

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 1 901 9TH AVENUE P.O. BOX 2038 GREELEY, CO 80632	DATE FILED: August 23, 2016 6:59 AM CASE NUMBER: 2015CW3167
CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FOR WATER RIGHTS OF: COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD, IN SPOTTLEWOOD CREEK, A NATURAL STREAM; IN THE CACHE LA POUFRE WATERSHED, IN LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO.	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲ Case No.: 2015CW3167
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RULING OF REFEREE, AND JUDGMENT AND DECREE OF THE WATER COURT	

THIS MATTER comes before the Water Referee by Application of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (“CWCB”) for a water right to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree. The Application was filed on December 23, 2015. The Water Court for Water Division 1 referred the Application to the Water Referee for Water Division 1, in accordance with section 37-92-203(7), C.R.S. (2015).

The Referee, having made such investigations as are necessary to determine whether or not the statements in the Application are true, having consulted with the Division Engineer for Water Division 1, and being fully advised in the premises, does hereby make the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Ruling of the Referee:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The name and address of Applicant:

Colorado Water Conservation Board
 1313 Sherman Street, Suite 718
 Denver, CO 80203
 (303) 866-3441

2. Notice and Jurisdiction: All notices of this matter required by law have been fulfilled and the Court has jurisdiction over the Application and all parties affected thereby, whether or not they have chosen to appear.
3. Statement of Opposition: The City of Fort Collins filed a Statement of Opposition in this matter on February 19, 2016. The time for filing additional Statements of Opposition has expired.
4. Summary of Consultation: The Division Engineer filed a Summary of Consultation pursuant to section 37-92-302(4), C.R.S. (2015) dated March 31, 2016. No response was required to the Summary of Consultation and the term and condition requested by the Division Engineer is in this Decree. The Referee has given the Summary due consideration.
5. Stipulation: The City of Fort Collins signed a stipulation with the Applicant in this matter on July 7, 2016. The Court approved the parties' stipulation on July 8, 2016.
6. Name of Water Right: Spottlewood Creek Instream Flow Water Right.
7. Legal Description: Spottlewood Creek Instream Flow Water Right is located in the natural stream channel of Spottlewood Creek from a point located at UTM Northing 4537937.85 and UTM Easting 495521.89 to a point located at UTM Northing 4534887.62 and UTM Easting 498663.70, a distance of approximately 3.53 miles. This segment of Spottlewood Creek can be located on the Round Butte U.S.G.S. quadrangle. A map depicting the approximate location of the Spottlewood Creek Instream Flow Water Right reach is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

A. Upstream Terminus: A point located at:

1. UTM: Northing: 4537937.85; Easting: 495521.89 (NAD 1983 Zone 13 North)
2. Lat/Long: latitude 40° 59' 33.39"N and longitude 105° 03' 11.67"W

B. Downstream Terminus: A point located at:

1. UTM: Northing: 4534887.62; Easting: 498663.70 (NAD 1983 Zone 13 North)
2. Lat/Long: latitude 40° 57' 54.51"N and longitude 105° 00' 57.17"W
- C. The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) and geographical descriptions (e.g., confluences) of the upstream and downstream termini will be used as the legal description for the decree in this matter. The Lat/Long coordinates are provided as cross-reference locations only. The UTM and Lat/Long locations for the upstream and downstream termini were derived from CWCB GIS using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).
8. Source: Spottlewood Creek, tributary to Coal Creek, tributary to the Cache La Poudre River, tributary to the South Platte River.
9. Appropriation:
 - A. Date of initiation of appropriation: January 26, 2015
 - B. How appropriation was initiated: Appropriation and beneficial use occurred on January 26, 2015, by the action of the CWCB pursuant to sections 37-92-102(3) and (4) and 37-92-103(3), (4) and (10), C.R.S. (2015)
 - C. Date applied to beneficial use: January 26, 2015
10. Amount of water claimed: Instream flow of 0.1 cfs (1/1-12/31), absolute.
11. Use of the Water: Instream flow uses to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. Incorporation: The foregoing Findings of Fact are incorporated herein to the extent they constitute conclusions of law.
13. Notice and Jurisdiction: The Water Court for Water Division 1 has jurisdiction over the subject matter of these proceedings and over all persons,

owners of property and water rights that may be affected hereby, whether or not they have chosen to appear. The Application in this matter and the resume publication of the Application placed such persons on notice of the relief requested by the Application and granted by this Decree. §§ 37-92-203 and 302, C.R.S. (2015).

14. Legal Requirements: The CWCB has fulfilled all legal requirements for a decree for water rights, including sections 37-92-302, 304 and 305, C.R.S. (2015).
15. Burden of Proof: The CWCB has complied with all requirements and has met its burden of proof to adjudicate the water right requested in the Application and is therefore entitled to a decree approving the requested water right.

