

2022

COLORADO WATER TRUST

REQUEST FOR WATER PROCESS



COLORADO WATER TRUST

KATE RYAN

FEBRUARY 2022



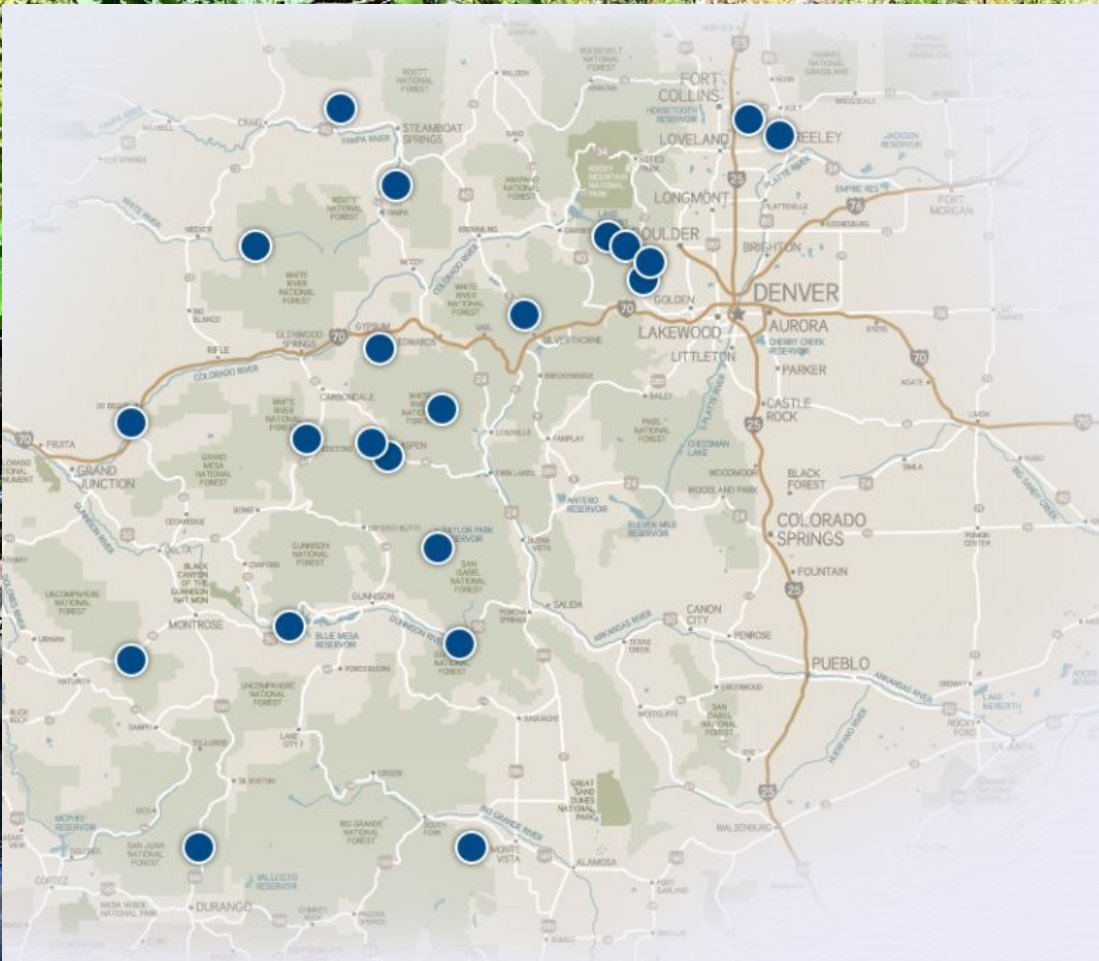
COLORADO WATER TRUST



- 💧 Denver-based non-profit working **statewide** to restore flows to Colorado's rivers in need
- 💧 Formed in **2001** to partner with Colorado's Instream Flow Program and amplify its work
- 💧 Work with water users to put together **voluntary** transactions to benefit the environment
- 💧 Transactions are **flexible** - temporary or permanent, split-season, ATM
- 💧 Work within the prior appropriation system and **compensate** water users at fair-market value

COLORADO WATER TRUST

Successfully completed
28 projects,
adding over **42,000**
acre-feet of water to
over
588 miles of rivers and
streams in Colorado.



REQUEST FOR WATER - 2022



- 💧 Partnership with CWCBC
- 💧 Water right owners are invited to submit a CONFIDENTIAL PRELIMINARY OFFER to the Colorado Water Trust
- 💧 Does NOT commit owners in anyway
- 💧 Does NOT constitute a formal offer under CWCBC's ISF rules
- 💧 Colorado Water Trust staff completes free, confidential review of ISF opportunities



WATER RIGHTS CRITERIA



Direct or storage
above...

Decreed diversion
rate
> 0.5 cfs

Storage Right
> 20 af

Water right has...

Good **history** of use

Willing and able to
dry-up associated
acreage during ISF
use

Cannot accept...

