



April 28, 2011

Historic water proposal to be discussed at May 3 Summit State of the River meeting

Press Release

Details of the historic proposed Colorado River Cooperative Agreement between Summit County, 32 other West Slope entities and Denver Water will be discussed with the public at the Tuesday, May 3 Summit State of the River meeting set for 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Summit County Community and Senior Center.

Members of the Summit Board of County Commissioners and County Manager Gary Martinez will join Denver Water's Chief Executive Officer Jim Lochhead and Colorado River District General Manager Eric Kuhn in a panel discussion of the proposed landmark water agreement.

The meeting is sponsored by the Colorado River District and the Blue River Watershed Group.

The proposed agreement, five years in the making, seeks to settle many long-standing water disputes in Summit County dating back to the 1940s when Denver Water first filed for water rights to build Dillon Reservoir. Once the agreement is signed, West Slope opposition will be cleared for Denver Water's Moffat Collection System Project. Summit County benefits are a big part of the proposal. They include new consumptive water supplies for local jurisdictions and snowmaking, keeping Dillon Reservoir nearly full during the summer recreation season, protection of minimum flows below Dillon Dam and financial support for environmental and wastewater treatment projects.

Denver Water is undergoing permitting for its Moffat Project in Grand County but part of the proposed agreement includes drawing to the Front Range some 4,800 acre feet of more water in an average water year from Denver Water's Dillon-Robert's Tunnel.

The Summit State of the River meeting will also provide information of snowpack and runoff predictions as well as reports on how Denver Water will operate Dillon Reservoir this year. The Bureau of Reclamation will report on its Green Mountain Reservoir operations.

Members of the public who cannot attend the May 3 meeting but want to know more about the proposed agreement can attend the Grand County State of the River meeting that takes place on Wednesday, May 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Mountain Parks Electric, 321 West Agate, Granby. Grand County officials will be joining Denver Water and the Colorado River District in the panel discussion.

For more information, contact Jim Pokrandt, Colorado River District, 970-945-8522 or jpokrandt@crwcd.org.