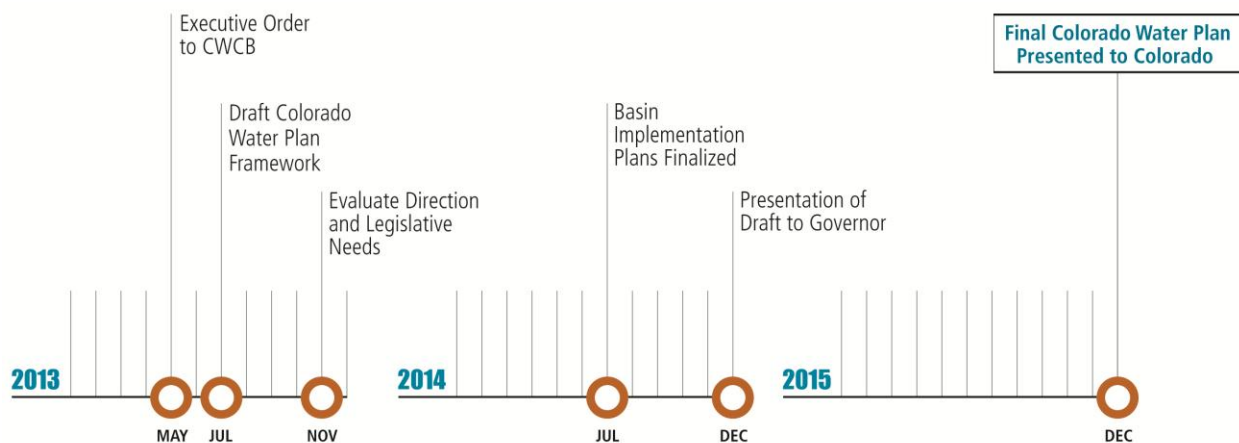

Providing Input on Colorado's Water Plan – A Guide for Submitting Input Related to Environment and Recreation **DRAFT VERSION 04/14/2014**

Development of Colorado's Water Plan

Colorado's Water Plan will leverage and integrate nine years of work accomplished by Colorado's Basin Roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to determine how to implement water supply planning solutions that meet Colorado's future water needs while supporting healthy watersheds and environment, robust recreation and tourism economies, vibrant and sustainable cities, and viable and productive agriculture.

Colorado's Water Plan is a grassroots effort. Each Basin Roundtable is currently in the process of developing its own plan. These Basin Implementation Plans will identify the specific challenges to a secure water future that each basin faces, the strategies it will pursue to address those challenges, and the projects and methods that the basin may implement to meet its water needs. Due to the CWCB by the end of July, 2014 in draft form, these Basin Implementation Plans will then be incorporated into the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan by December, 2014. A general timeline is included below.



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN TIMELINE

Purpose of This Document

This document was created in order to guide entities with environmental and recreational interests on how to provide input to be incorporated into Colorado's Water Plan. It specifies the draft sections of the Framework for Colorado's Water Plan on which environmental and recreational comments should focus. The current version of the Framework can be found online at www.coloradowaterplan.com. Input should also be formally submitted to your Basin Roundtable by email or in person at Basin Roundtable meetings so that it can be incorporated directly into the Basin Implementation Plan. Contact your Basin Roundtable for timelines for submitting this information. Find contact information for your Basin Roundtable at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/main.aspx>. Please also copy cwaterplan@state.co.us when you email input to your Basin Roundtable.

Other input can be submitted directly to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) by emailing cwaterplan@state.co.us. We suggest that you submit this information to the CWCB by June 2, 2014, however there is no formal cutoff date for the submission of input.

We appreciate your participation in the development of Colorado's Water Plan. Email cwaterplan@state.co.us if you have any questions. You can access this document online at www.coloradowaterplan.com.

I. Provide Input on Water Demand by Sector

Background

Colorado's Water Plan will illustrate Colorado's significant municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational water needs.

Requested Input

- Provide your Basin Roundtable with information about environmental and recreational water needs.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 3. Water Demand by Sector** of the Draft Colorado's Water Plan Framework.

II. Provide Input on Nonconsumptive Goals and Measurable Outcomes

Background

Several potential goals and measurable outcomes were included in the Nonconsumptive Toolbox found online at:

<http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=172701&searchid=b764b205-1125-4f18-b3e8-998e5e025e10&dbid=0>.