Conditional

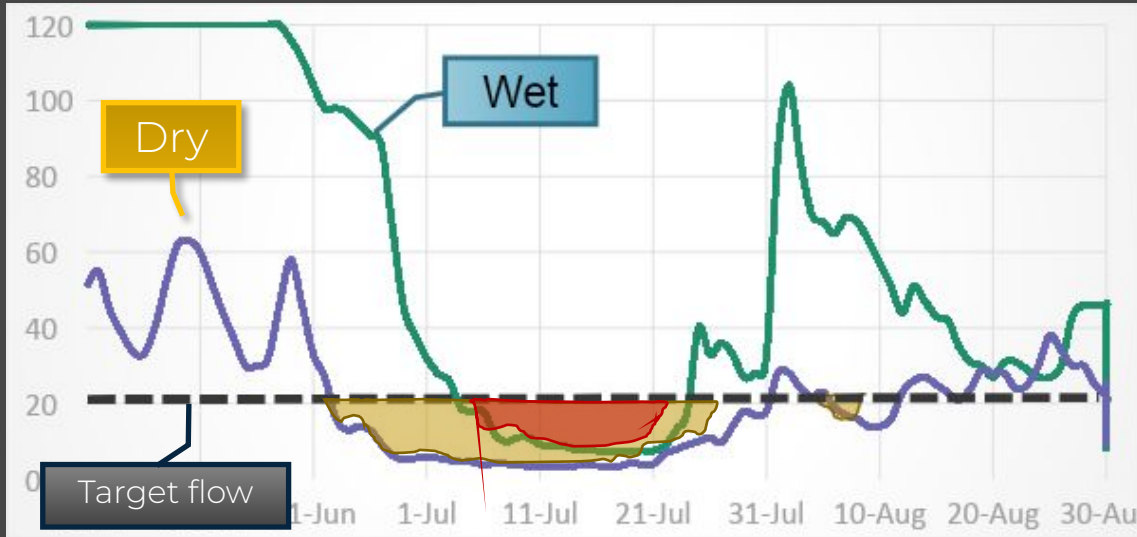
Groundwater

Springs

Abandonment List

STEP 1

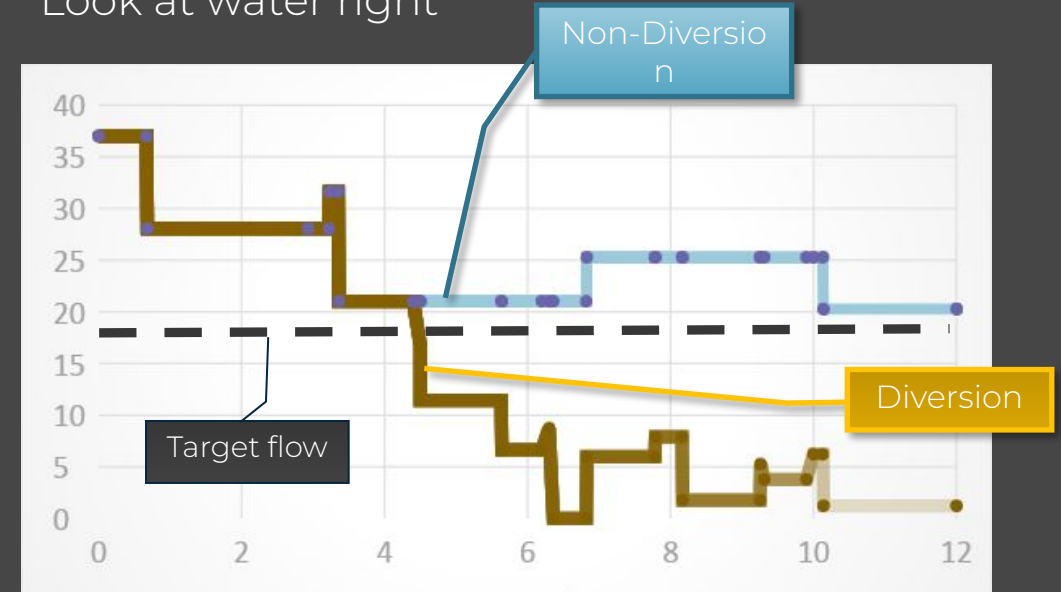
Look at stream



Evaluate stream's hydrology to determine if it is "in need" in both 1) time and 2) place.

STEP 2

Look at water right



Evaluate water right. Determine if it can help restore flow to river when/where in needed.

STEP 3

Figure out best tool

If the water right at issue can help the stream in time/place, figure out if there is a tool that will work.

Permanent?

