The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1991

To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
May 9 (legislative day, April 25), 1991
Mr. WIRTH (for himself and Mr. Brown) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE
This Act may be cited as the "Colorado Wilderness Act of 1991".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO THE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM
(a) ADDITIONS.—The following lands in the State of Colorado are hereby designated as wilderness and, there-

Since that bill was enacted in 1980, Senator Hart, Senator Armstrong, Senator Wirth, Congressman Allard, Congressman Campbell, Congressman Kogovsek, Congressman Skaggs, Congressman Seng, and Congressman Schaefer have each introduced wilderness bills, only to find that the attempts to address the legitimate concerns of environmentalists and water users had been overcome by an entrenched and highly emotional ideological debate that prevented passage of the wilderness bill. As a result, not one foot of Colorado ground has been designated as wilderness since passage of the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act.

It's time to get on with protecting more of our highest quality wild lands for future generations of American citizens. We can do this and at the same time protect Colorado water rights and the State's ability to manage and further develop its interstate water allocations through the exercise of Colorado water law.

The bill I am co-sponsoring with Senator Wirth is primarily a headwaters wilderness bill. Of these 22 areas, the U.S. Forest Service of the Bureau of Land Management specifically studied each of these areas and recommended 453,393 acres to be added to the Wilderness System. Senator Wirth and I included an additional 188,027 acres which were studied but not recommended by the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM, and also included 42,530 acres in three areas that were not even studied or recommended for inclusion as wilderness.

As the Denver Post editorial on May 15, 1991 said, "In the Fossil Ridge area northeast of Gunnison, for example, the measure would allow travel only by foot or by horseback in the pristine core of the wilderness, but would tolerate the use of dirt bikes on existing trails in three adjoining tracts to be designated as a "National Conservation Area."

The Forest Service recommended that Fossil Ridge not be designated as wilderness. This compromise was worked out with the agreement of all the groups involved, and protects the land that should be wilderness from development, but provides an alternative area for recreation by trail bike users.

Continued on page 5
CWC OFFICERS

JOHN E. "ED" TONER

Ed, 59, of Pagoa Springs was elected CWC President in January. Ed was born and raised on a ranch southwest of Pagoa Springs, and went on to graduate from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He then entered the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant, retiring 24 years later as a Lieutenant Colonel Master Navigator and is a veteran of the Korean and Southeast Asian conflicts. After retirement, he moved to Colorado Springs where he enjoyed a successful career in real estate. Upon the death of his father, Archie B. Toner (1997 CWC President) in 1979, he moved back to the Pagoa Springs family ranch where he continues ranching as well as serving on the board of such entities as the Southwestern Water Conservation Board, the Best Girl Ditch Corporation, the TT&G Water Corporation, and the Colorado Springs United Methodist Church Administrative Board. He served five years on the Hinsdale County Planning Commission and is now a Hinsdale County Commissioner.

EDWARD E. "ED" POKORNEY

Edward E. "Ed" Pokorney, 47, was elected CWC Vice President in January. Ed is currently Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Denver Water Department. In that capacity, he has the responsibility of representing the Denver Water Department before the Colorado Legislature and other governmental bodies. In addition, he participates with the following groups: National Water Resources Department (Secretary); NWRA Municipal Caucus (Chair); Colorado Water Utilities Council Legislative Committee (Chair); and many Colorado Water Congress Committees (Chairman of Water Quality).

Pokorney holds a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. After completion of his academic efforts, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a Captain. Post Air Force activity included helping found the Colorado Forum, an organization of corporate chief executive officers involved in public policy issues. Ed is married, and he and his wife, Elizabeth, have two daughters.

LARRY D. SIMPSON

Larry D. Simpson, 53, of Loveland, Secretary-Manager of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Municipal Subdistrict, was elected CWC Treasurer at the January annual convention of the Congress. For a four year period (1972-76), Simpson was a member of the Larimer-Weld Regional Planning Commission and the Larimer Weld Land Use and Transportation Committee of the Larimer-Weld COG. Simpson has a civil engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines. In addition, he has a Master's degree in Business Administration from California State University at Los Angeles. He has also done graduate work in engineering at the University of Southern California. Simpson is a licensed civil engineer in both California and Colorado.

