

Interbasin Compact Committee

June 8, 2023 IBCC Meeting



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

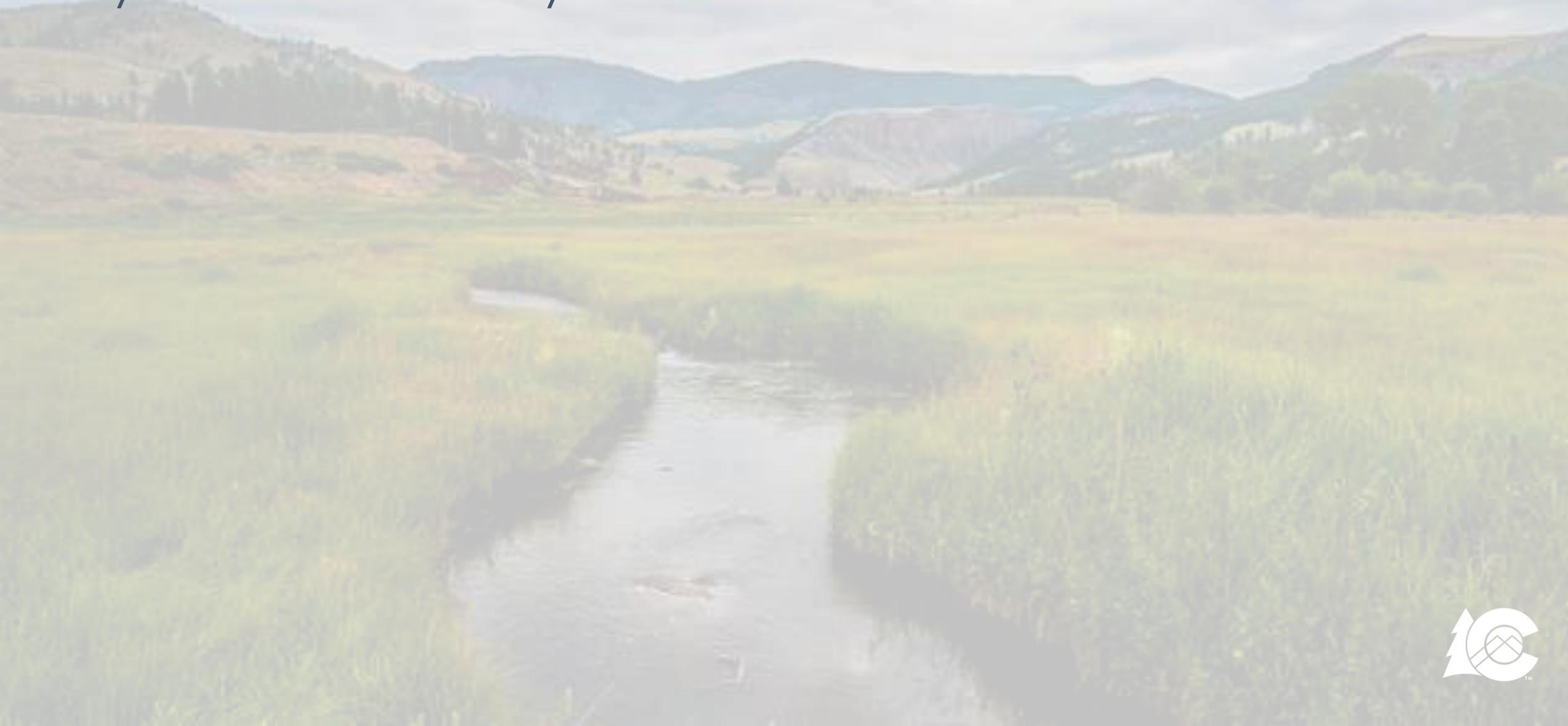
Meeting Logistics

- Recording Check
- Call to Order
- Quorum Check
- Agenda Review
- Meeting Minutes Review



2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Kelly Romero-Heaney



June 8, 2023



Colorado River Updates

Amy Ostdiek

Section Chief

Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section



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Upper Basin 5-Point plan

System Conservation Pilot Program

- Temporary, voluntary, compensated reductions in consumptive use across the Upper Basin
- Implementation underway

