



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

August 27, 2013

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
Attention: Gary Barber, Arkansas Basin Roundtable Chairperson
P.O. Box 1976
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Dear Chairperson Barber,


On behalf of the Colorado Springs Utilities, I am writing to request your support of Cañon City and their Royal Gorge Wildfire Water Quality Impact and Protection Project. On June 11, 2013 and the days that followed the Royal Gorge Fire burned 3,218 acres. The emergency mitigation, stabilization and reclamation work to recover and restore watershed areas for the affected reach of the Arkansas River is of great importance to us. The process of restoring a burned watershed area will have long term benefits including helping to maintain water quality and reducing sediment loading of the river especially during high intensity summertime thunderstorm events.

Support of this project by the Arkansas Basin Roundtable is greatly needed to assist the City of Cañon City in these endeavors and will benefit many water purveyors and their customers, mutual ditch companies and their agricultural users, recreational enthusiasts and help protect the environment. Our utility currently serves water to about 450,000 people, with some of our water supply from Pueblo Reservoir. As a result, we are concerned with issues that can affect our ability to provide an adequate supply of high quality water to the general public and our customers.

As Chairperson for the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable, you are more aware than most of how water projects can protect public health, protect the environment, make fire protection possible, and promote recreational activities that are vital not only to a community's long-term economic growth and stability, but also to others in the State of Colorado who rely upon the Arkansas River. Thank you for your support in addressing this important basin-wide issue.

Please contact me at 719-668-8712 or gboostrom@csu.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Gary M. Bostrom, P.E.
Chief Water Services Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities

c: Bob Hartzman, Canon City Water Superintendent
Wayne Vanderschuere
Brett Gracely