Stream Restoration & Wa
Administration

Presentation to the Water Resources a
Agriculture Review Committee

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Colorado Department of Natural Resources
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The Value of Healthy Natural Stream Systems

- **Wildfire Resilience & Recovery**
- **Flood Resilience & R**
- **Drought & Climate Mi**
- **Water Quality Protect Improvement**
- **Riparian and Aquatic**
- **Recreation, Tourism, Local Economies**

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Impacts to Natural Stream Systems - Fire

Photo Credit: NPS, 2020

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Impacts to Natural Stream Systems - Flood

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Impacts to Natural Stream Systems - Mine Disas

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Impacts to Natural Stream Systems - Water Qua

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Impacts to Natural Stream Systems - Loss of Ve

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What is Stream Restoration?

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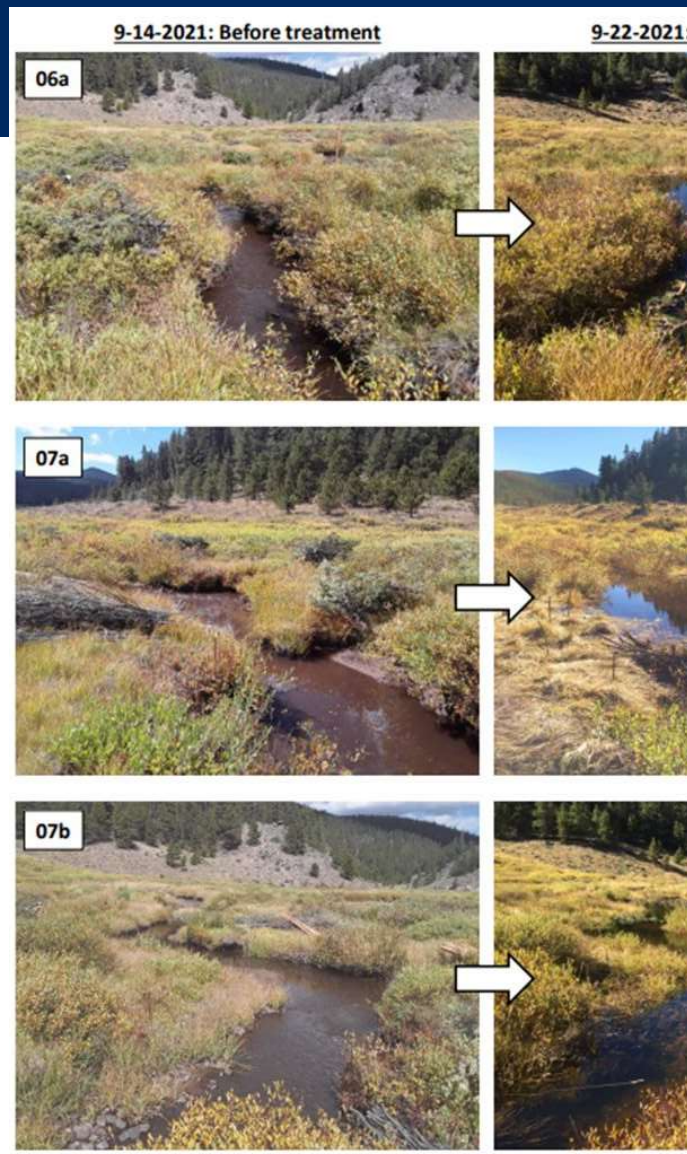

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Water Rights & Stream Restoration

C.R.S. 37-92-501 and 502

- “Diversion”
- “Storage”
- “Unnecessary Obstruction”

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Stream Restoration Legislation Concept

Add new subsection (9) in section 37-92-602, C.R.S. will describe the benefits of and requirements for Registered Projects. There are a number of requirements to meet the definition of a Registered Stream Restoration Project project:

- *has an environmental purpose or has a multiple benefit purpose that includes an environmental purpose,*
- *does not reduce the hydrograph that was in place before the stream was degraded,*
- *exists within the historical or existing extent of the stream system,*
- *is registered with the State Engineer and notice was provided to the SWSP notification list prior to construc*

A Registered Stream Restoration Project has a rebuttable presumption of no material injury, which may be rebut a vested water right in the water court with a showing that the project modifies the amount or timing of water t available for diversion absent the degraded conditions of the stream system that necessitated the project.

There are also restoration project types with minimal impacts to water rights, such as planting vegetation, fenci armoring banks, and stream restoration projects already constructed as of the effective date of the bill, which d injury and do not need to register or provide notice to the SWSP notification list. Projects intended for the sole p from wildland fire or an emergency flood also do not need to register or provide notice to the SWSP notification

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Thank You

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