



Comparison of Water Use in the Stream

Instream Flow

- A Colorado water right held by the state on behalf of all the people of Colorado.
- Purpose: To preserve or improve the environment to a reasonable degree by allowing specified quantity of water to flow between 2 named points.
- Created by state law in 1973.
- ISF is the only Colorado water right that does not require diversion. The water is not controlled by any physical structure.

In-Channel Diversion

- A Colorado water right to use water without taking it out of the stream channel.
- Purpose: Specified in the decree.
- A hydropower plant would be an example of a diversion where a structure or structures controls a use of water in the stream channel.

Recreational In-Channel Diversion

- A Colorado water right where a structure controls water in the stream channel.
- Purpose: Strictly for recreational use.
- Legislature has imposed specific limitations. RICD's are still a battleground issue in the Colorado legislature.
- Only governments may obtain an RICD.