2023 Drought Response Operations Plan

- Potential reservoir releases from Flaming Gorge, Navajo, and Blue Mesa reservoirs
- UCRC adopted 2023 plan in May, focused exclusively on recovery

Demand Management Feasibility Investigation

- Temporary, voluntary, compensated reductions in consumptive use, shepherding to Powell
- Investigation ongoing with UCRC reports recently released

Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding

- Use of bipartisan infrastructure law funds
- Enhanced measurement, monitoring, reporting

Strict Water Rights Administration

- Administer water rights pursuant to legal and physical availability
- Intrastate conservation efforts

System Conservation Pilot Program Projects

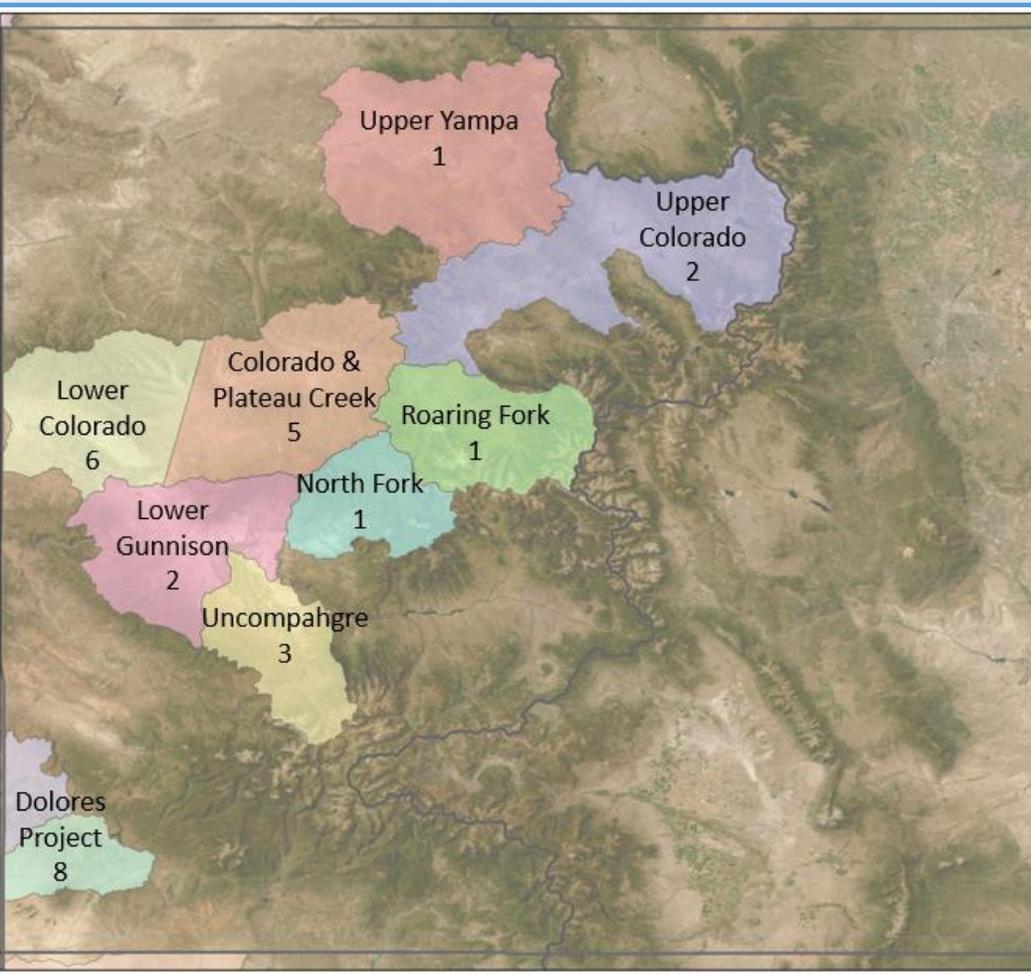
State	Estimated Conserved CU (potential maximum)	Number of Projects
Colorado	3,532	29
New Mexico	4,633	1
Utah	14,877	20
Wyoming	15,756	22
Total	38,798	72



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System Conservation Pilot Program -CO Projects



