

Colorado's Water Plan - Input Received
between 1/16/14 and 3/3/2014

Date	Input Provided By	Method of Input Submission	Related Chapters of CWP Framework	Summary of Input	Documents Submitted for Review	Staff Responses and Recommendations
1/24/14 - 2/11/14	422 emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through the Environmental Defense Fund and Conservation Colorado	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	3; 5.6; 5.9	Form Letter Base Text: Dear CWCB, I am writing to support your efforts to create the first ever statewide water plan. Thank you for reiterating the importance of the plan, and water conservation, in your recent State of the State address. As our state's communities grow, our rivers are becoming increasingly strained. That means we need to change the status quo. We need our rivers to be clean and flowing - to support our fish and wildlife, tourism, recreation, and future generations. Colorado's Water Plan has the potential to chart an innovative path forward for our state. I urge you to stand up for measures to protect and restore our rivers, push for conservation, and for cities to live within their means. We need to help agriculture modernize and increase efficiency, and stop looking to the West Slope to solve our water issues. We need to maintain working landscapes, support growing communities, and protect river health. Please ensure that Colorado's Water Plan uses our state's ingenuity to "be prepared" for our water future."	A separate attachment was created for the Board packet including all 422 emails	Staff response: The CWCB and the Basin Roundtables will be working to support conservation, environment, and recreation in the Basin Implementation Plans and draft of Colorado's Water Plan. In addition, the CWCB has granted and loaned millions of dollars toward projects related to agricultural efficiency and will continue to do so. Colorado's Water Plan and the technical work that supports it includes three growth scenarios: low-growth, mid-growth, high-growth. As water planners, Colorado must prepare for any of these future possibilities as we do not have control over the state's economy and how many people are born or choose to move here. While some communities choose to limit growth, doing so on a broad statewide scale is untenable and unconstitutional. The CWCB is working with each basin on their Basin Implementation Plan and will continue to encourage all interested parties to do the same.
1/18/14	Sinjin Eberle, Colorado Trout Unlimited	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.6	Webform comment as follows: "Please consider conservation first, before any further technical/engineering efforts are initiated. The health of Colorado's rivers is vitally important to the future of our state."	N/A	Staff response: The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage balanced multi-purpose projects to meet our future water needs.
1/28/14	Southwestern Water Conservation District and the Southwest Basin Roundtable	Email to Jacob Bornstein, forwarded to cewaterplan@state.co.us.	5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.11	Text from email: "Please find attached the Southwest Colorado Statement of Importance for Colorado's Water Plan. The Statement is the result of a joint collaborative effort by the Southwestern Water Conservation District and the Southwest Basins Roundtable, and has been adopted by both entities. Concepts in this document will be used in the development of the Basin Implementation Plan for southwest Colorado, and should be incorporated into Colorado's Water Plan. Feel free to circulate this Statement as desired."	PDF Version of the Southwest Colorado Statement of Importance for Colorado's Water Plan	Staff response: Most of the comments included in the Southwest Colorado Statement of Importance for Colorado's Water Plan, including the bullets listed under the "principles" section, are important components guiding Colorado's Water Plan, which will be a living document.
1/28/14	Andrew Hutchinson, Dolores River boating Advocates	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.9	Webform comment as follows: "We need to take a serious look at re-watering the dried-up, Lower Dolores River, below McPhee Dam. Fish and wildlife are at the top of the list, and water is over-allocated for agriculture since the Project started. A balance is feasible and in order."	N/A	Staff response: CWCB staff will pass this comment on to the Southwest Basin Roundtable. The CWCB has and will continue to provide resources to help resolve the complex issues on the Dolores River.