Simpson is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Four States Irrigation Council, Water Resources Congress and the National Water Resources Association. Larry is married and he and his wife, Ruby, have two children (Ly and Bernie Jane). Larry also does some farming in both the Loveland and Lucerne areas.

BARTON E. WOODWARD

CWC Immediate Past President, Bart Woodward, 49, is Superintendent of Riverside Irrigation District. In addition to his responsibilities with Riverside, Bart operates a small computer consulting firm. He is also responsible for developing and guiding the early stages of the Limer-Weld "208" Water Quality Management Planning effort.

In 1970, MacRaevey served as Chairman of the Colorado Good Government Committee for the promotion of the State Constitutional Amendments One (Governor's Cabinet), Two (State Civil Service Reorganization) and Three (Local Government Modernization). All three amendments were approved overwhelmingly by the people of Colorado. During 1988, MacRaevey was appointed by the Legislative Leadership and served as one of the 48 members of COLORADO VISION 2000. In 1989, the Legislative Leadership appointed MacRaevey to the 16 member Legislative Council Subcommitte on Long Range Planning for State Government.

MacRaevey is a member of the American Society of Association Executives, Colorado Water Congress, American Public Works Association, and International City Management Association (cooperating member). MacRaevey and his wife, Mary, are the parents of six adult children. MacRaevey has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master of science degree (in public administration) from the University of Colorado.

CWC 1991
STATE LAWS OF INTEREST

The Colorado Water Congress is publishing a book containing all water and water related laws of the first regular session of the 58th General Assembly. Since this book will be over 200 pages in length, and paper, printing, postage and labor are significant costs, the price of the book is $50 (CWC members) and $100 (non-members). Distribution will be governed in order of requests. Readers are urged to place their order for the "1991 Colorado Water Law Enacted of Interest to Water Users" as quickly as possible — write to the Colorado Water Congress, 1390 Logan Street, Suite 312, Denver, CO 80203, phone 303/837-0812 or fax in your order: 303/837-1607.

COLORADO WATER RIGHTS

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2 Colorado Water Rights
Reps. Miller and Lehman Forge Compromise on Reform


RECLAMATION REFORM

A floor fight over the controversial reclamation reform title of the bill (Title XVII) was avoided when members representing reclamation farmers west of the 100th meridian were able to work out a compromise with Interior Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA). Chairman Miller and several House members, concerned about the reclamation reform provisions of the bill, worked for days to craft a compromise which would prevent the potential for future abuse of the reclamation program and still ensure that program benefits remain available for small and medium farm operations.

Title XVII of the bill amends the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 to protect the integrity and the intent of Federal Reclamation law. This title incorporates a series of provisions to amend and tighten the acreage and pricing limitations provisions of the 1982 Act. The amendments to the 1982 Act are also designed to correct potential abuses and over-circumvent and improve compliance with the Reclamation law.

The compromise agreement authorizes and establishes "safe harbors." These "safe harbors" reflect legitimate, customary farming practices and activities and are intended to ensure that landholdings are not combined into a "farm" or "farm operation" solely due to the existence of these activities, arrangements and transactions which are common to agricultural production.

SURPLUS CROPS

Title XXV of H.R. 429 establishes that, upon specified dates, Bureau of Reclamation contracts that are entered into, renewed, or amended shall require water users who are participants in a USDA acreage reduction program to pay 50 percent after two years and 100 percent of full cost after four years for the delivery of Federal irrigation water used to grow such commodities if the Secretary of Agriculture declares such commodities to be in surplus.

This title limits the ability of individuals to receive both Federal Reclamation water benefits and agricultural price support program benefits if an acreage reduction program is in effect for a commodity under the Agricultural Act of 1949 and if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that "domestic storage" stocks exceed an amount necessary to provide for a reserve of such commodity that can reasonably be expected to meet a shortage of such commodity caused by drought, natural disaster, or other disruption in the supply of such commodity.

OTHER PROVISIONS

H.R. 429, as passed, incorporates the text of several water resource and Reclamation project bills introduced in the House this Congress.

