



## Efforts are Being Made to Protect Farms: Irrigation water disappears

Standards met: NGSS Standards: HS-ESS3-1; HS-ESS3-3

1. What happened in 2009 that could lead to an end of local farms in eastern Pueblo County?
  - a. Pueblo Board of Water Works purchased 1/3 of the Bessemer Ditch irrigated farmland water rights
2. Why was this done?
  - a. To accommodate future growth in Pueblo
3. What could happen to Pueblo's economy if these farmlands dry up?
  - a. The economy could lose between \$8.4 million to \$17 million each year
4. What entities are decision makers and have interests at stake in the dry-out of farmlands?
  - a. Land owners
  - b. Pueblo Water
  - c. Bessemer Irrigation Ditch Company
  - d. Pueblo County Commissioners
5. What options are being explored to protect farming?
  - a. Switching which farmlands are dried out to avoid loss of the most fertile and productive farmlands
  - b. Rethinking the types of crops grown to yield a higher dollar return
6. Why is a pilot water transfer project being carried out?
  - a. Determine if it will work
  - b. Determine what the steps are and what the costs are
7. What are the responsibilities of each of the following entities?
  - a. Bessemer Ditch Company: approve the water transfer and make sure it is physical possible based on the hydraulics of the ditch system
  - b. Pueblo water: approve the transfer and 1041 (planning) process
  - c. Pueblo County omission: dictate what happens when water starts to get moved off farms
8. According to O'Hare, Pueblo community conservation manager for the Palmer Land Trust, what is the most encouraging part of the project?
  - a. Everyone is working together as partners and not enemies-there are no "bad guys"
9. Why is the purchase of water rights by the Pueblo Board of Water Works, rather than another municipality important to the project?
  - a. Pueblo cares about and has an interest in protecting the resources in Pueblo County
10. How far in the future will this project be complete?
  - a. 2029 and in some cases 2039
11. Why is planning during this time so important?
  - a. If the work is not done now we will experience some devastating effects

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