2/2/14	Jeff Crane, General Public	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	3, 5.11	Webform comment as follows: "Accelerated growth and a limited water supply has intensified a competition for water throughout Colorado. The Statewide Water Supply Initiative concluded in 2004 that there will be a significant gap between supply and demand for water throughout the State by 2030. Eighty percent of the water is on the West Slope and eighty percent of the population is on the Front Range, but there is a limit to what can be diverted to the Front Range. I believe we have exceeded that limit. The 12 major transbasin diversions that currently move water from west to east average over 507,000 acre-feet per year. Are we, as a State, willing to sacrifice environmental and recreational uses for water so that Denver can water their lawns?" Water conservation should be the first and only tool for meeting that gap. The Front Range has several conservation strategies in place but it is just the start. A tiered pricing system for water on the Front Range should be accelerated to encourage water savings. This could be implemented in a manner that does not significantly affect average households but targets large users of water. It is unconscionable that water is cheaper in Denver than it is in Minneapolis, land of 10,000 lakes. We, as a society, need to pay for the true cost of water. The Front Range uses the West Slope as their playground. The continued loss of water to the Front Range will have a substantial impact on the State's economy. The State's instream flow program should be strengthened and funded to protect our water heritage and recreational economy without injury to agriculture and within the Prior Appropriation Doctrine. Changes could also be made to Colorado Water Law that encourages water conservation. Currently, the law discourages conservation. Ditch companies must divert their full decrees whether they use it or not under risk of abandonment. It is difficult for agriculture to conserve water in a meaningful way and leave the savings in the river. It is also quite disheartening to hear that the Northern Water Conservancy District has sales on their "excess" water. If there is truly excess water it should remain in the basin of origin. Conservation measures can surely make a difference and we can learn from countries like Israel and Australia where arid environments similar to Colorado's have forced the initiation of creative and innovative measures to save water. We could also learn from California where the greatest use of energy comes in the form of moving water. We don't need more pump-back projects or expensive diversions from the Green or Mississippi Rivers. Colorado should become an innovator in conservation and be a leader in an industry that is only going to generate more demand in the future.	N/A	Staff response: Colorado's Water Plan and the technical work that supports it includes three growth scenarios: low-growth, mid-growth, high-growth. As water planners, Colorado must prepare for any of these future possibilities as we do not have control over the state's economy and how many people are born or choose to move here. While some communities choose to limit growth, doing so on a broad statewide scale is untenable and unconstitutional. Consumptive and nonconsumptive water uses are not always at direct odds and Colorado's water Plan will highlight multi-purpose opportunities in addition to nonconsumptive strategies.
2/3/14	Tim Rowse, Community Group in Yampa Valley, Steamboat	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	4; 5.1	Webform comment as follows: "Hello, I'm a member of the Community Alliance of the Yampa Valley (CAYV). Just this morning I was reading an article in the Sunday NY Times about the severe drought conditions in California. I also received an email from CAYV regarding the regional water roundtables. It occurred to me that, while pursuing a more comprehensive water plan is a good idea, the water issue is really a sub issue of climate change. So, yes, in the near term we must address water usage, but if we don't address climate change, we'll be doing this again in the near future as climate models are affected. Governor, Why not make Colorado a poster child for addressing climate change and truly set an example for the nation of what's possible? In my opinion the situation is drastic enough that, nationally, we need an effort to reduce climate change with the equivalent resources as the energy, money and time allocated to the last two US war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. I'll stay tuned from here and hope this doesn't fall into some database somewhere without consideration. Thank You!" Tim Rowse	N/A	Staff response: Climate change could have a serious effect on Colorado's water supplies, which is why Colorado's Water Plan is engaged in scenario planning. While temperature's impact on demands are understood, hydroclocial impacts are not. Since Colorado's water planners cannot necessarily impact the global climate change situation, Colorado's Water Plan is not focused on mitigating climate change. Other agencies within Colorado's state government consider climate mitigation strategies.
2/3/14	Nathan Fey	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.5; 5.9	Webform comment as follows: "Eagerly awaiting the guided feedback process for recreation and environment. If Feb 28th is the deadline for comments, we,are less than a month away... It is critically important that both commercial and non-commercial rec enthusiasts have sufficient time to provide input. I hope these interest are not, once again, getting the short end of the stick."	N/A	Staff response: Several guides for public input including one designed for environmental and recreation interest groups are available at coloradowaterplan.com. There is no firm deadline for submitting input for Colorado's Water Plan. However, the CWCB does encourage groups to engage with their respective Roundtable(s) and to inquire regarding key dates for completion of sections within the draft Basin Implementation Plans, which are due to the CWCB Board at the end of July, 2014.

