



PUBLIC RESOURCES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY: WHY THE RIGHT TO FLOAT IS COMPLICATED AND HOW COLORADO ADDRESSES IT

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While water flowing through Colorado's streams and rivers is public, the streambed and embankments are often privately owned meaning wading and anchoring could be considered trespassing.

Water Rights Breakdown

Riverbeds and embankments are often

PRIVATE

Water itself is
PUBLIC



Disputes are being settled on a
case-by-case basis

Great Outdoors Colorado

Since 1994, GOCO has

1

Invested over \$1.6B in outdoor access

2

Protected over 1,100 miles of river

3

Added over 66K acres to the state park system

Outdoor Recreation Impact on the Economy

\$36.5 Billion GDP

(8.5% of state total)

\$11.2 Billion

Local, state, & Federal
Tax Revenue

404,000 Jobs

(12.5% of state labor force)

Policy Considerations:

Helping Coloradans better understand the state's waterways can improve public awareness of access points and showcase Colorado's ongoing commitment to outdoor recreation.