



Water Rights Committee Report
Karl Davis, Committee Chairman
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Written and submitted by: Karl Davis

Date: August 21, 2021

Charter: To protect the water rights that are decreed to Big Elk Meadows.

Committee Members: Karl Davis as Chairman, Members as Victoria Darling, Roy McCutchen, Bill Tolle, Paul Flanagan, Alan Hatfield, and Selina Davis

Irrigation season, August update

Primary Objective. Our primary objective is to run water through the Willow Lake spillway for as long as possible. This has shown to improve the water quality in Mirror Lake where water is pumped into the treatment plant. Because of the timely rain we are still running over an acre foot per day through its spillway and the bulk of the water to be released as part of augmentation is complete. The only water we will release from Big Elk Meadows is the water drained from Sunset Lake.

Ish Reservoir Releases. I was able to release 8.8-acre feet for Augmentation water and 11 for return flow. So, we will leave 4-acre feet in Ish this year. The remaining water we owe is being released from Sunset Lake to drain it for a gate repair.

2021 Augmentation Exchange

Ish Augmentation	8.823
Ish Return Flow	10.878
BEM Augmentation	8.600

	28.301

BEM and Pinewood Springs Exchanges. During the past two summers, the state has stopped our Ish exchange to keep the Pinewood Springs exchange in operation. Stopping the exchange means moving the release point for augmentation water from the Ish Reservoir to our lakes. In a typical irrigation season, we need to release water from both points. We are compliant with this order from the state but also resistant to it because its not well defined when our exchange should be stopped. Our water engineer is working with our water commissioner to establish this.

Lower Flume Project. Our lower flume and its surrounding dirt walls cannot handle the tremendous amount of water that flows to it during the Spring runoff. The water carries off the dirt meant to holdback the water and water runs around the flume all summer. Operations is getting bids for the project.

Colorado Rural Water Association. We had a meeting in BEM to kick-off the development effort to create a Source Water Protection Plan. Water Rights were well represented in the meeting. Paul

Big Elk Meadows Association

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Flanagan, Roy McCutchen and Selina Davis will participate going forward. I will help when needed but my job is mainly field work. I operate our exchanges and collect data for our monthly submittals to the state and prepare for the upcoming diligence filings.

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