



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Montrose Office
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Craig Godbout - WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

July 16, 2015

RE: West End of Montrose County Reservoir Project - WSRA SW BRT Application

Dear Craig,

CPW Staff have met with Mr. Marc Catlin who took the time to describe in more detail how Montrose County desires to develop storage in the west part of the County, and to that end has initiated a reservoir storage feasibility study. Montrose County retains conditional storage rights at a number of locations in western Montrose County, and there's no reason to dispute that additional storage may be necessary to meet future water demands. CPW is encouraged that Montrose County is approaching water development with an eye to the future and with deliberation toward finding the one best site that could meet multiple demands. We also appreciate the County's outreach to CPW so that CPW can provide direction on how best to address wildlife and fisheries issues; such an approach should facilitate permitting issues when the County is closer to initiating project construction.

At this point in the process, CPW is supportive of the County's efforts to define a site that best suits their needs, is feasible from a geotechnical perspective, and minimizes impacts to important wildlife and aquatic resources. We are also encouraged to learn that there is intent by the county to use stored water for instream flows that could be very beneficial to fisheries, in the San Miguel River. CPW especially appreciates their desire to 'front load' a project that could be supported by both consumptive and non-consumptive water users, and we can envision that such a project could be developed in the western portion of Montrose County. At this point, there is not enough detail for CPW to support one location over another, and it is hoped that completion of this study will further define those sites that have actual potential for development from those that need no further examination. We feel that this is an important first step toward describing a project that CPW could support. We look forward to working with Mr. Catlin and the Montrose County on these projects of enormous mutual interest.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Renzo DelPiccolo
Area Wildlife Manager - Montrose
970.252.6010

Cc: Marc Catlin - Montrose County Water Rights Specialist, David Graf - Regional Water Specialist CPW,
Patricia Dorsey - SW Region Manager CPW