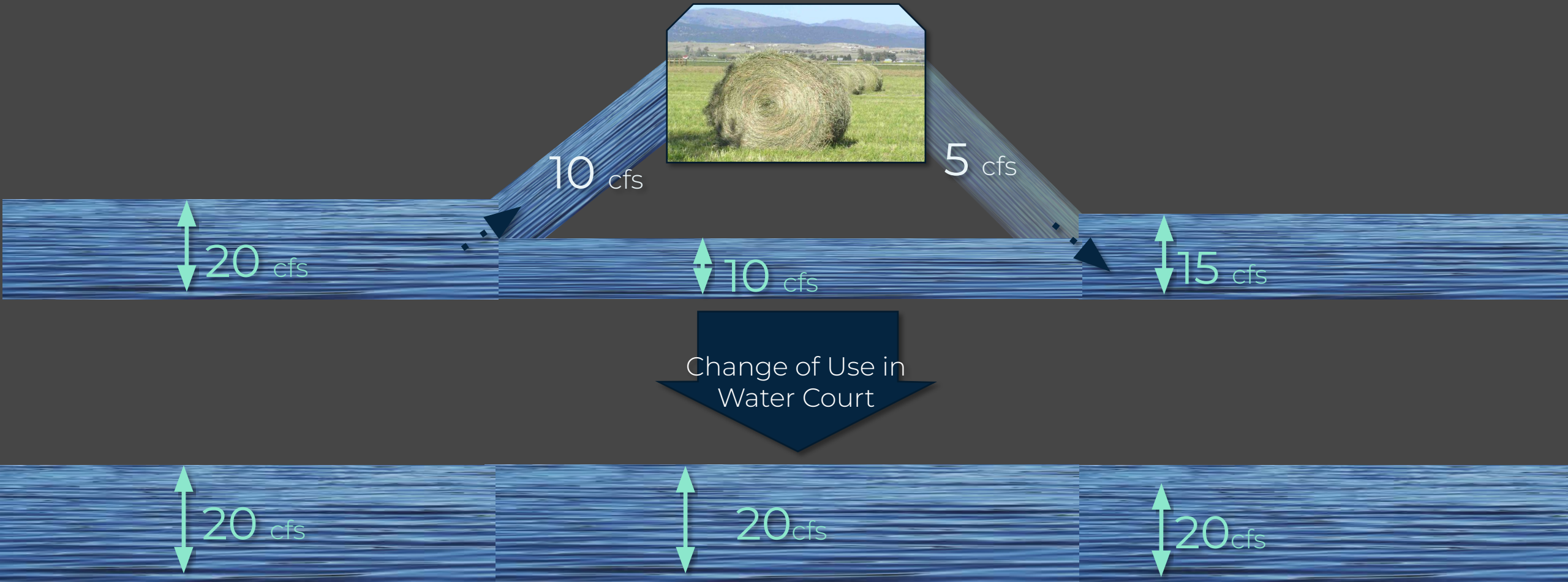
Temporary?

Flexible?



