



LOCAL NEWSPAPER REFERENCES TO THE CURECANTI
PROJECT'S PURPOSES, PLANS, AND PROVISIONS

The following references are to articles about the Curecanti Project appearing in local Gunnison Basin newspapers. These references have been located to assist interpretation of the purposes and provisions in the design of the Curecanti Project, particularly with respect to provisions for protections and benefits to the Upper Gunnison Basin. These references will also help to locate additional sources of needed information.

Articles referenced below are identified by their title or a summary of their content. Frequently the headline or title does not sufficiently indicate the content.

- Sep 21, 1944; News Champion; pp. 1, 2 Mass Meeting at Webster Hall for Discussion of Water Diversion; Debler of Reclamation board presents plans; answers questions. " E. B. Debler, Project Supervisor, has a directive from the government ... to find out what can be done with the waters of the Colorado River and its tributaries, including headwaters of the Gunnison. ... [REF; names include: E. L. Dutcher; Clifford H. Stone; C. E. Hagle, Colorado Fish and Game Commission; Frank Merrill, Engineer for the CWCB; Ralph L. Carr, former Governor [REF].
- Sep 21; 1944; News Champion; p. 6 Editorial - Sweet Reasonableness [REF].
- Jan 6, 1949; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - Let's Look Into Diversion Scheme.
- Feb 10, 1949; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - Judge Clifford Stone was quoted in the Denver Post as saying: "Water available to Colorado under the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact is sufficient to take care of irrigation development and at the same time to provide for oil shale development."
- Nov 24, 1949; News Champion; pp. 1, 5 Planned Dam Above Curecanti Would Flood Sapinero, Iola. Clifford Jex, Area Engineer for the federal Bureau of Reclamation, says dams needed to even out flow of Colorado River. The river is expected to carry 15,000,000 acre-feet a year, but varies from 9 million to 20 million " and the only way to even out that irregularity is by the construction of a series of storage reservoirs on the tributaries of the Colorado."

- Dutcher said." [REF]
- Jan 4, 1951; News Champion; p. 1 Threat of Large Reclamation Dam at Curecanti Revealed [REF].
- Jan 4, 1951; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - How Much Will You Lose? - Advocates smaller dams. Opposed to Crystal and Curecanti.
- Feb 15, 1951; News Champion; p. 1 Water Group Wants Dam at Curecanti. "A resolution favoring the construction of a reservoir at Curecanti on the Gunnison River was passed unanimously by stockholders of the Uncompahgre Water Users' Association at Olathe last week. The Stockholder's meeting lacked a quorum and all business transacted was unofficial." [REF].
- Feb 15, 1951; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - It's A Long Ways to Curecanti [REF].
- Mar 1, 1951; News Champion; p. 1 State Committee to Bar Water Diversions Pending Investigations (for development of the Arkansas Valley).
- Mar 1, 1951; The Courier; pp. 1, 8 Bureau Not Asking for Curecanti Dam Right Now; and accompanying long article on dam plans entitled 'The Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects, Upper Colorado River Basin.' [REF]
- Mar 22, 1951; News Champion; p. 1 Gunnison Dam Plans to be Explained Publicly April 5 [REF; names of federal and state officials].
- Mar 29, 1951; The Courier; p. 5 Water Meeting Is Open To All; "A great deal of interest has been shown locally on the Colorado Water Board hearings on the proposed Colorado River Storage Project Report to be held at Webster Hall, 10:00AM, April 15. ... E. C. Dutcher, a former member of the Colorado Water Board, is expected to introduce Judge Clifford Stone, present head of the board who will lead discussion on the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed dam building program. All interested parties and the general public are invited to attend the discussions." [REF]
- Mar 29, 1951; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Some Bets Could Be Missed - Report on Bureau of Reclamation Reconnaissance Report [REF].
- Apr 5, 1951; The Courier; p. 1 Water Development Issues Being Debated Here Today [REF; picture of Judge Stone].
- Apr 5, 1951; News Champion; p. 1 Gunnison Welcome State, Federal Water Experts [REF; good source for names].
- Apr 5, 1951; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - The Time For Curecanti Is Not Yet [REF].
- Apr 12, 1951; News Champion; pp. 1, 8 Friday Meeting to Crystallize Feelings on Curecanti Proposal [REF; long list of names including: Norman McDermott; Rial Lake; Lawrence Phelps; Keith Stegall; G. Lewis Miller].
- Apr 12, 1951; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Out of Balance - "... The disadvantages of the Curecanti dam to Gunnison country are infinitely greater than any possible advantages." [REF].
- Apr 12, 1951; The Courier; pp. 1, 4 Gunnison Decision On Dam Project At Meeting Friday - about seven participating dams

