

COLORADO
RIVER DISTRICT



SHOSHONE

WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION

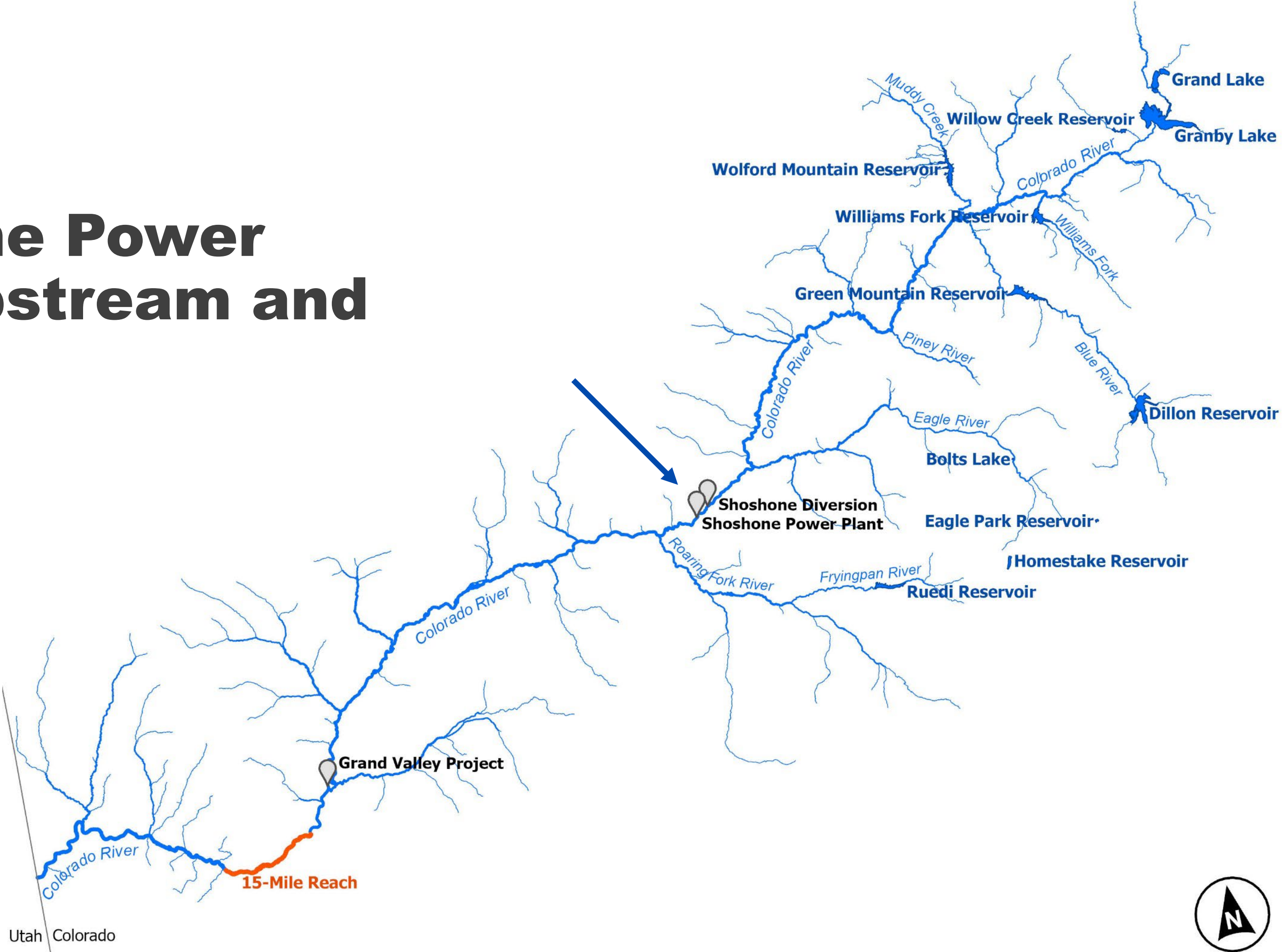


ABOUT SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS

- Large and very senior non-consumptive rights on the Colorado River – 1250 cfs under a 1902 right & 158 cfs under a 1929
- Benefits on the West Slope from the headwaters to the state line and statewide.
- Foundational to water management across the state.



Shoshone Power Plant Upstream and Down



The Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project

WILL

protect the historical flow regime
of the river.

WILL NOT

enlarge the Shoshone Water Rights.

