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Vranesh's Colorado Water Law

James N. Corbridge
Teresa A. Rice
George Vranesh

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VRANESH'S COLORADO WATER LAW (James N. Corbridge, Jr. & Teresa A. Rice eds., Univ. Press of Colo., rev. ed. 1999) [abstract and table of contents only].

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Vranesh’s Colorado Water Law: Revised Edition


Vranesh’s Colorado Water Law is the second edition of the massive three-volume treatise written by the late George Vranesh and published in 1987. Editors James N. Corbridge Jr. and Teresa A. Rice have reduced the original work from three volumes to one, and have substantially rewritten and reorganized it to make it highly accessible for those involved with and interested in water law and policy. Colorado water law cases decided since 1987, along with relevant federal cases, have been woven into the revised discussions; statutory material has also been updated and discussed; and recent emerging doctrines in Colorado water law are analyzed in detail, with detailed citations. Much of the historical detail in the original work has been retained, but it has been shortened to increase the book’s utility as a guide to Colorado water law as it exists today. The cases and statutes in this volume are current through July 1, 1999.

Vranesh’s Colorado Water Law serves as a reference resource for attorneys practicing in the field of water law, as well as a thorough introduction for those just getting started in the subject. It can also be a helpful reference work for individuals and institutions interested in the acquisition and distribution of water: municipalities, water conservancy districts, irrigation organizations, water engineers, and hydrologists.
VRANESH'S COLORADO WATER LAW
REVISED EDITION

JAMES N. CORBRIDGE JR. AND TEREZA A. RICH
The first edition of Colorado Water Law was authored by the long-time Colorado water lawyer, George Vranesh, who died in 1997. It was published in 1987 as a three-volume treatise, covering the history and application of water law principles in a state sometimes said to have the purest form of the appropriation doctrine for the allocation of water resources.

Born and raised in Carson Lake, Minnesota, George left high school to join the U.S. Army during World War II. He fought as a paratrooper in the Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. After recuperating from his war injuries, he completed high school in Cleveland, Ohio, the home of his widowed mother.

George moved to Colorado for college, graduating from Colorado School of Mines in 1951 with a degree in mining engineering. He then worked several years as a miner and engineer in Utah, and formed a company, Ouray Uranium, in Moab. In 1957 George married Etta Jo Cleaver of Golden, Colorado, who encouraged him to study law. He graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1961, at the age of thirty-six.

As a practitioner in Boulder, Colorado, George specialized in water and natural resources law at a time when the West was experiencing its earliest stages of rapid population growth. He eventually opened his own firm, taught classes in water law at the University of Colorado, and served as a Colorado Water Referee.

The three-volume treatise, Colorado Water Law, was a labor of love for George. He produced it over a period of several years in association with a number of research assistants, many of whom were law students at the University of Colorado. They speak fondly of their work with George Vranesh, remembering his warm humor, professionalism and endless fascination with the complex law of water.
CONTENTS

Preface xvii

CHAPTER 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO COLORADO WATER RIGHTS 1

§ 1.1 An Introduction—Basic Doctrines 1

§ 1.2 The Appropriation Doctrine and Western Development 3

Early Development and the Origin of the Appropriation Doctrine 3
The Appropriation Doctrine Defined 7
Federal Implications 9
The Impact of Increased Development in Colorado 12
Administration and Enforcement 15

CHAPTER 2: THE NATURE OF THE RIGHT 23

§ 2.1 Introduction—Taking and Applying 23

Taking 23
Applying 24
Water of Every Natural Stream 25
Availability of Unappropriated Water 27
Right to Appropriate 28
Water as a Property Right 30

§ 2.2 The Elements of a Water Right Appropriation 32

Diversion 32
Meadow Rights 38
Instream Flow 39
Beneficial Use 43
Limitations on the Right 45
Beneficial Use Limitations 45
Duty of Water 46
Contents