- Session.
- Feb 28, 1952; The Courier; p. 1 Curecanti Dam Selection Sought [REF].
- Mar 6, 1952; The Courier; pp. 1, 8 Acres Lost to Gunnison Decreased by One-Half [REF].
- Mar 6, 1952; News Champion; p. 1, 4 Minimum of 410,000 acre-feet of reservoir storage earmarked for present and future needs of Western Colorado in a new project.
- Mar 13, 1952; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - conservation Board begins at the top on transmountain diversion. Glenn Saunders, talks about beasts across the continental divide who will not give water.
- Aug 14, 1952; The Courier; p.p. 1, 8 Craig Goodwin Named To Water Policy Group (replaces Dutcher) [REF].
- Oct 2, 1952; The Courier; p. 1 Dam Plans Attacked By Water Boards.
- Oct 23, 1952; The Courier; p. 1 Judge Stone, Water Head, Dies Suddenly (October 22, 1952).
- Oct 31, 1952; The Courier; p. 1 of Section 2 Colorado Will Miss Judge Stone On State Water Board.
- Dec 18, 1952; The Courier; p. 1 Curecanti Given OK On Local Terms.
- Dec 18, 1952; The Courier; p. 2 Opinion - "The final decision of the Gunnison River Policy and Review Committee was the best possible under the circumstances. There were four principal alternatives."
- Vacation Edition, 1952; News Champion; p 28 Editorial - Curecanti Changes approved by Colorado Water Conservation Board as to size of dam and other matters [REF].
- Dec 25, 1952; The Courier; p. 1 Curecanti Project Ready For Action By Department Of Interior.
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- Jan 8, 1953; News Champion; pp. 1, 5 Dutcher Explains Status of Curecanti to Rotarians.
- Jan 22, 1953; News Champion; pp. 2, 8 'Judge Stone's Life Was One Of Service to Mankind Thru Western Water Work' by John Geoffrey Will of Grand Junction, Secretary and General Counsel, Upper Colorado River Commission.
- Feb 5, 1953; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Off On Wrong Foot - about diversions.
- Feb 12, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Slope Unity Seen On New Dam Setup.
- Feb 19, 1953; News Champion; pp. 1, 4 Western Colorado Gets Help of Eastern Slope For Surveys - Water Board's Rift on Denver's Diversion Exception Is Avoided. "Resolutions which 20 individuals from Montrose, Delta, Mesa, and Gunnison counties and adopted at Montrose Feb 2 ... asking that the Colorado River Conservation Board deny transmountain diversions until Western Colorado surveys have been completed."
- Feb 19, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 "The Curecanti Dam was being worked over in the Colorado water Conservation Board meeting this week with efforts to get all the factors ... agreed upon before the project is included in the submission to