The bill also: increases the authorization ceiling for the Buffalo Bill Dam and Reservoir; provides for a comprehensive reformulation of the Central Utah Project; authorizes the construction of a water treatment plant to treat mine drainage from the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel, CO; authorizes the construction of the Lake Meredith Salinity Control Project, NM and TX; authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to reformulate the Cedar Bluff Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program, KS; authorizes an extension of the Tehama-Colusa canal (Central Valley Project, CA) service area and authorizes long-term contracts for water service from New Melones Reservoir; authorizes a research project for saline water treatment, Salton Sea, CA; authorizes amendments to the Sabine River Compact, LA and TX; authorizes the transfer of operation, maintenance and replacement responsibility for the Platte River to the Colorado River Water Conservancy District, CO; authorizes the transfer of the Syl Park Unit to El Dorado Irrigation District, CA; authorizes $14 million increase in the appropriation ceiling for the High Plains States Groundwater Demonstration Program; authorizes technical assistance to states and local governments for studies of desalinization projects; and credit of water pump repayment to San Juan Suburban Water District, CA.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED

Existing penalties levied by the Bureau of Reclamation for minor errors in certification and reporting are not adequately addressed in H.R. 429. Amendments to the Act are still needed to increase penalties for intentional violation and to establish a system of fair and equitable penalties for minor errors or violations.

Title XXV (Surplus Crops) does not adequately address the lack of cropping options and limited growing season problems prevalent in the Northern Tier and Plains States.

The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1991

In sum, Senator Brown and I worked hard to do two things in this legislation. First, we agreed upon the need to protect these wilderness areas, including their water-related resources. And second, we wanted to reassure water users that this legislation neither threatens their water rights nor the state's ability to develop water resources in the future.

This legislation achieves those two purposes. More important, this legislation holds out the promise of protecting nearly 700,000 acres of Colorado's wild lands - many of which are threatened by development that would irreparably destroy their wilderness qualities.

I recognize that some conservationists firmly believe that we should take a different approach to protecting the water resources that are integral to these wilderness lands. I understand their logic.

But I hope that those who feel strongly about this issue will use a different yardstick to measure this legislation than has been used in the past. Simply put, I believe the standard against which this bill should be measured is whether it protects the water-related resources of the wilderness areas. If this bill's provisions can pass that test - and I believe they can - then we should put aside the debate over reserved water rights and move forward.

I believe that this legislation is good for Colorado, and that it is good for the National Wilderness Preservation System. It resolves the water rights issue and permits us to get on with the task of protecting nearly 700,000 acres of spectacular wilderness lands.

This bill has been a long time in coming, but I believe it was worth the wait.

The preceding article, "A Colorado Solution to a Colorado Problem - At Last" was submitted for publication by the Honorable Timmy E. Wirth, U.S. Senator from Colorado.

Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award

This award, established in 1980, is presented to that person exemplifying the courage, dedication, knowledge and leadership qualities shown by Wayne N. Aspinall in the development, protection and preservation of the water resources of the State of Colorado. The award need not necessarily be an annual one. Nominees may be any person who best demonstrated the "Aspinall" characteristics of leadership.

Individuals interested in applying for the Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award should request an application from the Colorado Water Congress office in Denver. The deadline for filing an application is September 1, 1991.

Glenn G. Saunders Scholarship

In recognition of the contributions made by Glenn G. Saunders, one of the principle founders of the Colorado Water Congress, the CWC Board of Directors has established the Glenn Saunders Legal Scholarship.

This scholarship will be awarded to either a law student or associate of a Colorado Law Firm. The recipient will receive a full scholarship to the annual CWC Seminar on Colorado Water Law.

Individuals interested in applying for the Glenn Saunders Legal Scholarship should request an application from the Colorado Water Congress office in Denver. The deadline for filing an application is August 1, 1991.

Boresen Scholarship

The late Ed Boresen, CWC President in 1983, has been honored by the CWC Board of Directors with the establishment of a scholarship in his name to the Annual CWC Colorado Water Law Seminar.

Individuals interested in applying for the Ed Boresen Scholarship should be an active member of the agricultural community who desires to provide leadership on behalf of agriculture in water matters. The scholarship waives the $500 registration fee for the recipient.