Historic Use Limitation 47
Orr Doctrine 48
Efficiency of Use 51
Speculation 52
§ 2.3 Storage Rights 53
  Impounding of Water Under Direct Flow Decrees 54
  One Filling Rule 55
  Right to Use Seepage Water 57
  Change in Storage Right 58
  Abandonment of Storage Rights 58
  Liability for Leakage, Breakage, or Overflow 58
§ 2.4 Ditch Rights 60
  The Ditch Right-of-Way 62
  Methods of Acquisition 62
  Scope of the Right-of-Way 64
  Loss of the Right-of-Way 65
  Duty to Maintain and Repair a Ditch 66
§ 2.5 Ground Water Rights 69
  Policy and Allocation Options 70
  Ground Water Mining 71
  Colorado Ground Water Rights 72
  Early Case Law 73
  Statutory Development from Territorial Days to 1953 76
  The 1953 Act 76
  Colorado Ground Water Law of 1957 77
  The 1965 Ground Water Management Act 80
    Designated Ground Water 85
    Nontributary Ground Water 88
    Not Nontributary Ground Water 93
    Tributary Ground Water 96
§ 2.6 Conditional Rights 99
  The First Step 100
  The Anti-Speculation Doctrine 103
  The Can and Will Doctrine 106
  Reasonable Diligence 108
§ 2.7 Miscellaneous Water Rights 115
  Diffused Surface Water 116
  Seepage and Spring Waters 117
  Salvaged and Developed Water 119
  Foreign Water 122
  Waste Water 126
§ 2.8 Right to Use the Surface of Water Bodies 128
§ 2.9 Weather Modification
Basic Legal Issues 132
Interjurisdictional Disputes 134
Intragovernmental Disputes 135
Liability of Weather Modifiers 135
Right to Water Generated by Weather Modification 136

CHAPTER 3: WATER ADJUDICATION AND ADMINISTRATION 139

§ 3.1 Background of Current Adjudication System 139
§ 3.2 Water Right Determination and Administration Act of 1969 142
A Procedural Summary 144
   Opposing an Application 146
   Referee's Investigation and Ruling 147
   Water Court Hearings 149
   Applicable Rules 151
Challenges to the Judgment and Decree 152
Integration of Tributary Ground and Surface Water Resources 153
Plans for Augmentation 155
   Procedures for Plan Approval 157
   Replacement Water 157
Determining the Amount and Timing of Replacement Water 158
Regulation of Sand and Gravel Mining Operators 160
Unresolved Problems Associated with Plans for Augmentation 161

§ 3.3 Role of the Water Court 162
Jurisdiction and Venue 162
Water Court Officials 165
   The Water Judge 166
   The Water Referee 166
   The Special Master 167
   The Water Clerk 168

§ 3.4 Role of Water Administration Officials 168
The State Engineer 169
Rule Making Authority 172
Tabulation of Priorities and Abandonment 174
Early Tabulations 175
   Procedures for 1978 Tabulations and Abandonment Lists 176
   Early Abandonment Lists 176
Current Procedures 177
   Tabulation Procedures 178
   Procedures for Abandonment Lists 179
Ground Water Administration 180
   Regulation of Wells 180
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exemptions and Presumptions</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duties of the State Engineer Under the Ground Water Management Act</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate Water Administration</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservoir Administration</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orders of the State Engineer</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Division Engineer</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Water Commissioner</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 3.5 Other Administrative Agencies</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Water Conservation Board</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition of the Board</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duties of the Board</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Studies</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrastate Conflict</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Control</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding of Projects</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation of Minimum Stream Flows</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal and Interstate Coordination</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role of Commissioners in Interstate Activity</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction with Colorado Water Resources and Power</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Authority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Directions of the Colorado Water Conservation Board</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role of the County Commissioners</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting Water Delivery Charges</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdivision Regulation</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Sewage Facilities</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Reservoir and Land Use</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Water Commission</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determination of Designated Ground Water Basins</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issuance of Permits</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Powers</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4: Transfer of Water Rights</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ 4.1 History and Background</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Importance of Determining Consumptive Use and Return Flow</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Distinguished from Return Flow</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water as a Property Right</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch Rights Distinguished from Water Rights</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Rights Held by Ditch Companies</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title and Conveyance Issues: An Overview</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing Title</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map and Statement</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diversion Records
The Water Decree
Summaries of Decrees
Transcripts Accompanying Decrees
Well Records
Other Records
Records as Evidence
Interpreting Conveyance Instruments
Express Transfer of Specific Rights: Colorado Rule of Construction
The Silent Deed: Determining When a Water Right Passes with Land
Appurtenant Rights
Groundwater
Other Potential Title Problems
Proper Forum for Title Issues
§ 4.2 Limitations on the Right to Change or Transfer
Historic Beneficial Use Limitation
Duty of Water
Abandonment
Establishing the Owner's Intent
Standard of Review
Status of Abandoned Water Rights
Abandonment of Conditional Water Rights
No-Injury Rule
Change in Place of Use
Change in Method of Use: Direct Flow to Storage
Exceptions to the No-Injury Rule
Terms and Conditions
§ 4.3 Exchange of Water
§ 4.4 Transfer or Change Procedures
Jurisdiction of the Court
Res Judicata
The Burden of Proof in a Change Proceeding
Proof of Abandonment
§ 4.5 Temporary Water Transfers

