



REQUEST FOR WATER PROCESS WATER RIGHT CRITERIA

In order to restore flow to a stream, offered water rights must be senior in priority to other water users on a stream. That way, water can remain in the river and be protected. Eligible water rights should also have a continuous history of recent use (no conditional water rights), and for irrigation rights, owners must be willing to dry up the associated lands for the period of time water is used for flow restoration, even if only temporarily.

Certain statutes and flow restoration tools prohibit leasing of groundwater or spring rights, so for the purposes of the Request for Water (RFW) process, CWCB and Colorado Water Trust will only consider offers of surface water rights.

Below is a list of water right criteria for the RFW Process:

- Will consider direct flow or storage water rights
- Decreed diversion rate greater than 0.5 cfs
- Storage rights greater than 20 AF
- Must be relatively senior in priority to other water users on a stream
- Must have a history of recent, continuous use
- Cannot be on the Division Engineer's abandonment list
- No conditional water rights
- No groundwater or spring rights
- Will consider water rights decreed for any beneficial use
- Irrigation rights must be willing to dry up associated lands during implementation periods
- Will consider storage water delivery contracts
- Will consider partial or split season uses

If you have questions about whether your water rights would be a good fit, please contact Kate Ryan or Tony LaGreca at the Colorado Water Trust:

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