Individuals interested in applying for the Boresen Scholarship should request an application from the Colorado Water Congress office in Denver. The deadline for filing an application is August 1, 1991.
Brown: S. 1029

The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1991

Continued from page 1

Again, in the area northwest of Grand Lake, the Forest Service, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service continues to make efforts to protect wilderness. Congressmen Stagg's bill recommended its inclusion in wilderness. The Denver Post commented, "the wilderness must not be". Bowen Gulch, but allow them in an equally large area of old growth timber just to the south.

These significant boundary compromises are just two of hundred or more that have taken more than six months. Let me mention some of the area's criticism. This would allow the cutting of acres of productive federal land in wilderness study areas for timber. Tom, oil and gas, mining and recreation interest requested that the hunting areas and existing access trails were carved out to preserve Colorado for future use. These wilderness areas were particularly difficult to resolve because of the impacts that would be coordinated in these intense negotiations that have

Fortunately, we have been able to reach an agreement and continue to protect water from the facility. The development of Colorado water has been accelerated by the CWCB instream flow program. These concerns are valid. Water users are correct that development of new water facilities in the wilderness area. The development of Colorado water has also been restricted by federal environmental regulatory programs. These concerns are valid. Water users are correct that the development of new water facilities in the wilderness area would result in the denial of access to the facility, which would bring a new storage or diversion project into existence. If the question is what kind of instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area.

The CWCB also has introduced proposals for the Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture to buy existing water rights and interests and to preserve and enhance wilderness values. These water right acquisitions would be accomplished in cooperation with the CWCB under State law.

I want to emphasize that the State's instream flow program can adequately protect the Piedra wilderness areas, and the CWCB program provides an effective tool for protecting wild lands and protecting wilderness values. The CWCB program contains four basic provisions

(1) to protect water-related wilderness resource values in the newly designated Colorado wilderness areas;
(2) to provide for the recognition of water rights, the repair, and replacement of existing water facilities within the wilderness areas;
(3) to alleviate federal preemption of Colorado water assets that are not designated by the language of this bill. They would like a complete denial of the existence of federal reserved instream flow water rights. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to preserve the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area. The CWCB also has instream flow water rights to protect the potential to develop Colorado's instream flow program to protect the wilderness values in the Piedra Wilderness Area.

Some concerns of the water community are also disappointed by the language of this bill. They would like a complete denial of the existence of federal reserved instream flow water rights for forest lands by the United States Forest Service.

The objective of this program is to protect the pristine values of newly designated headwaters wilderness areas. The program is superior to any approach which would result in taking someone's property rights, without paying a fair price. The objective of the bill is simply to maintain access routes and water facilities existing prior to wilderness designation. So I want to emphasize that the State's instream flow program can adequately protect the Piedra wilderness areas, and the CWCB program provides an effective tool for protecting wild lands and protecting wilderness values.
Brown: S.1029 cont.

Continued from page 5

develop water downstream of the designated areas. This distinction is very important and makes the compromise in this bill one that is acceptable on the whole.

At the present time there is only one downstream wilderness area in Colorado, the Plate River Wilderness on the Colorado-Wyoming State line which was established by the Wyoming Wilderness Act in 1984. One mile of that wilderness area extends up the North Platte River into North Park in Colorado. The designation of downstream wilderness lands within Colorado, combined with the threat of the 1984 Sierra Club lawsuit that implied reserved water rights at some time in the future may be found to exist, has caused great alarm among water users in North Park and the elected officials of citizens who rely on that water.

I'm happy to say that the 1991 Colorado Wilderness Bill Senate Wirth and I have agreed upon guarantees that present and future water users in Colorado can fully develop Colorado's share of North Platte River waters without any interference that might otherwise arise because of designation of those downstream lands included in the Plate River Wilderness Area.

We have also agreed that interstate compacts and equitable apportionment decrees allocating water among and between Colorado and other States will not be altered or modified by designation of additional Colorado wilderness lands.

