVER WATER MASTER

RESERVED

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of March 1, 2006

Legend

percent



Prepared by
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>



ACTIVE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UPPER MIMBRES WATER MASTER DISTRICT

