



COLORADO WATER TRUST

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November 15, 2013

Erin Light
Division 6 Engineer
Colorado Division of Water Resources
P.O. Box 773450
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

RE: 2013 End of Year Summary, Stagecoach Reservoir Temporary
Instream Flow Water Right Loan, Water Division 6, Water District 58

Dear Erin:

On August 20, 2013, the Division of Water Resources (DWR) approved a Temporary Loan of water stored in Stagecoach Reservoir to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for Instream Flows for a second lease year under Section 37-83-105, C.R.S. Pursuant to the terms of DWR's approval, the Colorado Water Trust (CWT), acting as agent for the CWCB, hereby submits final records of water used for instream flows under the above-referenced Temporary Loan (see attached spreadsheet).

The CWCB holds the following instream flow water right decreed to the Yampa River that benefits from this lease:

Case No. 6-01CW106

Yampa River (Morrison Cr to Lake Catamount); 72.5 cfs (4/1-8/14); 47.5cfs (8/15-3/31)

This year, stream flow conditions in the Yampa River began to deteriorate in July. On July 23, 2013, prior to the loan being approved by DWR, the Colorado Water Trust requested Upper Yampa WCD to begin releasing its leased water from Stagecoach Reservoir at a rate of 30 cfs. Upper Yampa made first use of the released water for hydropower generation pursuant to their decrees. However, since the temporary loan had not yet been approved, these early releases were not protectable for instream flow use downstream from Stagecoach Reservoir. CWT's intention in making these early releases was to improve conditions for recreationists and aquatic species by increasing streamflow and lowering water temperature. CWT requested continued releases from Stagecoach Reservoir at a rate of 30 cfs through August 29, 2013. On August 30th, CWT requested the releases be scaled back to 20 cfs due to increased precipitation and higher streamflow in the upper basin.

The DWR's approval of the Temporary Loan included a condition (#4) that use of the leased water for instream flows could not occur until a final sublease was signed between CWCB and CWT. On September 4, 2013, CWCB and CWT entered into a sublease allowing the leased water to be used for instream flows. On that date, flows in the Yampa River downstream from Morrison Creek were estimated to be slightly higher than the instream flow water right decreed to CWCB. (However, this

flow estimate does not include any accretions/depletions to Morrison Creek downstream from the gage location, and may not be indicative of streamflow through the entire 5.4 mile instream flow reach.) Releases continued at a rate of 20 cfs until September 12, 2013, when the instream flow releases were suspended due to monsoon rains. No additional water was requested from Stagecoach Reservoir for instream flow use for the remainder of the lease period.

On behalf of CWCB and CWT, we greatly appreciate the cooperation from your office and will continue to keep you advised of any future projects in Water Division 6.

Best Regards,



Anne Janicki
Transaction Specialist

Attachments

cc: Linda Bassi, CWCB
Kevin Rein, DWR
Kevin McBride, UYWCD
Kelly Beal, Tri-State
Tim Beaton, Atty.