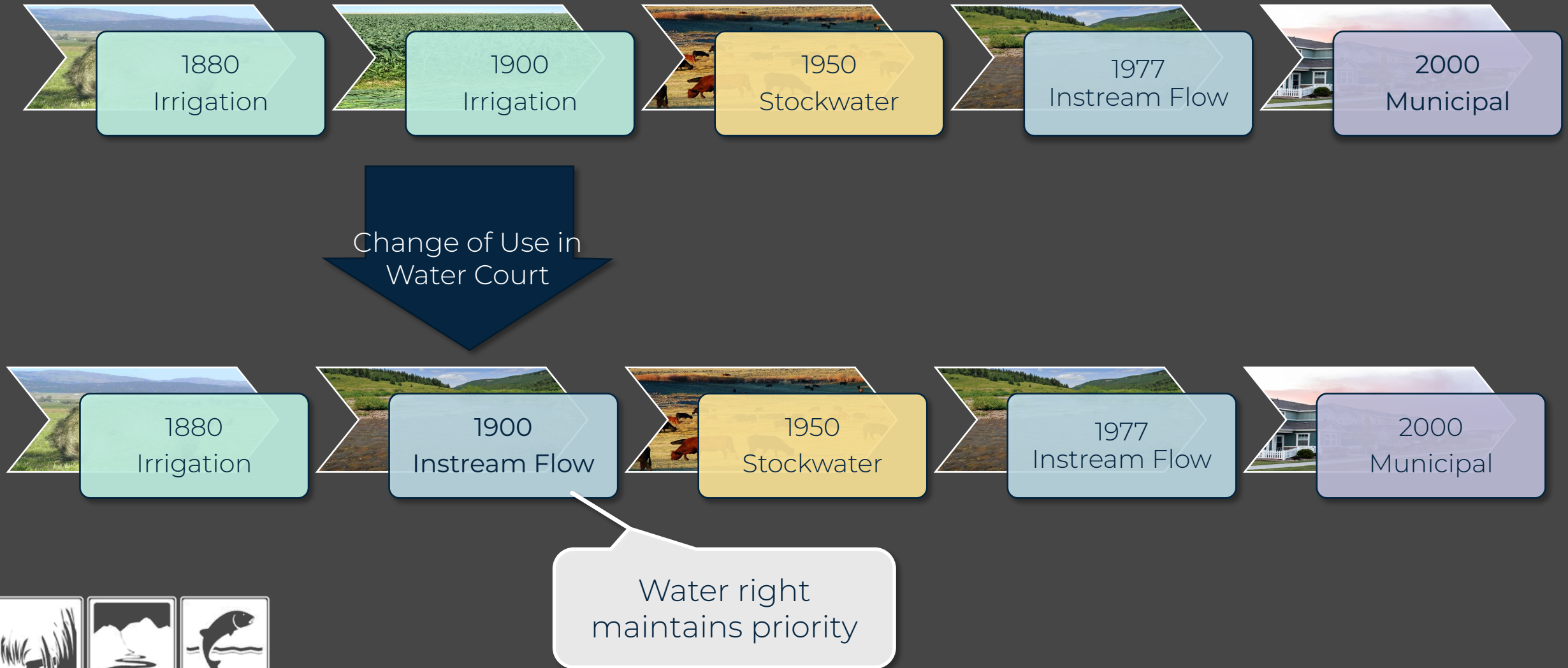
COLORADO WATER TRUST

LONG TERM LOAN & PERMANENT ACQUISITION



COLORADO WATER TRUST

LONG TERM LOAN & PERMANENT ACQUISITION

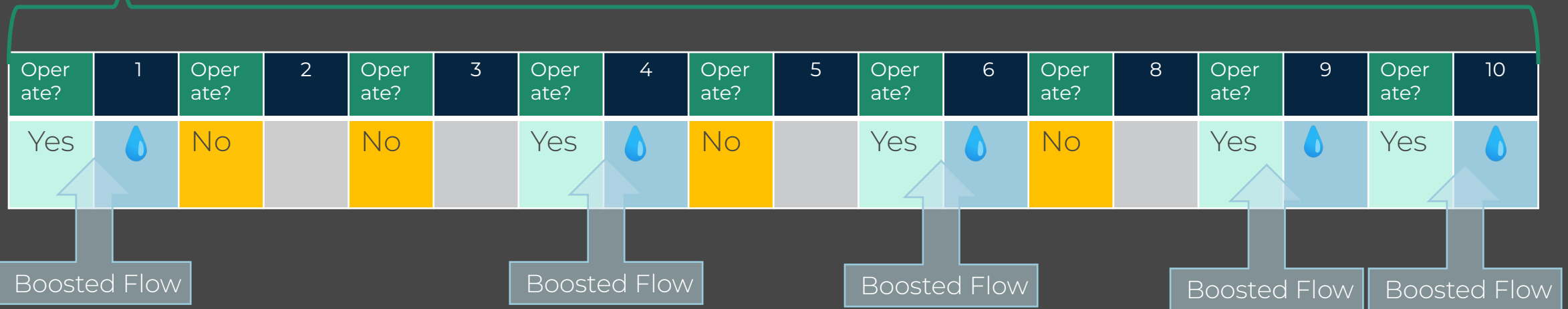


5/10 TEMPORARY LOANS TO ISF

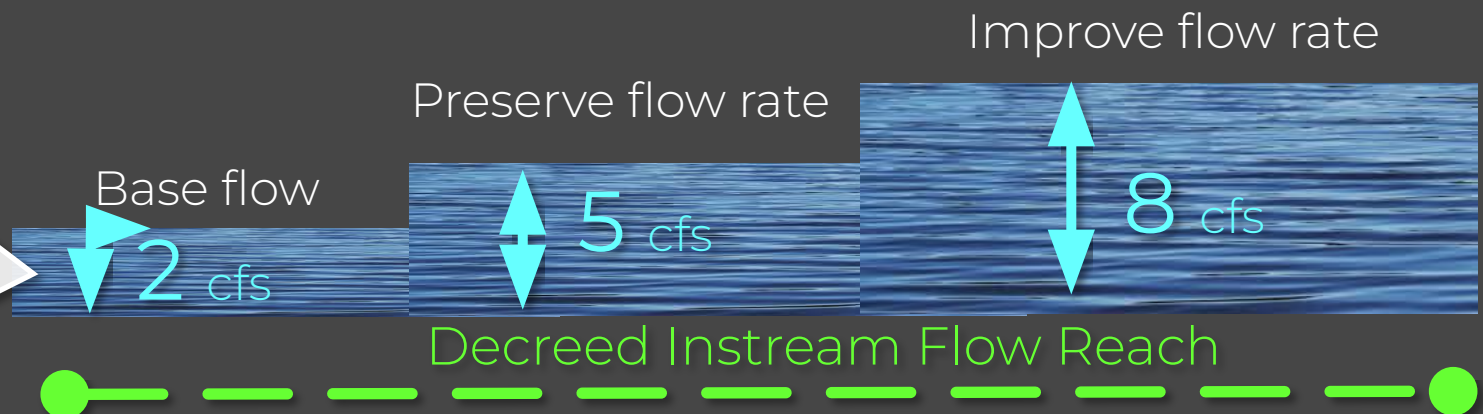


10-year term

Administrative approval of 10-year “loan” to instream flow & renewable 2x



Water decreed for another use can be used temporarily to boost flow in already decreed instream flow reach up to defined preserve or improve flow rate



