



# Colorado River District

**75 Years**  
**Protecting Western Colorado Water**



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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## **River District to Decrease Reservoir Levels for Drought and Monitoring**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KREMMLING, CO – The Colorado River District, which owns and operates Wolford Mountain Reservoir, will take advantage of this year’s drought and resulting low reservoir water levels to further monitor movement at Ritschard Dam.

As with all earthen dams, Ritschard Dam was expected to settle over time. However, over its 16-year life, the dam has settled nearly two-feet, rather than the estimated one-foot. This year’s dry conditions require drawing the reservoir down lower than most years in order to meet contractual and environmental demands for the stored water. Previous monitoring data suggest the settling rate slows as water levels decline. A major drawdown of the reservoir this year will assist in further assessment of the situation.

“The dam is safe. There is no reason for concern over dam failure,” assures John Currier, chief engineer for the Colorado River District. “There are no leaks; the dam is solid. However, we need to determine the cause of continued settling,” added Currier.

### **About Wolford Mountain Reservoir:**

Wolford Mountain Reservoir is located on Muddy Creek, five miles north of Kremmling. It stores 66,000 acre feet of water when full. The reservoir primarily provides water to west slope contract holders when their water rights would otherwise be called out by more senior water users on the Colorado River. Water is released from the reservoir to protect Western Slope water users and to substitute for water diverted by Denver Water at Dillon Reservoir in critically dry years.

Water releases from Wolford also benefit endangered fish in the Colorado River near Grand Junction to enhance flows in the spring time and in late summer during times of lower flows.

Wolford was built in cooperation with and financing from Denver Water and Northern Water, both Front Range transmountain water diverters.

### **About the Colorado River District:**

The Colorado River District was founded by the Colorado General Assembly in 1937 to protect and develop Western Colorado water. It encompasses 15 counties including all or parts of Mesa, Delta, Rio Blanco, Moffat, Montrose, Ouray, Hinsdale, Gunnison, Pitkin, Eagle, Garfield, Summit, Grand, Routt and Saguache Counties. For more information about the District, visit [www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org).

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