

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board

FROM: Carolyn Fritz, GIS Coordinator  
Ray Alvarado, Section Chief  
Water Information Section

DATE: March 4, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 24, March 15–16, 2011 Board Meeting**  
**Water Information Section –Irrigated Lands: Western Colorado Past and Present**

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### Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal Board action is required.

### Introduction

A presentation of western Colorado's past and present irrigated lands will be given, highlighting CWCB's GIS and technical expertise and resources.

The presentation will show how staff was able to spatially reconcile irrigated lands reported in 1948 with today's digital efforts.

This was not a detailed analysis due to the very general nature and unknown source of numbers reported in the 1948 report, and the low quality of the map provided. This analysis was staff's best interpretation of the information provided.

**Attachment:** A table comparing irrigated lands reported in 1948 compared with lands in 2005.

## Irrigated Lands: Western Colorado - Past Present

|  | 1948 URBCC Report^ |               | DSS Data |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------------------|---------------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Irrigated Area Location  | 1914-1945 Ave      | 1932-1948 Ave | 2005     |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <u>Linwood to Green River, Utah</u>  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Snake R. Above Lilly  | 7,895              |               | 13,560   | 1535 *  | * reside in WY but are irrigated with CO water |  |  |  |  |
| Little Snake R. near Slater  |                    | 200           | 1,295    | Acreage included in larger basins, not additive |  |  |  |  |  |
| Slater Fk near Slater  |                    | 1,300         | 2,464    | to total  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yampa R. above Maybell   | 65,720             |               | 56,313   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Upper Yampa and Elk  | 34,416             |               | 28,106   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yampa R. at Steamboat Springs  |                    | 19,730        | 18,548   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elk R at Clark   |                    | 230           | 791      |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lower Yampa to Maybell   | 31,304             |               | 28,207   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remainder Linwood to Green River, Utah (Vermillion, Yampa ds of Maybell, Other Tribs to Green) | 1,840              |               | 4,598    |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cottonwood/Vermillion  | 1,840              |               | 864      |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yampa R. downstream of Maybell   |                    |               | 3,362    |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Tributaries to the Green   |                    |               | 372      |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| White R. above Watson  | 30,660             |               | 27,517   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| White R near Meeker  |                    | 12,270        | 10,035   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <u>Total above Green River, Utah (White, Yampa, Little Snake)</u>                              | 106,115            |               | 101,988  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <u>Colorado River above Cisco</u>  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado River above Cameo   | 154,581            |               | 150,896  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Muddy, Troublesome, Blue   | 16,960             |               | 23,135   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blue River at Dillon   |                    | 143           | 121      |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tenmile Cr at Dillon   |                    | 201           | 26       |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado River above Glenwood  | 35,547             |               | 42,464   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado R at Hot Sulphur Spgs   |                    | 12,710        | 14,908   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eagle River, Gypsum Creek  | 15,629             |               | 6,832    |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roaring Fork above Basalt and Tribs  | 13,893             |               | 10,666   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roaring Fork at Aspen  |                    | 120           | 0        |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roaring Fork below Basalt and Tribs  | 20,790             |               | 14,647   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colo R and Tribs. Glenwood to Cameo  | 51,762             |               | 53,152   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plateau Creek at Cameo   | 24,650             |               | 24,650   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plateau Valley   | 24,650             |               | 24,650   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado River to Stateline  | 256,578            |               | 227,883  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |               |          |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gunnison R at Grand Jct  | 251,842            |               | 246,535  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Upper Gunnison to Cimarron   | 39,862             |               | 36,711   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Taylor R at Almont   |                    | 360           | 580      |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| East R at Almont   |                    | 7,360         | 8,060    |   |  |  |  |  |  |

Irrigated Lands: Western Colorado - Past Present

|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|--------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tomichi and Cochetopa   | 21,570         |        | 24,138         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NF Gunnison and Tribs   | 78,755         |        | 71,191         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Upper Uncompaghre   | 25,130         |        | 25,694         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uncompaghre R near Colona   |                | 15,510 | 15,322         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uncompaghre Project   | 86,525         |        | 88,801         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dolores River at Gateway  | 35,906         |        | 40,550         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dolores River at Dolores  |                | 2,525  | 1,552          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Upper Dolores   | 3,490          |        | 1,862          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lower Dolores   | 5,856          |        | 5,353          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| San Miguel including Lilylands  | 26,560         |        | 33,335         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remainder above Cisco ( <i>includes Grand Valley, Little Dolores and others</i> ) | 77,347         |        | 52,337         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grand Valley  | 75,698         |        | 49,785         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outside Grand Valley  |                |        | 1,041          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Dolores  | 1,649          |        | 1511           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Total above Cicso, Utah</b>  | <b>544,326</b> |        | <b>514,968</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>San Juan River above Bluff w/additional lands</b>                              | <b>140,165</b> |        | <b>174,063</b> | <i>Increase includes Dolores Project (1993)</i>    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>San Juan River above Bluff</b>   | <b>140,165</b> |        | <b>148,511</b> | <i>and Towac (2005)</i>                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| San Juan River at Pagosa Springs  |                | 3,150  | 4,061          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Upper San Juan  | 9362           |        | 14,330         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Navajo River at Edith   |                | 2,930  | 2,323          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Piedra  | 4,186          |        | 14,745         | <i>Increase due to lands along Wiminuche Creek</i> |  |  |  |  |  |
| Los Pinos   | 32,373         |        | 30,151         | <i>and headwaters of Stollsteimer Creek</i>        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Los Pinos River near Bayfield   |                | 0      | 165            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Animas River  | 10,278         |        | 9,094          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Animas R at Durango   |                | 4,060  | 3,350          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Florida River   | 14,500         |        | 16,430         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Florida R near Durango  |                | 160    | 473            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| La Plata River  | 21,159         |        | 12,903         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| La Plata R at Hesperus  |                | 350    | 557            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mancos River  | 10,354         |        | 9,937          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Montezuma and McElmo above Cortez   | 30353          |        | 33,774         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Montezuma and McElmo below Cortez   | 7,600          |        | 7,147          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Towac   |                |        | 7,167          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dolores Project Lands North of McElmo (Cross and Monument Canyons)                |                |        | 18,385         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Total Upper Colorado Basin in Colorado</b>                                     | <b>790,606</b> |        | <b>791,019</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |                |        |                |  |  |  |  |  |  |

^Upper Colorado River Basin Compact Commission Record: Volume III: Final Draft of Engineering Advisory Committee Report and Inflow-Outflow Manual, November 28, 1948