

# The Pipeline Delivers

Submitted by Deb Daniel, RRWCD General Manager

The Compact Compliance Pipeline delivered 4,000 AF of water to the North Fork of the Republican River in early 2014.

Kansas Division of Water Resources Chief Engineer David Barfield negotiated in late 2013 with Dick Wolfe Colorado State Engineer on the operation of the pipeline in 2014. Mr. Barfield agreed that Colorado will receive 100% credit for the water delivered to the stream by the pipeline during 2014.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, Tracy Travis, RRWCD pipeline operator, started delivering water through the pipeline system. "The system worked as designed," stated Travis. "There were some items to work through during this initial delivery, but overall the system worked very well."

By March 24<sup>th</sup> the system had delivered 4,000 AF as stated in the Compact Compliance Pipeline proposal that had been presented to the Republican River Compact Administration in early 2013. The water was measured by a Sutron Gage located in a stilling well at the end of the pipeline. Colorado Water Commissioners Devin Ridnour and Dave Keeler monitored the measurement of the water delivered to the river.

During the late summer months Jim Slattery, co-owner of Slattery and Hendricks Engineering Inc, will run calculations whether more water will need to be delivered by the pipeline during November through December to ensure Colorado will be in compact compliance for 2014.

In the meantime, Dick Wolfe continues to negotiate with David Barfield. Once Barfield agrees that from 2014 forward, Colorado should receive 100% credit for water delivered by the pipeline, the RRWCD would annually operate the pipeline during the off-season months.

Currently it is very difficult not knowing whether the pipeline will be operated on an annual basis. Upon receiving permanent approval for the water delivered for compact compliance, there are thousands of acres of very sandy soils that need to be revegetated. It may take several years to establish a good cover over these vulnerable soils.

For more information on the RRWCD pipeline deliveries, please contact the RRWCD District office at 970-332-3552.