

2023

COLORADO WATER TRUST

REQUEST FOR WATER PROCESS



COLORADO WATER TRUST

BLAKE MAMICH

COLORADO WATER TRUST

JANUARY 2023

Part 1

- 💧 Who we are
- 💧 What do we do

Part 2

- 💧 “Request for Water” outreach
- 💧 What we look for
- 💧 Timeline
- 💧 How to find out more

Part 3

- 💧 3 step process:
 1. Look @ stream
 2. Look @ water right
 3. Figure out tool

Overview



Part 1

Who is the Colorado Water Trust and what do we do?



COLORADO WATER TRUST



WHO WE ARE...

- 💧 Non-profit organization and we work **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 **tailored** for each water right and each water system
- 💧 Work within the **prior appropriation system** and **compensates** water rights owners at fair market value

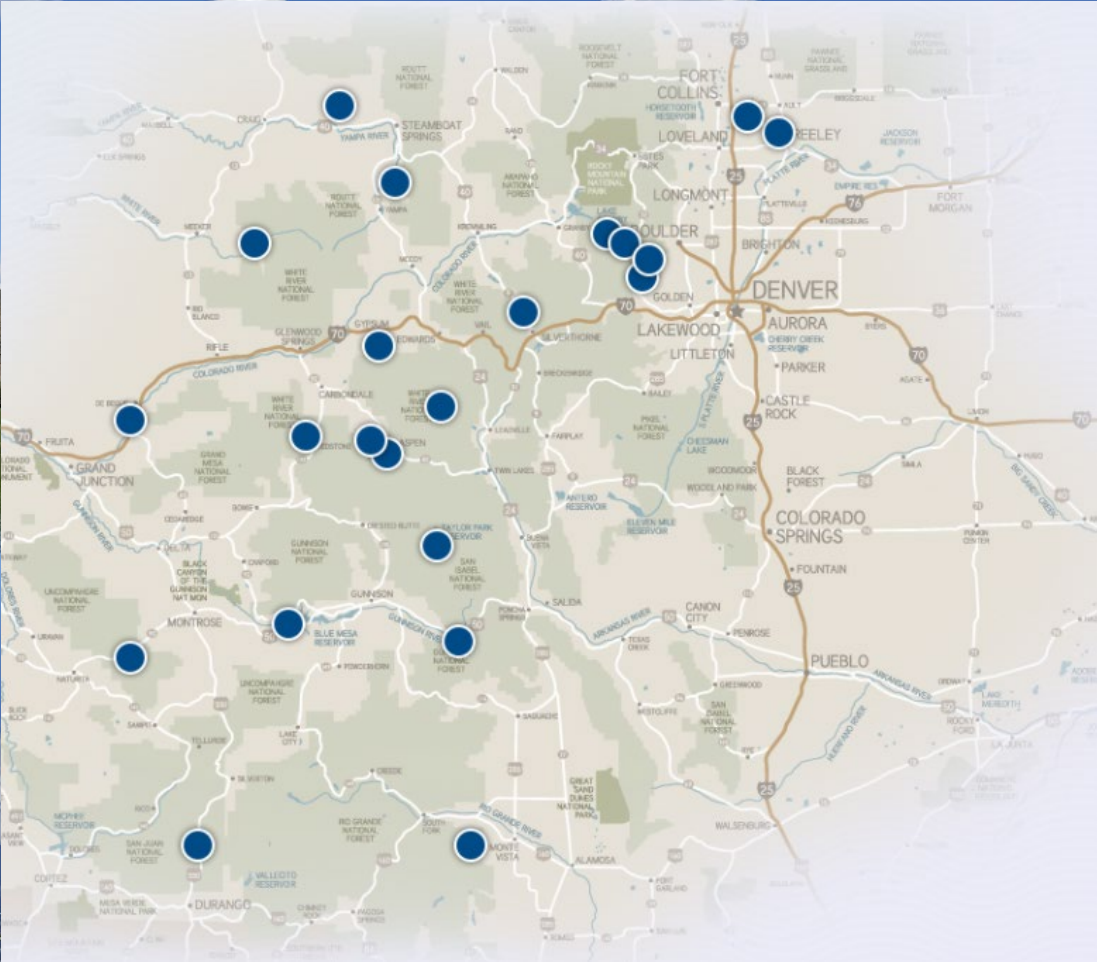


COLORADO WATER TRUST



WHAT WE DO...

Successfully completed **26 projects**, w/ many ongoing adding over **70,000 acre-feet** of water to over **588 miles** of natural stream in **Colorado**.





