

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

FROM: Jeff Baessler
Stream and Lake Protection Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

DATE: May 10, 2010

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 12, May 18-19, 2010, Board Meeting**
Stream and Lake Protection Section – San Miguel River Instream Flow
Recommendation

Summary

This informational memo provides an update on the proposed instream flow recommendation on the San Miguel River. In addition, Harris Engineering will provide the Board with a status report on a future water needs analysis for the San Miguel Watershed. No Board action is necessary.

Background

At the January 2010 meeting, staff presented the Board with an overview of the San Miguel River ISF recommendation that it had received from both the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, staff presented its analyses and the information necessary for the Board to form its intent to appropriate ISF water rights for the recommended segment (See attached table).

The San Miguel River recommendation has received attention from numerous stakeholders including San Miguel and Montrose Counties, the San Miguel Governmental Task Force, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD), numerous environmental interests and local water users. Because of the extensive discourse that has been occurring with respect to these recommendations, the Board elected not to form its intent to appropriate at the January Meeting. Rather, it delayed action until January 2011 if the stakeholders demonstrate significant progress with regard to assessing projected water supply needs and evaluating projects and management options to meet future needs. In addition, the Board requested a presentation from SWCD's engineer at the May 2010 meeting. Harris Engineering has sent staff regular status reports and will provide the Board with a detailed update on activities at this Board meeting.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Instream Flow Tabulation - Streams



Water Division 4

Case Number	Stream	Watershed	County	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	Length (miles)	USGS QUADS	Amount(dates) (CFS)	Approp Date
09/4/A-009	San Miguel River	San Miguel	Montrose	confl Calamity Draw at lat 38 15 24N long 108 36 49W	confl Dolores River at lat 38 22 47N long 108 48 01W	16.50	Atkinson Creek	115 (3/1 - 4/14)	
							Nucla	325 (4/15 - 6/14)	
							Red Canyon	170 (6/15 - 7/31)	
							Uravan	115 (8/1 - 8/31)	
								80 (9/1 - 2/29)	

Totals for Water Division 4	Total # of Stream Miles =	16.5
	Total # of Appropriations =	1
<i>(Totals do not include donated/acquired water rights)</i>		