

Revised and readopted 4/20/2010
Adopted 7/17/07

Recreational Water Use

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

The Colorado River District supports recreational water uses that balance recreational needs with historical and future consumptive water uses, including water use by exchanges, and that do not adversely impact the ability to fully develop Colorado's entitlements under the Compacts of 1922 and 1948 for beneficial use within the Colorado River District.

Background & Discussion:

Recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of the state's waters are integral to Western Colorado's life styles and economy. Recreation is a recognized beneficial use of the state's waters. Colorado's courts and more recently Colorado's General Assembly recognized certain recreational uses of water as beneficial water uses and as such are eligible for adjudication.

In 2001, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 01-216 providing for the first time legislative certainty and limitations on "recreational in-channel diversions" (RICDs). In 2006, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 06-037 providing clearer definitions and greater discretion to the applicant for an RICD water right. The final version of Senate Bill 06-037 represented considerable compromise by both sides of the debate and resulted in an Act that both deserved and enjoyed broad support.

