

ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINE

Administration Number (aka Holt Number)

Division One – South Platte River

The “Admin Number” was developed by the Division of Water Resources (Ken Holt, Division 6 hydrographer) to provide a simple ranking of water rights’ priorities. The number references the number of days since December 31, 1849, an entirely arbitrary date except for the fact that it is prior to the most senior Colorado water right.

The Admin Number requires the following data:

- Adjudication Date of the subject water rightⁱ
- Previous Adjudication Dateⁱ
- Appropriation Date of the subject water right

The Admin Number is in the form: XXXXX.YYYYY

The left side of the number (XXXXX) is the number of days between December 31, 1849 and the latter of the Previous Adjudication Date and the Appropriation Date.

- If the Appropriation Date is later than the Previous Adjudication Date, then the left side of the Admin Number (XXXXX) is the number representing the Appropriation Date and the right side (YYYYY) is five zeroes (“00000”).
- If the Appropriation Date is earlier than the Previous Adjudication Date, then the left side of the Admin Number (XXXXX) is the number representing the Previous Adjudication Date and the right side (YYYYY) is the number that represents the Appropriation Date.

Once the left and right sides of the Admin Number are determined, the Admin Number should be viewed as a single number with 10 significant digits; the smaller the Admin Number, the more senior the water right. There are basically three categories of Admin Numbers.

1. Originalⁱⁱ adjudications (no Previous Adjudication Date exists):

Lower Boulder Ditch		Admin No
Adj Date	06/02/1882	3561.00000
Previous Adj Date	None	↑
Appropriation Date	10/01/1859	←

2. Supplemental adjudications (a previous adjudication exists) with an Appropriation Date later than the Previous Adjudication Date:

Beaver Brook Pipeline		Admin No
Adj Date	05/13/1936	24745.00000
Previous Adj Date	10/09/1895	↑
Appropriation Date	10/01/1917	←

3. Supplemental adjudications with an Appropriation Date earlier than the Previous Adjudication Date:

Barnes Meadow Reservoir		Admin No
Adj Date	12/18/1945	26409.26135
Previous Adj Date	04/22/1922	↑
Appropriation Date	07/22/1921	←

ⁱ Prior to the creation of a standing water court by the 1969 Water Rights Determination and Administration Act, the Adjudication Date is the date of the respective district court adjudication. Since the 1969 Act, for the purpose of the Admin Number, the Adjudication Date is December 31 of the year the application for a water right was filed. Likewise, since 1969, the Previous Adjudication Date is December 31 of the year before the subject water right application.

ⁱⁱ In addition to the first water right adjudications in each of the district courts, the following water rights are tabulated as having no Previous Adjudication Date: non-exempt alluvial well water rights with applications filed no later than July 1, 1972 (CRS 37-92-306); most exchanges (37-92-305(10)); nontributary water rights (37-92-305(11)); exempt wells (CRS 37-92-602(4)); and, certain court ordered decrees (such as the North Fork decrees, CA1678 & 84CW566).