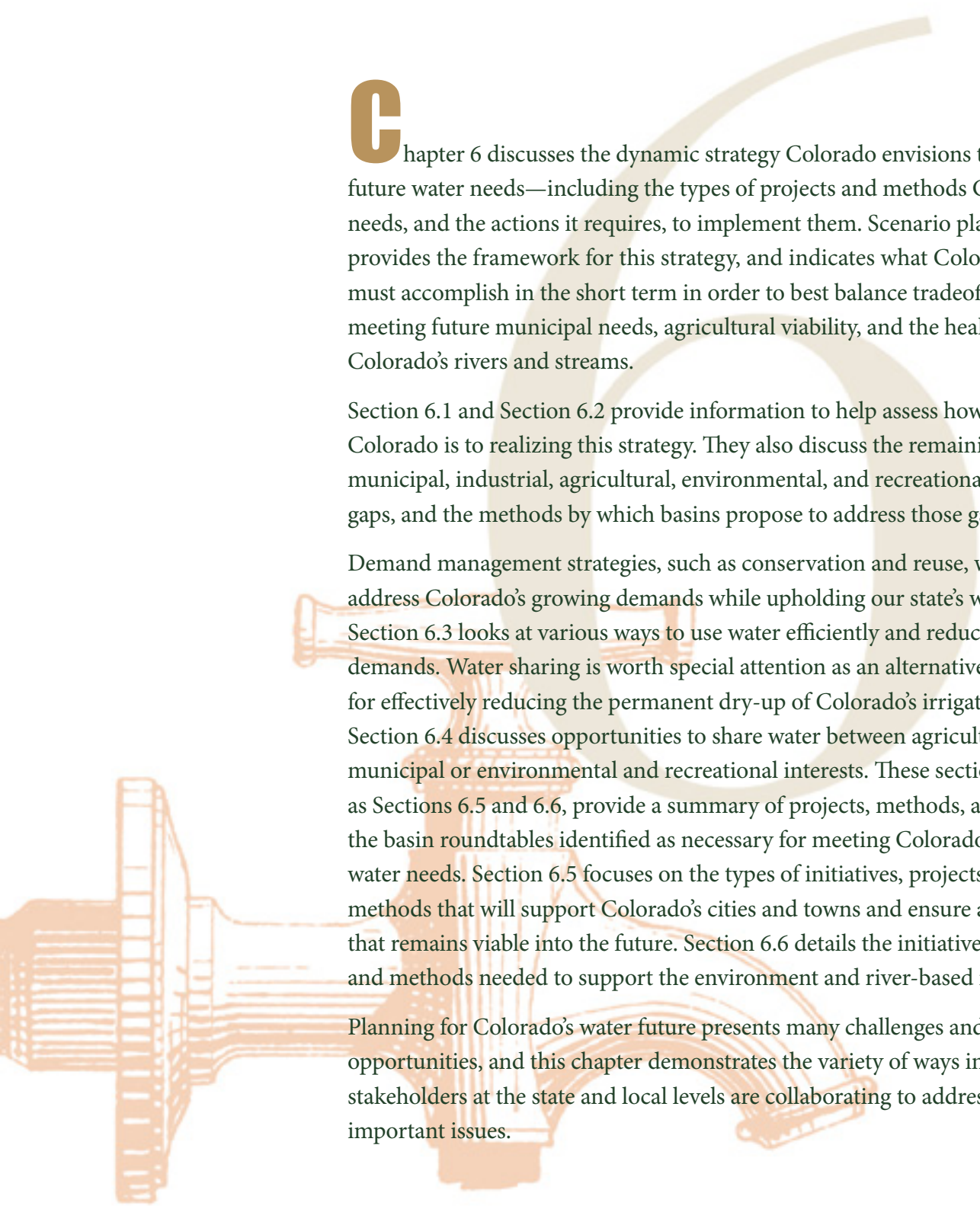


Water Supply Management



Chapter 6 discusses the dynamic strategy Colorado envisions to meet its future water needs—including the types of projects and methods Colorado needs, and the actions it requires, to implement them. Scenario planning provides the framework for this strategy, and indicates what Colorado must accomplish in the short term in order to best balance tradeoffs among meeting future municipal needs, agricultural viability, and the health of Colorado’s rivers and streams.

Section 6.1 and Section 6.2 provide information to help assess how close Colorado is to realizing this strategy. They also discuss the remaining municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational water gaps, and the methods by which basins propose to address those gaps.

Demand management strategies, such as conservation and reuse, will help address Colorado’s growing demands while upholding our state’s water values. Section 6.3 looks at various ways to use water efficiently and reduce water demands. Water sharing is worth special attention as an alternative method for effectively reducing the permanent dry-up of Colorado’s irrigated lands. Section 6.4 discusses opportunities to share water between agricultural and municipal or environmental and recreational interests. These sections, as well as Sections 6.5 and 6.6, provide a summary of projects, methods, and policies the basin roundtables identified as necessary for meeting Colorado’s future water needs. Section 6.5 focuses on the types of initiatives, projects, and methods that will support Colorado’s cities and towns and ensure agriculture that remains viable into the future. Section 6.6 details the initiatives, projects, and methods needed to support the environment and river-based recreation.

Planning for Colorado’s water future presents many challenges and opportunities, and this chapter demonstrates the variety of ways in which stakeholders at the state and local levels are collaborating to address these important issues.

Kayakers in Salida, including several children, enjoying the benefits of the Arkansas River's Voluntary Flow Management Program, which balances benefits across multiple needs.