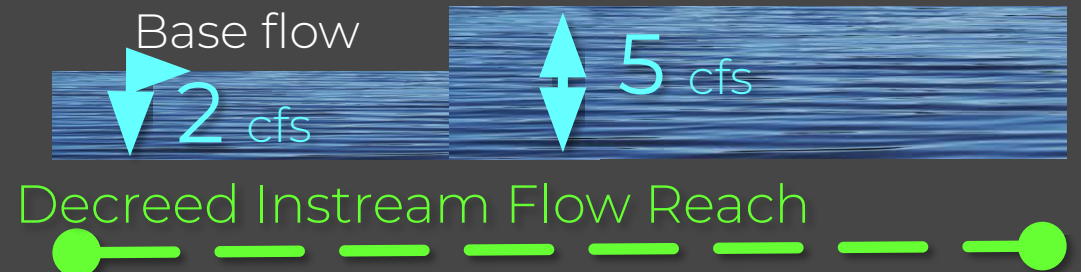
EXPEDITED LOAN TO INSTREAM FLOW



Water can be used to temporarily boost flow using an expedited approval procedure

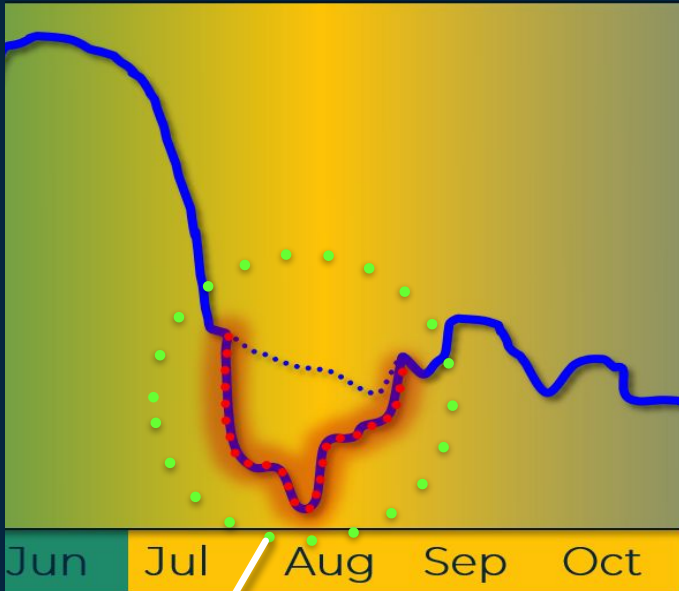
Limited to flow rates that preserve the environment

