

# Water Law

## Pre & Post Activities and Assessment Questionnaire

Thank you for scheduling the Water Law presentation for your class. The more familiar your students are with what they will learn and experience, the better their understanding. To prepare your class for this program, or to follow-up our presentation and reinforce learning concepts, Colorado Springs Utilities suggests the following:

### Online Videos and Websites

#### Colorado Water

- Colorado's Transmountain Diversions from the Colorado River District (8 minute video)—the what, how and why of Colorado's water projects:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jxu0kJKFdGo>

#### Colorado Springs Water System

- The History of Colorado Springs Utilities Water (12 minute video):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMRDhQNO34c&feature=youtu.be>
- Southern Delivery System (1 minute video): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j8Fm45DxWE&index=13&list=PL74C0959D84E7BA62>

#### Colorado Water Law

- Colorado Foundation for Water Education website explains the complex water rights in Colorado: <https://www.yourwatercolorado.org/cfwe-education/water-is/water-law>
- Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law is an excellent booklet explaining water law in Colorado. Order your copy [on-line](#) or request a loan copy [through us](#).

### Rain Barrels

Beginning in August of 2016, homeowners can legally use rain barrels in Colorado thanks to HB 16-1005. What are the rules?

- Single family or multi-family (with four or fewer units) may collect precipitation off their roof.
- The water collected must be used on the property where it was collected, and it can only be used for outdoor purposes, such as lawn watering and gardening.
- Rain barrels must have a sealable lid and be located above ground.
- No more than two rain barrels with a combined capacity of 110 gallons or less.
- Homeowner's Associations (HOAs) may not prohibit rain barrels
- Collected water may not be used for drinking or indoor use.

## Water Law Pre/Post-Assessment Quiz

1. What is an acre-foot of water?
2. Colorado is a headwaters state. Of the 16 million acre feet of water generated in Colorado, how much can the state keep?
3. What is the largest use of water in Colorado, and what percentage is that?
4. What is a water right?
5. How much does a water right cost?
6. Are rain barrels legal in Colorado?
7. Is a water right tied to the land?
8. Who gets the water during a drought?
9. What is a "senior" right?
10. Who makes water decisions in the State of Colorado?

Answer Key: 1. An acre-foot of water is the volume of water that would cover one acre of land a depth of 12 inches = 326,700 gallons; 2. Only 1/3 of the water; 3. Agriculture uses 86% of the water in Colorado; 4. The right to use a portion of the public's water resource; 5. The price varies between \$5,000 to \$20,000+ depending on the water right date and distance to divert; 6. No, unless you own a well; 7. No; 8. The water right holder with the most senior date; 9. First in time, first in right – the water right with the oldest date has senior rights and is therefore more valuable; 10. Colorado Water Court and the State Engineer (Colorado Division of Water Resources).