Project Type	Number of Projects	Total Estimated CCU
Fallow Grass Hay – Commodity	3	230
Fallow Grass Hay – Cow-Calf Operation	8	1,163
Fallow Alfalfa – Commodity	7	1,029
Fallow Corn – Commodity	2	214
Storage Conservation	1	105
Crop Switching	8	791
Total	29	3,532

Recent Events

June 2022

Reclamation announces need to conserve 2 to 4 million acre-feet per year in Colorado River System

July 2022

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming create the 5 Point Plan in response to Reclamation

November 2022

Notice of Intent for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

January 2023

Six states reach consensus on an alternative to model in the SEIS

April 2023

Reclamation releases the draft SEIS to adjust current operations for Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams

May 2023

Lower Basin releases conservation proposal and Reclamation withdraws DSEIS



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6-State Consensus-Based Modeling Approach

Upper Basin Components

- Recognition of hydrologic shortages
- Additional voluntary conservation measures through System Conservation Pilot Program, other efforts approved by Upper Division States
- Consideration of additional releases from Upper Basin reservoirs, pursuant to all provisions of the Drought Response Operations Agreement
- Constrained release tiers (i.e. no balancing)
- Reduced releases as necessary to protect 3500'

Lower Basin Components

- Reductions in Lower Basin deliveries of 1.54 MAF/year to address evaporation and losses
- Additional Lower Basin reductions at Mead <1050' and <1030'
- Additional reductions as necessary to protect Mead elevation 1000'



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Lower Basin Proposal – Initial Observations



The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of
Arizona, California, and Nevada

May 22, 2023

Sent via Electronic Mail

Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of Arizona, California, and Nevada (Lower Division States) have reached an agreement to conserve at least an additional 3 million acre-feet (MAF) of Colorado River Water in the Lower Basin by the end of calendar year 2026, with at least 1.5 MAF of that total being conserved by the end of calendar year 2024 (Lower Basin Plan). We request the Lower Basin Plan be fully analyzed as an action alternative in the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Near-Term Colorado River Operations Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS), published last month.

Throughout this process, and as affirmed at the time the Draft SEIS was announced last month, the Lower Division States Representatives remained committed to working together and with Reclamation to develop agreement(s) that meet the purpose and need of the Draft SEIS to "modify guidelines for operation of Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams to address historic drought, historically low reservoirs, and low-runoff conditions in the Basin" (Draft SEIS, Section 1.3). We believe this proposed action alternative both meets the purpose and need of the Draft SEIS and, when analyzed, will be shown to perform equally or better than the action alternatives originally proposed by Reclamation. The Lower Basin Plan does not require any unilateral exercise of federal authority to achieve these levels of conservation.

The terms of the Lower Basin Plan are as follows:

1. This Lower Basin Plan does not require the Secretary to unilaterally exercise her authorities to implement reductions and it does not contemplate any waiver of these authorities to protect the Colorado River system in the future if hydrological conditions require such action.

- Calls for 3 million acre-feet of Lower Basin conservation in next three years, with first 1.5 MAF occurring in 2024.
- Exclusively focused on Lower Basin.
- Compensated by \$1.2 billion IRA funds.
- Basin States requested Reclamation model the proposal.
- Await additional information about specifics of plan, how conservation is achieved, enforcement mechanisms.



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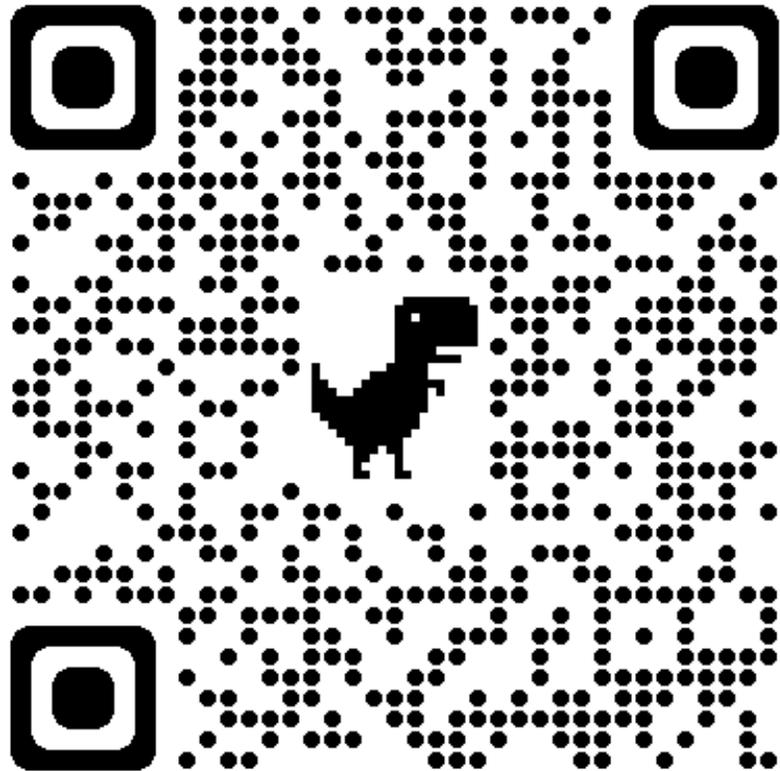
Next Steps

