Evolution of the Law Governing Colorado’s Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program

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Abstract:
Colorado’s Legislature created the Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program in 1973 to address the lack of a legal mechanism to protect water in streams for environmental preservation. Over the years, additional legislation and Colorado Supreme Court decisions have clarified and refined the program. This lecture will trace the laws and court opinions that have shaped the program to address policy issues and meet evolving needs related to protecting valuable natural resources.