

Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool Usage and “Excess Capacity”

Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District
ARCA – Operations Committee: PRWCD 12/4/2019

Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool

39,000 acre-feet (original)

32,276 acre-feet (2018)

Trinidad Project Operating Principles – Article I (4)

Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool PRWCD – BOR Contract (1967)

- The District shall have the perpetual right to the exclusive use of the irrigation storage capacity of the Project (Model & Joint Use Pools).
- The District shall have the first and exclusive right to the estimated 39,000 acre-feet of joint use capacity of the Project.
- Interpretation of contract language has been the subject of PRWCD-BOR discussions.

Paragraph 4 (paraphrased)

Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool Exchange Operation – June 2019

- 300 acre-feet of fully consumable water purchased from the City of Colorado Springs in Lake Meredith Reservoir.
- 277 acre-feet net amount stored in Trinidad Reservoir Joint Use Pool via exchange operation after accounting for transit losses on Arkansas River mainstem.
- Other exchanges conducted in previous years.

“Excess Capacity”

Bureau of Reclamation Definition:

Excess Capacity means diversion, storage, conveyance, or pumping capacity in project facilities which is excess to that needed to achieve a Reclamation project's authorized purposes.

PRWCD position is the exchanged water was (or will be) used for project authorized purposes.

PRWCD's 2019 proposed federal legislation seeks to confirm authority for BOR to issue “excess capacity” contracts for Trinidad Reservoir storage.

PRWCD Water Supplies and Exchanges

Trinidad Project Operating Principles

- The “District Water Supply” includes the “District Storage Right” (Article IV C 1 a).
- The “District Storage Right” includes other waters the District may acquire by appropriation or purchase. (Article IV A 2 b).
- Downstream water rights can be “otherwise satisfied” to allow storage and use by the District (Article IV D 1 a).
- Permanent Pool related exchanges also described (Article V).