Chapter 5: Water Organizations
§ 5.1 Introduction
§ 5.2 Joint Ditches
Enforceable Rights of Participants
Right to Contribution—The Ditch Lien Statute
§ 5.3 Manual Ditch Companies
| Organization | 283 |
| Stock | 284 |
| Relationship of Stock to Water Rights: Transferability of Right | 285 |
| Necessity of Application to Beneficial Use | 287 |
| Assessments on Stock | 287 |
| Nature of the Company-Shareholder Relationship | 288 |

§ 5.4 Carrier Ditch Companies | 292 |

§ 5.5 Irrigation Districts | 295 |
| Article 41—Irrigation District Law of 1905 | 295 |
| Article 42—Irrigation District Law of 1921 | 300 |
| Article 43 | 303 |
| Water Activity Enterprises | 304 |

§ 5.6 Water Conservancy Districts | 306 |
| Statutory Powers | 306 |
| Case Law | 310 |

§ 5.7 Water Conservation Districts | 313 |

§ 5.8 Cities and Towns | 317 |
| Municipal Acquisition of Water | 317 |
| Denver Water | 321 |
| Home Rule Authority/City Charter | 323 |
| Extra-Territorial Water Service | 325 |
| Public Utility Status | 329 |
| Statutory Authority for Municipal Water Facilities | 330 |

§ 5.9 Water and Sanitation Districts | 336 |
| District Formation | 337 |
| District Boundary Modification | 340 |
| Elections | 344 |
| Board of Directors | 345 |
| Powers of Special Districts | 347 |
| Overlap of Local Powers | 350 |
| Three Lakes Water and Sanitation District | 351 |

§ 5.10 Metropolitan Districts | 351 |
| Metropolitan Water Districts | 352 |
| Metropolitan Sewage Disposal Districts | 357 |

§ 5.11 Ground Water Management Districts | 357 |

§ 5.12 Flood Control Conservancy Districts | 362 |
| District Formation | 363 |
| Subdivision/Consolidation/Dissolution | 369 |
| The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District | 371 |

§ 5.13 Additional Statutory Districts | 371 |
## Chapter 6: Federal-State Water Relations

### § 6.1 Federal Constitutional Authority
- The Supremacy Clause
- The Commerce Clause
- The Spending Power
- The Property Power
- The Treaty Power

### § 6.2 Commerce Clause
- Federal Power Over Navigation
  - Navigation
  - Flood Control
  - Hydroelectric Power
  - Water Pollution
- Effect of Commerce Clause Legislation on State Law
- The Navigation Servitude
- Waiver of the Navigation Servitude
- Dormant Commerce Clause
- Water Export Limitations
- Colorado's Export Statute

### § 6.3 Federal Reclamation
- The 1982 Reclamation Reform Act
- State-Federal Relations
  - Case Law
  - Areas of Conflict Between State and Federal Law
  - Transfers and Changes in Use
    - Federal Changes
    - Local Distribution Changes
    - Individual Use Changes
  - Administrative Rulemaking

