"The type of agriculture served by reclamation is not responsible for the nation's major surplus problems. The big troublemakers—wheat, corn and other feed grains—are grown almost exclusively on non-irrigated areas. Sugar beets, truck crops and cattle feeding, industries commonly served by irrigation, are not presenting surplus problems at this time." ("The Fryingpan is Necessary", Denver Post editorial 2-9-62.)

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The Mexican Salinity Problem is stirring up a big fuss south of the border. Mexico charges that Arizona’s Welton-Mohawk land reclamation project is dumping so much salt into the Colorado River that its waters are useless by the time they reach Mexico. Mexican farmers claim multi-million dollar crop losses on 450,000 irrigated acres near Mexicali in Baja California, where 30,000 farmers depend on Colorado River water to support a bustling cotton economy. Big stakeholders include Mexicali agents of international financiers who have made big business of lending capital to Mexican farmers and processing their crops.

The 1944 U. S.–Mexico water treaty guaranteed Mexico 1.5 million acre feet from the Colorado River each year. The treaty doesn’t mention water quality. U. S. contends that it was estimated in 1944 that ultimately more than half of the Mexican delivery would consist of return flow, drainage and other waste waters. Mexicans point to a treaty provision which requires
Mexico to put her share of the Colorado to beneficial use. They infer that Mexico is therefore entitled to "useful" water from the Colorado. They say Colorado River water has become too salty to use.

International Boundary and Water Commission now has the Mexican salinity ball. It's studying the problem. Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Udall has suggested joint action by both countries.

For Mexico: Better irrigation practices (U.S. irrigators have been able to use equally salty water with special irrigation methods.)

For U.S.: River channelization, phreatophyte control, improved stream regulation below Imperial Dam, increased capacity of Arizona drainage works (for more summer flow dilution), special drainage channel bypassing Mexico's diversion point, saline water conversion plant near Yuma.

Problem is this: U.S. proposal for joint action would take time. Mexicans are aroused, want action now. About 300 Mexican farmers went to Mexico City recently to urge President Mateos to renounce the Mexican water treaty. Businessmen, organized as the Committee for the Defense of the Mexicali Valley, have been in Mexico City urging immediate action. Ambassador Flores of Mexico recently made a personal appeal to Secretary of State Dean Rusk for "an immediate solution to the immediate problem, independent of the long-range problem, which is quite complex." It's a tense situation involving all Colorado River basin states. It's front page news in Phoenix, where the Arizona Republic is running a series of feature articles on the salty water dispute.
If Mexico gets more than its 1.5 maf treaty allocation, half of the extra water would probably come out of the upper basin's dwindling water pocketbook. Over half (52%) of the upper basin water belongs to Colorado.

ANOTHER SALTY PROBLEM is bothering Colorado water users. It's the proposed closed basin project in the San Luis Valley. Proposal: Salvage 100,000 acre feet annually from a sump north of Monte Vista. Pump it into the Rio Grande to help reduce Colorado's deficit to New Mexico and Texas under the Rio Grande Compact. It would be a Bureau of Reclamation project costing $4.8 million. USBR has completed a preliminary study. Next: Feasibility study, then authorization request. Small scale pilot project would come first, full scale project later.

Water, farm and conservation groups in the San Luis Valley generally oppose the project, call it a threat to the valley's water supplies. Colorado Water Conservation Board says the valley's interests will be protected by operating criteria which would assure operation of the project in a way which would not interfere with existing water uses. CWCB says the project would not establish precedent for committing Colorado ground water to other states.

Colorado is in trouble on Rio Grande compact deliveries, now owes 650,000 acre feet, is going deeper into debt each year. New Mexico officials have expressed impatience with Colorado's failure to do something to meet its Rio Grande obligation. Litigation is a possibility, probably followed by appointment of a federal watermaster
with instructions to crack down on water users in the San Luis Valley. Congressional pressure, expressed in negative New Mexico votes on Colorado water project authorizations, is a dangerous possibility. When New Mexico gets the Navajo-San Juan Chama project, it will have virtually completed its project authorization race. And remember this: NM has influential Clinton Anderson as chairman of the powerful Senate Interior Committee.

The Rio Grande problem emphasizes the point stressed so often by your Water Congress: We're all in these interstate water fights together. What happens to Coloradans in one river basin vitally affects Coloradans in other river basins.

WESTERN SLOPE FISH WATER CONTROVERSY continues to grow. Colorado Game and Fish Commission proposes to file eight statements of claim for reservoirs, nine or ten claims relating to streams and at least twenty-five claims for natural lakes. G&F seeks to make these claims for direct flow and storage rights by entering adjudication proceedings before Judge William H. Luby in Eagle District Court. G&F Commission action is aimed at a private hydroelectric power project proposed for Sweetwater Creek, Sweetwater Lake and South Fork of the White River by Rocky Mountain Power Co. of Denver.

