



Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us

www.eaglecounty.us

September 13, 2022

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Support for Ruedi Reservoir Winter Release Program

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board,

We write to express our strong support for the Ruedi Reservoir Winter Release Program. This agreement between the Colorado River Water Conservation District and Colorado Water Conservation Board will provide supplemental winter flows that mitigate anchor ice to benefit aquatic life and the local community.

The Fryingpan River is a proven ecologic and economic asset to Eagle County and surrounding communities. As pressures on this Gold Medal fishery continue to increase, we support efforts to strategically manage Ruedi Reservoir to ensure the river's long-term health and viability. Eagle County has supported Roaring Fork Conservancy's work to monitor and improve ecological health on the Fryingpan River for several years and encourages the efforts to enhance resiliency by maintaining winter flows from 60-70 cfs. Based on RFC's studies, this increased flow minimizes anchor ice formation, decreases stress to macroinvertebrate communities, and allows macroinvertebrate communities to recover from previous low flow durations. Ensuring the health of the stream system in turn benefits the recreation and tourism economy.

This program provided measurable benefits in the past year, and we encourage the CWCB to continue to support supplemental flows in the Fryingpan River in winter months. This provides long- and short-term ecological benefits to the Fryingpan River, and supports recreation and tourism benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney
Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner

Matt Scherr
Commissioner