

Environmental Considerations Work Group Meeting Report Out

Meeting Number: 3

Date: April 9, 2020

Meeting Topics:

Agenda topics included: an overview of the workgroup process, the November meeting, and the joint workshops at the Colorado Water Congress and Interbasin Compact Committee; an update on the CWCB Demand Management Feasibility Investigation RFP; a recap of Scenario Planning; a presentation on a preliminary literature review; a discussion of homework on potential environmental impacts, mechanisms, rules and regulations, and research needs or data gaps; a prioritization exercise; and a discussion on criteria.

Key Takeaways:

The group discussed the following topics:

- Developing hypothetical or scenario planning concepts: The group refined uncertainties and values associated with a potential demand management program. CWCB staff will provide updates about other workgroup scenario planning at the next Environmental Considerations meeting.
- Monitoring: The group discussed the potential and need to monitor environmental impacts, including impacts to wildlife, related to agricultural alternative transfer methods projects.
- Relevant literature and potential data gaps related to environmental considerations: The group discussed resources with the most information related to environmental considerations.
- 2019 Demand Management Investigation Work Plan: The group identified broad examples of potential environmental impacts, mechanisms, rules and regulations, and research needs or data gaps through homework documents based on the main issues identified during the group's August 2019 meeting.
- Prioritization: The group discussed the importance of criteria to assess environmental impacts or benefits, as a priority. Exploring ways to incentivize participation was also discussed as a priority. A number of potential resources were identified that could assist in developing criteria. A small subgroup was formed to start summarizing potential criteria from existing literature and sources.

Questions/Concerns to Raise:

The group identified some questions and issues to consider going forward, including:

- Indirect effects to water balance as a result of a potential demand management program.
- Uncertainty of defining impacts of a potential demand management program before knowing what a demand management program would look like.

- The need to understand and learn from agricultural alternative transfer method projects.

Additional Technical, Informational Other Needs:

The group discussed the potential for the contractor to assist with development of initial criteria for assessing environmental impacts and benefits of potential demand management projects, based on existing literature.

Public Comment

- A question was raised about what entity will be tasked with addressing equity.
- There was also a question about the representativeness of the Kremmling alternative transfer method study.

Other:

The group discussed convening at least one and potentially two additional environmental workgroup meetings before July 2020. The group plans to convene remotely on May 7th. The group identified June 2nd as an available date to meet, if needed.