### § 6.4 Federal Regulatory Programs
- The Clean Water Act
  - Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permits
  - Jurisdictional Issues
  - Interaction with the Endangered Species Act
  - Exemption from Section 404 Permitting
  - Section 404 Permitting in Colorado

### § 6.5 Federal Reserved Water Rights
- The Doctrine Defined
- The Development of the Doctrine

### § 6.6 Indian Reserved Rights
- Priority Date
Quantification of Indian Reserved Rights 454
Changes in Use 456
Transfers 457
Water Rights on Allotted Indian Lands 458
Regulatory Authority 461
§ 6.7 Sovereign Immunity 462

CHAPTER 7: PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY IN COLORADO 471
§ 7.1 Introduction 471
§ 7.2 Common Law Protection of Water Quality 472
§ 7.3 Development of State Water Quality Statutes 475
§ 7.4 Current Statutory Protection of Water Quality in Colorado 476
§ 7.5 Federal Water Quality Statutes 482
  The Clean Water Act 482
    Section 303—Water Quality Standards 482
    Section 301—Point Source Regulation 483
    Section 402—National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 484
    Section 208—Areawide Waste Treatment Management 485
  Other Federal Statutes 486
§ 7.6 Specific Colorado Water Quality Issues 486
  Mine Drainage and Tailings 487
  Municipal and Industrial Wastes 492
  Feedlot Pollutants 497
  Salinity 500
    The Mexican Treaty—Minute 242 501
    The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act 503
    Paradox Valley Unit 503
    Grand Valley Unit 504
    Lower Gunnison Basin Unit 504
    McElmo Creek Unit 505
    Glenwood-Dotsero Springs Unit 505
    Meeker Dome Unit 506

CHAPTER 8: TRANSMOUNTAIN AND INTERSTATE WATERS 507
§ 8.1 Transmountain Waters 507
  Compensatory Storage 509
  Condemnation of Out-of-Basin Water Rights 512
  Conditional Water Rights 514
  Foreign Water 515
  Water Court Jurisdiction in Transmountain Diversions 515
Use of Land for Transmountain Diversions

§ 8.2 Transmountain Projects
City and County of Denver Projects
The Colorado—Big Thompson Project
The Windy Gap Project
The Frying Pan–Arkansas Project
The Homestake Projects
Additional Diversions

§ 8.3 Interstate Water and Exportation
Introduction
Allocation of Interstate Waters
Equitable Apportionment of Interstate Streams
Congressional Apportionment
Interstate Compacts
Interpretation and Enforcement of Compacts
Amendment of Compacts
Administration of Compacts
Colorado River Compact
Background
Development of the Colorado Compact
Arizona v. California Cases
The Upper Basin Compact of 1948
Arizona v. California (1963)
Colorado and the Colorado River Compact
Arkansas River Compact
Administration of Water in Accordance with Interstate Apportionment
Effect of Transmountain Diversions on Interstate Apportionments
The Dormant Commerce Clause
Colorado’s Export Statute

§ 8.4 Mexican Treaty

Chapter 9: Condemnation of Rights

§ 9.1 Introduction: Exercising Rights to Acquire and Use Water
Condemnation of Water Rights
Condemnation in Order to Convey and Store Water
Condemnation of Water Rights Based on Constitutional Preferences
Compensation

§ 9.2 Condemnation of Ditch Rights-of-Way
The Right of a Corporation to Condemn Rights-of-Way
Individual Right-of-Way Rights
Right-of-Way for Conditional Water Rights
Right-of-Way for Extending Head of Ditch Upstream
Express and Implied Rights-of-Way
Contract or Grant
Parol License
Prescription
§ 9.3 Condemnation of Well Sites
Water Court Jurisdiction
§ 9.4 Condemnation and Reservoir Sites
§ 9.5 Condemnation by Governmental and Quasi-Governmental Agencies
§ 9.6 Inverse Condemnation
The Statute of Limitations
§ 9.7 Eminent Domain Proceedings and the Condemnation of Water Rights
Appendix
Table of Cases
Index