

AT THE WATER TROUGH

Indian Mountain Water Service Program



January, 2026



Fog Halo - Pat Smith

Welcome!

78 new members in the IMWSP

In coordination with the Colorado Division of Water Resources, the Division 1 Water Court, and HASP (Headwater Authority of the South Platte), our 6th tranche of enrollment is officially here!

78 new members have joined. 46 have wells. The other 32 have vacant land. There are now 527 properties in the WSP.

The 1st through the 6th of February will be their first time reporting their meter reading for water use in January.

Special Interest Articles:

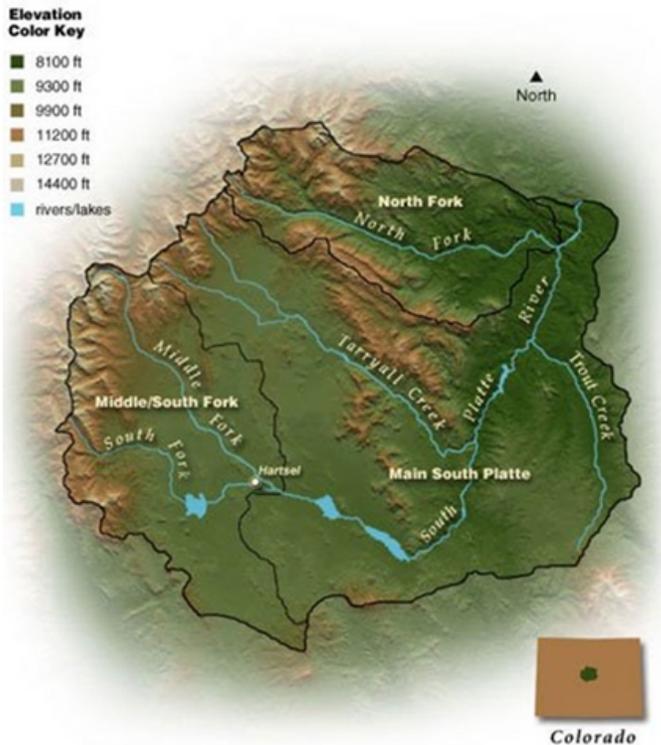
- Welcome New Members
- Water Augmentation Explained
- 2026 IMWSP Fees
- Regional Updates
- Reading Your Meter
- Emergency Contacts
- Meter Testing
- WSP Operations Manual
- Top Meter Reporting Errors
- Selling Your Home

Augmentation Plans:

Augmentation plans are court approved plans allowing you to take water from your well in exchange for providing a percentage of that water to a river or stream at another point (from a holding pond or reservoir) that satisfies senior water rights.

Augmentation plans allow for the use of water without causing injury to other downstream water users.

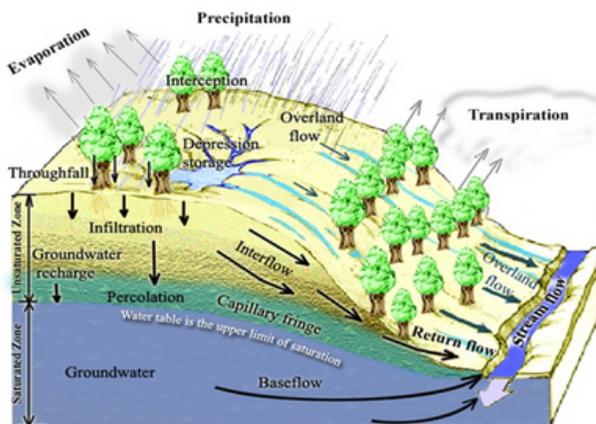
Water Augmentation Explained



When the developer of Indian Mountain wanted to plan a subdivision in Colorado, where a shortage of water during part or all of the year is a common occurrence, our well permits could only be obtained with an augmentation plan. The developer was considered a new water user. In other words, his water rights were “junior” to certain other water rights which were “senior” on the South Platte River.