The Western Slope is working to develop a solution that mimics the historical use of the Shoshone Water Rights to preserve the state of the river that we have known for the last 120 years.



Purchase and Sale Agreement

Signed by Xcel Energy and Colorado River District in 2023 for \$99 million

Negotiating an Instream Flow Agreement between PSCo, CRD, and CWCB

Successful completion of a change case in water court

Anticipated Closing in 2027



Ongoing fundraising with support from local, state, and federal partners

Approval from Colorado's Public Utility Commission



SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION



**\$40M – Bureau
of Reclamation**



**\$20M – State of
Colorado**



**\$20M –
Colorado River
District**



**\$17.2M – 33
Local Partners**

**Over \$97
million
secured**



SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION COALITION

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS
- \$97 MILLION

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
STATE OF COLORADO
COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT**

MAINSTEM COUNTIES:

SUMMIT - GRAND - EAGLE
GARFIELD - MESA - PITKIN

- BASALT WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- CITY OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS
- CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION
- CITY OF RIFLE
- CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT
- CLINTON DITCH AND RESERVOIR COMPANY
- COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
- DE BEQUE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- EAGLE RIVER WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
- EAGLE PARK RESERVOIR COMPANY
- GRAND VALLEY IRRIGATION COMPANY
- GRAND VALLEY POWER
- GRAND VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION
- KOBE WATER AUTHORITY
- MESA COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- MIDDLE PARK WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- ORCHARD MESA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- PALISADE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- SNOWMASS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
- TOWN OF BASALT
- TOWN OF DE BEQUE
- TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
- TOWN OF PALISADE
- TOWN OF PARACHUTE
- TOWN OF SILT
- TOWN OF SILVERTHORNE
- UPPER EAGLE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
- UTE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- WEST DIVIDE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



OVER 120 SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION COALITION MEMBERS



REGIONAL PARTNERS

- 💧 ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS
- 💧 ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATIONAL ORGS
- 💧 HIGHER EDUCATION & POWER PROVIDERS



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- 💧 COUNTIES
- 💧 MUNICIPALITIES



GOVERNMENT & ELECTED OFFICIALS

- 💧 STATE OF COLORADO ELECTED LEADERS
- 💧 COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
- 💧 COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLES & CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
- 💧 FEDERAL AGENCIES



WATER PROVIDERS

- 💧 IRRIGATION WATER
- 💧 DRINKING WATER



Shoshone Reach

2.4 miles in Glenwood Canyon

Termini:

Shoshone Diversion Dam
(Hanging Lake)

Shoshone Power Plant



Fish, (fish) Food, and Flows

- **Fish** - higher quality suitable **habitat** for coldwater fish species and other regionally native fishes.
- **(fish) Food** - Improved flow conditions support a **healthy algae and macroinvertebrate community**.
- **Flows** - **reliable baseflows** in all year types, especially during the late irrigation season of dry years.

Protecting the historical flow regime created by the Shoshone Water Rights will preserve and improve the natural environment of the Shoshone reach to a reasonable degree.





