



COLORADO WATER TRUST

WATER RIGHTS STEWARDSHIP CHECKLIST

STEP 1: OBTAIN LANDOWNER RECORD(S) OF ANNUAL USE

- Obtain records for each water source/water right/water structure
 - For direct flow rights, obtain dates and rates of diversion/readings on measuring device
 - For storage rights:
 - + Dates and amount of water stored
 - + Evaporation charges
 - + Transit losses imposed
 - + Amount of water delivered, place of delivery
 - For groundwater rights:
 - + Well permit number
 - + Total water pumped
 - + Type and place of use, e.g., field irrigated, crop(s) grown

STEP 2: CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION CONDUCTS AUDIT OF ANNUAL USE

- Office effort should include review of Water Commissioner's records and a water commissioner interview and review of aerial photographs, if available
- Field audit should be conducted to determine whether all of the encumbered water rights were fully used for the defined conservation purpose(s) pursuant to the conservation easement

STEP 3: CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION FOLLOW UP WITH LANDOWNER

- Conservation organization discussion of any issues pertaining to water use with the landowner
- Conservation organization and landowner should reach agreement about changes in practices, if any, for the coming year