What do our wells have to do with the South Platte River? Well, as you can see from the picture to the left, all our streams flow into the South Platte River.

This means that our ground water is also intimately connected to the South Platte River. How? Look at the picture below:



For us, that means that in order to be able to draw and use water out of the ground by way of our wells, 10% of that water has to be put back into the South Platte River. The rest (90%) flows back by way of our leach fields. HASP (Headwater Authority of the South Platte) puts back the 10% for the IMWSP. They require us to measure the water that we take out of the ground by way of Certified Water Meters because they need to know how much we used in order for them to be able to put the right amount back into the South Platte. HASP has different ways by which they can put back the water.



Most of our wells in Indian Mountain are for household use only, which means that we are only supposed to use the well water for ordinary household purposes and that we are not allowed to use the water outside or for livestock watering. Domestic or Livestock wells can only be obtained on parcels over 35 acres.

Water and water rights are a very big deal in Colorado and the rest of the Western US, because water is becoming scarcer every year, and more and more people want to use it. Whether it is for livestock, agriculture, gardening, cleaning, flushing toilets, or drinking, people all need water and a lot of it. Unfortunately, water is not an unlimited resource.

We foresee that in the future, the Colorado Division of Water Resources will require all augmented wells to be metered and reported.



Flyfishing the South Platte River - Pat Smith

“The Indian Mountain Metropolitan District is responsible for the operation of the IMWSP in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement between IMMD and HASP and HASP regulations.”

-IMWSP Operations Manual

2026 - IMWSP Administrative fee

The IMMD Board of Directors has approved the IMWSP annual administrative fee for 2026 to be \$75. The \$75 annual IMWSP administrative fee for 2026 is the same as it was for 2025, 2024, 2023 and 2022 (reduced from \$80 in 2021 and \$100 in 2020).

Everyone was emailed an invoice the first week in January and you will have 30 days to submit payment. If you have multiple properties in the program, a separate invoice was sent for each lot.

We now have a way to pay online! Go to the Metro District website at <https://indianmountain.info>, navigate to the “WATER” tab, then select “Make Payment” from the dropdown menu. The firm that handles our online payments charges a small fee for their services.

As always you can write a check with remittance to: IMWSP, PO Box 25, Como, CO 80432.

Or you can drop off your cash or check payment at the Community Center’s office or drop box.

Remember, per the Operations Manual, if your email and/or address has changed, it is your responsibility to let us know.

Regional Updates

Wild Horse Reservoir

Wild Horse Reservoir will be located south of Hwy 24 and west of Hwy 9. It will be a few miles west of Spinney Reservoir.

The city of Aurora, Colorado, at the time of this writing, has purchased a total of 258 properties in Park County most of which are in the Wild Horse area. 37 properties were bought in 2025.

For the latest details go to: <https://wildhorsereservoir.org>

Montgomery Reservoir Enlargement

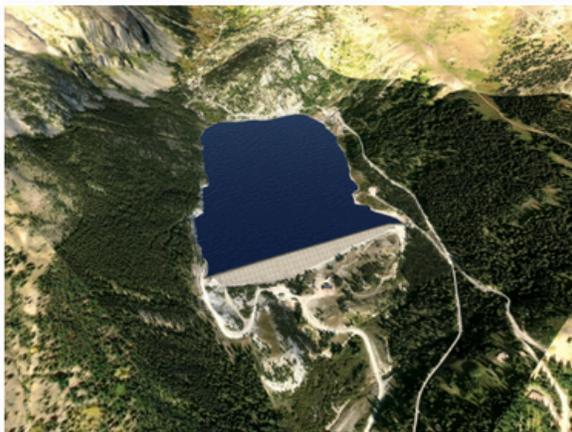
Montgomery Reservoir is in the northwest part of Park County near Hoosier Pass, a few miles north of Alma, Colorado. It is owned by Colorado Springs Utilities and delivers water to Colorado Springs, Colorado for municipal use. It is at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the South Platte River.

Expansion of the reservoir is in the works and will have some impacts on access for fishing and other recreational activities.