**On the mainstem and tributaries,
the State of Colorado currently
holds:**

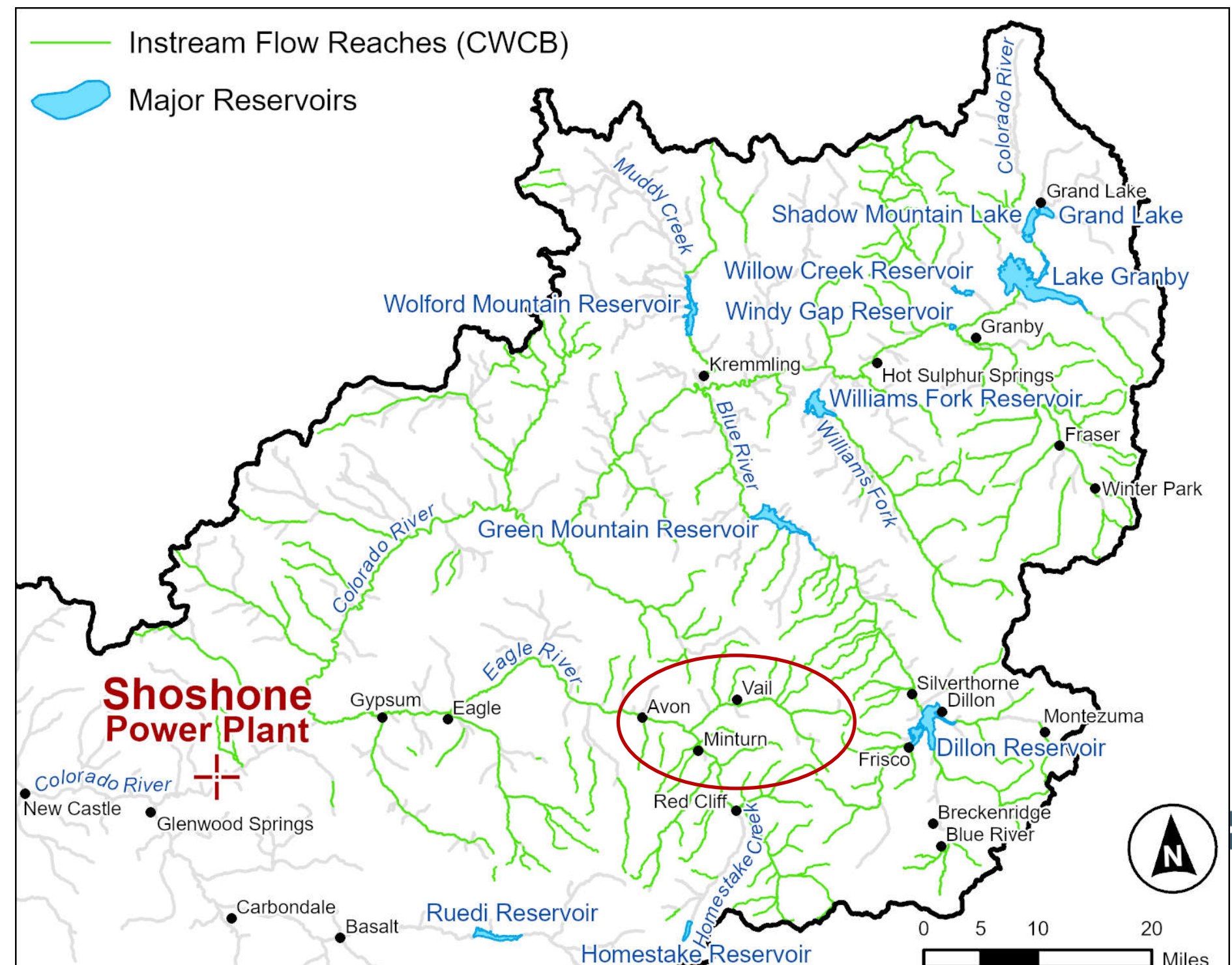
350 ISF decreed water rights **upstream** of the
Shoshone Power Plant.

Because the Shoshone Water Rights
can command flows on a **year-round
basis**, the benefits they provide to ISF
reaches include:

Mitigating high temperatures and other
stressors **especially during late summer and
early fall.**

Supporting upstream reaches in meeting
target flows.

*In coordination with CWCB, CRD also led an
effort to review the benefits of the Shoshone
Water Rights to current Instream Flow
Reaches.*



Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group lists the continuation of the Shoshone Water Rights as a long-term protection measure of the streamflow-influenced Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

USFS-BLM Report
Biological & Recreational
Resources Dependent on Colorado
River Flows Through Glenwood
Canyon





HAER No. CO-5-17

IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL USE

Historical use is a required part of the water right change case to ensure there is no enlargement of the water rights and no injury to other water users.



Why Water Court?

The change of water rights process in water court is the exclusive venue for resolving all issues regarding enlarged use and potential injury to vested water rights.



Water Court will ensure that...

...all affected water users will have an opportunity to get involved to protect their interests

...the actual historical use of the Shoshone Water Rights will be properly quantified to avoid expansion of use

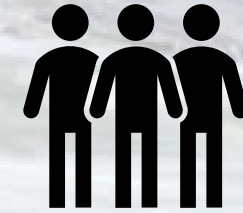
...protective terms and conditions are included in the change decree to prevent injury to vested water rights and maintain historical return flows





Sustains River Health

Maintains water levels essential for aquatic ecosystems.



Strengthens Communities and Economies

Protects flows and fishing habitats that support Colorado's \$18.8 billion recreation industry and countless small businesses.



Enhances Water Quality

Ensures cleaner drinking water for communities by diluting salinity and sediment.



Secures Agriculture

Supports critical irrigation flows for farmers and ranchers, bolstering Colorado's \$47 billion agricultural economy, which includes 90% family-owned farms and ranches.