- Congress." [REF].
- Feb 26, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Dutcher Believes Slopes May Be Near Accord. "Denver agreed to hold off its demands until a survey can be made of Western Slope needs." [REF].
- Mar 5, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Slope Organizing Drive For Protection Of Water.
- Mar 5, 1953; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - Water Study Bill Should Pass - HB 457.
- Mar 12, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Curecanti Dam In Bill Heading For Congress. "Remaining to be worked out in detail are special terms of the law for the protection of the people in the Gunnison Valley of Colorado where Curecanti reservoir would be located. Will (John G. Will, Secretary and General Counsel for the Upper Colorado River Commission) said these matters would have the expert attention of members of Congress from the states involved." [REF].
- Mar 19, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Slope Water Meet Friday Seeks Unity. [REF].
- Mar 26, 1953; News Champion; p. 1 Slope Leaders Meet to Form Western Colorado Water Group Unity, Cooperation Is Sought with Conservancy District Members. [REF; names include Dr. Mason M. Light; Herbert J. Dorricott; Rial Lake; and others.]
- Apr 2, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Delta Rotary Hears Dutcher.
- Apr 16, 1953; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Good Start Should End Well - inventory of Western Colorado water resources.
- Apr 30, 1953; The Courier; p. 1 Only Unity Can Save Our Water, Dutcher Tells J-C's.
- Apr 30, 1953; News Champion; p. 1 'Slope Jaycees Urge Completion of Water Studies.
- May 21, 1953; News Champion; p. 1 Craig Goodwin to Insist Policy-Review Group of State Water Board Stand Pat on Gunnison Curecanti Dam Conditions. Some of the Gunnison "conditions" that were omitted from the proposed bill to authorize the Curecanti Dam were: ... a provision for taxes lost; a requirement that small, participating projects shall be studied simultaneously with the detailed study of Curecanti; and a provision that water users of Montrose and Gunnison shall utilize facilities of Taylor Reservoir." [REF]
- Jun 18, 1953; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Slope Commissioner's Agree; oppose funding for water diversion.
- August 27, 1953; News Champion; p. 1 Federal Water Officials Due Here Sept. 17.
- Sep 17, 1953; News Champion; p. 1 Governor Thornton, Federal Officials Visit Gunnison by Air; Congressmen and high-ranking federal officials look at proposed Curecanti site.
- Nov 5, 1953; News Champion; p. 1 Seek New Plan To Save Small Curecanti Dam.
- Nov 5, 1953; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Coal May Be the Answer, But ... ; coal-steam plant can produce electric power more economically than by Curecanti Dam - Secretary of the Interior, Douglas McKay.
- Nov 12, 1953; The Courier; p. 2 Opinion - Not Much Time Left.
- Nov 12, 1953; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Week's Water Workings; Upper Colorado River Storage Project endorsement

- Feb 16, 1955; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - Storage Is A Must.
- Feb 20, 1955; The Courier; p. 8 Report Tells Bureau of Reclamation Attitude on Additional Dam Projects - Tomichi, East River, Ohio Creek, Fruitland Mesa, Bostwick Park, Grand Mesa, Dallas Creek [REF].
- Mar 6, 1955; The Courier; p. 8 New Curecanti Program Calls for Four Dams in Black Canyon Area - Blue Mesa, Narrow Gauge, Morrow Point, and Crystal [REF].
- Mar 16, 1955; News Champion; pp. 1, 8 State Ag Planning Committee Endorses High Altitude Dams.
- Mar 27, 1955; The Courier; pp. 1, 16 Senate Sub-Committee Approves Bill Including 4-Dam Curecanti Project [REF].
- Apr 20, 1955; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Controversy Well Contained; Water Attorney Frank Delany on Gov. Johnson's alleged controversy.
- May 4, 1955; News Champion; p. 2 Upper Colorado River Project Has Cleared First of Four Hurdles; is approved by Senate.
- Jun 15, 1955; News Champion; p. 1 Curecanti Dam Temporarily Out of the Upper Colorado River Project.
- Jul 10, 1955; The Courier; p. 1 Ed Dutcher Replaced by F. M. Peterson, (Delta, REA Manager) on state water board until May 12, 1958.
- Sep 18, 1955; The Courier; p. 9 Bob Porter in Grand Junction for Water Meet.
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- Feb 22, 1956; News Champion; p. 1 Preliminary Study of New Four-Dam Curecanti Project Gets Favorable Feasibility Rating From Reclamation [REF].
- Mar 4, 1956; The Courier; pp. 1, 16 House OK for Curecanti Project May Change Gunnison Area Soon. [REF]
- Mar 14, 1956; News Champion; p. 1 Water Committee is Studying Curecanti 4-Dam Report.
- Mar 21, 1956; News Champion; p. 1 Water-Study Group to Analyze Report Next Wednesday [REF; see list of names]
- Apr 1, 1956; The Courier; pp. 1, 16 Water Committee Meets on Curecanti Here Tuesday Night [REF; long list on names, those living include J. Norman McDermott, Rial Lake, Lawrence Phelps, Keith Stegall].
- Apr 4, 1956; News Champion; p. 1 County Water Group Endorses Curecanti, 29 to 4. Resolution requests early start on 4-Dam hydroproject.
- Apr 4, 1956; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Opinions Are Being Crystallized; those opposing are in a minority; "... we might get hurt less by cooperating now."
- Apr 11, 1956; News Champion; p. 1 Reclamation Officials Will Speak at Annual Chamber Banquet Here - April 18.
- Apr 22, 1956; The Courier; pp. 1, 9 Curecanti Unit Will Be Long Way Off Reclamation Officials Tell Gunnisonites. [REF]
- Sep 30, 1956; The Courier; p. 8 Aspinall Tells Rotarians of Upper Colorado Project and Chamber's Water Group Will Vote Tuesday on Dams. [REF].
- Oct 3, 1956; News Champion; p. 1, 4 Water Committee Makes Recommendations for Participating Reservoirs in the Gunnison area - surveys for higher dams on Tomichi, East