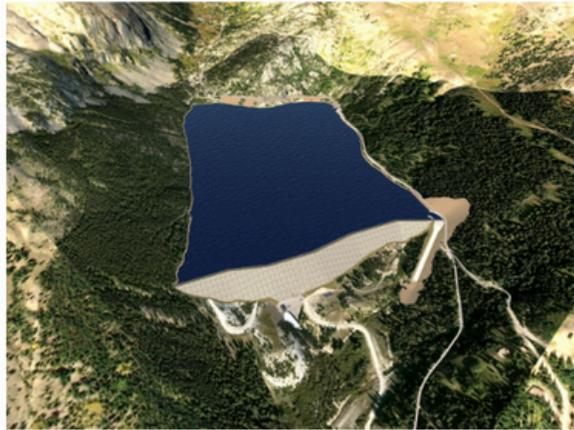
For the latest details go to:

<https://www.parkcountyco.gov/923/Montgomery-Reservoir-Enlargement>

Existing Reservoir:



Expanded Reservoir:



Reading Your Meter

There are 13 different water meters in Indian Mountain and most members are reporting properly per the instructions.

However, there are a few folks who have trouble with it, so here are examples for the most common meters.

If you are unsure of how to report your meter reading, please email us a picture, and we will help you.

As a reminder, we need the 7 numbers of whole gallons to be reported. Please do not report any partial gallons or decimal numbers.

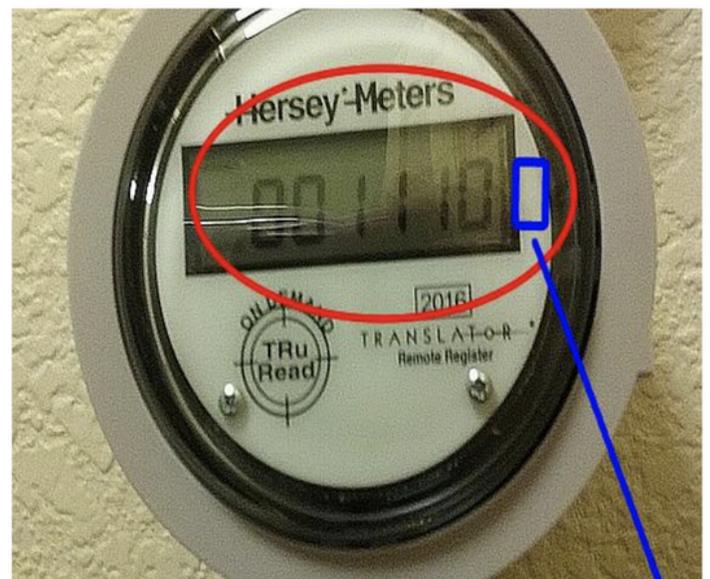
The last 2 numbers on Sensus iPerl meters are decimals. Please do not report them. **The correct reading & reporting of the meter to the right is 0207676.**

(207,676 gallons have been used)



If you have a Hersey remote reader, like the one on the right, you must add a zero on the right end. **The correct meter reading & reporting of the meter to the right is 0011100.**

(11,100 gallons have been used)



The iPerl remote unit displays in 10 gallon increments. Add another zero to rightmost column. This example reading will be 0011100.

Reading Your Meter (continued)

For mechanical meters with dials like the one on the right, read the first 5 numbers in the register from left to right, then the 2 red dials on the right going clockwise. The 2 red dials in the 6 o'clock and 8 o'clock positions are decimals / partial gallons, and are not counted or reported.

The correct meter reading & reporting of the meter to the right is 0000292.