Game and Fish Commission seeks direct flow rights for "the minimum quantities of flowing waters necessary to preserve fish life throughout the year, and to provide sufficient waters for the natural propogation of fish". It seeks storage rights sufficient to maintain the surface area at a specified elevation and acreage.
are related back to the date of first stocking of fish at public expense. **Character of use** is described as "for aesthetic, recreational and for fisheries, including fishing and propagation of fish purposes, for the use and benefit of the general public".

Judge Luby has denied Colorado Game and Fish Commission's motion to enter the Eagle adjudication proceedings. Luby also ruled against a rehearing on the motion. G&F Commission may appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court. Fish flow controversy could swing to district court for Rio Blanco County where district 48 adjudication proceedings are still open. Rocky Mountain Power Co. seeks a decree to divert from South Fork of the White River in district 48. **Negotiations** between Rocky Mountain Power Co. and the Colorado Game and Fish Commission have come to a standstill. RMPCo offered to maintain minimum flows on the Sweetwater and its tributaries. **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** approved. But Colorado G&F Commission tabled the proposal, will consider it again at a meeting on March 2.

**FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT:** House Rules Committee hearing is expected within a month. Favorable rule is anticipated. New Mexico's Navajo-San Juan Chama project will go to the House floor first, then Fry-Ark. There is uneasiness among Colorado and New Mexico delegations about the effect of the President's recent farm message on the reclamation program. **President Kennedy:** "Instead of a shortage of cropland, as many have long predicted, it now appears that by 1980 we will need 50 million fewer acres than we have today." The administration hopes to retire these 50 million acres from crop
production forever and use them for recreation, wildlife protection, forestry. It's the administration's answer to the $9 billion surplus in government food stocks which is costing $1 billion a year in carrying charges.

The administration's farm message appears to the general public to be in direct conflict with the Bureau of Reclamation's program to bring more land into production. Rep. Wayne Aspinall called the farm message "the most damaging blow to the reclamation program in the last decade". Sen. Gordon Allott said it "threw the reclamation program out the window". There's a solid reclamation answer to the crop surplus bogey man. But it's becoming increasingly difficult to convince eastern congressmen.

Colorado River Board of California once again has asked Gov. Brown to support its position in recommending a moratorium on authorizations of federal projects using Colorado River water. CRB wants to delay until the U.S. Supreme Court decides the Arizona v. California water rights suit and until the Interior Dep't makes an inventory of available water supply. In the past Gov. Brown has overruled CRB's position.

Colorado River Board: "California's official reply in the Supreme Court suit brought against this state by Arizona clearly shows that existing, authorized and proposed projects in the Upper Basin states will leave the three Lower Basin states with a permanent water supply of only 6 million acre feet annually, not 7.5 million acre feet.

"When the water division formula proposed by the Supreme Court special master is applied to that amount, there will be only about 3.5 million acre feet available to California. Since California is already using 5.1 million acre feet annually, it is apparent that a serious shortage would result." (Los Angeles Times, 1-27-62)
Controversial Burns Creek reclamation power project authorization (Idaho) was killed (17 to 14) by the House Interior Committee. Colorado votes: Chenoweth for Burns Creek, Dominick against. Aspinall as chairman votes only in case of ties ... Colorado's views on the proposed Water Resources Planning Act have been given to Congress. Emphasis was placed on the need for more recognition of state participation and state influence on both national and regional levels.

COLORADO CITIES: Nucla's water supply ditch froze up during the recent cold spell. Tank trucks plus temporary pump and pipeline helped ease the water shortage ... Rangely lost its water supply for a week when February ice jams dammed the White River and flooded the town's water plant. Schools were closed ... De Beque pumped untreated Colorado River water into its water mains for several weeks this winter, following failures of the town's potable water pipeline. The river water was "badly contaminated" by sewage from upstream towns. Boiling and chlorinating by citizens apparently averted illness. Problem was solved temporarily by use of quick-coupling, lightweight aluminum pipe.

Westminster plans to use Coal Creek water and Twin Lakes storage for expansion of its water system ... Littleton is studying alternatives for increasing its raw water supply ... Golden indicates that it now has a water supply adequate to serve 30,000 people (double present population served), following purchase of Clear Creek and western slope water rights. Golden joined with Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Co. in rehabilitating the Berthoud Pass Canal collection
system. . . Kremmling water users have been requested to keep a water tap open and dripping at all times (freeze problems) . . . Fort Morgan had the lowest flat rate water service among 15 Colorado cities and towns in a recent study made by the Colorado Municipal League ($1.59 per month).

Pueblo will vote April 10 on a $6 million bond issue for expansion of its water system. Pueblo Water Board has started a series of monthly luncheons with Pueblo city officials. Objectives: Greater cooperation . . . Trinidad is puzzling over ways of raising its $375,000 share of the cost of the Corps of Engineer's proposed Purgatoire River Dam . . . Winter Park hosted a 5-day snow survey training conference last month. Attending were more than 100 persons representing private and governmental agencies from 11 western states and Canada . . . Hotchkiss hosted a lively water discussion session last December arranged for Rep. Wayne Aspinall by North Fork Water Conservancy District . . . Delta will participate in a regional planning program initiated by the Colorado Planning Commission. Program will inventory resources, facilities and general development for the North Fork-Uncompahgre watershed as part of an overall Gunnison-Uncompahgre River basin study.

