



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Region  
711 Independent Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
81505

June 7, 2021

*Via email*

Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203  
[rebecca.mitchell@state.co.us](mailto:rebecca.mitchell@state.co.us)

RE: Offer of Temporary Loan of Water for Instream Flow Use

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) owns a storage water right in Big Beaver Creek Reservoir (aka Lake Avery) located on Big Beaver Creek, tributary to the White River, in Water Division 6. CPW would like to seek approval from the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) of a one-year, expedited loan to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) pursuant to section 37-83-105(2), C.R.S. (2020) to help maintain the CWCB's decreed instream flow water rights on Big Beaver Creek and the White River. The proposed loan will provide water to the CWCB for instream flow use to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree. This letter serves as CPW's formal offer of an expedited loan of water to the CWCB pursuant to Instream Flow Rule 6(k)(1) (2021).

Releases of water from Lake Avery will be used to supplement or meet the CWCB's instream flow rights on Big Beaver Creek and the White River when river flows are below the decreed instream flow rates. The temporary loan will further the missions of both CPW and the CWCB by mitigating low-flow impacts to the White River fishery, including high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and loss of habitat, particularly in dry years such as 2021.

Upon receiving your response to this offer, CPW and CWCB staff will coordinate to request approval of an expedited loan from DWR and provide all required written notices. Staff are currently preparing the necessary information to submit this request to DWR. We look forward to working together to finalize and implement this loan benefitting the popular trout fishery in the White River.



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If you have any questions or concerns regarding this offer, please do not hesitate to reach out to Katie Birch, CPW's Instream Flow Program Coordinator, at [katie.birch@state.co.us](mailto:katie.birch@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Garrett Watson

Northwest Deputy Regional Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

*cc all via email:*

Rob Viehl, Stream and Lake Protection Section, CWCB

Kaylea White, Stream and Lake Protection Section, CWCB

Katie Birch, Instream Flow Program Coordinator, CPW

David Graf, Northwest Regional Water Specialist, CPW

Lori Martin, Northwest Region Senior Aquatic Biologist, CPW

Bill deVergie, Northwest Region Area Wildlife Manager, CPW

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