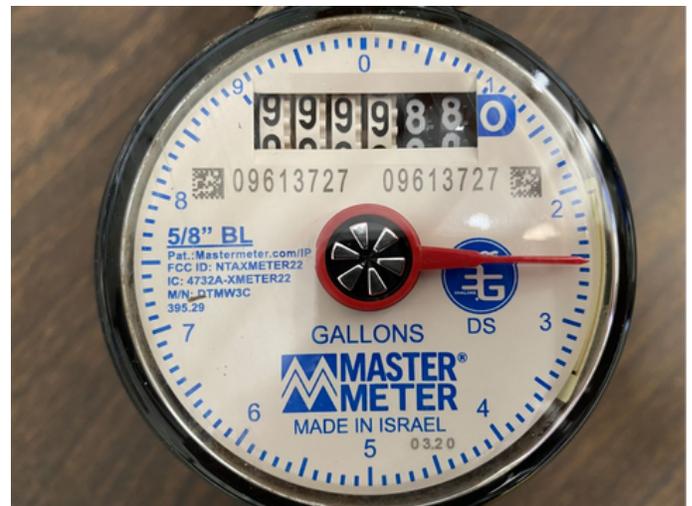
(292 gallons have been used)



For mechanical meters like the one on the right, you must include the painted zero "0" on the right.

The correct meter reading & reporting of the meter to the right is 9999880.

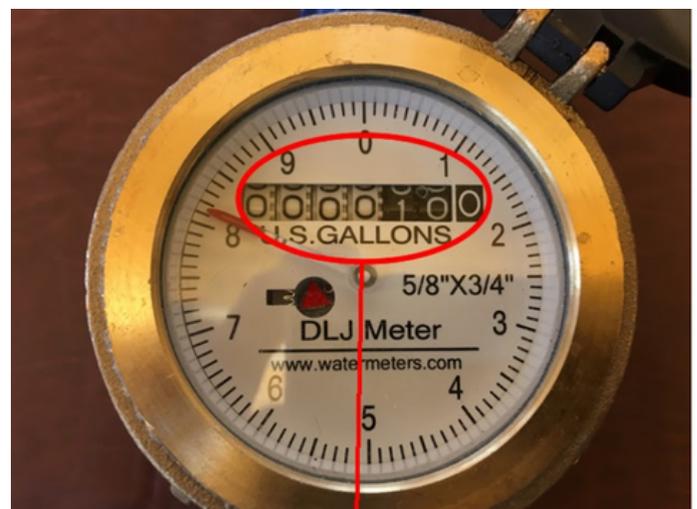
(9,999,880 gallons have been used)



For mechanical meters like the one on the right, you must include the painted zero "0" on the right.

The correct meter reading & reporting of the meter to the right is 0000100.

(100 gallons have been used)

