

# 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



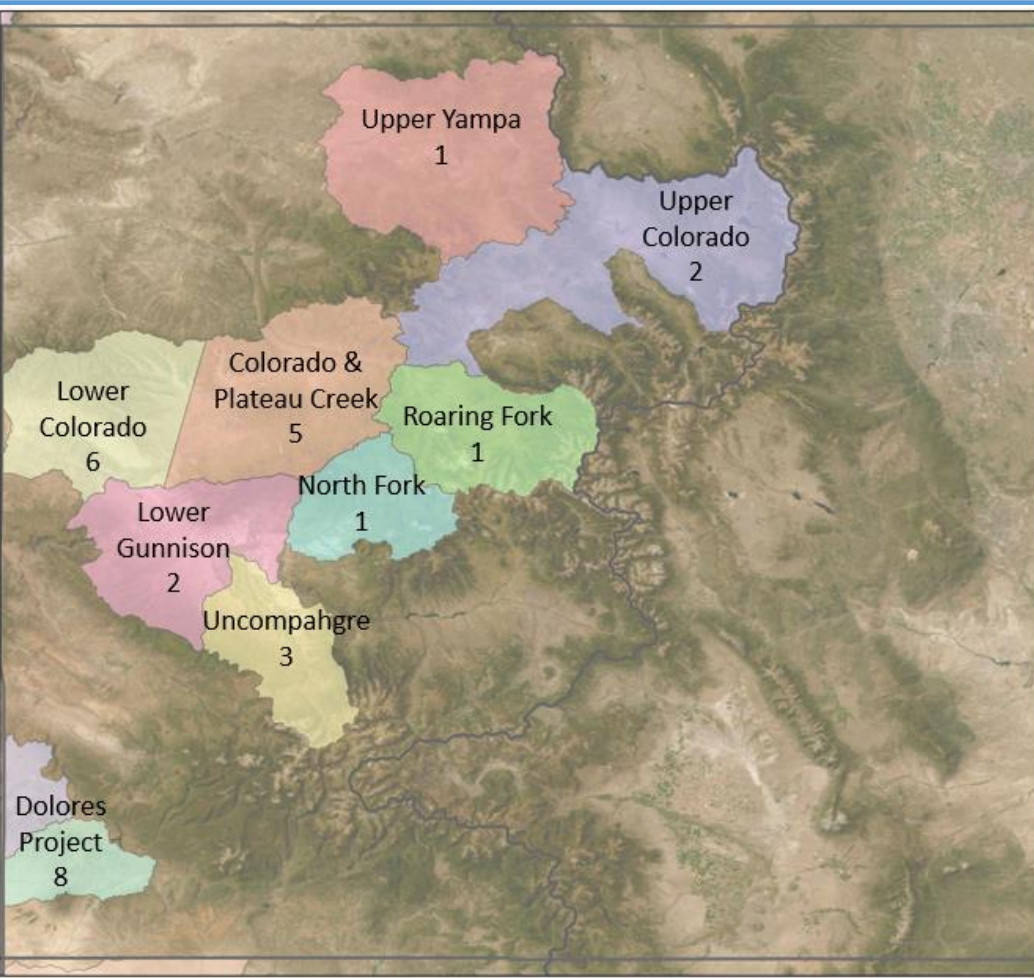
# System Conservation Pilot Program Projects

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,798</b>	<b>72</b>



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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
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3,532</b>



