



COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources



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Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources



April 18, 2018

To All Attendees of the FLOW 2018 Workshop:

We, the undersigned directors of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, officially welcome you to Fort Collins, Colorado.

Under the direction of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are the primary state agencies who are most directly involved in the quantification, acquisition, and protection of instream flow and natural lake level water rights in Colorado. The FLOW 2018 Workshop - Managing Rivers, Reservoirs and Lakes in the Face of Drought - is a timely and important topic for the intermountain west where balancing the effects of population growth, agricultural and municipal water demands, and environmental/recreational needs is stressing every component of our water systems. In Colorado, these stressors are substantial even during times of normal water supply, but in the face of drought, these management challenges increase exponentially. The complexity of water supply management under these conditions is not limited to the west; recent droughts have hit citizens hard in the northwest, southeast, and Texas. In some areas, catastrophic fires have come on the heels of these droughts, creating more problems for land and water managers.

Fort Collins and Colorado both hold a distinguished position when it comes to the science and technology that supports instream flow protection strategies. In the 1980s, the USFWS Instream Flow Group started its work on the science in Fort Collins; and 20 years ago, a group of state and provincial instream flow specialists came together in Denver to form FLOW 2018's sponsoring entity, the Instream Flow Council. The IFC has become the global leader in instream flow and water level protection. Colorado is proud to be a leader in instream flow protection. We are honored and privileged to be a part of this history and to ultimately support flow protection efforts elsewhere.

Together, we welcome you to Colorado, and we hope you have a successful workshop with meaningful professional networking around your collective instream flow passions. We also hope that you enjoy all that Fort Collins and Colorado have to offer, and wish you safe travels back home.

Sincerely,

Robert Randall
Executive Director
Colorado Department of
Natural Resources

Rebecca Mitchell
Director
Colorado Water Conservation
Board

Bob Broscheid
Director
Colorado Parks and
Wildlife