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2/4/14	Cary Baird, Community Engagement Specialist, Rocky Mountain Region, Chevron	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	3	Webform comment as follows: "Last night, I heard Louis Meyer, President of SGM, talk about the Colorado Water Plan at the CMU Water Center. I enjoyed his presentation very much. I believe I heard him say that the water plan will take into account water needs of industry, including energy development. Is there a specific process or time period by which the energy industry should comment or provide feedback to the plan? Thanks very much."	N/A	Staff response: CWCB staff will be in touch with Cary Baird to suggest which Roundtables Chevron should communicate with.
2/5/14	John McKenzie, Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance (DARCA)	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.5; 5.6.2; 5.7	Webform comment as follows: "DARCA would like to play an active role in providing input into the State Water Plan."	N/A	Staff response: CWCB staff engaged with DARCA at their recent meeting on February 26, 2014. In addition, DARCA is encouraged to work with the Basin Roundtables and the CWCB moving forward.
2/6/14	Michael Murphy, Town of Lake City	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	1	Webform comment as follows: "Water is the life blood of our communities, not only for our drinking water but for the economic well being of this high mountain town. Please keep all Colorado water here at home."	N/A	Staff response: This comment is consistent with Colorado's water values as expressed in Governor Hickenlooper's Executive Order D2013-005 and will be incorporated into Colorado's Water Plan.
2/7/14	John Sauter	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.8	Webform comment as follows: "I am a board member of the Lost Creek Ground Water Management District. I would like to offer any assistance I can with the goal of using our aquifer for storage, while ensuring that the quality and stability are preserved, or improved."	N/A	Staff response: CWCB staff will pass this comment on to the South Platte Basin Roundtable.
2/18/14	Gary Wockner, Save the Poudre	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5	Text from email: "Below is a press release that is going out in a few minutes. Please accept this letter -- signed by 18 Colorado conservation groups -- as input into the Colorado Water Plan. This letter also comes in a video version , posted here . This press release is also posted here ."	PRESS RELEASE: Save The Poudre Requests Fort Collins Meeting for Controversial Colorado Water Plan	Staff response: Regarding the request for a Fort Collins meeting: IBCC Director John Stulp along with several other guest speakers participated in a public community forum titled "Developing Colorado's Water Plan: Ensuring Public Interests Have a Voice in Planning Colorado's Water Future" on September 28, 2013 in Fort Collins. The forum, hosted by Senator John Kefalas and Representatives Randy Fischer and Joann Ginal, centered around public participation regarding Colorado's Water Plan and attendees to this forum included several Save the Poudre representatives. The CWCB has offered any other state legislators assistance for hosting additional town hall meetings and has specifically extended this offer to Representative Fischer. With regard to meetings related to the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, the South Platte Basin Roundtable is hosting 4 public meetings outside of the regular monthly Roundtable meetings and more frequent subcommittee meetings. When planning those meetings, the Roundtable determined that hosting a public meeting in Longmont would reach a broader audience than Fort Collins. Given several factors including planning time, budget, and the geographic size of the basin, the chosen meeting locations were considered adequate by the South Platte Basin Roundtable. CWCB staff will encourage the South Platte Basin Roundtable to consider specific outreach in Fort Collins in the future. Fort Collins community members were invited to attend the March 5, 2014 meeting in Longmont, and all of the regular scheduled South Platte Basin Roundtable meetings. Regarding the comments related to healthy alternative water supply: Colorado's Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans will incorporate conservation and reuse. Regarding the comments related to "no new diversions": The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage solutions that balance healthy watersheds and the environment while meeting Colorado's future municipal water needs. Regarding the comments related to river restoration: The CWCB is encouraging all of the basins to consider both protection and restoration of Colorado's important stream reaches within their Basin Implementation Plans. The CWCB has and will continue to support technical analyses of Colorado's environmental and recreational needs. These elements from the Basin Implementation Plans will be incorporated into Colorado's Water Plan.