- Revised Draft SEIS coming soon.
- Need to develop longer-term, sustainable solutions and refocus on Post-2026 negotiations.



Be Involved

- EngageCWCB.org



Thank You

Amy Ostdiek

Section Chief

Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

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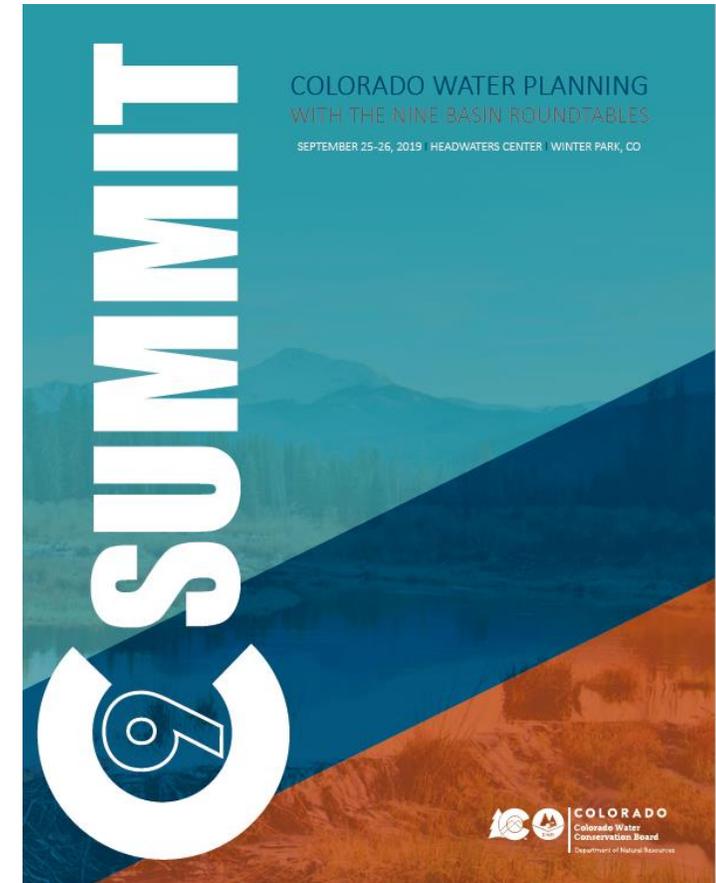
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BREAK



