



HB20-1159

SHORT TITLE: State Engineer Confirm Existing Use Instream Flow

LONG TITLE: Concerning the authority of the state engineer to confirm the extent of uses of water in existence on the date of an instream flow appropriation.

SPONSORS: Reps, Roberts and Catlin/Sens. Donovan and Coram

COMMITTEES: House Rural Affairs & Agriculture Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To direct the State Engineer to confirm claims of existing nonadjudicated uses or exchanges of water on or before the date of an instream flow appropriation by the CWCB.

PROponents: Colorado River District, Cattlemen's Association

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Proponents, State Engineer, Groups advocating for increased instream flows? Other water users on a stream segment

BACKGROUND: Discrepancy in practices among division engineer regarding treatment of undecreed existing uses. There have apparently been disagreements about the authority of the State Engineer to recognize certain undecreed existing uses regarding use for stock watering. This bill attempts to clarify that situation.

Is the bill necessary this year? There are no deadlines, but the River District and the Cattlemen have been working on this and the State Engineer's office agrees that clarification is helpful.

How does the bill change current law? It directs the State Engineer to confirm claims of existing non-adjudicated uses or exchanges of water on or before the date of an instream flow appropriation by the CWCB.

How is the bill implemented? By the State Engineer.