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**Report: Using Recycled Water for Hydraulic Fracturing Feasible in Colorado**

May 2, 2023 - [A new report by FracTracker Alliance](#) on water consumption by oil and gas companies in Colorado finds recycled water could provide most, or all, of the water necessary for hydraulic fracturing operations in the state.

In recent years, freshwater demands for oil and gas extraction have increased substantially in Colorado despite concerns about water shortages. However, according to the report by FracTracker Alliance, data shows Colorado oil and gas operators produced more wastewater than hydraulic fracturing operations used in the state over a ten-year period, which suggests hydraulic fracturing operations could rely exclusively on recycled or reclaimed water.

Key findings of [the report](#):

- Colorado's oil and gas industry has produced enough wastewater statewide to completely satisfy the current and past needs of source water for HF completions, over the ten-year period of this analysis; 2013-2022.
- Water use for HF completions have risen sharply over the last ten years, more than doubling statewide.
- Average volumes of water consumption per individual HF well completion have also risen sharply, and are over four times higher than 2013.
- Implementation of recycling requirements for sourcing HF water would alleviate the pressure on freshwater resources.
- Within Colorado, recycling wastewaters for use as HF waters would reduce stress on freshwater resources the most for Weld County.
- New rules and wastewater recycling requirements proposed in HB 23-1242 would reduce the amount of freshwater consumed for HF operations while allowing Colorado oil and gas companies to operate at their current level of exploration and production.

[FracTracker Alliance](#) is a non-profit organization that maps, analyzes, and communicates the risks of oil, gas, and petrochemical development. For more information, please contact Kyle Ferrar, Western Program Coordinator, FracTracker Alliance at [ferrar@fractracker.org](mailto:ferrar@fractracker.org).

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