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Contacts: Peter Roessmann (WRA) 303.444.1188, x 221
Steve Smith (TWS) 303.650.5818, x106
Becky Long, (CEC) 970.389.2719

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Measure to Protect Wilderness Area's Water Advances

DENVER, CO - The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has moved one step closer toward appropriating water rights to protect two important streams within western Colorado's Dominguez Canyons Wilderness Area. On Wednesday, the CWCB unanimously supported staff's recommendation and declared its intent to appropriate all annually available water in the streams, with exemptions for future development.

Big Dominguez and Little Dominguez Creeks are the lifeblood of the wilderness area and support large populations of wildlife, riverbank habitat, waterfalls, and unique plunge pools that make Dominguez Canyons an extraordinary place for visitors to experience. The wilderness area was set aside just last year, and came into being through the support of a broad coalition of public lands users. The CWCB's intention to appropriate these water rights will protect the wilderness as it was intended to be.

As a result of the CWCB's actions, a coalition of conservation groups, Western Resource Advocates, The Wilderness Society, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition, issued the following statement of support:

"We are very pleased that the CWCB has initiated this process toward ensuring lasting protection for the streams of the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. We commend them for taking this important step. "

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Western Resource Advocates is a regional non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air and water. Visit us online at www.westernresourceadvocates.org.

The Wilderness Society is a nonprofit conservation organization. Its mission is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places.

CEC is the largest state-based citizens' group committed to conserving our clean air, water and open spaces. Visit us online at www.ourcolorado.org