

# Administration of Call

On

White River

January 12, 2023

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**COLORADO**  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Natural Resources

# Understanding a Call

- Any water right owner may request a call if their water right is not satisfied
- A request for a call is made to the water commissioner or division engineer
- The water commissioner and/or division engineer will place the call if:
  - The water right owner is diverting all natural flow in the stream system
  - All water diverted is being applied to its decreed beneficial use and place of use
  - The water diverted is accurately measured
  - There are upstream junior water rights and uses of water to curtail
- Once a call is placed, the water commissioner will:
  - First shut off all undecreed diversions of water
  - Second curtail as many junior water rights as needed to satisfy the senior calling water right. In some cases, this means shutting of ALL junior water rights

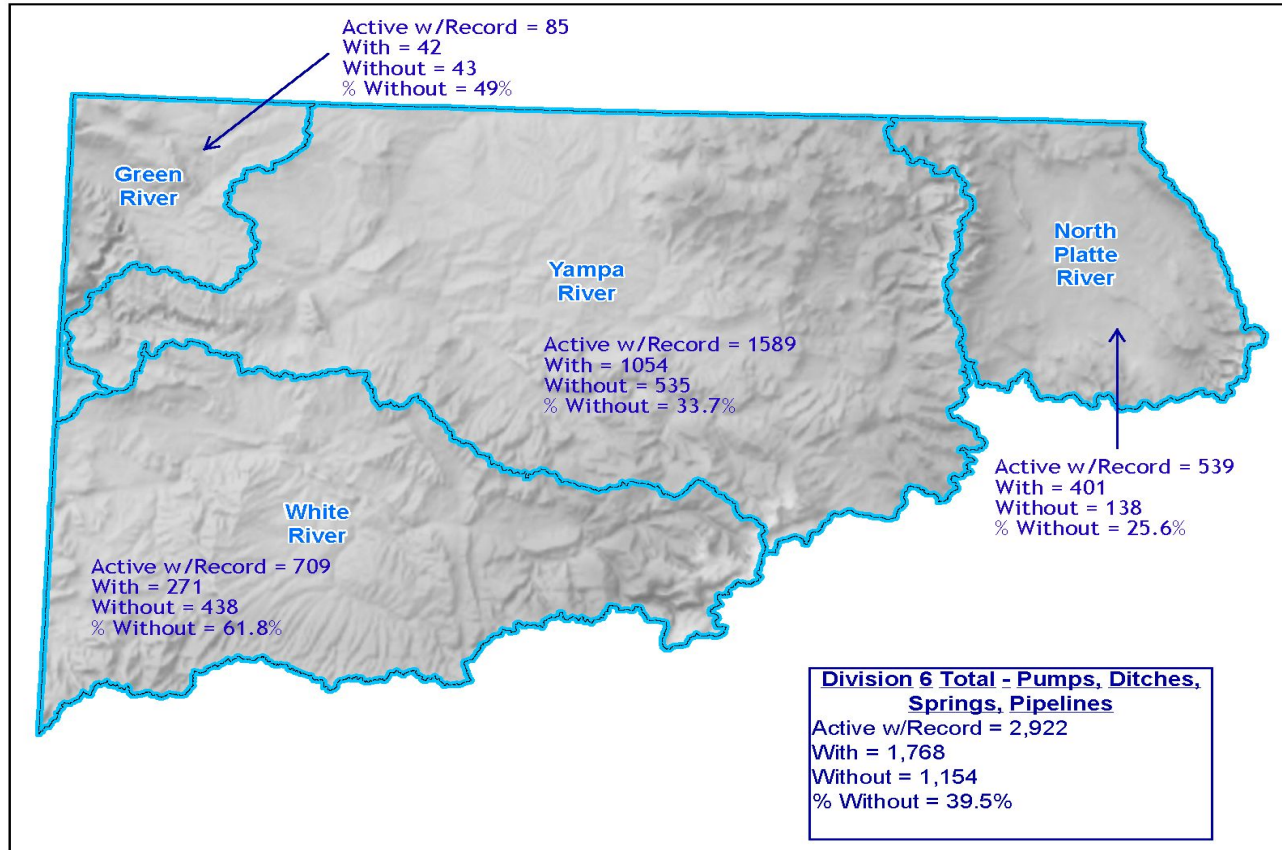


# Who may divert water during a call?

- Any water right owner whose water right is senior to the **calling priority**, provided:
  - Their structure is equipped with adequate control structures such as a headgate or outlet
  - Their diversions of water are measured
  - They are applying water to the decreed beneficial use and place of use of their water right
- If an in-priority water right owner does not meet one or more of the above listed items, they will be shut off/curtailed
- A water right owner may only divert that amount of water for which their in-priority water right is decreed. If diversions are in excess of this amount, they will be curtailed down to the decreed amount.