# 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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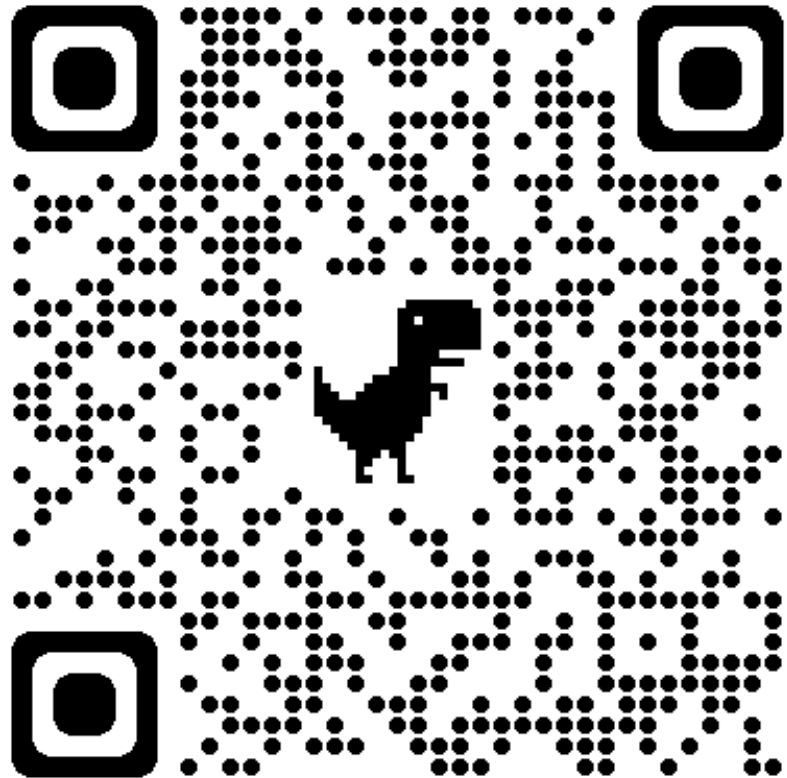
# Next Steps

- 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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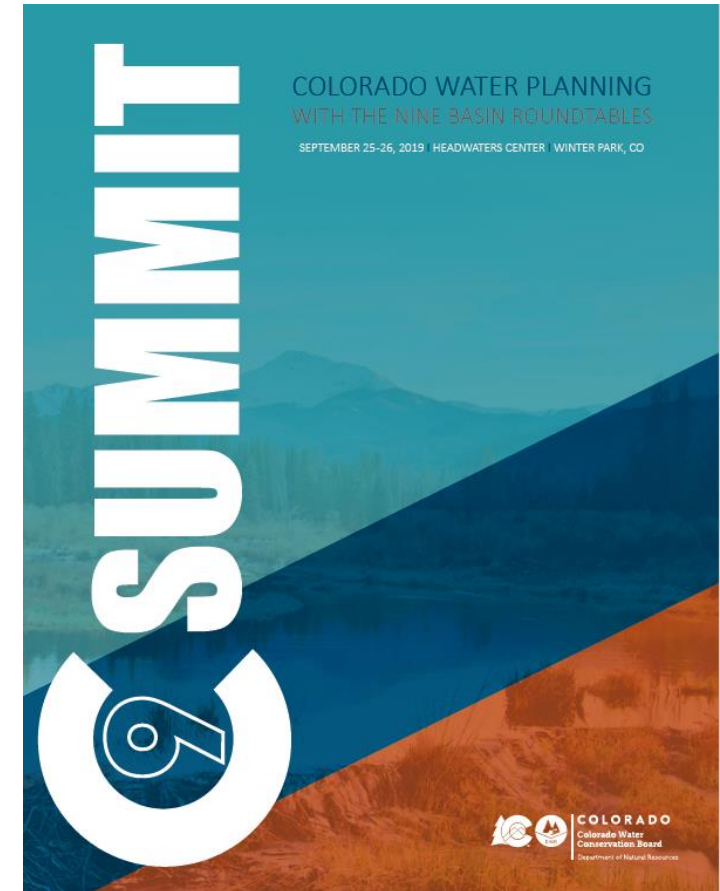
# BREAK





