

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441
Fax: (303) 866-4474
www.cwcb.state.co.us



MEMORANDUM

To: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

From: Joe Busto
Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation Section

Date: January 12, 2010

Re: **Agenda Item 7, January 26-27, 2009**
Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation Section-
2009/2010 Colorado Cloud Seeding Programs and Grants

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

James Martin
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe
CWCB Deputy Director

Introduction

The State of Colorado has had a weather modification permitting program since 1972. The authority for this program has been delegated from the DNR Executive Director to the CWCB Director since 1987. Staff member Joe Busto has been in charge of administering this program since 2002. The State Statutes for weather modification are scheduled to sunset in 2011. An overview of the Sunset Review process conducted by the Department of Regulatory will be discussed at the end of the staff presentation.

Discussion

The CWCB's two primary functions are in permitting and curtailment in sensitive periods. At the request of water users, the CWCB began providing grants for cloud seeding in 2004. Regional collaborative agreements were signed in 2007 to support cloud seeding under the Colorado River Seven Basin States Initiative. The current CWCB weather modification program is a mixture of permitting, environmental monitoring, temporary curtailment, and grants to support local cloud seeding programs. This is supported by a Board-approved strategic plan from May 2008. The Colorado River Basin agreements are to pursue water augmentation together. The CWCB has an agreement with the State of New Mexico through the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The CWCB also has another agreement with three Lower Colorado River Basin Water Users. This mix of funding from five states has been used since 2007 to extend operational periods and import new equipment to update current methods. Staff will report on wintertime cloud seeding expenditures for 2009-10.

Board Action

This is an informational board memo with no board action requested. At the end of the staff presentation, Brian Tobias of the Department of Regulatory Agencies will be introduced. Staff will be working with Brian Tobias over the next two years through the Sunset Review process that will either renew, renew with changes, or sunset State authorities for this program.