No one will have their Colorado water rights taken away from them or extinguished by denial of wilderness access. The language Senator Wirth and I have agreed upon guarantees reasonable access, including motorized access where necessary, to keep existing water facilities and access routes related to the exercise of water rights in servicable condition.

This bill breaks an 8-year stalemate in the designation of new Colorado Wilderness. The water provisions of S. 1029 are designed to both protect the new wilderness additions, including wilderness water values, and at the same time protect Colorado’s ability to develop and use its water entitlements. I am confident that the 1991 bill does not sacrifice any principles which are fundamental to Colorado’s strong interest in water development and wilderness. And while those on either side who refuse to compromise will object, I suggest that people who truly value Colorado wilderness and water will support this bill so that we as a State and a Nation can move forward with protection and recognition of these important wilderness lands. Otherwise, the passage of time will cause the threats to these areas to become real, and we will have lost forever the opportunity to designate additional wilderness in Colorado.

I would like to thank the Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today and for their consideration of this landmark Colorado Wilderness Bill.


Colorado Water Congress

COLORADO WATER LAW SEMINAR

September 5-6, 1991

CWC Conference Room, Suite 312
1390 Logan Street Office Building, Denver, Colorado

Thursday, September 5, 1991

7:45 a.m. — Registration
Presiding, Senator Fred Anderson of Loveland

8:00 a.m. — The History of Colorado Water Law — Jack Ross, of Saunders, Snyder, Ross and Dickson, Denver.

10:30 a.m. — Water Distribution Organizations (mutual ditch companies, carrier ditch companies, special districts and municipal systems) — Mary Mead Hammond of Carlson, Hammond & Paddock, Denver.

11:15 a.m. — The Water Court System and Procedure — Mary Mead Hammond of Carlson, Hammond & Paddock, Denver.

11:45 a.m. — LUNCH (Box lunch will be provided.)


1:30 p.m. — The Impact on Colorado of Interstate Compacts — Dr. Jeris Danielson, State Engineer, State of Colorado.

2:15 p.m. — The Colorado Division of Water Resources, Ground Water Commission, and The Office of the State Engineer: Responsibilities and Roles in Water Matters — Dr. Jeris Danielson, State Engineer, State of Colorado.

3:15 p.m. — Water Conservancy Districts: Responsibilities and Roles in Water Matters — Larry Simpson, Manager, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Loveland.

4:00 p.m. — Engineering Aspects of Water Rights — Greg Ten Eyck, Senior Vice President, Leonard Rice Consulting Water Engineers, Inc., Denver.

5:15 p.m. — Recess until 7:45 a.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

For registration information, contact the CWC office in Denver (303) 837-0812

Friday, September 6, 1991

7:45 a.m. — Overview of Colorado Ground Water Law — Ronnie Sperring of Moses, Wilkemyer, Harrison & Woodruff, Boulder.


9:30 a.m. — The Colorado Water Conservation Board: Its Responsibilities and Role in Water Matters — David Walker, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board.

10:15 a.m. — Historical Overview of the Denver Water System — Hamlet J. “Chips” Barry, III, Manager, Denver Water Department, Denver.

11:30 a.m. — The Colorado River, The Colorado River Water Conservation District, and Western Colorado Water Projects — Don Hamburg, General Counsel, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Glenwood Springs.

12:15 p.m. — LUNCH (Box lunch to be provided.)

1:00 p.m. — Federal & State Water Quality Laws — Ted Foster, Attorney at Law, Colorado Springs; and Tom Pitts, Tom Pitts & Associates, Loveland.

2:30 p.m. — The Colorado Water Quality Control Division: Its Responsibilities and Roles in Water Matters — David Holm, Director, Colorado Water Quality Control Division, Denver.

3:00 p.m. — Colorado Water Resources Research Institute: Responsibilities and Roles in Water Matters — Dr. Neil S. Gregg, Director, Colorado Water Quality Control Division, Denver.

3:45 p.m. — Adjournment.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION INTO PRACTICE. — Western State College, Aspinwall-Wilson Center, Gunnison, Colorado. For more information, contact Western State College, Aspinwall-Wilson Center, Gunnison, Colorado (303) 641-2238.


