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February 12, 2020

**RE: Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's (PRRIP) First Increment Extension**

Dear SPWRAP Members,

January 2020 marked the start of the PRRIP's First Increment Extension. This extension continues the Program for 13 more years (2020-2032).

Over the past several years, SPWRAP representatives worked in close coordination with the State of Colorado to lay the foundation for this extension of the PRRIP. This involved a number of steps. In 2018, the PRRIP's Governance Committee negotiated the terms of the proposed extension; the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation completed NEPA compliance evaluating the proposed extension's impacts and alternatives; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a supplemental programmatic Biological Opinion on the extension. In 2019, the Governance Committee formally approved an addendum to the Program Document incorporating the terms of the extension; legislation authorizing implementation and federal funding for the extension which was passed by Congress and signed into law; and the Secretary of Interior and Governors of Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming executed a Cooperative Agreement formally extending the PRRIP.

The PRRIP's First Increment Extension is designed to continue Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for the Platte River target species under Biological Opinions that were previously issued & tiered to the milestones of the initial 13-year increment. The milestones established for the first increment of the PRRIP have essentially remained unchanged for the extension. As such Colorado water users & SPWRAP members do not have additional obligations to the PRRIP, rather the extension will allow all PRRIP participants to accomplish the existing milestones. Moving forward there is now an updated Biological Assessment template and worksheet forms to be used by SPWRAP members to initiate the streamlined ESA Section 7 consultation process, for water related activities in Colorado relying on the Program. These documents are accessible through the SPWRAP website, [cospwrap.org](http://cospwrap.org).

Should you have any questions please contact SPWRAP's Executive Director, Dan Gallen, via email [dgallen@auroragov.org](mailto:dgallen@auroragov.org) or by phone (303) 739-7507. Thank you very much and have a great day.

Best Regards,  
SPWRAP, Inc.