HOW DO I ...
Bid on Regional Pool Program water?

When should I expect to see RPP water allocated?
• In years when the RPP has been implemented, the Northern Water Board of Directors can allocate water during its meetings from January to September.
• These monthly meetings usually are on the second Friday of each month.

How will I know if the RPP is implemented in a water year?
• Register for updates by clicking “Register” at the top of any Northern Water Web page (northernwater.org). Select the Regional Pool option under “E-mail notification options.”
• Visit northernwater.org/RegionalPool
• Check for notices at Northern Water's headquarters, 220 Water Ave., Berthoud

How do I prepare to bid?
Interested bidders must turn in the RPP Pre-Approval Form to Northern Water. They can do this either before bidding begins or along with bid submission. The form allows staff to confirm bidders are eligible to participate in the RPP, so it’s best to fill one out ahead of an allocation.

If the RPP water will be delivered through a carrier, such as a ditch or reservoir company, bidders or their carriers must complete the Regional Pool Program Carrier Consent Form or provide a signed agreement stating that the carrier will deliver the RPP water to the bidder.

What should bids include?
• The Regional Pool Program Bid Form
• The amount of water you would like and your per-acre-foot bid amount
• The Regional Pool Program Pre-Approval Form (if not already on file)

When are bids due?
If the board does make an allocation, water users will have until 2 p.m. local time five business days after the allocation took place to submit bids, which can either be hand delivered (the recommended method) or mailed. Late bids are not accepted.

What will Northern Water do with my bids?
Each sealed envelope will be date- and time-stamped once received, then given a bid number. Bid number and amounts/ prices will be open to the public, bidders’ names will not.

How do I know the results?
Bids will be opened in a public forum at Northern Water’s headquarters at approximately 2:10 p.m. on the day they were due. Staff will award (pending any eligibility checks) the water based on the highest per-acre-foot bids. Winners will be notified within five business days. Payment is due no later than 10 business days after the bid opening.

What is the best way to ensure my bid application is accepted?
Read the official Regional Pool Program Procedures. They are on the RPP page at www.northernwater.org/RegionalPool.

For more information
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What is the Regional Pool Program?
The RPP provides Colorado-Big Thompson Project allottees a mechanism to lease water they do not need in the current water year to other water users for use in the following year. The RPP is administered pursuant to a rule adopted by the Northern Water Board of Directors in 2005.

How and when was the RPP developed?
Early in 2003, C-BT allottees and Northern Water staff began meeting to discuss ways to improve C-BT related programs’ effectiveness at meeting demands during long droughts.

These meetings led to changes to the Annual Carryover Program and to the creation of the Carryover Capacity Transferability Program, which have both been used since 2004.

Discussions about the significance of the C-BT Project’s annual supplemental water supply also led to creation of the Regional Pool Program. Although the program was developed in 2005, RPP water can only be allocated when C-BT Project storage exceeds a certain amount. The first allocation did not take place until these conditions were first met in 2010.

Where does the RPP water come from?
At the end of every water year (Oct. 31), account entities (AEs) are allowed to carry over a portion of their unused C-BT water into the new water year. Unused water in excess of an AE’s carryover limits will accrue to the Regional Pool. If an AE elects not to pay for the storage of carryover water, that water goes in too.

How and when is water allocated from the Regional Pool?
According to the RPP rule, the Northern Water Board of Directors may allocate water from the Regional Pool only when C-BT Project reserves (as calculated in mid-November) exceed 200,000 acre feet.

The rule limits the size of Regional Pool allocations to 62,000 acre feet per year. If the board elects to make Regional Pool water available for lease, it may do so at any of its regularly scheduled monthly board meetings starting in January.

If the board does not allocate all of the RPP water in a given month, it can make more water available incrementally through September.

Who gets to use the Regional Pool water?
All Regional Pool water will be available through a competitive sealed bid process. Once it is allocated, pool water will be leased to qualified water users who submit the highest bid per acre-foot.

Both allottees and non-allottees can lease water from the Regional Pool.

Revenue generated by RPP leases will ultimately be distributed back to the AEs that provided water to the pool. It is important to recognize that the RPP rule prohibits AEs who supply water to the Regional Pool from leasing pool water in the same water year.

How can the water be used?
Similar to other C-BT supplies leased among water users in Northeastern Colorado, RPP water may only be leased for beneficial uses authorized by Northern Water and only within Northern Water district boundaries. But you don’t have to be an allottee to bid on or use RPP water.

Will the RPP restrict an entity’s ability to lease its own C-BT water?
Absolutely not. The board will continue to declare an annual “quota” to owners of C-BT allotment contracts. Allottees will continue to have the flexibility to lease all, or a portion, of their respective quota water to other water users within district boundaries.

GET THE LATEST RPP NEWS
Visit northernwater.org/RegionalPool for updated news and information regarding the RPP program.

To get e-mail updates, visit northernwater.org and register for an online account or update your current account. To subscribe, select the Regional Pool option under “E-mail Notification Options.”

Or contact: Northern Water Distribution Systems Department 970-292-2500 or dispatch@northernwater.org.