



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Joe Busto
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: November 4, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #11: Inventory and Assessment of Colorado Weather Modification Programs

Background:

As part of the portfolio of weather modifications projects for Water Year 2015, the CWCB used Wilson Water Group (WWG) to conduct an inventory and assessment of all current programs in the state. The two primary purposes of the final report were to provide a comprehensive summary of all weather modification programs in Colorado, and promote opportunities to enhance the programs with new technology, scientific evaluations, partnerships, and potential funding opportunities.

To ensure that an independent evaluation was conducted without direct state involvement, WWG staff conducted all necessary research and outreach, while consulting with CWCB staff only for clarification and guidance as needed. To collect updated information WWG staff coordinated directly with all program sponsors, contractors, researchers, and related experts.

Along with a summary of programs throughout the state, the report outlines the role of the CWCB, including, permitting, funding, and the vision for program enhancement. The report also includes an abbreviated summary of weather modification science, policies, process, and history. In addition, the opportunities section highlights information regarding seeding generators, radiometers, weather stations, liquid propane dispensers, and other weather and meteorological equipment that could benefit the programs. Finally, the report documents future goals and recommendations for all of the program sponsors.

Attachments to the report include highlights of each program, the NCAR Climatology Evaluation Study, the Wyoming Research Program Executive Summary, and maps of existing and proposed generator sites produced by Erik Skeie. Also attached are marketing and technical documents from the Desert Research Institute, Idaho Power Company, and Radiometrics Corporation, along with an analysis of seeding potential using the SNODAS model from 2008, and a fact sheet previously developed by the CWCB.

Wilson Water Group staff member Greg Johnson will present the findings of the study.

Staff recommendation:

This is an informational item and no board action is requested.