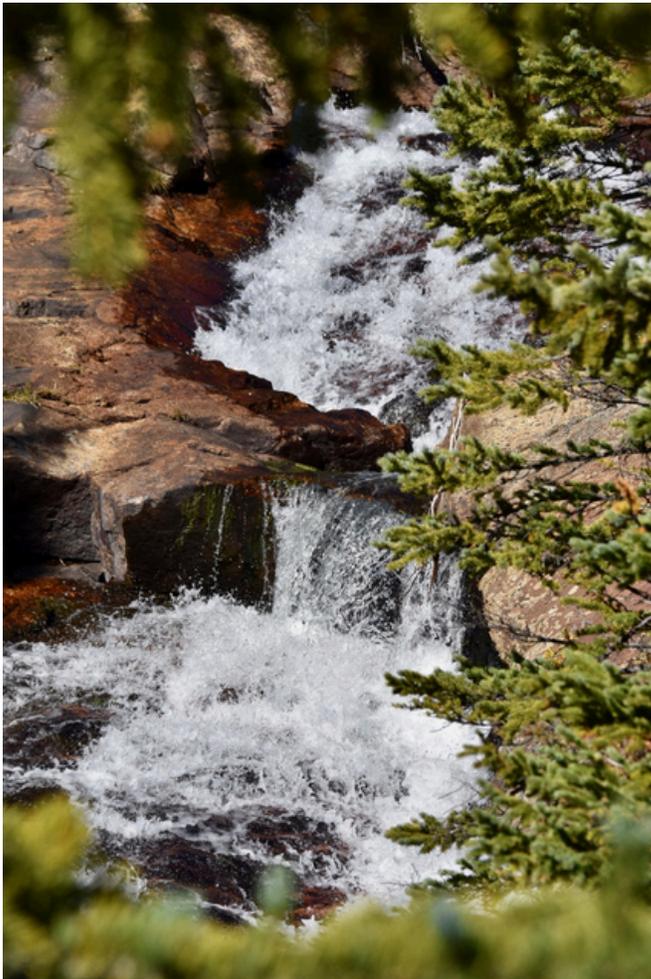


Record All Seven Digits. Rightmost is always zero.
Ignore sweep hand.

Fun Water Facts

- Water is the only natural substance that exists as a solid, liquid, and gas at Earth's typical temperatures.
- Water expands by about 9% when it freezes, which is why ice floats.
- Icebergs are made of freshwater, even when they form in salty oceans.

<https://funfacts.co>



waterfall and Evergreen - Jackie Middelhoek

Communication is the Key!

If you run into a bind with something to do with the WSP, please let us know how we can help.

We will do our best to accommodate monthly reporting in family emergencies or set up a payment plan with you for the annual fee.

Emergency Contacts

There have been several instances where we have had to get a hold of an Emergency Contact person because a member isn't reporting, paying their annual admin fee or fines for not reporting. We have a process where we dismiss someone from the program for non-compliance and they must seek other water augmentation. The Emergency Contact has saved several members who were hospitalized, or who have passed away, and the family didn't know about the IMWSP.

We never know what life is going to throw at us.

Please update your Emergency Contact information with us if it has changed or if you left that section of the enrollment form blank.

Many thanks to everyone who reports their monthly meter reading and pays the annual administrative fee on time!

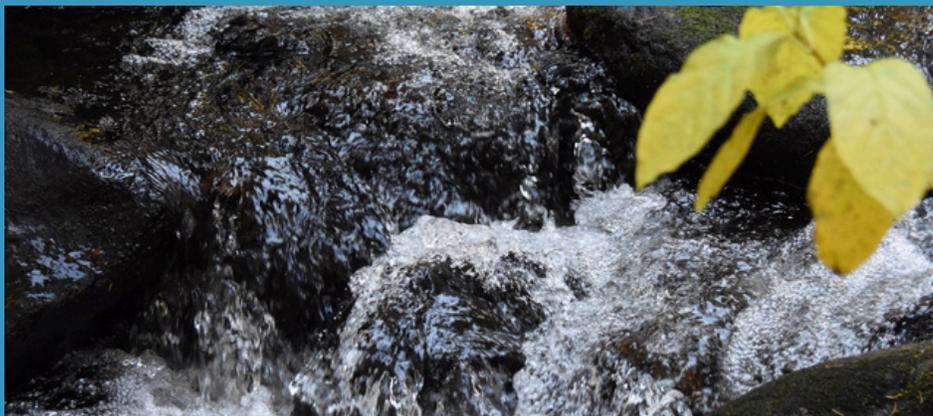
We have rules in place due to HASP (Headwater Authority of the South Platte) and State of Colorado Division of Water Resources requirements. We did not make these rules, but we must enforce them to prevent jeopardizing our program.

We have had to expel several property owners from the IMWSP for not reporting on time, not paying fines, not paying the annual fee on time, and not transferring in.

Since the IMWSP is a non-profit program, meaning that all costs get divided evenly between the participants, fines are unfortunately necessary to make the violators reimburse the added administrative costs for the extra work they cause. This way everyone else does not have to pay for their indiscretions.

Some minor changes and updates occur every year.

Please review the WSP Operations Manual on our website under the WATER tab at:
<https://indianmountain.info>.



Creekside - Jackie Middelhoek

Water Meter Testing

Congratulations to Jeanne Wells for becoming a water meter certifier! She is a resident of Indian Mountain and certified the meters for the new group that started in the IMWSP this year.