Requested Input

- Provide your Basin Roundtable with any input on additional goals and measurable outcomes.

- Work with your Basin Roundtable to identify goals and measurable outcomes for nonconsumptive needs in the Basin Implementation Plan.
- Provide information to the CWCB about goals and outcomes that cross basin lines and may be necessary to protect Colorado's environment and recreation economy for inclusion in Colorado's Water Plan regardless of whether they appear in individual BIPs.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Chapter 2. Overview of Each Basin** of the Draft Colorado's Water Plan Framework.

III. Provide Input on Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods

Background

In 2010, thousands of existing and planned environmental and recreational projects and methods were identified. About half of the nonconsumptive focus area streams have planned or existing protections.

Requested Input

- Work with your Basin Roundtable to identify additional planned nonconsumptive projects or methods.
- Provide the CWCB with information that identifies nonconsumptive gaps. This information will be provided to the appropriate Basin Roundtable(s). The CWCB encourages you to share this information directly with the Basin Roundtables(s) as well.
- Identify new or amended local and/or state policies that need to be in place to ensure that Colorado can fill its nonconsumptive gap.
- Provide Basin Roundtables and the CWCB with suggestions for how to continue to identify and refine nonconsumptive gaps and identify projects and methods to meet those gaps for updated versions of the BIPs and Colorado's Water Plan.

How Your Input will be Used

- Input on this item will inform **Section 5.5. Meeting the Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Gaps** and **Section 5.9 Environmental & Recreational Projects and Methods** of the Draft Colorado's Water Plan Framework.

IV. Provide Input on Watershed Health/Management

Background

Colorado's Water Plan will draw much of this information from the Basin Implementation Plans. There is tremendous opportunity for multi-purpose projects that protect critical infrastructure, water quality, human health and safety, and the environment.

Requested Input

- Inform your Basin Roundtable of existing watershed management plans that identify critical watersheds and management actions.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.3 Watershed Health/Management** of the Framework.

V. Provide Input on the Framework on More Efficient Water Project Permitting Processes

Background

Colorado's Water Plan will seek greater efficiency and effectiveness in the project permitting process so that important issues are "front-loaded" for discussion and resolution.

Requested Input

- Inform your Basin Roundtable and/or the CWCB of ideas on how water project permitting processes can be made more efficient without undermining environmental protections.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.10 Framework on More Efficient Water Project Permitting Processes** of the Framework.

VI. Provide Input on Funding and Financing

Background

Colorado's Water Plan will indicate how the CWP can be implemented from a funding perspective and demonstrate that doing so would be beneficial for the vibrancy of the state. If additional funds beyond current resources are needed, Colorado's Water Plan will also demonstrate how such funds could be acquired. Please note that Appendix E within the Nonconsumptive Toolbox includes a table of the most prominent or commonly accessed funding sources for nonconsumptive projects and methods in Colorado. In addition, included within Appendix C of the No and Low Regrets Action Plan is a list of potential funding options for meeting consumptive and nonconsumptive needs.

Requested Input

- Provide additional suggestions beyond the resources listed above to Basin Roundtables and the CWCB about financing nonconsumptive projects and methods.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 6.1 Funding/Financing** of the Framework.

VII. Provide Input on Outreach and Public Engagement Opportunities

Background

Outreach and public engagement activities are critical to ensuring that stakeholders throughout Colorado are informed of and engaged in solutions for Colorado's water future. Each Basin Roundtable is working to involve people in the Basin Implementation Plan process and the CWCB is working statewide to engage stakeholders and the public in the development of Colorado's Water Plan, and in the process beyond the plan's implementation.

Requested Input

- *Current Education & Outreach:* Inform your Basin Roundtable and the CWCB of ways your entity is utilizing education and outreach efforts to increase the level of knowledge regarding development of the Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan.
- *Additional Education & Outreach:* Inform your Basin Roundtable and the CWCB of additional ideas for how your entity can assist in education and outreach activities throughout the development and longer-term implementation of the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan.
- Send related contact information for your entity's education and outreach lead to cowaterplan@state.co.us so that CWCB and your Roundtable can coordinate outreach efforts with your entity.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 7. Outreach and Public Engagement** of the Framework.