DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 6 STATE OF COLORADO, ROUTT COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER P.O. BOX 773117 1955 SHIELD DRIVE STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CO 80477	DATE FILED: June 8, 2014 2:50 PM CASE NUMBER: 2013CW3020
Concerning the Application for Water Rights of: COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD, IN RED CREEK, A NATURAL STREAM, IN THE UPPER YAMPA WATERSHED,	
IN ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO.	COURT USE ONLY
	Case No.: 13CW3020
	Div. 6

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RULING OF REFEREE, JUDGMENT AND DECREE OF THE WATER COURT

This matter comes before the Water Referee by Application of the Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") for a water right to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree. The Application was filed on September 20, 2013. The Application was thereafter referred to the Water Referee for Water Division 6, by the Water Court for Water Division 6, in accordance with section 37-92-101, C.R.S. (2013).

The Referee, having made such investigations as are necessary to determine whether or not the statements in the Application are true, having consulted with the Division Engineer for Water Division 6, and being fully advised in the premises, does hereby make the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and enters the following ruling in this matter:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The statements in the Application are true.
- The name and address of Applicant:
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721
 Denver, CO 80203

- 3. <u>Notice and Jurisdiction</u>: All notices of this matter required by law have been fulfilled and the Court has jurisdiction over the Application and all parties affected thereby, whether or not they have chosen to appear.
- 4. <u>Objectors</u>: No Statements of Opposition were filed and the time for filing additional Statements of Opposition has expired.
- 5. <u>Summary of Consultation</u>: The Division Engineer filed a Summary of Consultation pursuant to section 37-92-302(4), C.R.S. (2013) dated December 9, 2013, and the Referee has given it due consideration.
- 6. Name of natural stream: Red Creek tributary to Willow Creek tributary to the Elk River.
- 7. <u>Location:</u> The natural stream channel from the U.S. Forest Service boundary extending to the confluence with Willow Creek being a distance of approximately 4.0 miles. This segment can be located on the Hahns Peak U.S.G.S. quadrangle. The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) and geographical descriptions (e.g., confluences) of the upstream and downstream termini are provided as the decree locations. The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and Lat/Long coordinates are provided as cross-reference locations only.
 - a) Upstream Terminus = U.S. Forest Service Boundary
 UTM: Northing: 4514949.39 Easting: 332549.21 (NAD 1983 Zone 13 North)
 PLSS: NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 1, Township 9 North, Range 86 West of the 6th PM
 2,609' East of the West Section Line, 2,516' North of the South Section Line
 Lat/Long: latitude 40° 46' 6.5"N and longitude 106° 59' 2.65"W
 - b) Downstream Terminus = Confluence with Willow Creek
 UTM: Northing: 4515585.43 Easting: 336949.19 (NAD 1983 Zone 13 North)
 PLSS: NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 4, Township 9 North, Range 85 West of the 6th PM
 1,096' East of the West Section Line, 372' South of the North Section Line
 Lat/Long: latitude 40° 46' 30.3"N and longitude 106° 55' 55.67"W

8. Metadata for Locations:

- a) The UTM, PLSS and Lat/Long locations for the upstream and downstream termini were derived from CWCB GIS using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).
- b) The PLSS locations in this decree were derived from CWCB GIS using 2005 PLSS data from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Geographic Coordinate Database.
- 9. <u>Use of the Water</u>: Instream flow to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree.
- 10. <u>Date of Appropriation</u>: Appropriation and beneficial use occurred on January 29, 2013, by the action of the CWCB under the provisions of sections 37-92-102(3) and (4) and 37-92-103(3), (4) and (10), C.R.S. (2013).
- 11. <u>Amount of water claimed:</u> Instream flow of 1.85 cfs (April 1 July 15) and 0.70 cfs (July 16 March 31), absolute.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 12. The foregoing Findings of Fact are incorporated herein to the extent they constitute conclusions of law.
- 13. Notice and Jurisdiction: The Water Court for Division 6 has jurisdiction over the subject matter of these proceedings and over all persons, owners of property and water rights that may be affected hereby, whether or not they have chosen to appear. The Application in this matter and the resume publication of the Application placed such persons on notice of the relief requested by the Application and granted by this decree. §§ 37-92-203 and -302, C.R.S. (2013).
- 14. The CWCB has fulfilled all legal requirements for a decree for water rights including sections 37-92-302, -304 and -305, C.R.S. (2013).
- 15. Burden of Proof: The CWCB has complied with all requirements and has met its burden of proof to adjudicate the water rights required in the Application and is therefore entitled to a decree approving the requested water rights.
- 16. This instream flow water right will not deprive the people of the State of Colorado of the beneficial use of those waters available by law and interstate compact, specifically as decreed in *Wyoming v. Colorado*, 259 U.S. 419 (1922), as modified at 260 U.S. 1 (1922), as further modified at 298 U.S. 573 (1936), as further modified at 309 U.S. 572 (1940), as further modified at 353 U.S. 953 (1957).

RULING OF REFEREE, JUDGMENT AND DECREE

- 17. The foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are hereby approved and incorporated as the Judgment and Decree of the Court by this reference.
- 18. The application is granted and a decree in the amount of 1.85 cfs (April 1 July 15) and 0.70 cfs (July 16 March 31), absolute, is hereby entered to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree in the reach of Red Creek between the upstream and downstream termini described in paragraph 7 above. The appropriation date for this water right is January 29, 2013.
- 19. The priority herein awarded was filed in the water court in the year of 2013 and shall be junior to all priorities filed in previous years. As between all rights filed in the same calendar year, priorities shall be determined by historical date of appropriation and not affected by the date of entry of ruling.
- 20. The Applicant shall install and maintain such measuring devices and keep such records as the Division Engineer may require for administration of this right.

It is accordingly **ORDERED** that this Ruling shall be filed with the water clerk subject to judicial review.

It is further **ORDERED** that a copy of this Ruling shall be filed with the Division Engineer and the State Engineer.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2014.

BY THE REFEREE:

/s/ Daniel R. Birch

Water Referee

Water Division No. 6

State of Colorado

No protest was filed in this matter. The foregoing Ruling is confirmed and approved, and is made the Judgment and Decree of this Court.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2014.

BY THE COURT:

Michael A. O'Hara, III, Water Judge Water Division No. 6, State of Colorado

