

Colorado Water Projects: Redefining effective engagement in the mitigation and permitting processes

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Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plans

- Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plans (FWMPs) detail how those impacts to fish and wildlife resources created by a water project will be mitigated by the project proponent
- Required by state statute (37-60-122.2, C.R.S.) for water projects that are going through a NEPA process
- Serve as the State of Colorado's position on the mitigation of fish and wildlife resources related to impacts of water projects
- *FWMPs are not permits*

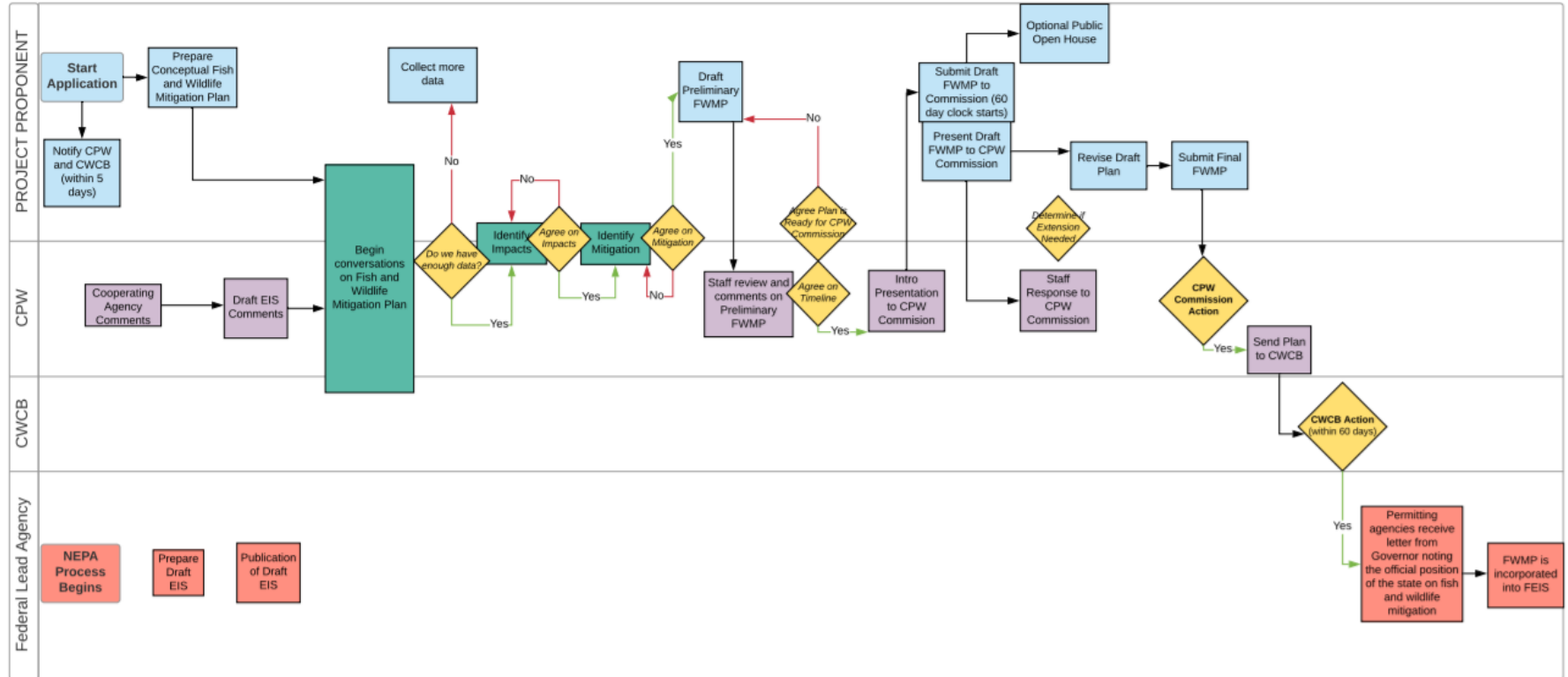


What do FWMPs look like?

- Varies on size of project and its impacts to fish and wildlife resources
- Recent FWMPs: Moffat Firing Project, Windy Gap Firing Project, Chatfield Reallocation Project, Southern Delivery System, Northern Integrated Supply Project
- Example components:
 - Flow management programs
 - Stream improvements
 - Fish passage structures
 - Wildlife land protection
 - Wildlife crossings
 - Wetlands development
 - Monitoring programs
 - Adaptive Management Programs

FWMP Process

FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION PLAN PROCESS



FWMP Process

- Takes place at the state level.
- Proponents work closely with CPW and CWCB staff to identify project impacts and develop mitigation options.
- Once complete, the FWMP is reviewed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.
- If both the CPW Commission and CWCB recommend the FWMP, it becomes the official state position regarding mitigation to fish and wildlife resources for the water project.
- The FWMP is sent to the lead federal agency for consideration in the NEPA process.

FWMP's role in water projects



- State Water Plan calls for 400,000 AF of new storage
- Though there is need for water development, environmental values still need to be at the table
- FWMP is a critical component of achieving balance between water development and resource protection

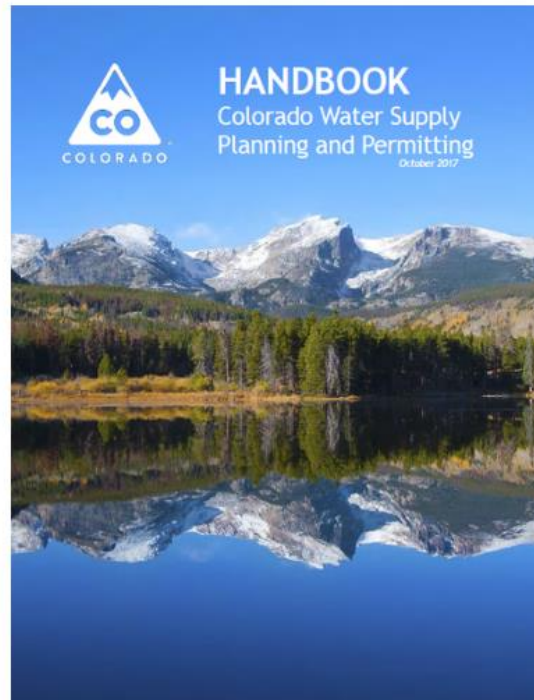
Continuing evolution of FWMPs

- FWMPs became prevalent starting in early 2000s
- Continuing evolution:
 - Share data when possible
 - Start early
 - Encourage stakeholder input
 - SB 18-170
 - It matters



Colorado Water Supply Planning and Permitting Handbook

Released October 2017



Available on the CO Water Plan website



INTENDED AUDIENCE: PROJECT PROPONENTS

This handbook is intended to help project proponents and contractors incorporate regulatory requirements into **initial water supply planning phases long before permitting requests are submitted**, ensuring projects are developed to meet requirements and take into consideration statewide objectives as described in Colorado's Water Plan.



CORE THEME:

Project permitting is more likely to remove inefficiencies, delays, and re-work if project proponents contact and involve all agencies and relevant stakeholders early in the process.



Ch. 2

3 principles

to guide the planning process

1. Understand and incorporate regulatory planning and permitting requirements early.
2. Combine water supply planning with community environmental expectations.
3. Include statewide goals, conservation and reuse measures to reduce demand across all alternatives and minimize impacts on the environment.

THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING!

