

POWER RESOURCES

of

ROARING FORK OF COLORADO RIVER.

Pitkin & Garfield Counties.

Results of Survey

of

Government Engineers.

1925 Dept. of The Interior.

Release 1048

By

U. S. G. S.

Immediate Release

4/15/25.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

- - - - -

POWER RESOURCES OF ROARING FORK OF COLORADO RIVER
Results of Survey by Government Engineers

Seven undeveloped power sites on Roaring Fork of Colorado River, in Colorado, between Snowmass and the mouth of the river, could be made to furnish 31,500 horsepower for 90 per cent of the time and 54,000 horsepower for 50 per cent of the time. Five additional sites in the river basin have been developed, and the combined capacity of the turbines amounts to 6,540 horsepower, but on account of the closing down of some of the silver mines in the vicinity only 3,850 horsepower is being used.

Power could be developed at these sites by low diversion dams, constructed of material that could be obtained near the sites and by open conduits having a total length of 29 miles and an average capacity of 675 second-feet. The total fall in the 29 miles between Snowmass and the mouth of the river is 1,160 feet. The power obtained would amount to 1,900 horsepower per mile for 50 per cent of the time and 1,100 horsepower per mile for 90 per cent of the time. The cost of development would seem to be warranted whenever a market is available.

At one of these sites a canal 5 miles long, having a capacity of 566 second-feet, would be able to carry enough water and to deliver it at such a height above the river as to permit the development of 10,000 horsepower for 50 per cent of the time and 6,000 horsepower for 90 per cent of the time.

A manuscript report describing the water-power resources of Roaring Fork has been prepared for the Department of the Interior by E. E. Jones, a hydraulic engineer of the Geological Survey. This report contains a map of Roaring Fork from Snowmass to its mouth on a scale of 1:63,360 (1 inch = 1 mile), having a contour interval of 50 feet and showing the topography to a height of 300 feet above the surface. This report may be consulted at the office of the Geological Survey in Washington, D. C., or at the district office of the Survey in Denver, Colo., 403 Federal Building. A copy of the report will be sent to any other district office of the Survey on application to the Director of the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.