Part 2

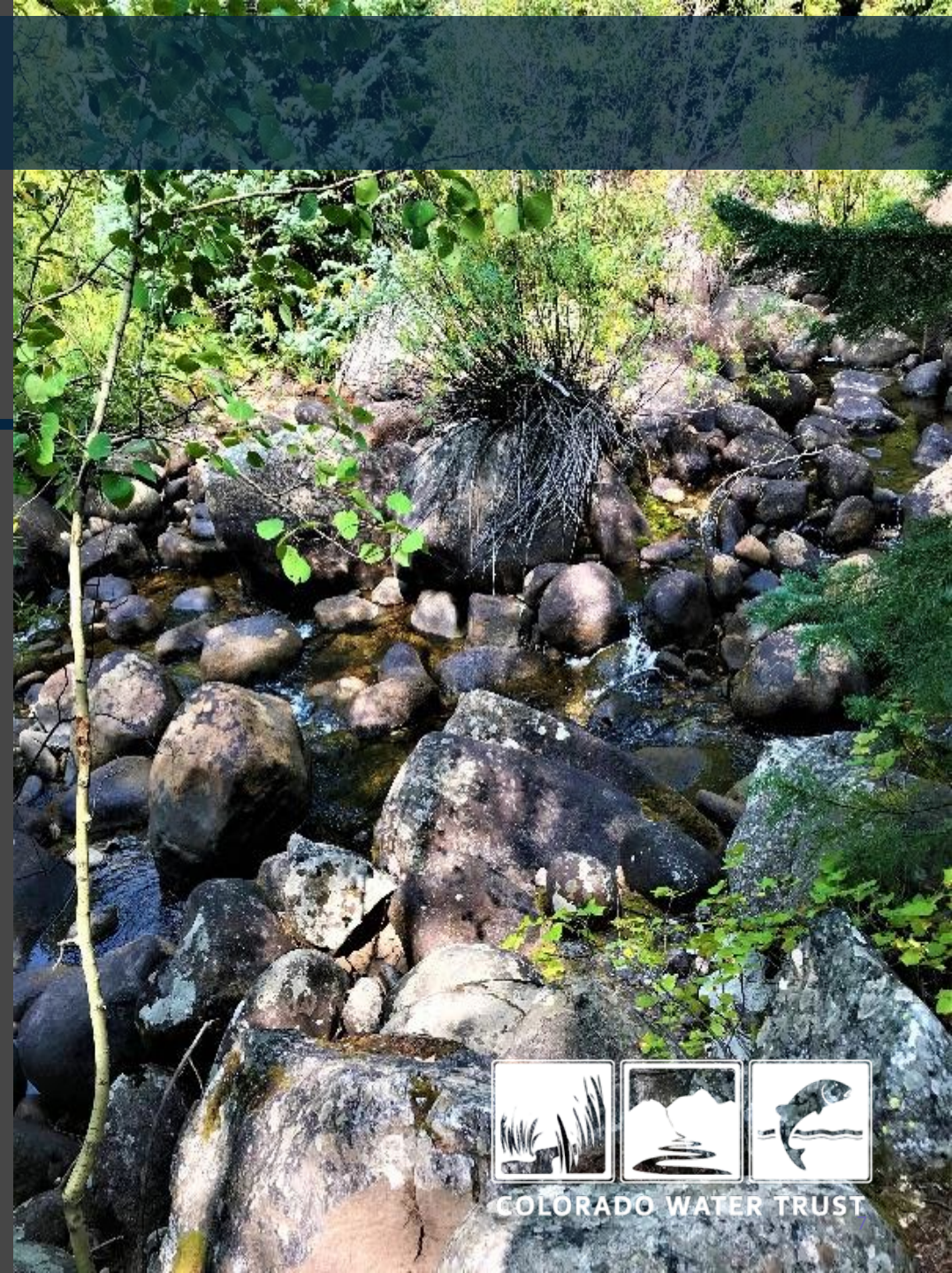
Colorado Water Trust's annual "Request for Water"



COLORADO WATER TRUST

Request for Water – 2023

- 💧 Annual outreach
- 💧 Water right owners are invited to submit a **CONFIDENTIAL PRELIMINARY OFFER**
 - 💧 Does **NOT** commit owners in any way
 - 💧 Invites us to **evaluate water rights** for potential streamflow restoration opportunities
- 💧 Evaluation is free & confidential



Request for Water – 2023



Direct or storage
above...

Decreed diversion
rate

> 0.5 cfs

Storage Right

> 20 af

Water right has...

Good **history** &
record of use

Willing and able to
change operations

Cannot accept...

Conditional

Groundwater

Springs

Abandonment List

Request for Water – 2023



RFW Process Launch

January 2023

Deadline for Submitting
Preliminary Offers of Water

ANYTIME

Transaction & Project
Development

October 2023 – 2024+



February – June 2023

1-2 month Turn Around

Webinars, Outreach to
Water Users

Water Trust Response to
Preliminary Offers of
Water

Request for Water – 2023



REQUEST FOR WATER PROCESS



Or shoot us an email or give us a ring!

Rest works in partnership with water rights owners to restore water to rivers while protecting water rights and wetlands. **The Request for Water Process, launched in collaboration with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, is a streamlined process for water rights owners to explore options for using their water to benefit Colorado's rivers and streams.**

There are many legal tools available that protect water rights while also benefiting local streams and rivers. Voluntary water sharing arrangements or voluntary acquisitions of senior water rights, on a temporary or permanent basis, can help restore water to rivers for ecological benefits and complementary uses downstream or on irrigated property.

Request for Water is confidential, completely voluntary and open to all water rights owners, including agricultural, municipal, industrial, or others. Interested water rights owners can submit a confidential, non-binding Preliminary Interest Form to RFW@coloradowatertrust.org at any time.

[RFW Process Overview \(PDF\)](#)[Timeline \(PDF\)](#)[Preliminary Interest Form](#)