# December 2022 - Measuring Device Count



# Communicating a Call

- **Calling location:** The structure that is controlling or diverting the entire available natural stream flow and is the most downstream diversion structure in the reach being administered by the associated Call
- **Call Priority:** The Admin Number, or administrative priority, of the most junior water right that is able to divert without depleting the diversion of a more senior water right
- **Admin Number:** Computed number based on Adj Date, Prev Adj Date, and Appropriation Date. The lower the admin number, the more senior the water right



## Communicating a Call cont...

- **The Admin Number is in the form:** XXXXX.YYYYY, where each side of the decimal point is an integer representing the number of days between a certain date and December 31, 1849 with leading zeroes as required to make the number have five digits.
- **Example:** Powell Park Ditch 1880 water right, Admin Number = 11079.00000
- The water commissioner will notify water users when there is a change in the call and this information can also be found on the DWR website under “Active Calls”



# Current Call on White River

- **Calling location:** Taylor Draw Power Conduit (WDID 4302571)
- **Call Priority:** Taylor Draw Power Conduit, Admin Number 41091.00000
- **Admin Number 41091.00000:** Adj date = 11/21/1966, Prev Adj Date 11/26/1958, Appropriation Date = 07/03/1962
- **Decreed Use:** Power Generation
- **Decreed Amount:** 620 cfs
- **Measuring Device:** Pressure Sensor
- **Data Submittal:** Daily through an online DWR portal
- **Type of Data:** Average of data collected every 15 minutes over 24 hours
- **Other water rights decreed to Conduit:** 1982 water right with Admin Number 48507.00000



