

Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
725 Frankie Lane
Canon City, CO 81212
January 20, 2010

Ms. Linda Bassi
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 721
Denver, CO 80203

Reference: Proposed CWCB Instream Flow 2010 Appropriations

Dear Linda Bassi,

I am conservation chairperson for the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society which is the chapter of the National Audubon Society that covers both the Arkansas and Rio Grande River Basins. I would like to express the support of our chapter for the following stream reaches located in our coverage area that are proposed for appropriation:

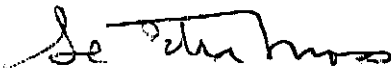
Baldwin Creek, from the headwaters to Chalk Creek, in Chaffee County: I have some limited personal experience with the lower portion of Baldwin Creek where it flows into Chalk Creek as I have birded that location in the past. Not only does the Instream Flow acquisition protect the fishery, it protects the aquatic invertebrate community that feeds birds as well as fishes and the vegetation that is vital to the health of the terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Baldwin Creek likely supports American Dippers, a species of birds that feed right in the stream, even swimming underwater at times, as they feed on aquatic insects and especially larvae that are attached to stream bottoms. American Dippers are considered to be indicators of the health of streams and I have seen them in the area near where Baldwin Creek flows into Chalk Creek.

Middle Creek, 2 segments that flow from the headwaters in Custer County and terminate at the Beulah Water Works in Pueblo County: I have some personal experience with both the upper segment where it is accessible from the forest roads SH165 and only that portion of the lower segment that runs between a very deep bend in H165. Some portions of Middle Creek flow through lands designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as Critical Habitat (Unit SRM-C-1b) for the Mexican Spotted Owl, a species that is listed as Threatened by both federal authorities and the State of Colorado.

The Arkansas Valley Audubon Society exists to promote the conservation of nature through education, political action and field activities. Our focus is on birds, other wildlife and their habitat in Southern Colorado. Our chapter represents more than 400 members who are interested in birds, other wildlife and nature. The state organization of the National Audubon Society in our state, Audubon Colorado, also supports the protection of water resources by Instream Flow acquisitions that are vital to the health and even existence of many birds and other species in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important proposed appropriations of water for our streams.

Sincerely,



SeEtta Moss, M.S.
Conservation Chairperson