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



Part 3

Colorado Water Trust's 3-Step Process



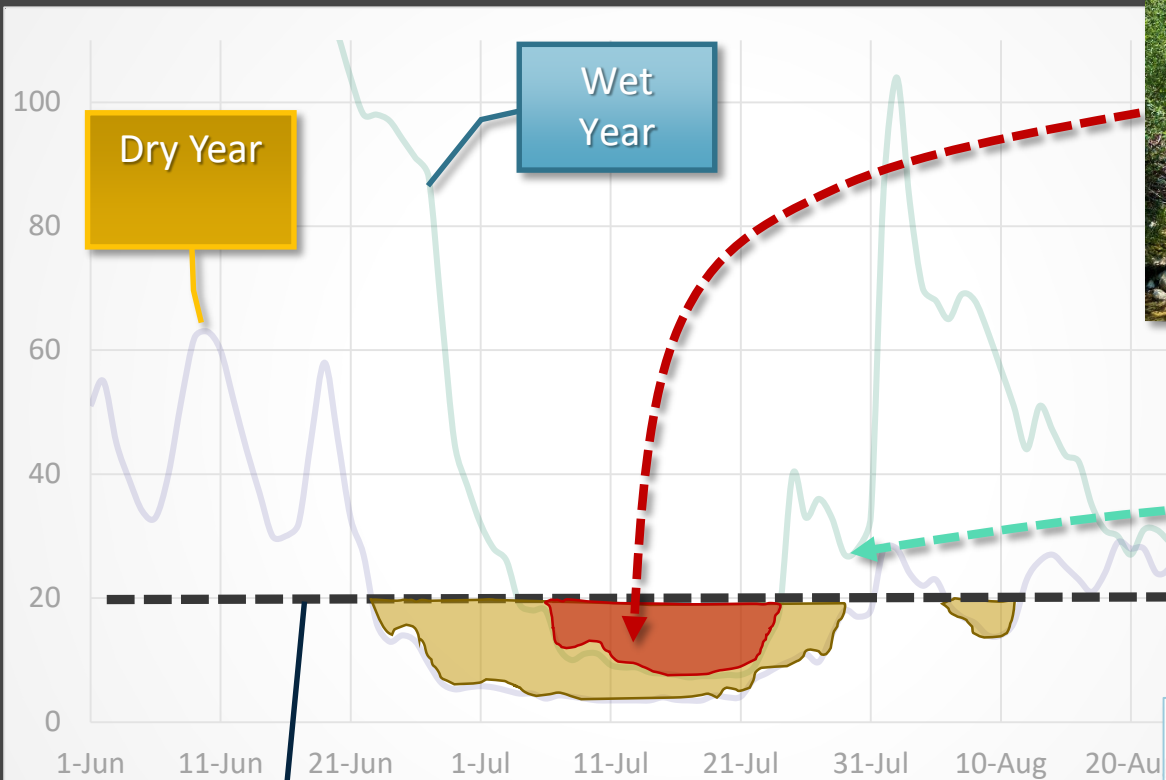
COLORADO WATER TRUST



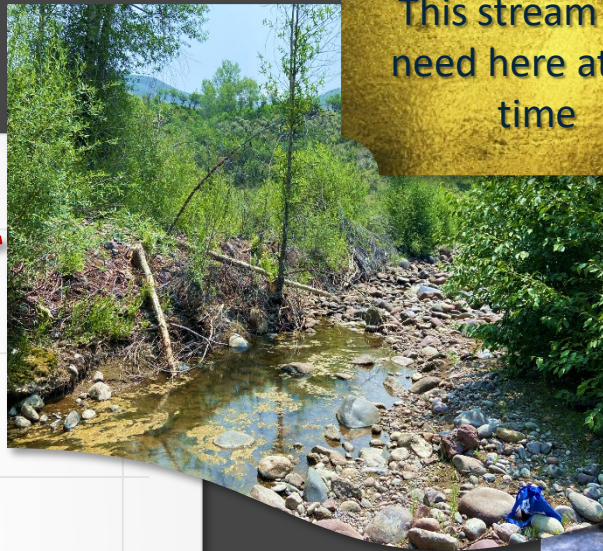
COLORADO WATER TRUST

Evaluation Process – Step 1

Look at the stream:



This stream is in need here at this time



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

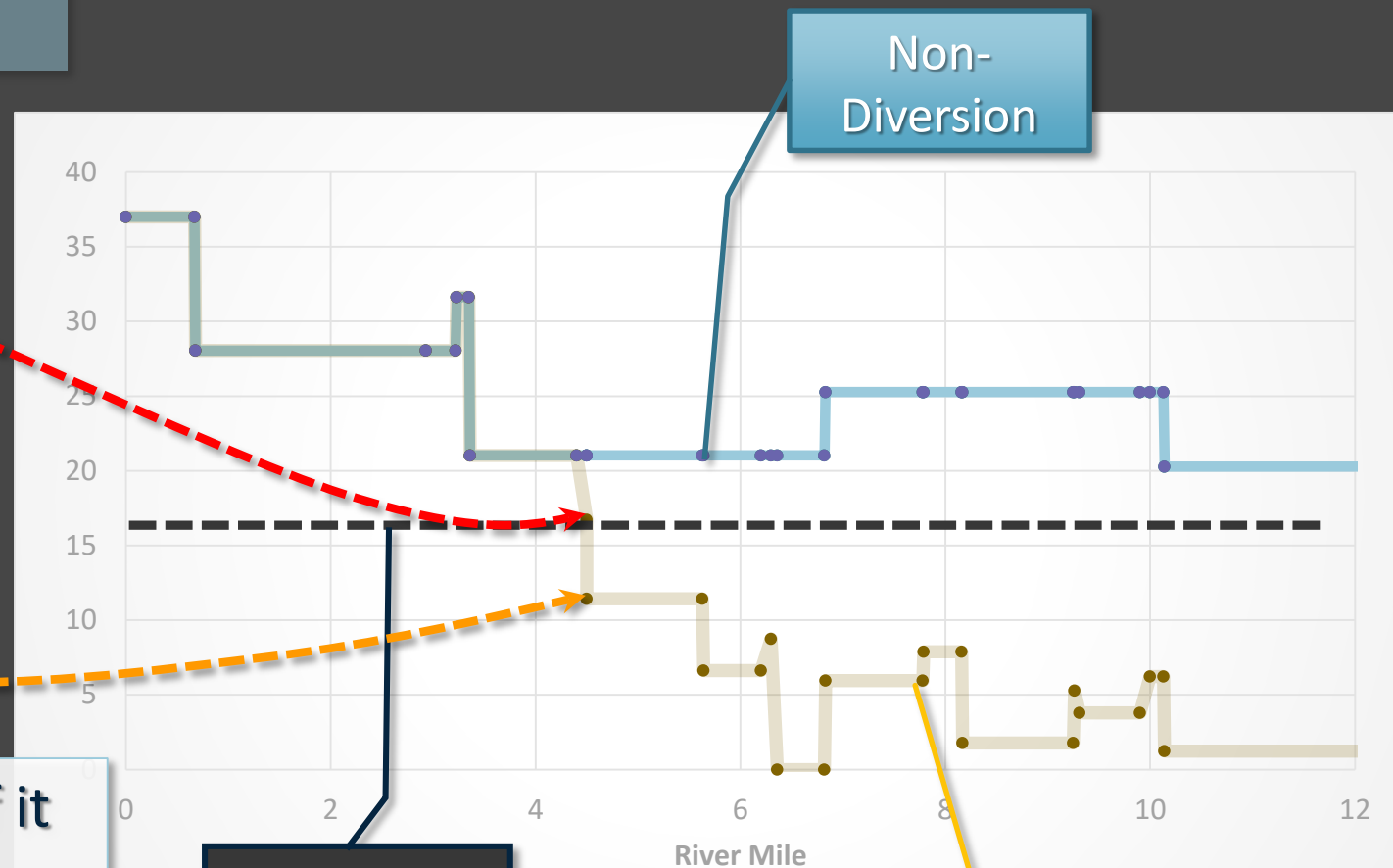
Evaluation Process – Step 2

Look at the water right:



These diversions drop streamflow below target

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



Target flow

Diversions

Evaluation Process – Step 3

Figure out the best tool.

Permanent?

Change of use to
instream flow?

Change of use/ point
of diversion/place of
use?

Strategic
abandonment?

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

Flexible?

Strategic reservoir
releases?

Agricultural water
protection water
right?

Streamflow
augmentation
plan?

Downstream
decreed
beneficial use?

Temporary?

Water
conservation
program?

Interruptible
water supply
plan?

5/10 temporary loan
to instream flow?

Substitute water
supply plan?

Non-diversion
agreement?



COLORADO WATER TRUST

Evaluation Process – Step 3

Figure out the best tool.

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

Permanent?

Change of use to instream flow?

Change of use/ point of diversion/place of use?

Strategic abandonment?

Strategic reservoir releases?

Streamflow augmentation plan?

Flexible?

Agricultural water protection water right?

Downstream decreed beneficial use?

Temporary?

Water conservation program?

Interruptible water supply plan?

5/10 temporary loan to instream flow?

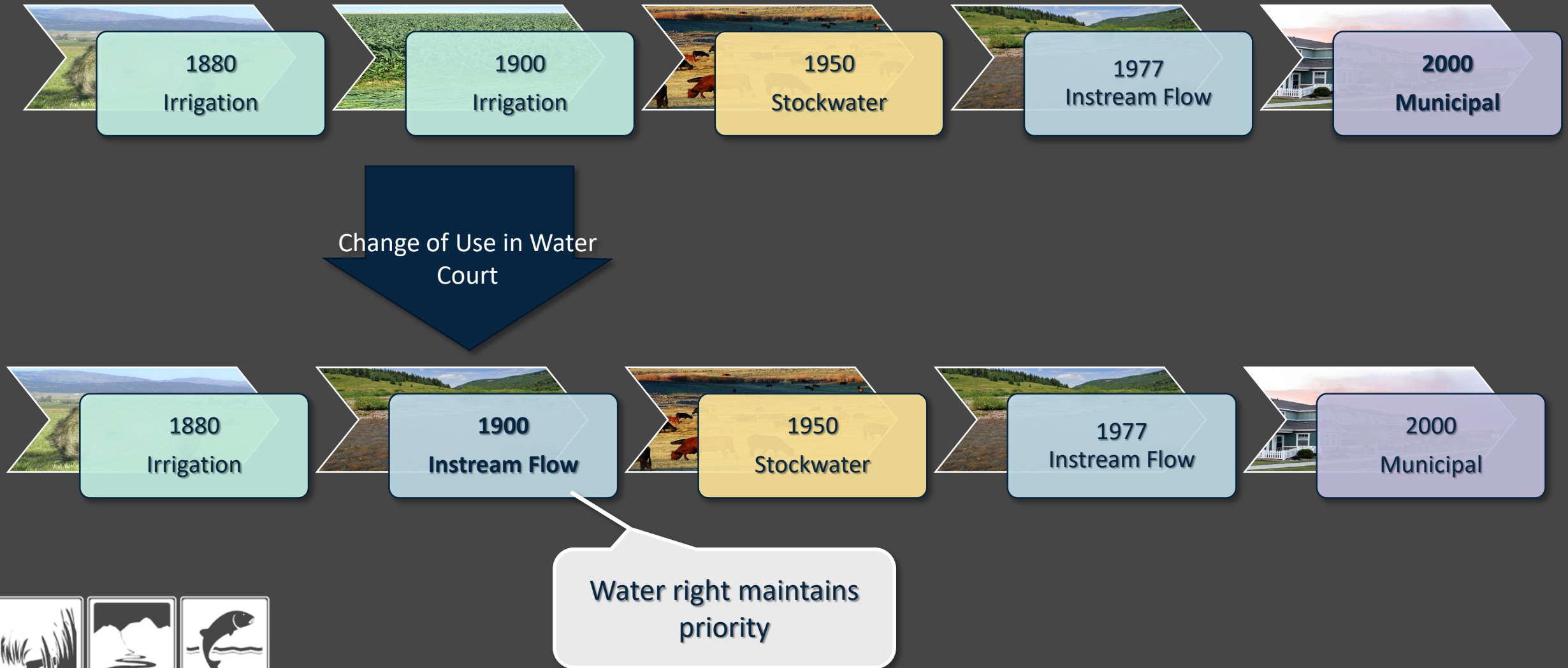
Substitute water supply plan?

Non-diversion agreement?