WATER DISTRICTS: Three districts (Longs Peak Water Assn, Little Thompson Valley District, Left Hand Domestic Water Supply Co.) have joined in a rural domestic water development that is attracting national engineering attention. Attraction: world's longest plastic pipe system (130 miles) and resistance of rigid polyvinyl chloride
plastic to highly corrosive alkali soil. Colorado-Big Thompson project water from Carter Lake (after treatment) will supply up to 615 farms in a 200-square mile area. Financing: Farmers Home Administration loan and $2 million bond issue. Area residents call it "the greatest thing since invention of electricity."

Water hauls will be eliminated soon for 80 farm families in the area between Trinidad and Hoehne on the north side of the Purgatoire River. El Moro-Hoehne Pipeline Association is completing installation of 20 miles of pipeline with feeder lines to farm homes. Similar project is being sponsored on south side of Purgatoire River by the Sunflower Valley Pipeline Association (50 farm homes). Water source: City of Trinidad . . . Uncompahgre Valley Council has been formed to coordinate and promote efforts to get domestic water piped to rural areas and municipalities (Delta, Montrose, Olathe, Ouray, Ridgway). Council asked Tri-County Water Conservancy District to seek Bureau of Reclamation study of feasibility of adding domestic water storage capacity to proposed Ridgway Reservoir of the Dallas Creek project.

Ute Water District is planning "the biggest thing for local farms and ranches since the Grand Valley Irrigation Project was started almost a half-century ago." Ute rural domestic water system will deliver potable water through 400 miles of pipelines in a distribution system 45 miles long and four to five miles wide (rural and suburban Grand Valley area around Grand Junction). Water source: Tailwater below Collbran reclamation project's lower
powerplant. First phase construction on $11 million project is expected to start soon . . . Fort Collins-Loveland Water District is constructing an $841,629 water distribution system to serve 750 families in a 50 square mile area extending from Fort Collins to Timnath to Loveland . . . Cathedral Water Co. is the name proposed for a rural domestic water company being organized to serve 80 families near Crawford.

Dolores Water Conservancy District was organized last November at Cortez. It will sponsor the Dolores reclamation project, now under investigation . . . Grand Mesa Water Users Assn approved a three-month $5,000 cloud seeding program which began Feb. 15 . . . Rocky Ford Ditch Co. found that elimination of willows and weeds along ditch banks last year was a valuable water conservation measure . . . Ft. Lyon Canal Co. is planning a large scale seepage reduction experiment next summer. Around 500 tons of bentonite will be mixed with clear canal water at the headgate. Bentonite in suspension will silt out all along the canal, plugging seepage spots . . . Henrylyn Irrigation District has filed on underground storage capacity under leaky-bottomed Olds Reservoir (now used for ground water recharge).

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS declared at its annual meeting in Denver last month that too many people do not possess even a minimum knowledge of conservation practices for soil, water and other natural resources. CASCD urged colleges and universities to require three to five hours of courses in conservation of natural
resources for graduation with a teacher's degree. It urged public schools to develop courses of study which integrate natural resource conservation material into school curriculums. It took a firm stand that only Congress should have the right to set aside wilderness areas on public lands.

WATER PEOPLE: Ken Chalmers, head of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Colorado and longtime friend of Colorado water people, is retiring. Chalmers, a native of South Park, has been an outstanding Colorado leader in soil and water conservation. Clark E. Schnurr of Loveland, special deputy state engineer, has been elected president of the Colorado State Water Officials Association.

Hospitalized last month for surgery: J.E. Whitten, state engineer, and John N. Spencer, regional director, Bureau of Reclamation. Both are now back at work. John W. Odell is the new U.S. Geological Survey district engineer (surface water branch). Odell replaces Wallace T. Miller who was transferred to Washington, D.C.

James Geissinger, Denver attorney and former U.S. Interior Dep't regional solicitor, succeeds John B. Barnard, Jr., in handling water matters for the Colorado attorney general. Barnard is now in private law practice in Denver. Palmer King of Wheat Ridge is the new Interior Dep't regional solicitor (Denver), succeeding Geissinger. Bill Davoren, administrative assistant to Gov. McNichols, has resigned to become an Interior Dep't field representative. Mrs. Dan Thornton, interested in western water problems, pinned a "So this is what happens to our water" tag on a
Los Angeles Times clipping and sent it to your Water Congress Newsletter. The article discusses **use of Colorado River water** to form a fresh water barrier to stop sea water intrusion. California plan is to inject fresh Colorado River water into a series of recharge wells along a 3-mile line.

**WATER MEETINGS**: National Wildlife Federation annual convention March 9-11 in Denver will feature **Interior Secretary Stewart Udall** as keynote speaker . . . North American Wildlife and Natural Resources annual convention March 12-14 in Denver will be keynoted by **Laurence Rockefeller**, chairman of the Outdoor Resources Review Commission. Public is invited. Hundreds of conservationists from U.S., Canada, Mexico are expected to attend.