

**From:** [George Stark](#)  
**To:** [wtully@gp.usbr.gov](mailto:wtully@gp.usbr.gov);  
**Subject:** co river  
**Date:** Friday, December 26, 2008 10:27:50 AM

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Dear Mr. Tully,

I would like to make public comment on the diversion of west slope water to the front range. At the end of the day there is not enough water in the state to support infinite growth, my point being that at some point water will limit growth no matter what we do. Even with maximum conservation and better usage and all the infrastructure we can devise this point will be reached. The real issue is how much we will damage the western slope until we get to this point. The heart of any western ecosystem is water. As we draw from the Colorado watershed we deplete/change that ecosystem. Watershed protection is at the heart of stewardship of the beauty and diversity that makes this an attractive place to live. We are damaging the very reasons we love this state as we take water from the western slope. Drying up the historic upper CO river would be a tragic mistake. This is not about fish. Fish are only a marker for damage to the Middle Park watershed ecosystem. Historic water law did not contemplate the technology to dry up a watershed as we now can do. There are large financial interests in continued development and in the sale of west slope water to support these short term interests. There are more voters receiving water on the front range than losing it on the western slope. None of the solutions to increase front range water fix the problem, they only temporize it. If there are not those with the courage to step up now for these larger principles we will lose what we value the most about our state. I strongly support a more in depth environmental impact study before we consider a new reservoir to increase the water Northern can remove from the western slope. There is mounting evidence in the upper Co that there is already more water being removed than the watershed can support. Thanks, George Stark