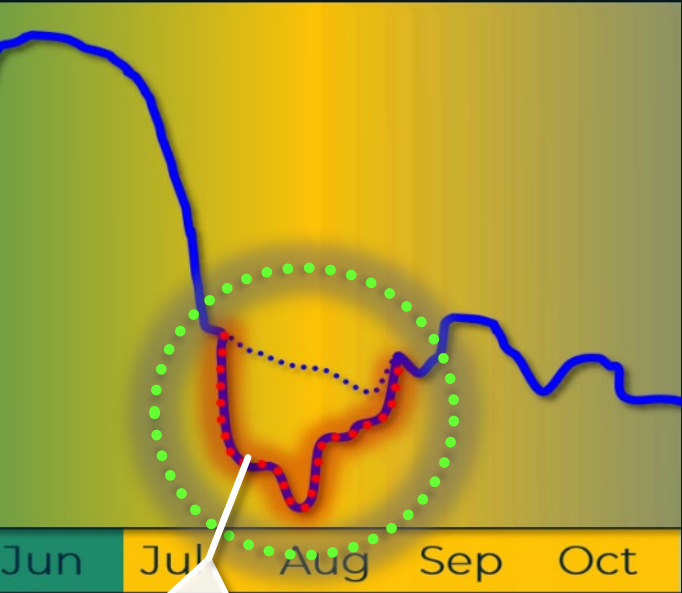
COLORADO WATER TRUST

LONG TERM LOAN & PERMANENT ACQUISITION

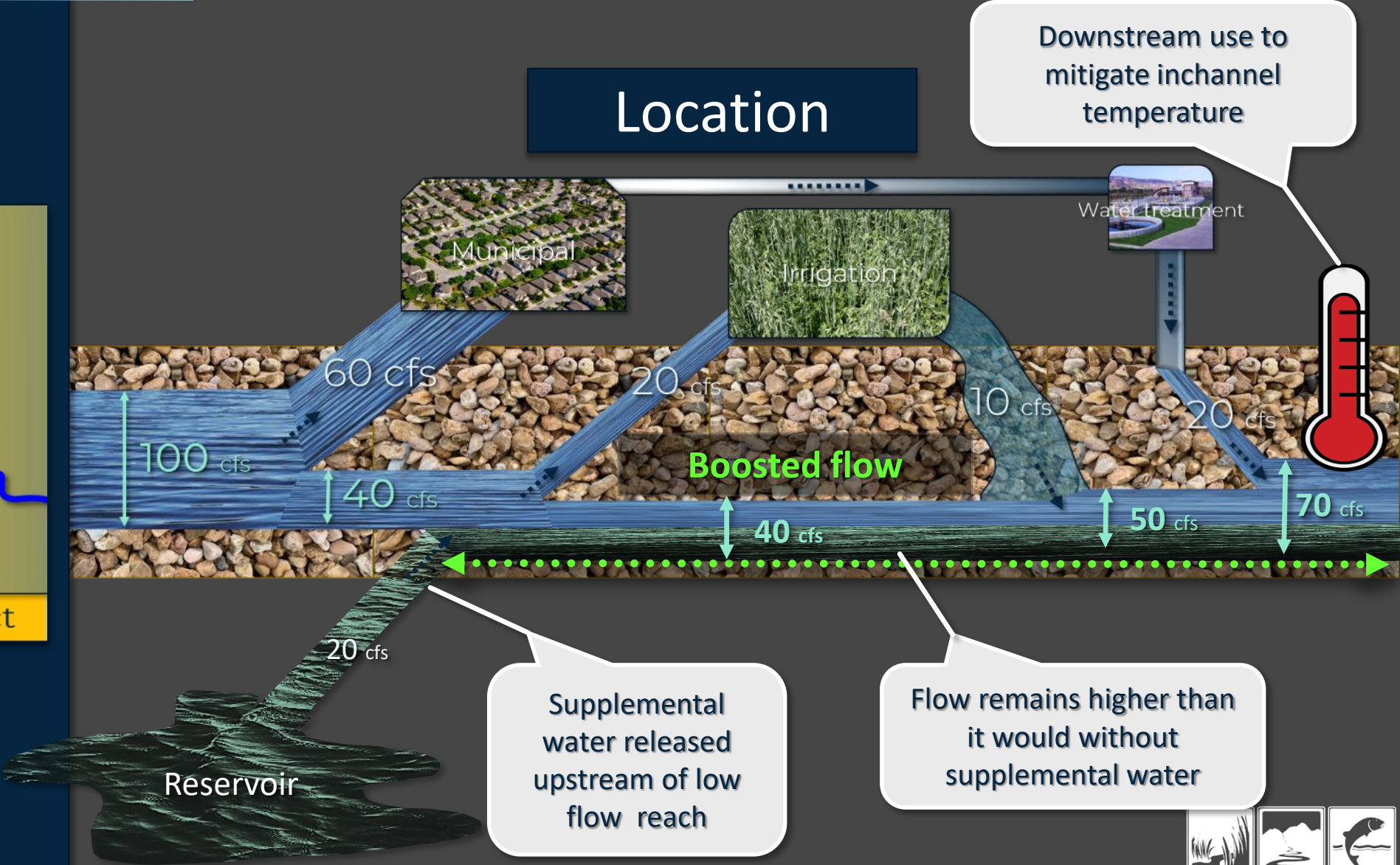


STRATEGIC RESERVOIR RELEASES & DOWNSTREAM BENEFICIAL USE

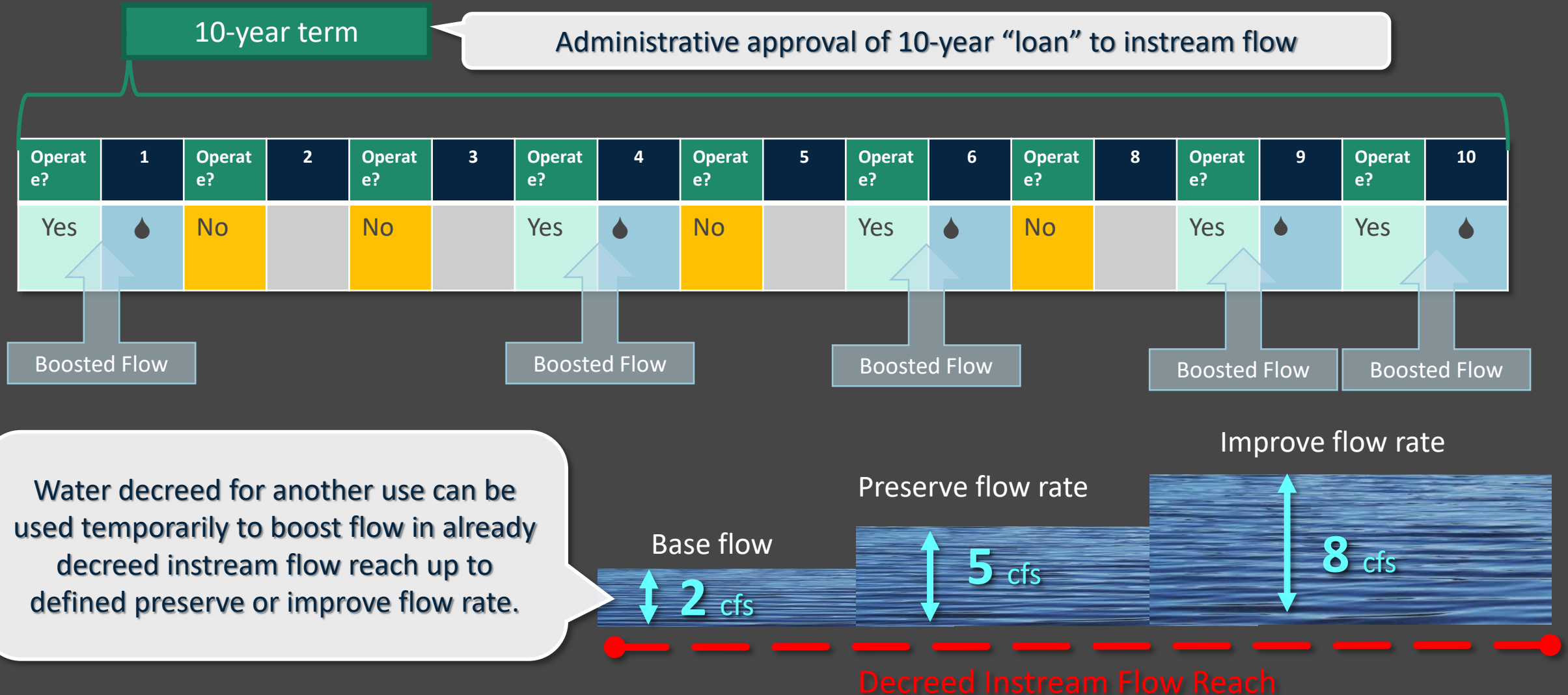
Timing



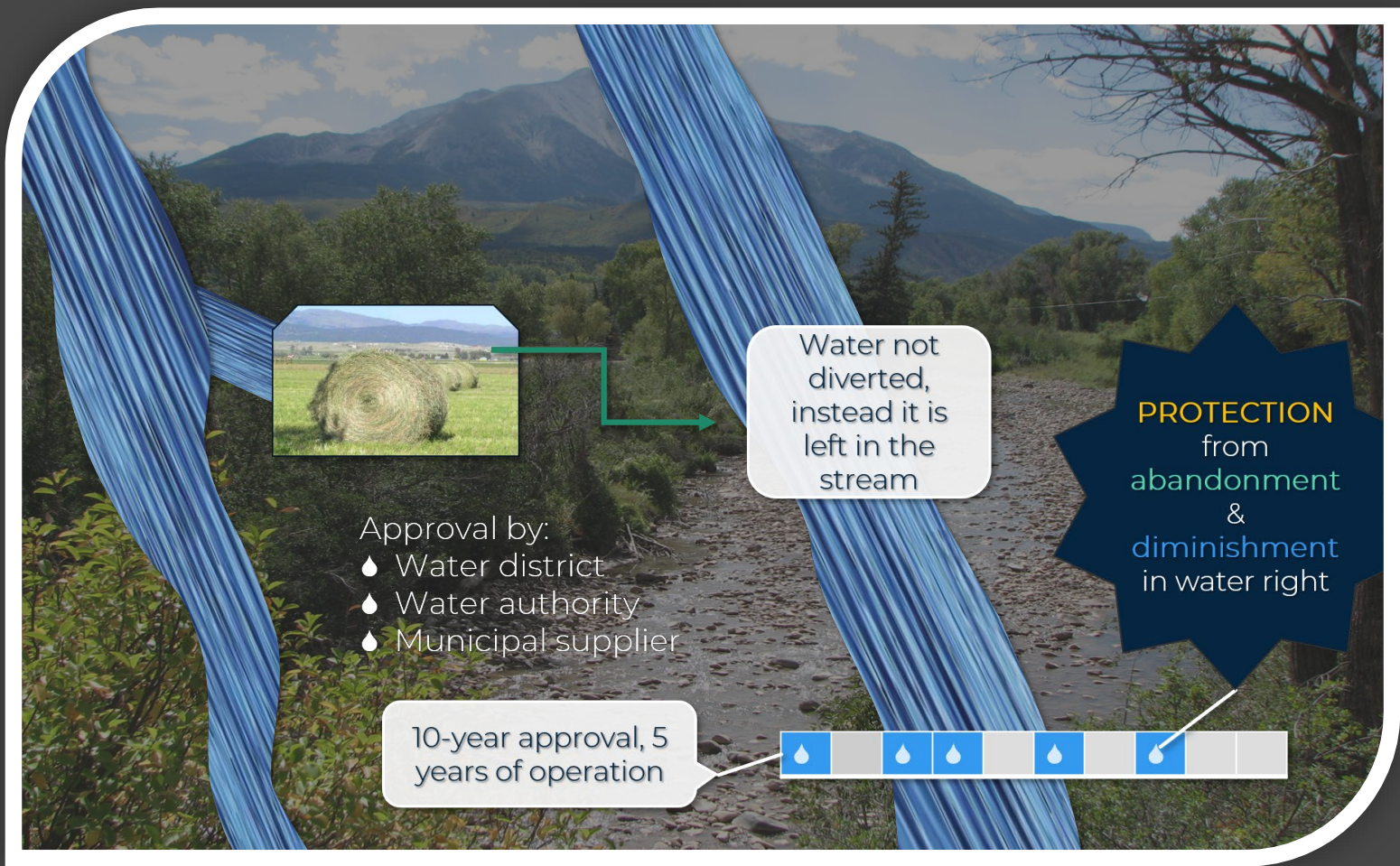
Location



5/10 TEMPORARY LOAN TO INSTREAM FLOW



Water Conservation Programs




Water not diverted, instead it is left in the stream