2/19/14	Nancy Stocker, Colorado Citizen	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.6	Webform comment as follows: "When I review the projections of how much additional water it will take to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing human population of the Metro Denver area and the rest of the So. Platte River Basin, I am filled with fear and sadness for what we all could lose. It is critical that we protect our rivers, our wetlands, our ecosystems and wildlife, even as we provide the water necessary for human life. We will have to be much more judicious and efficient in our use of water. To do anything less will make our lives poorer economically, recreationally and spiritually. I am astonished to see that it is believed that no area in Colorado could save more than 10% of its current water use through efficiency measures by 2030. As with auto fuel efficiency, most water users will only make dramatic changes when required to or when the price of water is greatly increased all at once. Let us not destroy much of our environment before insisting on great efficiency, much smaller areas of lower water demand turf grass, and more efficient agricultural watering, etc. be used. Last year Denver expected a major drought year. Denver Water begged everyone to conserve. Water demand dropped so precipitously, that Denver Water soon explained that they weren't able to meet their income requirements because their customers had decreased water use so much. This showed that Metro Denver can do it. I encourage you to make reducing water demand a much bigger thrust in the Colorado Water Plan."	N/A	Staff response: The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage solutions that balance healthy watersheds and the environment while meeting Colorado's future municipal water needs.

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2/19/14	Michael Pruznick, General Public	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.6	Webform comment as follows: "We don't need more reservoirs. We need residential raw and gray water and water barrels so we can use each gallon of water multiple times. Rain on roof to rain barrel to landscape, no treated water on lawns. Before you can control my use via price you will over-burden too many others. However, if my quantity is limited by rain barrel, then my landscaping will have appropriately drought resistant. Rain on street, hard scape to storm drain to river. River to treatment to potable faucet to gray water. Gray water to toilet to swear to treatment to river. Maybe allow transfer between gray water and rain barrel such that treated water is used at least one before going to landscape. Require lawns to have bush-boarders to catch overflow (except mower access point). Cuts down on wind over the lawn too. Water from top by house, flows down to planter at sidewalk, no need to water planter. No real water rights problems, every filtered gallon will be used twice leaving more in the river that can be captured with rain barrels."	N/A	Staff response: Colorado's Water Plan will not fundamentally change Colorado's water rights system. The Prior Appropriation Doctrine, which is in Colorado's Constitution, typically dictates that rainwater is used by a downstream user. However, the CWCB maintains a rainwater harvesting pilot program to address some of the issues presented in this comment. Conservation and reuse, including gray water, will be strategies considered in Colorado's Water Plan.
2/20/14	Angela Schackel Bordegaray, Sister of Resident in Durango!/New Mexico's State Water Planner	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	General	Webform comment as follows: "I am New Mexico's State (and Regional) Water Planner. I am very interested in Colorado's water planning process. Nice website! So advanced. I appreciate the graphics and interactive aspect. Lots of good information, too. Also, my brother lives in Durango. I visit often. I'd like to know how the water planning process (Basin Roundtable) is playing out there..."	N/A	Staff response: CWCB staff will be in touch with Angela Schackel Bordegaray to share water planning strategies, lessons learned, etc.