RULING OF REFEREE

16. The foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are hereby approved and incorporated as the Ruling of the Referee by this reference.
17. The Application is granted and a decree for an instream flow water right in the amount of 0.1 cfs (1/1-12/31), absolute, is hereby entered to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree in the reach of Spottlewood Creek between the upstream and downstream termini described in paragraph 7 above. The appropriation date for this water right is January 26, 2015.
18. The priority herein confirmed was filed in the water court in the year of 2015 and shall be junior to all priorities filed in previous years. As between all rights filed in the same calendar year, priorities shall be determined by the historical date of appropriation and shall not be affected by the date of entry of this Decree.
19. The CWCB shall install and maintain such measuring devices and keep such records as the Division Engineer may require for administration of this right.

IT IS ACCORDINGLY ORDERED that this Ruling shall be filed with the Water Clerk subject to judicial review.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Ruling shall be filed with the Division Engineer for Water Division 1 and the State Engineer.

DATED this 29th day of July, 2016.

BY THE REFEREE:



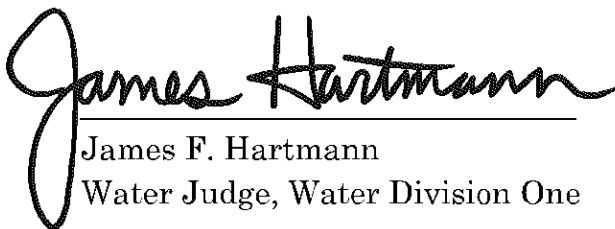
John Cowan, Water Referee
Water Division 1

JUDGMENT AND DECREE OF THE WATER COURT

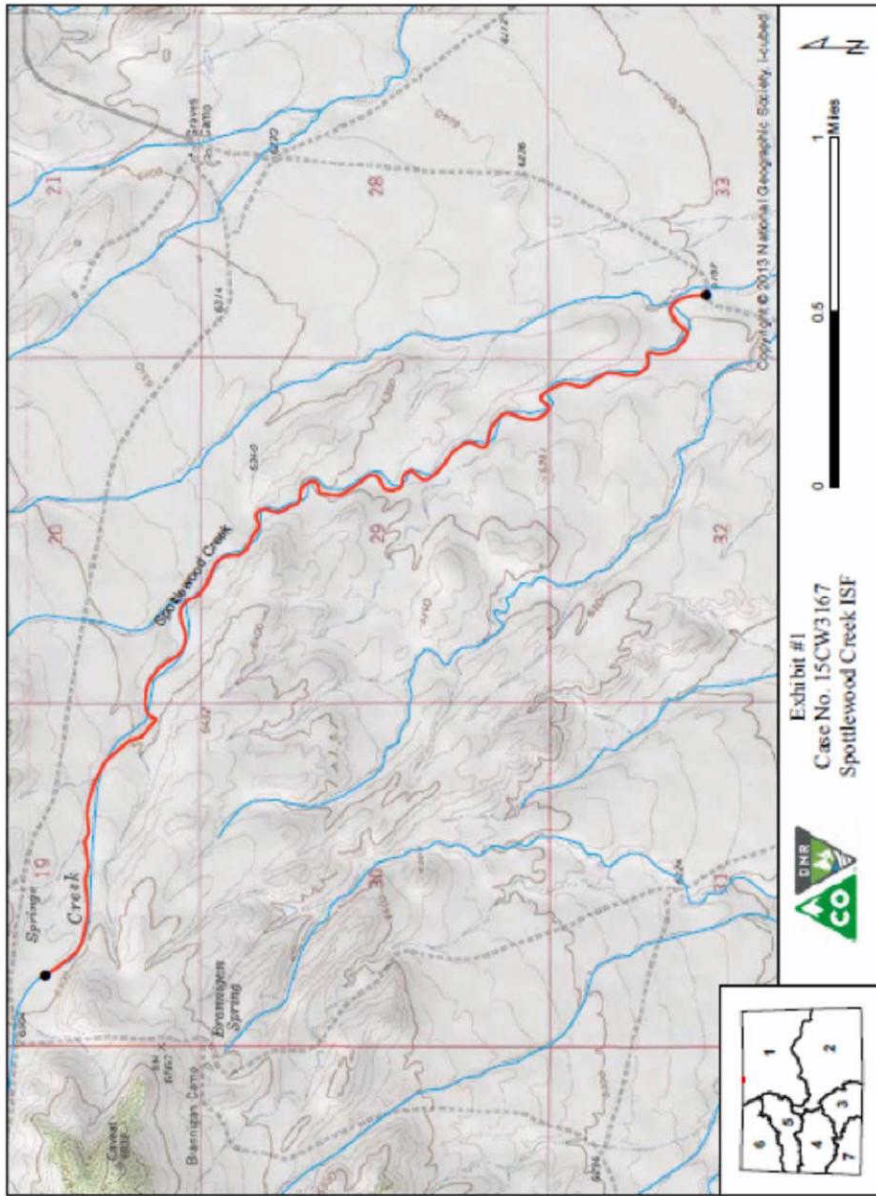
The court finds that no protest was filed in this matter. The foregoing ruling is confirmed and approved, and is made the judgment and decree of this Court.

Date: August 23, 2016

BY THE COURT:



James F. Hartmann
Water Judge, Water Division One



CWCB
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