CWCB C-9 Summit Planning

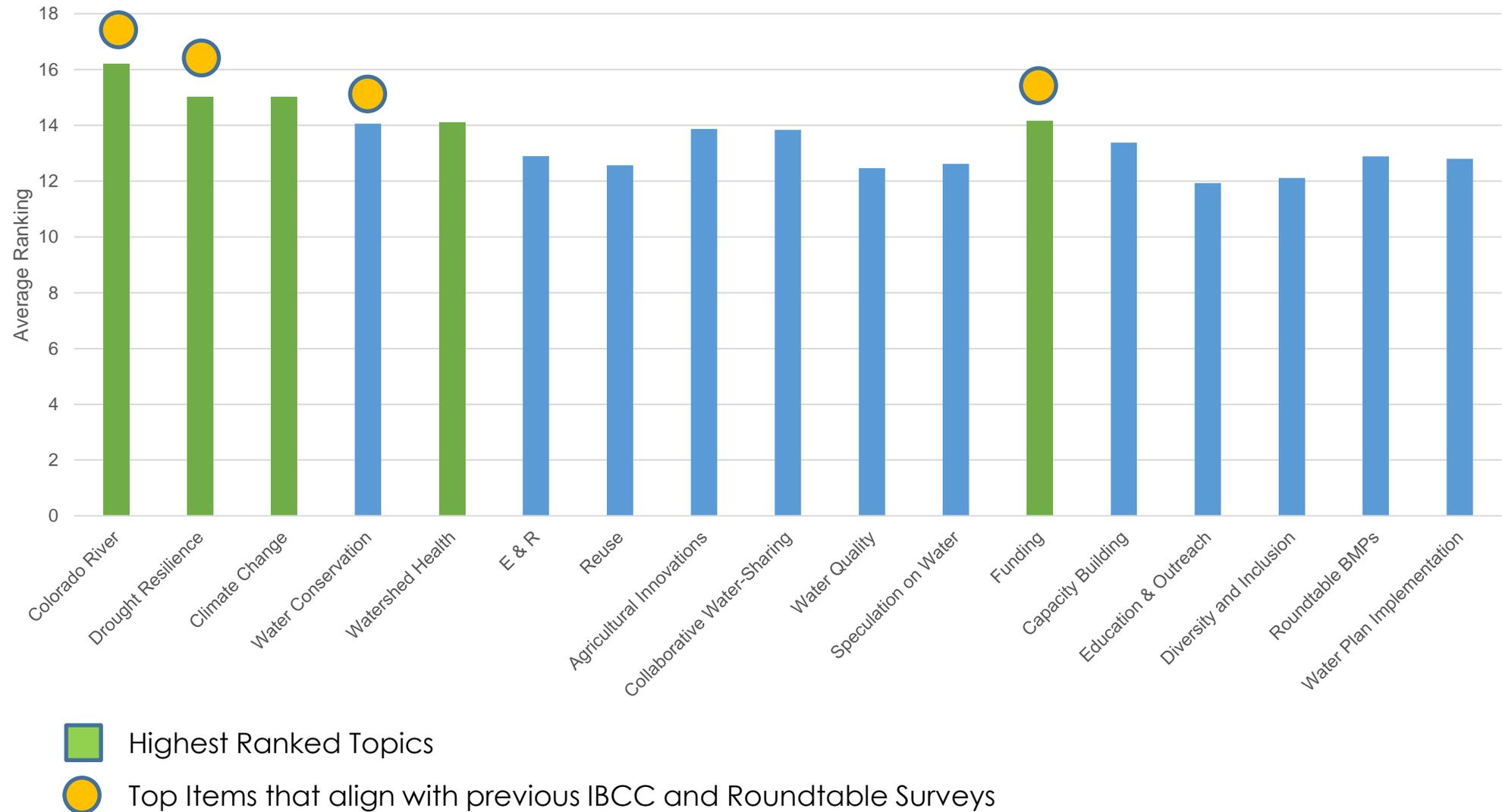
- A state-led event meant to build collaboration + alignment.
- The 2019 C-9 Summit took 6 months of planning.
- We asked roundtables and the IBCC about what they'd want to discuss most; we also have a few ideas.
- We also asked how people what kind of event initiatives people were most excited about:
 - [Presentations from experts, panels, workshops and networking.](#)
- Based on the last C-9 Summit agenda we will have time for 8-10 sessions depending on how early we start, workshopping time, etc.



INITIAL DRAFT AGENDA FOR C-9

1. **Roundtable Handbook Discussion**
2. **PEPO Workshop on Regional Collaboration**
3. **All Chairs Panel** (Board, IBCC or mix of BRTs, Board and BRT chairs)
4. **CO River Updates** + Colorado River Drought Task Force Report out?
5. **Drought Resilience** (could be across sectors)
6. **Climate Change**
7. **Funding**
8. **Water Conservation**
9. **Watershed Health**
10. **Water Quality**