August 22-23, 1991 - 16TH ANNUAL CWC MEMBERSHIP FORUM AND WATER WORKSHOP — Breckenridge Hilton, 550 Village Road, Breckenridge, Colorado. For more information, contact the CWC office in Denver (303) 837-0812.

September 5-6, 1991 - COLORADO WATER LAW SEMINAR — Colorado Water Conference Room, Suite 312, 1390 Logan Street, Denver. For more information, contact the CWC office in Denver (303) 837-0812.

November 4-8, 1991 - NWRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE — Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, California. For more information, contact the NWRA Office in Washington, D.C. (202) 488-0610.

January 23-24, 1992 - 34TH ANNUAL COLORADO WATER CONGRESS CONVENTION — Holiday Inn Northglenn, 1-25 and 120th, Northglenn. For more information, contact the CWC office in Denver (303) 837-0812.
Water Education
by Tom Cech

“It’s very important, but it’s just too complicated to understand.”

If you asked someone outside the water establishment what they know about water in Colorado, you would probably hear the comment listed above. Sure, during times of floods or droughts, or when the water pipes at Mile High Stadium dried up, you’ll see a lot of concern about local water issues. But for the most part as long as clean water flows out of the tap, most people do not give a second thought about Colorado’s water.

All of us involved with water try to educate our constituents to some extent. We send out newsletters explaining how we’re spending tax dollars; we invite the public on tours; and generally try to explain our activities. Unfortunately, we usually work with local people that are already knowledgeable about water issues, and end up “preaching to the choir.” Are we serving the people of Colorado by allowing them, as a whole, to remain uninformed about water? No.

Generally speaking, most of our citizens do not know the average annual precipitation in their area, or that they live in a semi-arid region. They do not know what a headgate or diversion dam looks like, they do not know if they use groundwater or snowmelt water, and they’ve never heard of the Water Court system. Our citizens need to be given the opportunity to learn about water. To say that water is too difficult for them to understand is a cop-out.

A few groups have started extensive water education projects. Last year, the State Engineer’s Office organized the Colorado Water Exhibit — Liquid Gold at the State Fair in Pueblo, and it was an outstanding success. John Kaliszewski, from that office, worked with over forty water agencies preparing exhibits for the general public to learn about water. Our District, the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, prepared a display on groundwater with Colorado State University. Other districts, municipalities, and industries presented displays on water quality, satellite monitoring, wetlands, and much more. It was a very successful event and was viewed by over 100,000 people.

In March of this year, Central organized Colorado’s first Children’s Water Festival at Aims Community College in Greeley. Over 1,800 children and adults attended the one-day event that was geared toward fourth and fifth grade students. The children at the 1991 Festival were found pondering at ponds, painting for gold, listening to irrigators, inspecting wild trout, standing inside giant bubbles, and learning about water quality. A wide variety of water-related classroom presentations, exhibit hall displays, and water trivia contests were inundating the kids and their teachers throughout the day.

Presentations were given by the City of Greeley Water Department, City of Longmont Water Department, Division Engineer’s Office, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Gilpin County Gold Miners Association, Lower South Platte and Northern Colorado Water Conservancy Districts, City of Denver Water Department, University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Conservation Service, HACH Company, Western Power Administration, and many others.

Additionally, a Teacher’s Resource Room was set up at the Festival to provide water information materials for educators. It received a very enthusiastic response, and teachers were excited to find sources of information on Colorado’s water.

Also in the past year, Barbara Preskon of the Front Range Community College in Westminster organized a series of public meetings called “Colorado Water: The Next 100 Years.” The purpose was to assemble groups to discuss current water issues and how our system of water management might change in the future. In addition to the public meetings and lively discussions that took place, a layman’s guide to Colorado water law was developed by Ms. Preskon’s project. This booklet is serving as a valuable tool for providing basic water information for the novice. It is a document that has been sorely needed, and already, a second edition is in print.

Finally, Central’s Board recently obtained a grant from the Colorado Department of Health to develop water-related curriculum materials for grades K-12. These materials will be developed through the help of water experts, curriculum development experts, and classroom teachers. It will be completed by 1993, and will be useful for school districts around the state.