- Slate, Cebolla and their tributaries.
- Oct 10, 1956; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Water Washes Steve's Votes Away - Lt. Gov. Steve McNichols proposes getting water from Idaho.
- Feb 6, 1957; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Colorado Game and Fish Commission states policy on water development programs in nine point document. "No. 8 insist damage to fish and wildlife resources as a result of any public or private water project be replaced or compensated for at the expense of the responsible agency or individual."
- Mar 3, 1957; The Courier; p. 10 Curecanti Benefits Rest Mainly in Power Production, Irrigation. "A plan for developing storage and power potentialities of a part of the 35-mile section of the Gunnison River was described in the report, entitled Colorado River Storage Project and Participation Projects, dated December 1950. ... The river regulation provided by the Curecanti unit would benefit downstream water users and would assist to a small extent in making water deliveries to the Lower Colorado River Basin as required by the Colorado River Compact." [REF]
- Mar 6, 1957; News Champion; p. 1 Bureau of Reclamation addresses potential purchase of land to be inundated.
- Mar 10, 1957; The Courier; pp. 3, 14 The Case For The Curecanti - Water Board Director Rebuts G-F Article Opposing Dam. Dean Ivan C. Crawford, Director of the CWCB said: "The Curecanti plan which has been approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, with the knowledge and consent of the Colorado Game and Fish Department, will provide power for western Colorado and northern New Mexico. It will contribute to the storage requirement necessary to allow the upper basin to use water, and still meet the delivery requirements imposed on the Upper Basin states by the Colorado River Compact of 1952. ... With the Curecanti unit operating as planned, water needs of the Uncompahgre reclamation project in the Delta-Montrose area would be met without use of water impounded in Taylor Park Reservoir. This reservoir could therefore be operated for power production. Neither the benefits of the Taylor power nor the benefits to downstream water users has been included in the official evaluation of the project's merit. ... Needless to say, the investment of \$90,000,000 in the Gunnison Valley on a project that will provide power and water storage and irrigation benefits is of tremendous importance to the people of the area." [REF]
- May 26, 1957; News Champion; p. 1 Bureau of Reclamation establishes a field office at Cimarron for 5 man survey crew for Curecanti.
- Jun 12, 1957; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - need for small high dams to control flooding as experienced in early June.
- Jun 19, 1957; News Champion; p. 1 First watershed conservation association meeting to be held at Western State College on weekend and mostly denounce wilderness
- Jun 26, 1957; News Champion; p. 1 Colorado State Watershed