2/21/14	Northwest Colorado Council of Governments/ Water Quality Quantity Committee	Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us	General	Text from email: "Hello CWCB water plan folks, On Wednesday, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments/ Water Quality and Quantity Committee (QQ) finalized a white paper regarding the Colorado Water Plan: Response to Perceptions Influencing the Colorado Water Plan. We have also developed a shorter two page summary version of the main points in the paper. The documents are available on the QQ website: http://www.nwccog.org/index.php/programs/water-qualityquantity-committee/ . We hope this paper will enhance the already productive discussions about the Colorado Water Plan that are ongoing around the state. Please let us know if you have questions. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the Water Plan process."	White paper regarding the Colorado Water Plan: Response to Perceptions Influencing the Colorado Water Plan; and shorter two page summary version of the main points in the paper.	Staff response: Response to sections 1, 2, and 3 of the NWCCOG's white paper: Colorado's Water Plan and the technical work that supports it includes three growth scenarios: low-growth, mid-growth, high-growth. As water planners, Colorado must prepare for any of these future possibilities as we do not have control over the state's economy and how many people are born or choose to move here. While some communities choose to limit growth, doing so on a broad statewide scale is untenable and unconstitutional. Response to section 4 of the NWCCOG's white paper: IBCC members are concerned about West Slope agricultural dry up and the conceptual agreement currently being crafted by the IBCC will likely work to ensure that potential effects to West Slope agriculture will be minimized in the future. Elements of Colorado's Water Plan are consistent with the comment that agricultural needs statewide are important. Response to section 5 of the NWCCOG's white paper: The CWCB through Colorado's Water Plan is engaged in scenario planning which incorporates hydrologic uncertainty in the future. The CWCB will continue to invest significant resources into the potential impacts of climate change on Colorado's water supply. Response to section 6 and 8 of the NWCCOG's white paper: The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage solutions that balance healthy watersheds and the environment while meeting Colorado's future municipal water needs. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water project, but it will discuss how we can preserve the option for one should it be needed. Response to section 7 of the NWCCOG's white paper: The CWCB will incorporate comments regarding permitting and "buy and dry" into draft sections of Colorado's Water Plan as it develops those unwritten sections.
2/24/14	Chris Applegate, General Public	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.5; 5.9	Webform comment as follows: "The state of Colorado needs to look at how to balance the needs of all components of those that need to use water. That includes non-consumptive usage. I want to continue enjoying all the beautiful areas of this extraordinary state. If I ever decide to adopt and have a family, I would hope to create some of our most treasured memories in the backcountry or at a local state park, many of which rely on water to maintain its beauty. I also volunteer with children that don't typically have access to the outdoors. I want to continue instilling in them the beauty that this state has and I think it is in harm's way depending on how we allocate the water we have. We need to quantify our non-consumptive needs in order to see the full scope of all of our needs in the state. It is going to be a challenge and it won't be easy, but it is desperately needed. Our mountains are already changing and if there is something we can do to prevent slow the pace or keep them in their current condition, I think we will be able to overcome the negative thoughts that we can't serve both people and nature at the same time."	N/A	Staff response: Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan.
2/24/14	Richard Creswell, General Public	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	6.1	Webform comment as follows: "I'm asking for money to be set aside for studies reflecting hard numbers on how much water will be required to maintain fish and wildlife. Minimum stream flow has already proven insufficient to protect present levels which are already degraded and impoverished. Wildlife is not just an amenity but is as important economically and psychologically as business and energy development.Don't let the death of everything else happen on your watch."	N/A	Staff response: Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. In addition, the CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grant program has been used by several basins to analyze water flow requirements related to ecological values.
2/25/14	Nolan Doesken, Colorado Climate Center, Colorado State University	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	3; 4	Webform comment as follows: "I harp on this every chance I get since it is so easily taken for granted. Whatever we do with our water, it is imperative that we systematically track the meteorological inputs of water supply and demand -- precipitation, snowpack water content temperature, humidity, wind, solar -- in all basins and all elevational zones -- in a manner of consistency and uniformity that allows tracking long-term changes/trends. Colorado benefits from a large federal presence in Colorado that has helped with much of the historic climate monitoring -- very helpful. But we continue to see inconsistency in federal commits to basic monitoring -- and almost no federal support for monitoring the elements needed to estimate Consumptive Use (ET). So please make sure that the State Water Plan recognizes the critical importance of climate monitoring and the State role in maintaining a suitable network for water administration and planning."	N/A	Staff recommendation: Staff will discuss Nolan Doesken's comments related to recognizing the importance of climate monitoring within Colorado's Water Plan with the CWCB Board at the March , 2014 CWCB Board meeting.

