



April 29, 2013

STATEMENT REGARDING FOREST SERVICE WATER RIGHTS PERMIT CLAUSE

This statement is submitted on behalf of the Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST).

CAST is an organization of 26 municipalities and four counties whose economies are largely dependent upon the ski industry and tourism. Our members include the mayors, managers, commissioners and council members of the following mountain resort communities:

ASPEN	Aspen	Jackson, WY
AVON	Avon	Minturn
BASALT	Basalt	Mt. Crested Butte
BRECKENRIDGE	Breckenridge	Mountain Village
CRESTED BUTTE	Crested Butte	Ouray
DENVER	Denver	Park City, UT
DILLON	Dillon	Silverthorne
DURANGO	Durango	Silverton
EAGLE COUNTY	Eagle County	Snowmass Village
ESTES PARK	Estes Park	Steamboat Springs
FRASER	Fraser	Summit County, CO
FRISCO	Frisco	Telluride
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	Glenwood Springs	Teton County, WY
GUNNISON COUNTY	Grand Lake	Vail
GRAND LAKE	Gunnison County	Winter Park

Ski areas in national forests contribute substantially to state and local economies. In Colorado, it is estimated that downhill skiers and snowboarders contribute approximately \$1.5 billion dollars to the state economy. The importance of this industry on tourism cannot be overstated and must be protected and maintained.

CAST recognizes that all parties - the Forest Service and the ski areas - are in favor of water rights obtained for recreational uses on the National Forest System remain dedicated to the recreational use for the long term, but currently cannot come to an agreement on who should have domain over these water rights. -

As the Forest Service seeks to rewrite the water rights clause with public input, it is CAST's position that: "As water is crucial to ski area operations, the normal day-to-day functions and operations of the ski areas - i.e. snowmaking, lodging facilities, restrooms, culinary purposes, irrigation, etc. - should be the number one priority to both the Forest Service and the ski areas and in no way should be adversely affected in the new clause."

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Fraser
President
Colorado Association of Ski Towns