PROTECTION from abandonment & diminishment in water right

Approval by:

- Water district
- Water authority
- Municipal supplier

10-year approval, 5 years of operation



Colorado River District
Protecting Western Colorado Water Since 1937

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

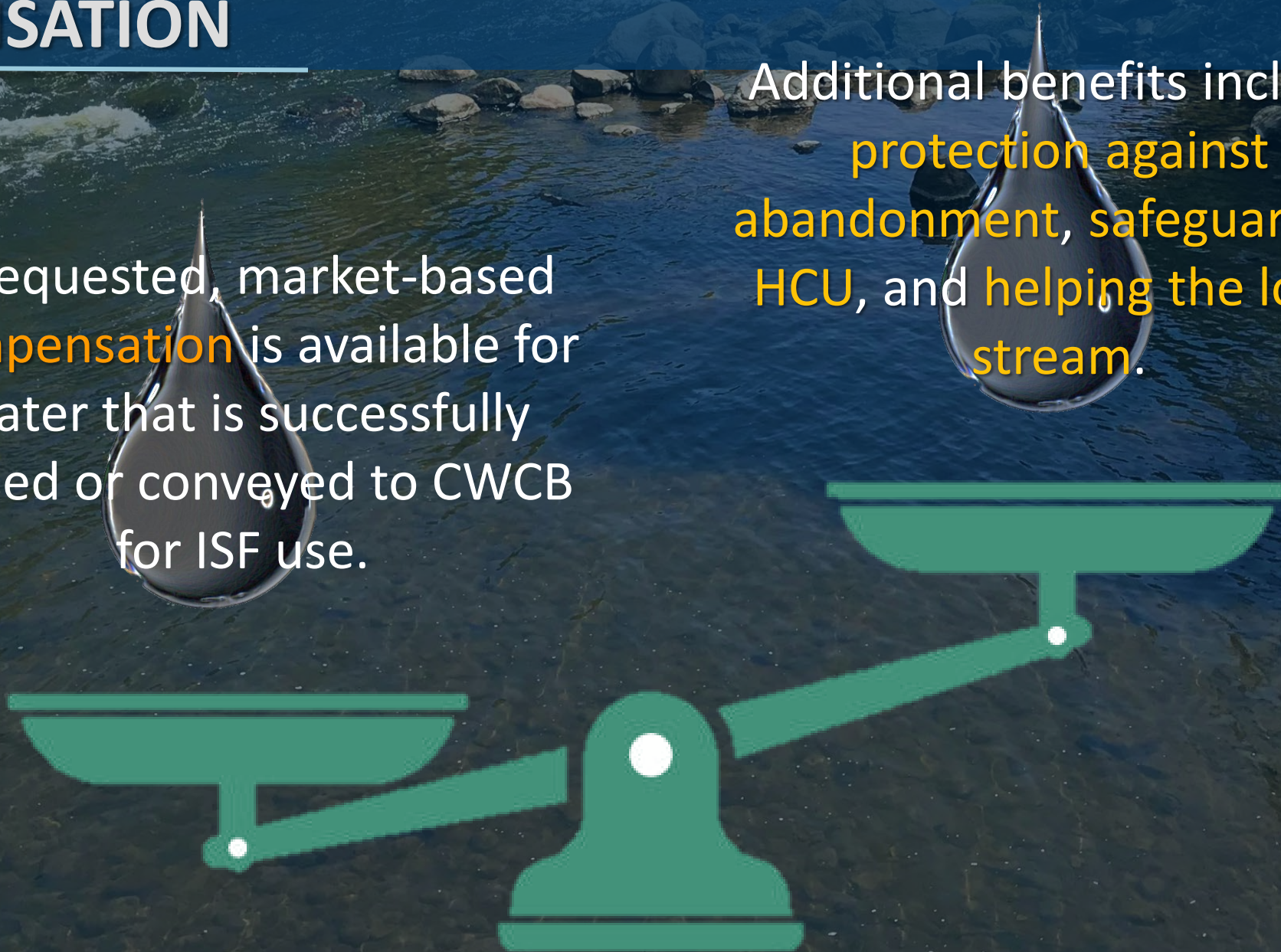
Project Sponsor:	
Contact Name: Last First	
Address: Street Address Apartment/Unit # City State Zip Code	
Phone: Email Address:	
Estimated Start of Conservation: Estimated End of Conservation:	
Water Right(s) to be Conserved*: Location of Diversion(s)*:	
Estimated Water Reduction**:	
Acre Feet: cfs:	
Basin: (Mark One) Gunnison Colorado White Yampa	
Has this conservation program been approved previously? (Mark One) No Yes	
If yes, by which entity and when:	
Provide a description and location of the planned Water Conservation Program**	