Preserve flow rate



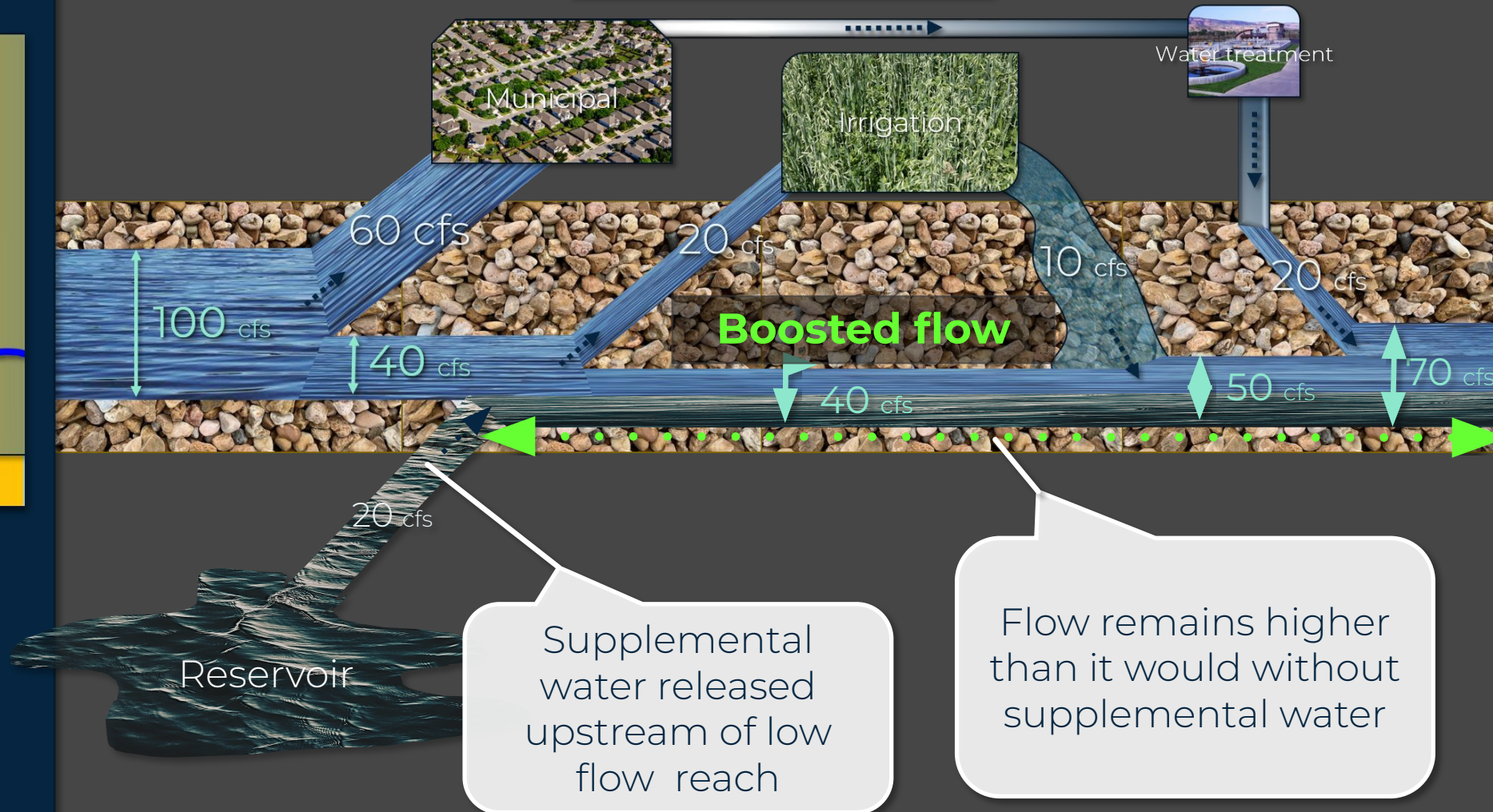
RESERVOIR RELEASES

Timing



Supplemental water released at time when flow drops

Location



RESERVOIR RELEASES

Supplementing supply with reservoir storage

Step 1

Store water in upstream reservoir when available

Step 2

Monitor stream conditions

Step 3

Release water to boost stream flow as needed

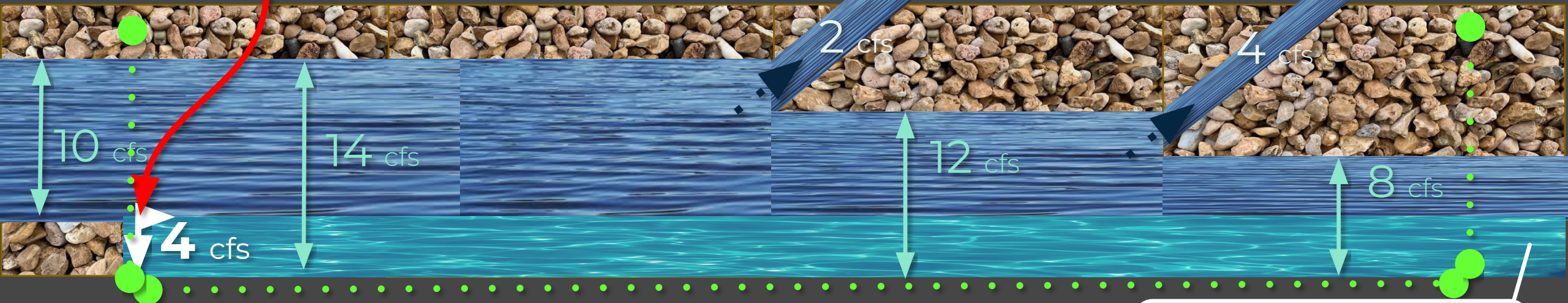


COLORADO WATER TRUST



Seed
Water

Changed & quantified for
augmentation (not ISF)

