



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Rob Viehl, Water Resource Specialist
Stream and Lake Protection Section

DATE: May 10, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 17. Update on Himes Creek Instream Flow Recommendation in
Water Division 7

Background:

At the January 2016 Instream Flow (ISF) workshop the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) submitted a recommendation to the CWCB for ISF water rights on Himes Creek. This recommendation was part of a pilot process for the USFS to evaluate whether the ISF Program can meet the USFS' non-consumptive water right needs on the San Juan National Forest. Staff has spent the past two years collecting, reviewing, and analyzing data while collaboratively working with the USFS, CPW, and other interested stakeholders to address issues related to the natural environment and flow quantification on this stream. In November 2017, Staff communicated its intent to bring a Himes Creek recommendation to the March 2018 meeting for the Board to form its intent to appropriate an ISF water right. At the March 2018 Board meeting, Staff informed the Board that it needed additional time to meet with stakeholders to address their concerns. Staff continues to work with interested stakeholders and requires additional time to address their concerns. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, staff may request the Board form its intent to appropriate an ISF water right on Himes Creek at the July 2018 meeting.

Staff recommendation:

This is an informational item and no Board action is required.

