



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Linda Bassi, Chief
Kaylea White, Senior Water Resource Specialist
Stream and Lake Protection Section

DATE: January 27-28, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 11. Colorado Water Trust Request for Water Update

In 2018, the CWCB staff, in partnership with the Colorado Water Trust (CWT), piloted a streamlined approach to instream flow (ISF) water acquisitions using a public outreach process similar to the one currently used for new ISF appropriations. The CWT and staff repeated this process in 2019. Request for Water is a voluntary process open annually to all water right owners, including agricultural, municipal, industrial, or other users, providing them an opportunity to explore various flow restoration and transaction options for their water. The CWT hosts the process on its website, inviting interested water rights owners to submit a confidential preliminary offer of water online. The CWT then conducts an initial review to evaluate whether water provided under that right could result in meaningful benefits to a stream reach. Based on that review, the CWT discusses potential transaction tools with the water rights owner. If there is potential for and interest in pursuing an ISF acquisition, the CWT and water rights owner work with the CWCB staff on the next steps in the process. The goals of the Request for Water Acquisition Process are to:

- inform water right owners about voluntary, market-based opportunities to use their rights to benefit rivers in need;
- proactively invite voluntary water right offers for ISF use from willing water rights owners;
- provide a user-friendly mechanism for water rights owners to investigate working with the CWCB and CWT on ISF acquisitions;
- streamline transaction processes and utilization of resources;
- facilitate implementation of Colorado's Water Plan objectives; and
- add flows to river segments in need while coordinating with agricultural and other uses.

Tony LaGrecia, Project Manager at the Colorado Water Trust, will present an overview of how the process worked in 2019, including the process timeline, the number and types of preliminary offers of water received, and how those offers were processed.

This is an informational item with no Board action required.

