



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Anna Mauss, P.E., Chief Operating Officer

**DATE:** November 17 - 18, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 20. Evaluating Conserved Consumptive Use in the Upper Colorado

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**Introduction: (This item is for information only and no action is necessary):**

This agenda item will be presented by Paul Bruchez and Perry Cabot.

**Background:**

The overall goal of the Evaluating Conserved Consumptive Use Pilot Project is to work with local water users to address priority questions related to temporary reductions in agricultural water use, including: (1) best practices for reducing irrigation on perennial irrigated pastures; (2) estimating and verifying actual water savings from those practices, and; (3) working with producers to identify multi-year strategies to create conserved consumptive use while maintaining viable agricultural operations. This research will help inform stakeholders and decision makers about the viability of reducing irrigation on high elevation irrigated pasture to supply water that can be used for a number of potential purposes including, but not limited to, enhancing environmental flows and providing temporary municipal supplies in times of shortages. In addition, the project will also help address related questions on how to best implement, manage, monitor, and determine water conservation from reduced irrigation.

With the second year of this four year study nearing completion, project partners will provide an update on results to date, including estimates of water use, forage recovery, and a comparison of methods for estimating conserved consumptive use.

