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# South Platte & Metro Basin Roundtable Update

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HB17-1248, the CWCB Construction Fund Projects Bill, will provide up to \$10 million to implement the Colorado Water Plan. The South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtables are anxious to review the South Platte Supply Study (HB16-1256) which will determine, for the previous 20 years, the amount of water that has been delivered to Nebraska from the River in excess of the amount required under the South Platte River compact and may identify additional water storage opportunities in the South Platte River Basin. Funding approved in the 2017 Legislative Session can be used to promote a primary goal of the Metro and South Platte Roundtables, which is to maximize the use of front range water supplies.

The South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables have submitted an application for Water Supply Reserve Fund assistance seeking an **Education Coordinator** to oversee internal Roundtable and external stakeholder educational activities as the Roundtables proceed to implement their Education Action Plan, South Platte Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan. The Education Coordinator will leverage the efforts of both the South Platte and Metro Roundtable members making their volunteer service more effective, efficient and productive. This request comes directly from members of both Roundtables who have shown remarkable commitment as informed, dedicated, "yet tired" Roundtable member volunteers.

On May 3, 2017, the Colorado Watershed Assembly and the Colorado Water Institute co-hosted a workshop with the Big Thompson, the Little Thompson, and the Estes Valley Watershed Coalitions to learn more about **Stream Management Planning**. Participation was strong with more than 60 attendees from the community representing water supply, agriculture, ditch and reservoir companies, mining, and recreation interests. Garrett Varra, Vice-Chairman of the South Platte Roundtable, welcomed the group and encouraged them to look to the Roundtables as an active partner as the Watershed Coalitions work to prioritize locally driven objectives to protect the Thompson watershed.

The South Platte Basin (Basin) supports a wide range of water needs including municipal, industrial, agricultural as well as important water-dependent ecological and recreational attributes. Coloradans and tourists regularly enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by the many environmental features of the Basin. Based on Colorado Demographers Office population projections, the South Platte and Metro Basins are projected to grow from approximately 3.5 million people in the year 2008 to about 6 million people by the year 2050. As we like to say, a good Colorado solution depends on a good South Platte solution.