

# Overview

- 1) Colorado's representation on interstate issues
- 2) Colorado stakeholder efforts
- 3) Colorado's Water Plan goals and actions

# Interstate Water Issues

## Colorado Water Conservation Board:

“authority to cooperate with the federal government and other states for bringing about the greater utilization of water, and protecting and asserting the rights, interests and authorities of the State of Colorado regarding interstate streams in the state.



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

# Upper Colorado River Commissioner

- Appointed by the Governor with approval by the CWCB
- In coordination with the CWCB, serves as Colorado's "principal" on Colorado River issues, consistent with governor's authority to direct administration of interstate water compacts.

# Upper Colorado River Commission

- Responsibilities outlined in 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact
- Has played a role in recent cooperative efforts on the River:
  - Endangered species efforts
  - Grand Canyon issues
  - Salinity control measures
  - 2007 Interim Guidelines
  - Ongoing drought contingency planning efforts

# Colorado River Compact

- The States of the Upper Division will not cause the flow of the river at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of 10 consecutive years...
- The States of the Upper Division shall not withhold water, and the States of the Lower Division shall not require the delivery of water, which cannot be reasonably applied to domestic and agricultural use.

# Colorado's water users and stakeholders

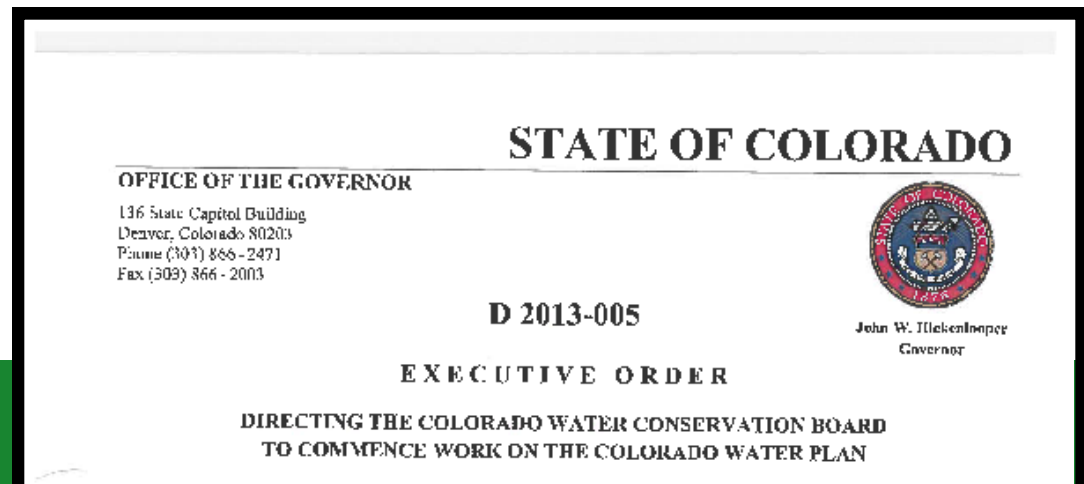
- Governor's Office
- Attorney General's Office (Federal and Interstate Water)
- Division of Water Resources (interstate compact administration)
- Water users and stakeholders from conservation and conservancy districts, municipalities, and the General Assembly serve on work groups, committees, and task forces associated with water issues across the West.



Upper Colorado  
River Commission

# Colorado Planning Efforts

- The “Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act”
  - Nine Basin Roundtables
  - Interbasin Compact Committee
- Executive Order 2013-005
  - Basin Implementation Plans
  - Colorado’s Water Plan



# Basin Implementation Plans

**Arkansas:** “The future of the State’s Colorado River Compact Entitlement directly affects all water uses in the Arkansas Basin.”

**Gunnison:** “New development planning should be focused on avoiding hydroelectric power disruption, a Colorado River compact deficit, or development in excess of Colorado’s allocation...”



# Protecting Colorado's Compacts and Upholding Colorado Water Law

“The State of Colorado will support strategies to maximize the use of compact water while actively avoiding a Colorado River Compact deficit”

“The State of Colorado will continue to uphold Colorado's water entitlements under Colorado's compacts, equitable apportionment decrees, and other interstate agreements.”

# Colorado's Conceptual Framework

“Generally, eastern slope roundtables identify the need for a balanced program to preserve the option of future development of Colorado River System water.

Western slope roundtables express concern regarding the impact on future development on the western slope, as well as the potential for overdevelopment related to both a Colorado River Compact deficit and critical levels for system reservoir storage, such as the minimum storage level necessary to reliably produce hydroelectric power at Glen Canyon Dam (“minimum power pool”).”

*- Colorado's Water Plan, Chapter 8*

# Colorado's Conceptual Framework

“The IBCC acknowledges that overdevelopment of Colorado River System water is a serious risk that could result in a Colorado River Compact deficit. All of Colorado’s water planning efforts must recognize that risk.”



# Colorado's Conceptual Framework

“The IBCC and roundtables can provide an important forum for sharing the work of ongoing interstate negotiations, scoping technical analyses, and identifying issues of concern at the stakeholder level, as well as providing input to the CWCB as it manages and conducts the technical, legal, economic, and other studies necessary for implementation.”