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2/25/14	Robert Stocker, Colorado Citizen	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5	Webform comment as follows: "My comments are in the attached pdf document."	PDF	Staff response: It is currently illegal for Homeowners' Associations in Colorado to require bluegrass lawns, and xeriscape lawns are allowed statewide. Conservation and the environment are important aspects of Colorado's Water Plan. The CWCB has supported aquifer storage and recharge and the Basin Roundtables will be considering these concepts in their Basin Implementation Plans. Colorado water allocation and governance has always been guided by local users meeting local needs and Colorado's Water Plan will not change that. Rather than diminishing local control or authority over water, Colorado's Water Plan seeks to strengthen local decision-makers' ability to achieve regional and statewide water solutions. To that effect, Colorado's Water Plan will work to encourage, rather than mandate, several of the points presented in Robert Stockner's attached PDF.
2/26/14	Robert Stocker, Colorado Citizen	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5	Webform comment as follows: "I've attached a pdf file containing an addition to my earlier comments..."	PDF	Staff response: See comment regarding Robert Stockner's comments included in the cell above.
2/26/14	Roy Hohn, Audubon member	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5.5; 5.9	Webform comment as follows: "I would like the Roundtables to consider the nonconsumptive values of our rivers. What minimum stream flow for each river is required to maintain the flora and fauna that depend on it? I believe that we should establish minimum stream flows before additional water is diverted from our rivers and watersheds. Once minimum streams flows are known (and agreed on, obviously), then those should be given most senior water rights. No one benefits from draining rivers dry. If there's no water in the river, then no one's water rights can be satisfied."	N/A	Staff response: The CWCB maintains and operates In Stream Flow and Natural Lake Level programs, both of which are highly regarded as some of the most successful programs of their kind in the Western US. Nonconsumptive needs are critically important aspects of the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan.
2/28/14	Carol DeStefanis, President, Audubon Society of Greater Denver	Online General Input Webform at www.coloradowaterplan.com	5	Webform comment as follows: "Attached are the comments of the Audubon Society of Greater Denver on the State Water Plan. Our Society has a presence in both the Metro and South Platte River Basins, but we have indicated "South Platte" as our major Basin of reference. Please see the attachment for our extended comments."	N/A	Staff response: Incorporating nonconsumptive needs and conservation are critical aspects of the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan. The CWCB has supported aquifer storage and recharge and the Basin Roundtables will be considering these concepts in their Basin Implementation Plans.
3/3/14	Sarah Sauter, Western Slope Conservation Center	Email to cwaterplan@state.co.us	5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.9; 5.11	Letter to the CWCB discussing topics including agricultural conservation, the importance of reuse, and issues surrounding transmountain diversions including the statement that each basin must learn to live within its own means. The letter goes on to ask for support of measures like Senate Bill 14-23 which allow for the transfer of water efficiency savings from agriculture to in-stream uses on the West Slope. It asks that Colorado's Water Plan support not just protection, but improvement of Colorado's rivers and find funding for projects designed to meet environmental and recreational needs as defined in the Basin Roundtable Nonconsumptive Needs Assessments. The letter also asks Colorado's Water Plan to identify mechanisms that discourage the sale and transfer of water that could negatively damage entire communities, specifically "buy and dry" agricultural water transfers. Lastly, the letter requests that Colorado's Water Plan define meaningful ways that stakeholder groups and the general public can engage in water planning.	PDF Letter dated March 3, 2014 and addressed to CWCB and the Gunnison Basin Roundtable	Staff response: The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage solutions that balance healthy watersheds and the environment while meeting Colorado's future municipal water needs. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountan diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water project, but it will discuss how we can preserve the option for one should it be needed. The CWCB will consider the Western Slope Conservation Center's comments related to agricultural water conservation in Colorado's Water Plan Chapter 8. Legislative Recommendations to Assist Fully Implementing Colorado's Water Plan. Colorado's Water Plan will also seek funding opportunities for consumptive and nonconsumptive needs and the CWCB is currently working on aligning the state's in stream flow program with Colorado Parks and Wildlife's water rights portfolio in order to maximize benefits for nonconsumptive needs. Lastly, the CWCB and Basin Roundtables offer numerous opportunities for groups comprised of diverse stakeholders to engage in the planning process for Colorado's Water Plan.