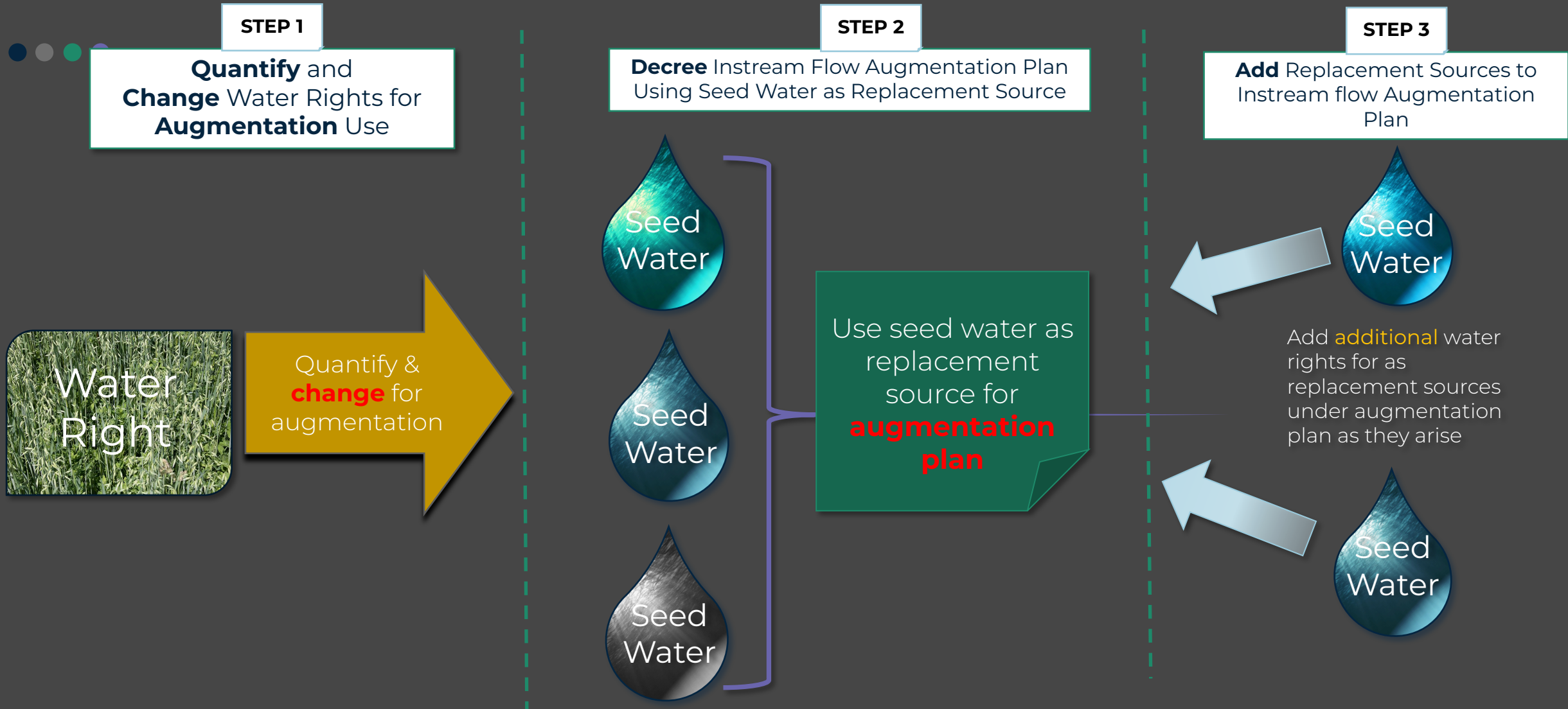


Protected Reach

Water can be **diverted**
downstream of reach

STREAMFLOW AUGMENTATION PLAN





STREAMFLOW AUGMENTATION PLAN



COLORADO WATER TRUST

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

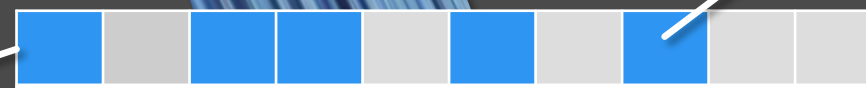


Water not
diverted,
instead it is
left in the
stream

Approval by:

- Water district
- Water authority
- Municipal supplier

10-year approval, 5
years of operation





Protections against
abandonment & HCU reduction

TRANSACTION & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

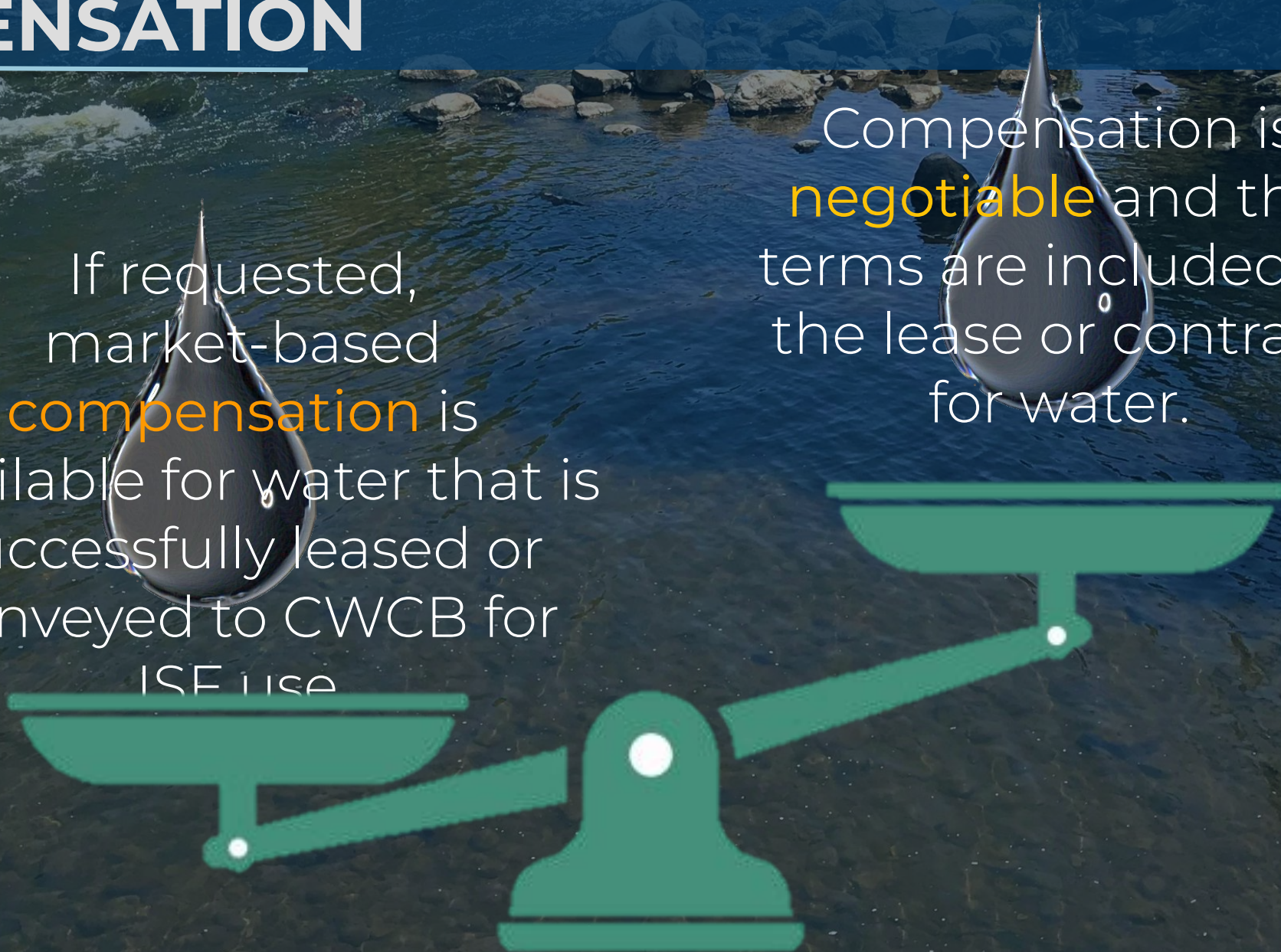
- 💧 Colorado Water Trust staff **works with the water right owner** and CWCB staff to complete approval process for ISF use
- 💧 **Fair market value determined**
- 💧 **Lease or contract** negotiated and executed between water right owner and CWCB
- 💧 **Fundraising**