- Reservoir - if and when Curecanti Dam is completed to replace it!." Reason 5: "The Colorado River Water Conservancy District (headquartered at Grand Junction) has filed for water rights and dam sites - including Curecanti - in the Upper Gunnison Basin with the understanding that they will be turned over to a Gunnison Water Conservancy District as soon as one is formed. The formation of such a district is the only way these sites above Curecanti (which actually concern only this basin) can be returned to local control." [REF; names mention include: Dutcher, Porter, Lobdell, Whinnery, Ralph R. Allen, Sr., Tim Allen, George Means].
- Jul 24, 1958; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - A Water District Is Needed Here. [REF].
- Aug 7, 1958; News Champion; p. 1 County Advances \$1500 for Water Conservancy District.
- Oct 2, 1958; News Champion; p. 1 Ag Planners Talk About Water Storage Procedure [REF].
- Nov 6, 1958; News Champion; p. 6 Specifications Released for Paonia Project Dam Bidders.
- Nov 13, 1958; News Champion; p. 1 Water Petitions Are Getting Quick Rural Acceptance.
- Nov 27, 1958; News Champion; p. 1 Sam Little Urges Rotarians to Sign Water Petitions; for conservancy district formation.
- Dec 4, 1958; News Champion; pp. 1, 4 Porter Tells Lions - Water Conservancy District Is Vital to Gunnison Area. "The Gunnison Area needs a water conservancy district to negotiate with the federal government for funds to construct high altitude dams," Attorney Robert G. Porter told the Lions Club here last Monday."
- Dec 11, 1958; News Champion; p. 2 Editorial - Forecast for Colorado Dams.
- Jan 1, 1959; News Champion; p. 2 News Highlights of 1958 - Dick Bratton joins firm of E. L. Dutcher.
- Mar 26, 1959; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - Curecanti Held Feasible - notes objections of U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to irreplaceable losses greater than value of electricity.
- Apr 6, 1959; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - No More Opposition To Curecanti Project - Felix Sparks to Washington to formalize, need to get project started fast, U.S. 50 a major hazard.
- Apr 16, 1959; News Champion; p. 1 Sparks to be speaker at Chamber's annual banquet May 1st; [Marty Hatcher, toastmaster].
- Apr 23, 1959; News Champion; p. 1 Federal fisheries bureau objects to Curecanti for loss of fishery and deer range.
- May 4, 1959; The Courier; pp. 8, 9 Felix L. Sparks, Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, told a meeting of about 200 people at the annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner on May 1, 1959, that, "one of the most significant things about the Curecanti Project so far as the Gunnison area is concerned is the fact that it will take care of commitments to the Uncompahgre Valley Water User's Association so that

- the Taylor Park Dam and Reservoir can revert entirely to Gunnison control. This construction will also mean that no Gunnison Area decrees would ever have to be curtailed in their water use because of senior rights to downstream flow." [REF].
- May 11, 1959; The Courier; p. 2 REA Leaders Ask for Curecanti Funds This Year.
- May 11, 1959; The Courier; pp. 8, 9 Interior Secretary Has Not Yet Recommended Curecanti - Aspinall.
- Jun 4, 1959; News Champion; p. 1 Formation of Water Conservancy District - firm of Porter and Klingsmith and Standholme presented petition.
- Jun 4, 1959; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - formation of water conservancy district.
- Jun 15, 1959; The Courier; p. 4 Capital Comments by W. Aspinall. Dam project near Delta significant to all Western Slope.
- Jul 13, 1959; The Courier; p. 1 Harvey Lobdell Chosen Charter President of Upper Gunnison River Water District.
- Jul 16, 1959; News Champion; p. 4 Editorial - \$1 million to start Curecanti Project, with some reference to Sparks and annual Chamber banquet.
- Aug 6, 1959; News Champion; p. 1 Reservoir decrees, for Curecanti and 5 smaller reservoirs.
- Aug 13, 1959; News Champion; p. 1 Testimony on conditional decrees for Curecanti and 5 reclamation projects - Fruitland Mesa, East River, Tomichi, Quartz, and Ohio Creek; --- "Conditional decree would protect the Gunnison area from other interests filing for water rights which are covered in the decree, but the decree cannot be considered by a judge until all testimony from the hearing is transcribed and a report is made to the referee."
- Aug 17, 1959; The Courier; p. 9 Allott Dismayed Over Dropping of Curecanti Project.
- Nov 12, 1959; News Champion; p. 4 On editorial page - Reprint of article from Outdoor Life questioning need for the Curecanti project as it ruins the best fishing in the country. [good and long].
- Jan 18, 1960; The Courier; pp. 1, 8 Four Million Recommended for Dams Here.
- Apr 7 1960; News Champion; p. 1 Conditional decrees signed for Curecanti Project before Judge Kempt in Montrose, Wednesday March 30. Adjudication of water rights in District 62 for Curecanti and also other ditches, pipelines, and reservoirs - "present and potential users". Montrose meeting to establish protection of all Western Colorado present and potential users. On Wednesday, April 6, Judge Dan Hughes to argue case for project in Washington [REF; copy; Dutcher and Porter were Gunnison representatives].