There are now 527 properties in the IMWSP. When meters break, replacements must be certified. Additionally, when a new group joins the WSP, the new meters need to be certified.

On top of that, all meters in the WSP need to be re-certified in their tenth year of service, so starting in 2027 a majority of the meters will need to be re-certified. We will email you when your meter needs to be re-certified.

- **We need more Certified Meter Testers that live in the area!**
- Jeanne cannot singlehandedly certify the hundreds of meters required in 2027. Your investment of time getting trained, certifying Indian Mountain meters, and eventually expanding to other neighborhood certifications could be a great new local career!
- To become a State Certified Meter Tester, please look at this page: [Flow Measurement - Division of Water Resources](#) and refer to the links at the bottom left corner and at the bottom. We are in Division 1 – South Platte.
- Please let us know if you are interested.

Composed of approximately 75% water, the human brain relies on this fluid for optimal function. This fact, while widely cited, has regional variations and specific roles, but it highlights just how critical hydration is for maintaining mental clarity, memory, and overall neurological health.

<https://welly.it.com>

TOP Meter Reporting Errors

- Please enter your ID correctly. The ID is 5 characters long. The first character is the first (capital) letter of your last name. The following four characters are numbers. Type zero “0” and please do NOT use the letter “O” for zero. **The meter reporting page of the website has been updated so it will indicate an error if your ID does not contain a CAPITAL letter and 4 numbers. You must enter your ID number in the correct format in order to proceed.**
- Please do not transpose numbers in your ID number. You can digitally copy your number from your reminder email and paste it in the field for your ID number to avoid a typing error.
- Please get your reading in between the 1st and the 6th of every month. If you report after that, your meter reading will not get counted.
- If your reading is reported way too early (before the 25th), your reading will not get counted.
- Please enter the correct month in the field. The correct month is the month prior to the one that we report in. From February 1st through 6th, we report for water use in January. Your reporting reminder email contains the month you are to report for.
- Reminders are sent out every month to everyone on the 28th or 29th. If you receive a reminder on the 4th and/or the 6th, it means that we did NOT receive your meter reading. Please remember to hit the “Submit” button when you report your meter reading. No need to email or call us if you get a notice on the 4th or the 6th. Just simply submit your reading.
- Please check your junk mail folder if you are not receiving reminders.
- Please do your best to provide us with a correct and accurate meter reading. We keep track of all water usage, but don’t always have the time to let you know when you over or under reported. Some members report negative numbers and others report excessive numbers. As per the Operation Manual, any water use above 88,000 gallons a year or 7,333 a month may incur additional costs, fines, liens, dismissal or other punitive actions deemed appropriate by the IMMD Board.
- If you haven’t used any water, please do NOT report “0”. Please report your actual water meter reading as required by the Operations Manual.
- Please keep track of your monthly usage so that it is easy for you to see if there is an error in your reporting. For reference, we as a couple living here full time use about 3,000 gallons a month.

TELL YOUR REALTOR & THE WSP ADMINISTRATOR

**Don't Forget: WSP Membership is a Valuable Property Asset
If you are Planning on Selling your Property:**

*** Notify your Realtor of WSP Membership & the WSP Administrator ***

We have heard of instances when an IMWSP property owner does not inform their realtor or interested home buyers that they belong to the IMWSP and that their water augmentation is assured.

There are also instances when members do not include in their "for sale" property information that they belong to IMWSP, that they have a certified water meter, and that future water augmentation for this property is assured. This is a mistake--you are undervaluing your property.

Remember, by joining the community-managed non-profit IMWSP you have effectively bought water augmentation which "stays with the property" from new owner to new owner (unless you opt-out or do not comply with WSP policies). Given the growing scarcity of water and increasing costs, to be able to say that water augmentation is included as part of your property means a great deal.

Also remember that you have been provided an IMWSP Water Augmentation Certificate. This is a valuable document, and copies should be given to your realtor and interested home buyers.