COMPENSATION

If requested,
market-based
compensation is
available for water that is
successfully leased or
conveyed to CWCB for
ISE use

Compensation is
negotiable and the
terms are included in
the lease or contract
for water.



TIMELINE

RFW Process Launch

January 2022

Deadline for
Submitting
Preliminary Offers of
Water

June 30, 2022

Transaction & Project
Development

October 2022 – 2022+

February – June 2022

Webinars, Outreach
to Water Users

September 30, 2022

Water Trust
Response to
Preliminary Offers of
Water



BENEFITS TO WATER RIGHTS OWNERS

- 💧 Compensation
- 💧 Accounting **safeguards** against abandonment or reduction in HCU
- 💧 Water **sharing** opportunities (e.g. split-season use)
- 💧 Flexible and voluntary
- 💧 Enhance **streamflow** in your local stream

How do I find out more?

Visit our website at: <https://coloradowatertrust.org/request-for-water>

REQUEST FOR WATER PROCESS



Each year in January, Colorado Water Trust and the Colorado Water Conservation Board launch the annual Request for Water Process. This process offers a streamlined approach to water transactions to benefit the environment on streams throughout the state. We invite water rights owners to explore options to use their water rights for streamflow restoration purposes.

Voluntary water sharing arrangements or voluntary acquisitions of senior water rights, on a temporary or permanent basis, can help restore flows to rivers in need, sustain agriculture, and maximize beneficial uses of Colorado's water.

The Request for Water Process has several goals:

- To invite voluntary water offers from willing water rights owners to benefit streamflows
- To provide a user-friendly mechanism for water rights owners to explore working with CWCB and the Colorado Water Trust on water acquisitions and transactions that will benefit the natural environment
- To streamline transaction processes and utilization of resources
- To facilitate implementation of Colorado's Water Plan objectives
- To add flows to river segments in need while coordinating with agricultural and other water uses

This Process is confidential, completely voluntary and open to all water right owners, including agricultural, municipal, industrial, or other users.

PRELIMINARY OFFERS OF WATER ARE DUE JUNE 30, 2022.

For questions or for more information, send an email to RFW@coloradowatertrust.org or call 720-570-2897.

The Request for Water Process Timeline:

[RFW Process Overview \(PDF\)](#)[Timeline \(PDF\)](#)[Water Right Offer Form](#)[Water Right Offer Form \(PDF\)](#)[Water Right Criteria \(PDF\)](#)[Flow Transaction Options \(PDF\)](#)



THANK YOU!

...questions?

COLORADO WATER TRUST
3264 Larimer Street
Denver, CO 80205

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION
BOARD
1313 Sherman Street, Rm 718
Denver, CO 80203

Kate Ryan
Program Director
Colorado Water Trust
720-570-2897
kryan@coloradowatertrust.org

Rob Viehl
Chief, Stream and Lake Protection
Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
303-866-3441 x3204
linda.bassi@state.co.us

Tony LaGreca
Project Manager
Colorado Water Trust
720-570-2897
tlagreca@coloradowatertrust.org

Kaylea White
Senior Water Resource Specialist
Colorado Water Conservation Board
303-866-3441 x3240
kaylea.white@state.co.us