



The Shoshone Hydro Plant is located on the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon, about eight miles east of Glenwood Springs. It produces 15 megawatts of electricity and holds the most senior (1905), and influential water right on the Colorado River, returning 100% of the flows it uses to the river after use by the plant. Shoshone’s flows provide critical habitat to fish listed under the Endangered Species Act and drive the recreational economies supported by rafters, kayakers, and anglers from Summit to Mesa County.

The Colorado River Water Conservation District (District) along with many other water entities in the area have been working together to permanently preserve the Shoshone flows during times when the Shoshone Hydro Plant is not operating. The District and the Western Slope coalition are working to acquire the water rights and along with the CWCB to change the water rights to be used as an alternate beneficial use for instream flow purposes to preserve the Shoshone flows.

Agreement for the instream Shoshone flows will directly cover 2.4 miles of the Colorado River that are depleted, sometimes completely without flow, when the Shoshone Hydro Plant is operating. However, due to the seniority of the Shoshone water rights, permanent protection of the Shoshone flows will benefit nearly every stream reach (more than 5,000 miles of rivers, creeks and tributary reaches) because the Shoshone water rights command flows down from the headwaters past junior diverters. In addition, downstream of the plant, Shoshone flows benefit the mainstem of the Colorado River.

**P R O J E C T
D E T A I L S**

Project Cost:	\$99,000,000
NRI Funding Request:	\$20,000,000
Funding Source:	SevTaxPBA via Const Fund
Project Type:	Water Right Purchase
Type of Grantee:	Governmental

L O C A T I O N

Benefits:	West Slope
Water Source:	Colorado River
Drainage Basin:	Colorado River

