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Colorado Parks and Wildlife begins releasing water from Flagler Reservoir Aug. 21

FLAGLER, Colo. - Colorado Parks and Wildlife began releasing water from Flagler Reservoir on Monday, Aug. 21, under a release order from the Colorado Division of Water Resources. Flagler Reservoir is a part of the Flagler Reservoir State Wildlife Area located near the town of Flagler, north of I-70, in Kit Carson County.

CPW is only allowed to keep water in Flagler Reservoir when there is not a downstream water user in need of water. Due to calls for water from downstream senior water right owners, CPW must release this water to the South Republican River.

CPW began making a controlled release of approximately 500 acre-feet** of water on Monday, Aug. 21. A CPW technician will release the water gradually to ensure public safety. At this point, it is not known how many days it will take to release the required amount of water.

Flagler is typically a dry reservoir with occasional capture of stormwater runoff. During some rain events, it receives storm water from tributaries upstream. In years with good rainfall, the reservoir tends to fill if the outlet gates are closed. Summer of 2017 has been one of the wettest seasons the area has seen in close to 20 years, filling the reservoir more than normal. The primary benefit of Flagler Reservoir is for wildlife habitat. No fish are currently stocked in the reservoir.

**An acre-foot of water is about a football-field-area worth of water, 1 foot deep.

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CPW is an enterprise agency, relying primarily on license sales, state parks fees and registration fees to support its operations, including: 41 state parks and more than 350 wildlife areas covering approximately 900,000 acres, management of fishing and hunting, wildlife watching, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education. CPW's work contributes approximately \$6 billion in total economic impact annually throughout Colorado.