If you recall the various Earth Day activities this Spring, you’ll remember the profound effect they had on many school children. Kids brought home information and taught their parents about various Earth Day issues. This type of “trickled up” procedure needs to be created for water education. Generally, adults are too busy to attend water meetings or workshops to learn about water. However, they often learn from their children whether they want to or not.

Unfortunately, water education is not a real exciting topic for many in the water establishment. As experts in our field, some of us would rather deal with legislative issues, build projects, or deal solely with water quality concerns. While these are all critical items, we need to develop better water education opportunities for our citizens, particularly the children.

A caveat. Do not use water education programs as tools for purely political or project-oriented reasons. Kids and adults will see right through an education program that is only geared toward potential legislation or future reservoir development. We have to be honest, fair, and comprehensive with education activities, and let our citizens draw their own conclusions. Through these efforts, the views of citizens can be based on honest information about water.

Should you work on water education activities in your organization? Absolutely! We, as a water community, cannot continue to leave out the general public as knowledgeable partners in our activities. It’s becoming more and more important that everyone become informed on basic water information. Colorado’s citizens will need to make learned decisions on hard choices in the future. We need to continue our current efforts and commit to broader-based educational programs. Colorado’s future depends on it.

Tom Cech is Executive Director of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District.

In Memory of Goslin

The late Ival Goslin (left) and the late “Mr. Chairman, Wayne Aspinall” (right).

Ival V. Goslin, 80, passed away on June 15, 1991, in Grand Junction. Mr. Goslin was the first recipient of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (1982 to 1985).

An opportunity to “Celebrate the Life of Ival Goslin” will take place at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 21, in the Energy Center, Colorado State University, Pueblo. This event is sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, 1500 Logan Street, Suite 620, Denver, CO 80203.
This report is intended to bring the membership up-to-date with Colorado Water Congress activities for calendar year 1990. No organization, it should be noted, will have a meaningful impact on issues of concern, unless its membership is involved and asserting itself. Also, special thanks is expressed to the members of the General Assembly and the Executive Branch for their tolerance of CWC’s concerns and acted in a positive and helpful manner.

CWC notes the following in terms of highlights:
1. Eleven of fourteen water bills introduced in the State Legislature and supported by CWC were enacted into law.
2. Six water bills opposed by CWC were killed.
3. Continued the major effort to address the issues in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Plate River and Colorado River Threatened and Endangered Species Studies.
4. Raised $26,000 for a donation to the Colorado Division of Wildlife for Squawfish Culture.
5. Achieved success vacating Judge Kane’s decision in Sierra Club v. Yeuter as a result of an August 10, 1990 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.
7. Appeared before the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission on the matter of antidegradation and other water quality issues.
8. Continued efforts on the matter of wilderness/reserved water rights legislation, and

The new water laws and resolutions supported by CWC were:
SB 33 — concerning a change in the requirement of a finding of reasonable diligence for conditional water rights to periodic intervals not exceeding six years, and, in connection therewith, setting standards for such a finding.
SB 35 — concerning the authority of the State Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to establish the Colorado Greenway Trail System, and, in connection therewith, authorizing the expenditure of contributions, grants, and in-kind donations.
SB 44 — concerning authorization of expenditures from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund, and relating to the activities of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in connection therewith.
SB 126 — concerning the regulation of substances from manufactured agricultural chemicals in the groundwater of this state and making an appropriation therewith.
SB 131 — concerning the authority of the Southwestern Water Conservation District to use its funds to make loans or grants within the boundaries of the district to carry out the purposes of the district.

CWC sponsored meetings were another dimension of membership involvement activity and these were:
7. CWC Workshop on Public Speaking for the Professional held November 13, 1990.

There were a number of other actions that enhanced and assisted greatly in making CWC more effective. These actions were:
1. Secured 18 new sustaining members, 19 new individual and associate members during 1990.
3. Named Sam Maynes 10th recipient of the “Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award” at the 1990 CWC Convention.

In regard to CWC’s written communication (newsletter), the following newsletters were published during 1990:

Again, your two-member staff is, indeed, proud and honored to be associated with such an outstanding and dedicated group of people as the CWC membership.

Dick MacKevay
Executive Director