2023 C-9 ROUNDTABLE SURVEY

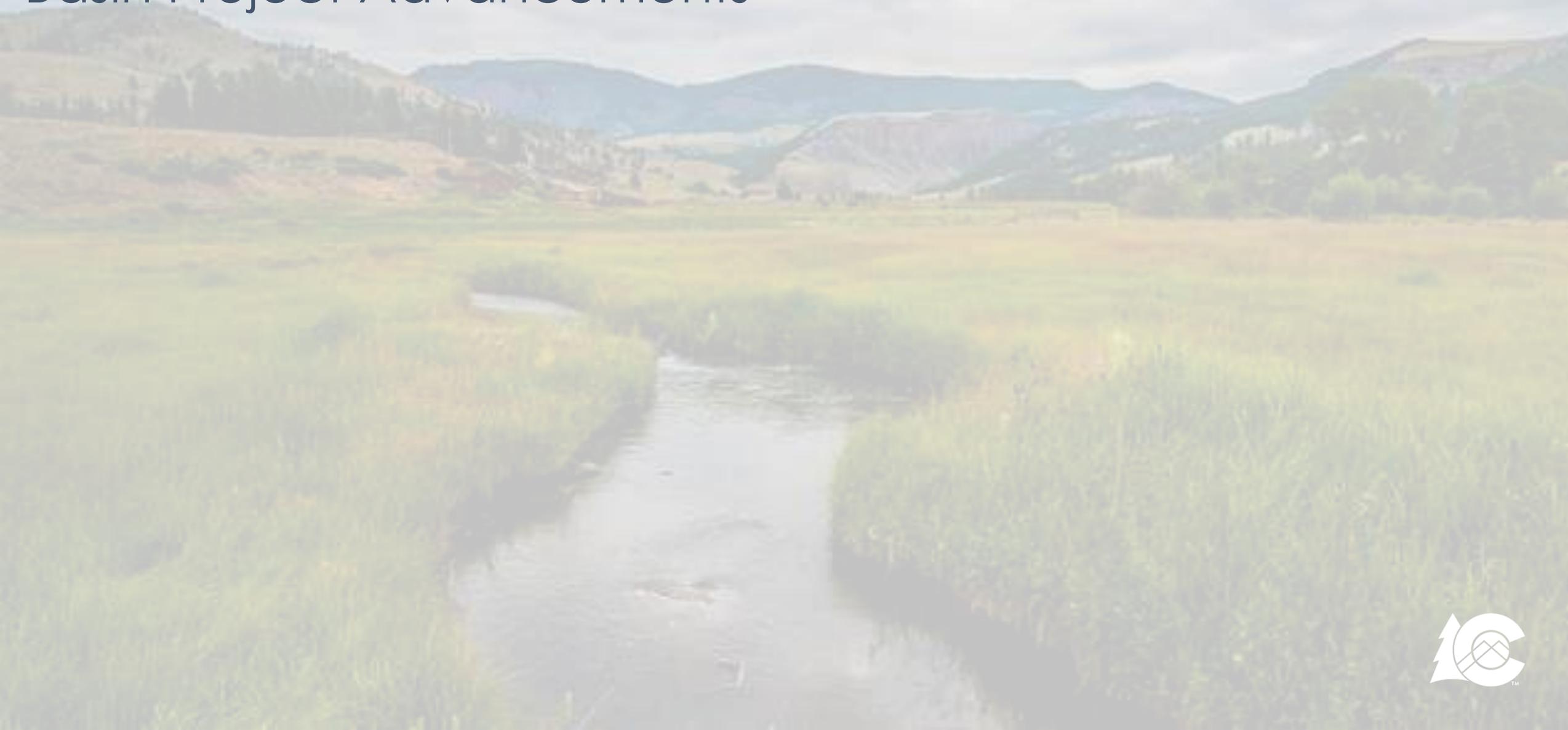


C-9 SUGGESTED TOPICS RANKED

1. Colorado River
2. Drought Resilience
3. Climate Change
4. Funding
5. Watershed Health
6. Water Conservation
7. Agricultural Innovations
8. Collaborative Water-Sharing
9. Capacity Building
10. Environment & Recreation
11. Roundtable Best Management Practices
12. Water Plan Implementation
13. Speculation on Water
14. Reuse
15. Water Quality
16. Diversity and Inclusion
17. Education & Outreach

ANSWERING THE CALL

Basin Project Advancements



FINAL THOUGHTS

