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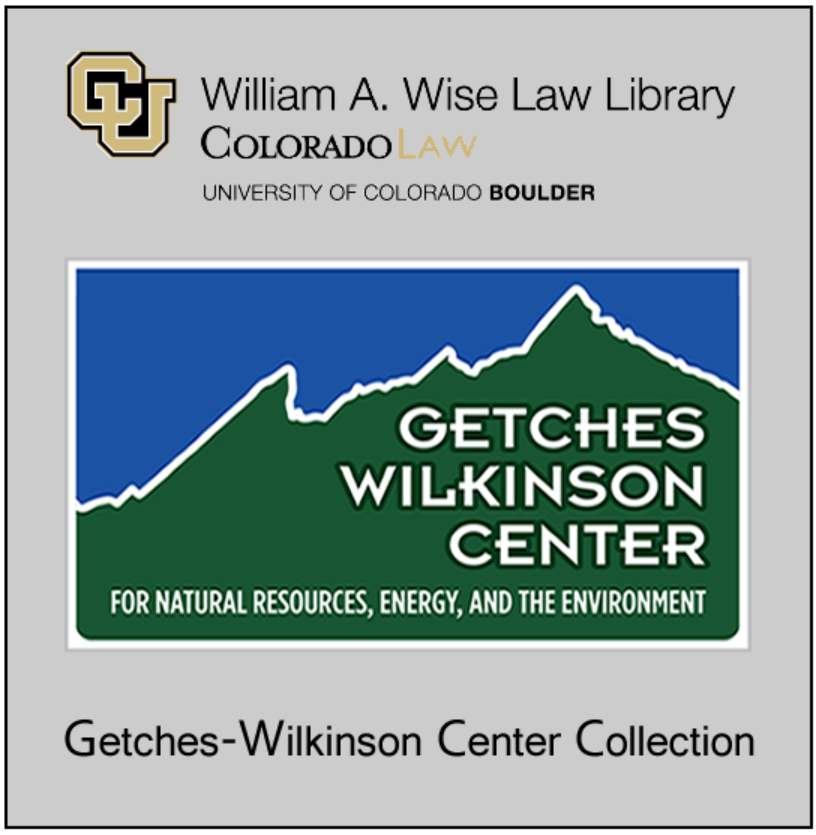
Potential for Coordinated Facilities Management Along the Northern Front Range

Marc Waage



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Abstract

With the EPA veto of Two Forks reservoir in 1989, Denver Water's grand plan to serve the ever growing metro area came to a halt. Instead Denver spent much of the 90s focused on how to meet its existing service area needs through conservation, reuse, and small system refinements. That was predictable. But what took many by surprise was a new demand for water – not for the booming metro Denver, but for headwater communities growing faster than Denver, for endangered species hundreds of miles away, for replacement of contaminated wells, for burgeoning legions of flyfishers, for urban streamflows, and for wild rivers. The solution for each new demand was to negotiate an intensely complex agreement to re-operate Denver's water collection system to accommodate the new demand while ostensibly preserving the system yield.

From the perspective of a person responsible for operating Denver's system under these new agreements, this talk will explore:

- Denver Water's cooperative operating agreements of the 90s and its commitments to cooperative operating agreements in the future.
- A reality check on how long we can keep re-operating away our problems.
- What lessons the Front Range might learn from the West Slope.
- The opportunities (and limits) for coordinated operation of water facilities along the Northern Front Range