

Alignment of State Resources and Policies


Chapter 9 explores the mechanisms by which the State of Colorado can help implement the BIPs and address Colorado’s critical water strategies discussed throughout Colorado’s Water Plan.

As Section 9.1 describes, continuing to support the solid foundation of Colorado’s prior appropriation system, maintaining interstate agreements and compacts, and retaining local control are all critical to keeping Colorado whole. These systems are flexible enough to move forward with the actions Colorado’s Water Plan describes; however, many of the strategies this plan and the BIPs describe require additional or more coordinated funding. Section 9.2 explains imminent needs for project funding, along with options for new and existing funding mechanisms that will be necessary for meeting Colorado’s water future.

The State of Colorado holds numerous water rights, many of which aim to protect the environment or recreational opportunities. In addition, Colorado has purchased water rights in important multi-purpose projects to help with implementation of these water projects. Section 9.3 illustrates ways to improve coordination among state agencies that own water rights, and describes the possible acquisition of new water rights that more strategically address the State’s water values.

Many of the projects and methods this plan describes will require permitting, and if the State of Colorado is to be adaptive in its approach to water management, the permitting process needs to be as effective and efficient as possible. Section 9.4 discusses emerging concepts for a more efficient permitting process.

Lastly, an educated public is necessary to Colorado’s ability to continue engaging stakeholders in developing grassroots solutions—and moving them forward. However, few resources are available to meet this important need. Section 9.5 discusses the unprecedented educational effort the CWCB has initiated to build the first draft of Colorado’s Water Plan, and offers a vision of the ways the CWCB can implement education and outreach efforts in a more sustainable and robust fashion. Together, these state actions will help Colorado implement the water strategies described in Chapters 6 through 8.



Looking up into the State Capitol Dome. The state Capitol houses the Governor's office and both houses of the General Assembly.