



## **Jefferson County (Colorado). Clerk and Recorder Ditch Plats Book 1-2, 1904-1906 & 1955**

Series #177

Processed by: Ronda Frazier  
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Jefferson County Records Management & Archives  
3500 Illinois St., Suite 2350  
Golden, CO 80401  
(303) 271-8448  
E-mail: [archivist@Jeffco.us](mailto:archivist@Jeffco.us)  
Website: [www.jeffco.us/archives](http://www.jeffco.us/archives)

## Overview of Records

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Creator:	Clerk and Recorder
Title:	Ditch Plats Book 1-2
Dates:	1904-1906 & 1955
Series Number:	177
Quantity:	One post-bound volume, .30 cubic ft.
Arrangement:	Chronological by date recorded with County
Abstract:	One volume of maps and statements of claim to water rights for ditches, reservoirs, and water supply sources recorded in Jefferson County.

## Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions:	None
Use Restrictions:	None
Preferred Citation:	Item Description; Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder, Ditch Plats Book 1-2, 1904-1906 & 1955; Series #177; Jefferson County Archives, Golden, Colorado.
Provenance:	Transferred to the custody of the Archives in May 1998 by the Clerk and Recorder, Recording Department.
Related Records:	Series 146, Miscellaneous Maps, Plats and Drawings contains: Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Co. Canal and Reservoir System, 1935 Harriman Ditch Plat, 1892 Mountain Meadow Pipeline, 1928 South Platte Canal & Reservoir Co. Canal and Pipelines, 1894 South Platte Dam, 1899 South Platte River Basin, Colorado, 1930

## History Note

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Colorado was the first state to provide for the distribution of water by public officials. In 1879, the state was divided into ten water districts, nine in the South Platte valley, and one in the Arkansas

drainage. In each district, a Water Commissioner divided the water according to priorities of the various ditches within the district, in accordance with the Prior Appropriation Doctrine of first-in-time, first-in-right. The priority of each ditch was determined by the district courts based upon the date the ditches were constructed and the water placed to beneficial use.

The Office of the State Engineer was created in 1881, whose primary responsibility was to measure the water in each stream from which water was diverted for irrigation. Three water divisions were created made up of water districts located within the South Platte, Arkansas, and Rio Grande basins. Within six years, the remaining four water divisions were created. In 1887, the state created a Superintendent of Irrigation to supervise Water Commissioners within each division.

By the beginning of the 1890s, many stream systems were over-appropriated. Ditch companies were actively constructing reservoirs to store winter flows and spring runoff. In addition, new sources of water were being pursued, which included transmountain diversions and pumping of ground water. Changes of water rights, exchanges, transfer of water rights and "loan statutes" were issues that had to be addressed by the Office of the State Engineer by the turn of the century.

Today, all water rights are administered by the Colorado Division of Water Resources in division offices located in the seven major river basins of the state. Water commissioners in each office ensure the priority system is followed, enforcing the decrees and water laws of the State of Colorado.

*Taken from the Colorado Division of Water Resources website at <http://water.state.co.us/SurfaceWater/SWRights/Pages/WRHistory.aspx>, October 18, 2013.*

## **Scope and Content Note**

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Photostat copies of maps and statements of claim to water rights for ditches, reservoirs, and water supply sources located in Irrigation Division No. 1, South Platte River Basin, and recorded in the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's Office. Includes Water Districts 2 (South Platte: Denver Gage to Greeley), 6 (Boulder Creek), 7 (Clear Creek), 8 (South Platte Cheesman to Denver Gage), 9 (Bear Creek), and 23 (Upper South Platte).

Maps list property owners' names.

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