COMPENSATION

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

Additional benefits include **protection against abandonment, safeguarding HCU, and helping the local stream.**



Part 1

- 💧 Colorado
- 💧 Non-profit
- 💧 Facilitate water transactions for environment +

Part 2

- 💧 “Request for Water” outreach
- 💧 Fill out a form, send it to us, and we’ll conduct a free, confidential review

Part 3

- 💧 3 step process:
 1. Stream
 2. Water right
 3. Get out the tools

Summary

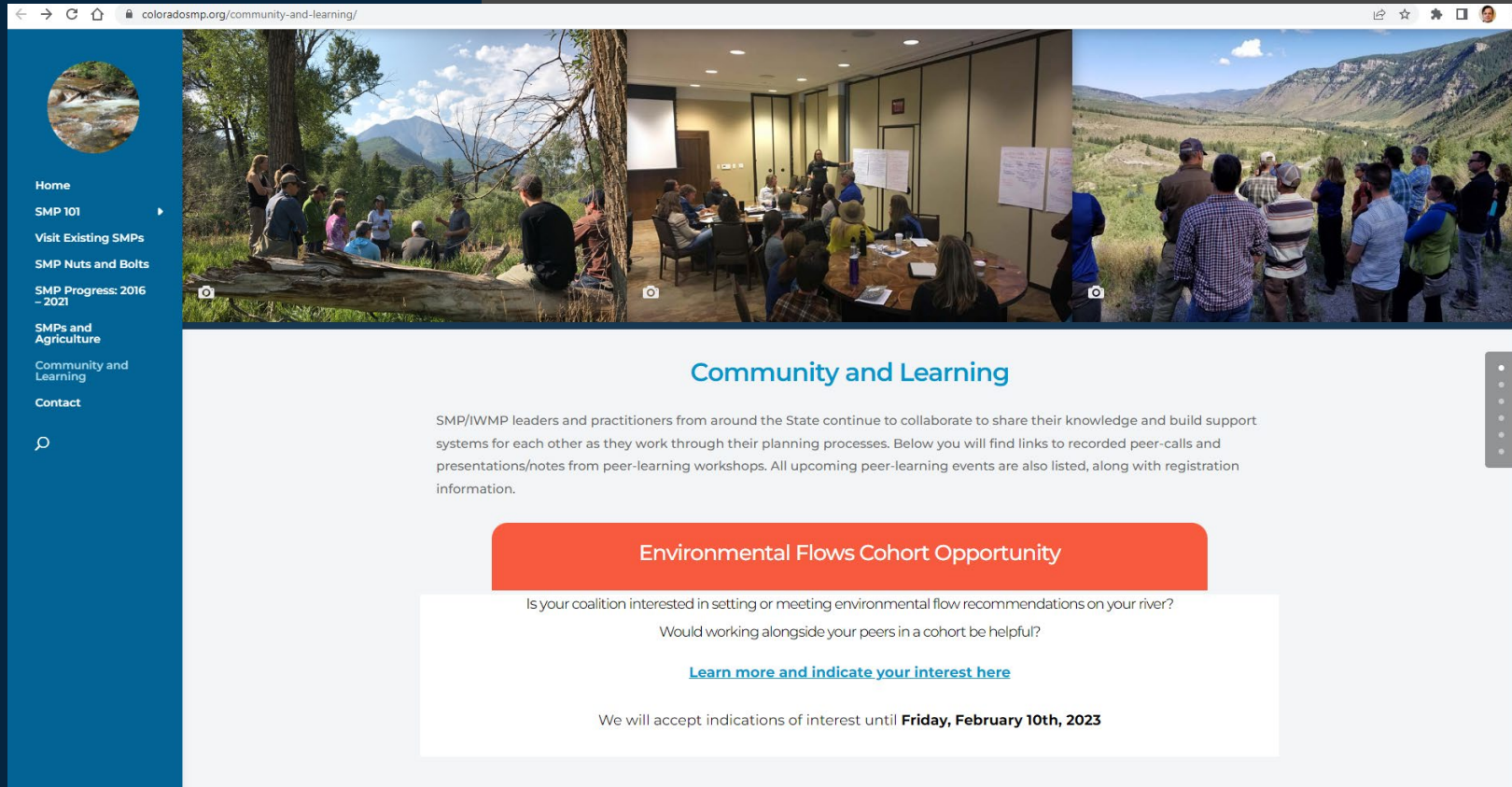


COLORADO WATER TRUST

River Network, the Colorado Water Trust and Western Resource Advocates providing support for flow recommendations in stream management plans

For more information:

<https://www.coloradosmp.org/community-and-learning/>



Home
SMP 101
Visit Existing SMPs
SMP Nuts and Bolts
SMP Progress: 2016 - 2021
SMPs and Agriculture
Community and Learning
Contact

Community and Learning

SMP/IWMP leaders and practitioners from around the State continue to collaborate to share their knowledge and build support systems for each other as they work through their planning processes. Below you will find links to recorded peer-calls and presentations/notes from peer-learning workshops. All upcoming peer-learning events are also listed, along with registration information.

Environmental Flows Cohort Opportunity

Is your coalition interested in setting or meeting environmental flow recommendations on your river?
Would working alongside your peers in a cohort be helpful?

[Learn more and indicate your interest here](#)

We will accept indications of interest until **Friday, February 10th, 2023**

We are assessing interest in an Environmental Flows Cohort

THANK YOU!



COLORADO WATER TRUST

...questions?

COLORADO WATER TRUST
1312 17th St #766
Denver, CO 80202

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

Blake Mamich

Water Transactions Coordinator
Colorado Water Trust
720-570-2897 x1006
bmamich@coloradowatertrust.org

Rob Viehl

Chief, Stream and Lake Protection Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
303-866-3441 x3237
rob.viehl@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