Be sure to also inform them that you have a certified water meter----your water meter is an investment and a value-added amenity to your home. We recently were told by a HASP water lawyer that "it is likely that the District Engineer (Colorado Division of Water Resources) will require metering for all augmented wells in the future." So, the WSP/HASP requirement for a water meter and monthly reporting is ahead of its time. Be sure to tell an interested property owner that your property already has a certified water meter.

-Article by Glenn Haas (one of the founders of the WSP)

The WSP is a massive program that has a multitude of moving parts that takes hundreds of hours to run each year.

We greatly appreciate everyone reporting on time, and paying your administrative fees and any fines on time. These simple actions makes life much easier for all of us.

CONTACT - IMWSP

Jackie Middelhoek and Patrick Smith
IMWSP Administrators

PO Box 25
Como, CO 80432

EMAIL:
IndianMountainMetroDist@gmail.com

PHONE:
(719) 836-9043

IMWSP: See us under the WATER tab
at: <http://www.indianmountain.info>

Other Links

HASP: www.haspwater.com

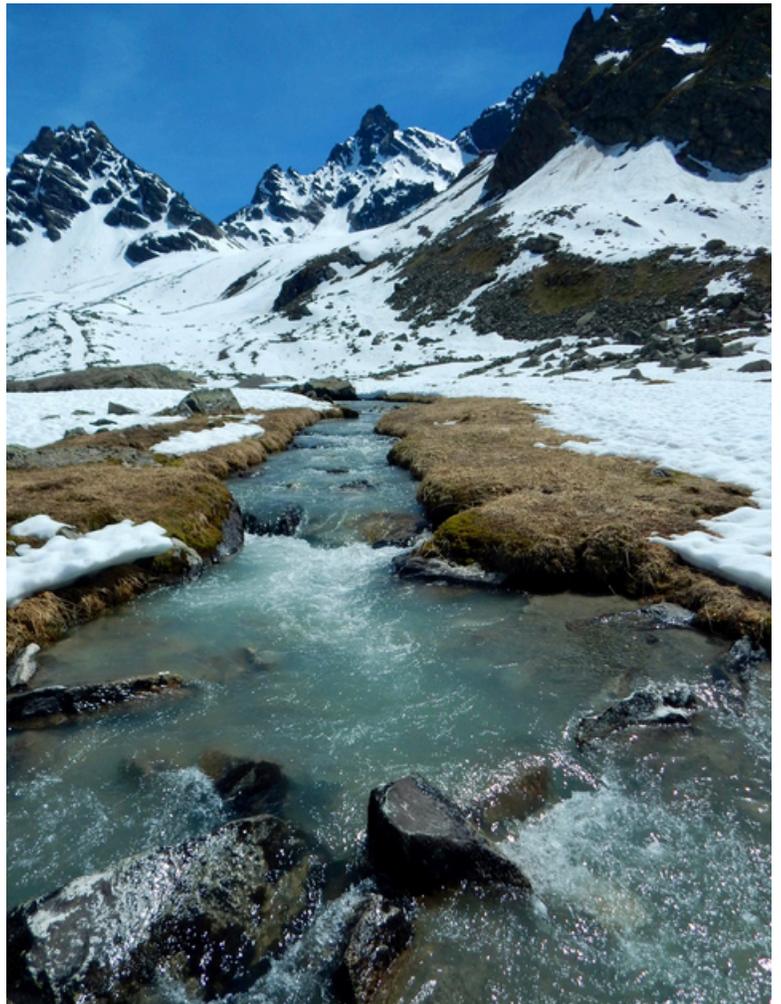
COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES:

·Well Permit Search: [Well Permits](#)

·Water Rights (Decrees) Search: [Water Rights](#)

·Change of Owner/Address: [Guide to Change Owner Name](#) and [Change Owner Name eForm](#)

·To File a Well Permit Application: scroll down to Form GWS-44: [GWS-44 Well Permit App](#) and check out [Well Permitting](#) and [Beginner's Guide to Well Permits](#)



In the Austrian Alps - Jackie Middelhoek