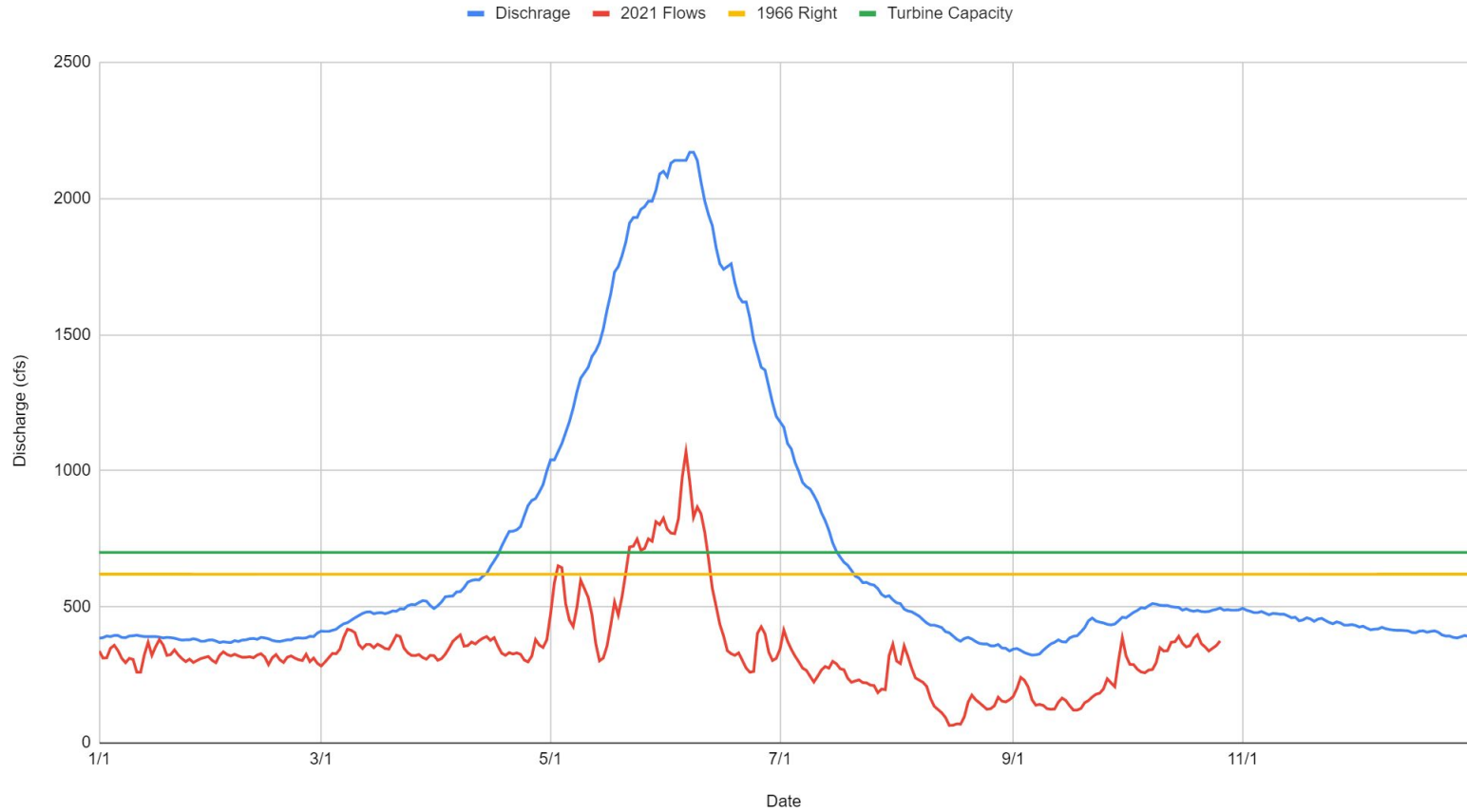
# Taylor Draw Dam and Power Conduit

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner (FERC) Information

- **Turbine Capacity:** 700 cfs
- **Minimum Release Requirement:** None
- **Reservoir Elevation Requirement:** None
- Reservoir must be operated as a “run-of-river” operation, where outflow equals inflow at any given time



# White River Below Boise Creek Flows



# Administration of White River Call since December 1, 2022

- 16 cfs curtailed
- Use of water curtailed was primarily livestock watering
- Operating 1 augmentation plan
- Contacted oil and gas companies concerning water use
- “Tagged” pump stations notifying potential pumpers of the call



# Frequently Asked Questions

- **When will the call go off?**
  - When flows at the power plant exceed turbine capacity (700 cfs)
  - Why not the 620 cfs of the water right?
- **If I have a junior water right or no water right at all, when will I be able to divert/store water?**
  - When the call goes off
- **Can I apply for a water right for stock water use now and maintain the same priority as my irrigation right?**
  - Water in a ditch may only be used for livestock in-priority when the ditch is running for the original decreed use, i.e. irrigation use. Otherwise, no.
- **What does over-appropriation mean and what impact does it have on me?**
  - A system is considered over-appropriated when there is more demand for water under existing water rights than there is water physically available to meet those demands
  - The designation of a basin as over-appropriated ONLY affects well permitting



## Frequently Asked Questions, cont...

- **Is there any way I can continue to divert and beneficially use water if I am out of priority?**
  - Yes, if you have a source of replacement water such as a reservoir which filled in priority or under free river conditions (no call) and is decreed for the desired use
  - Such replacement may be through
    - Direct diversion of water released into the stream
    - A decreed appropriative right of exchange or an administrative exchange
    - Through an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation
- **What sources of “augmentation water” are available in the basin.**
  - Several individual land owners/entities have developed their own augmentation sources and plans for augmentation
  - Yellow Jacket WCD has a conditional water right decreed for augmentation use in Lake Avery, but currently do not have a mechanism in place to store such water in Lake Avery.
  - Rio Blanco WCD also has a conditional water right decreed for augmentation use in Wolf Creek Reservoir, which has not been constructed





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