# 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.

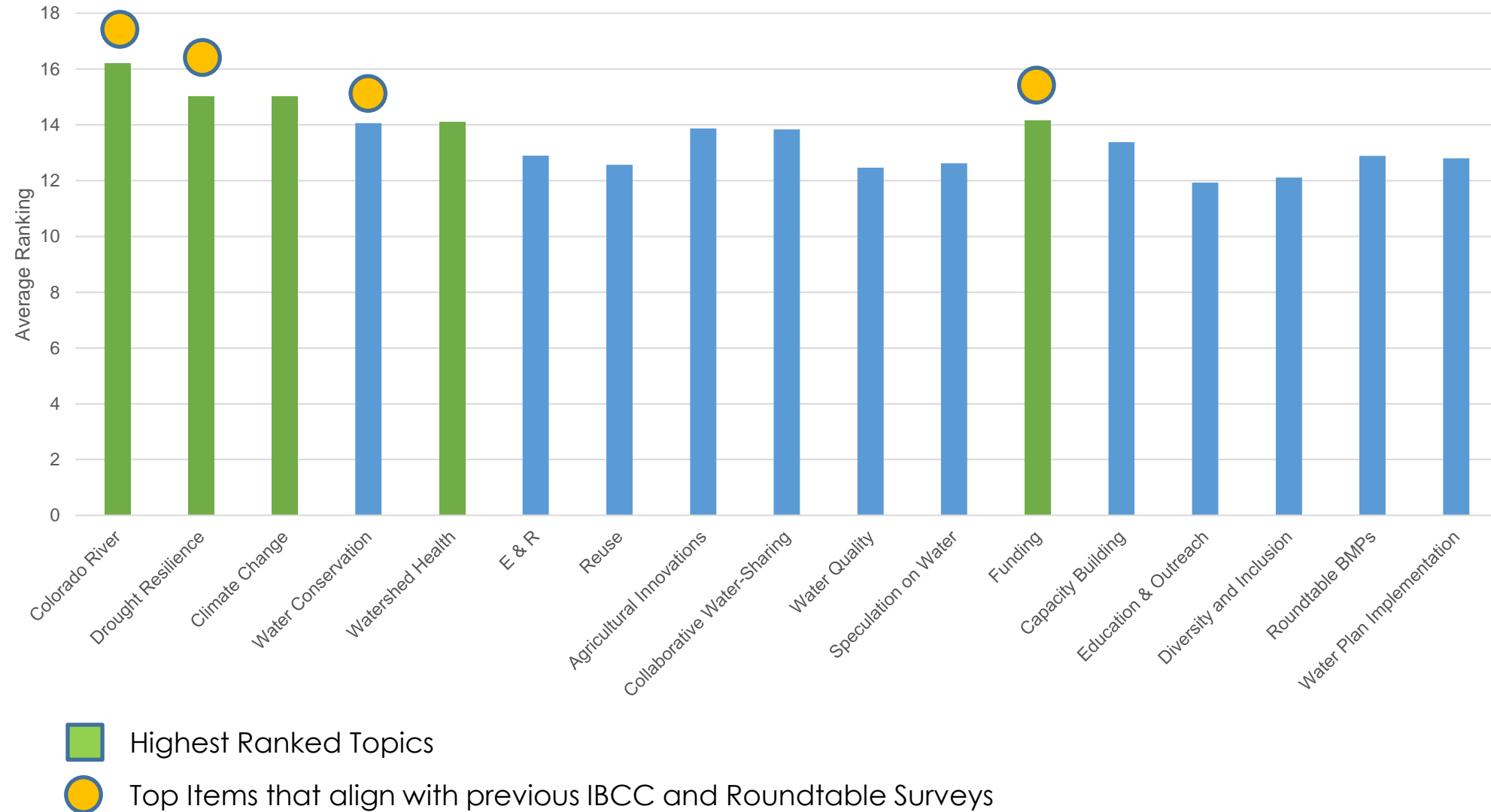


# INITIAL DRAFT AGENDA FOR C-9

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



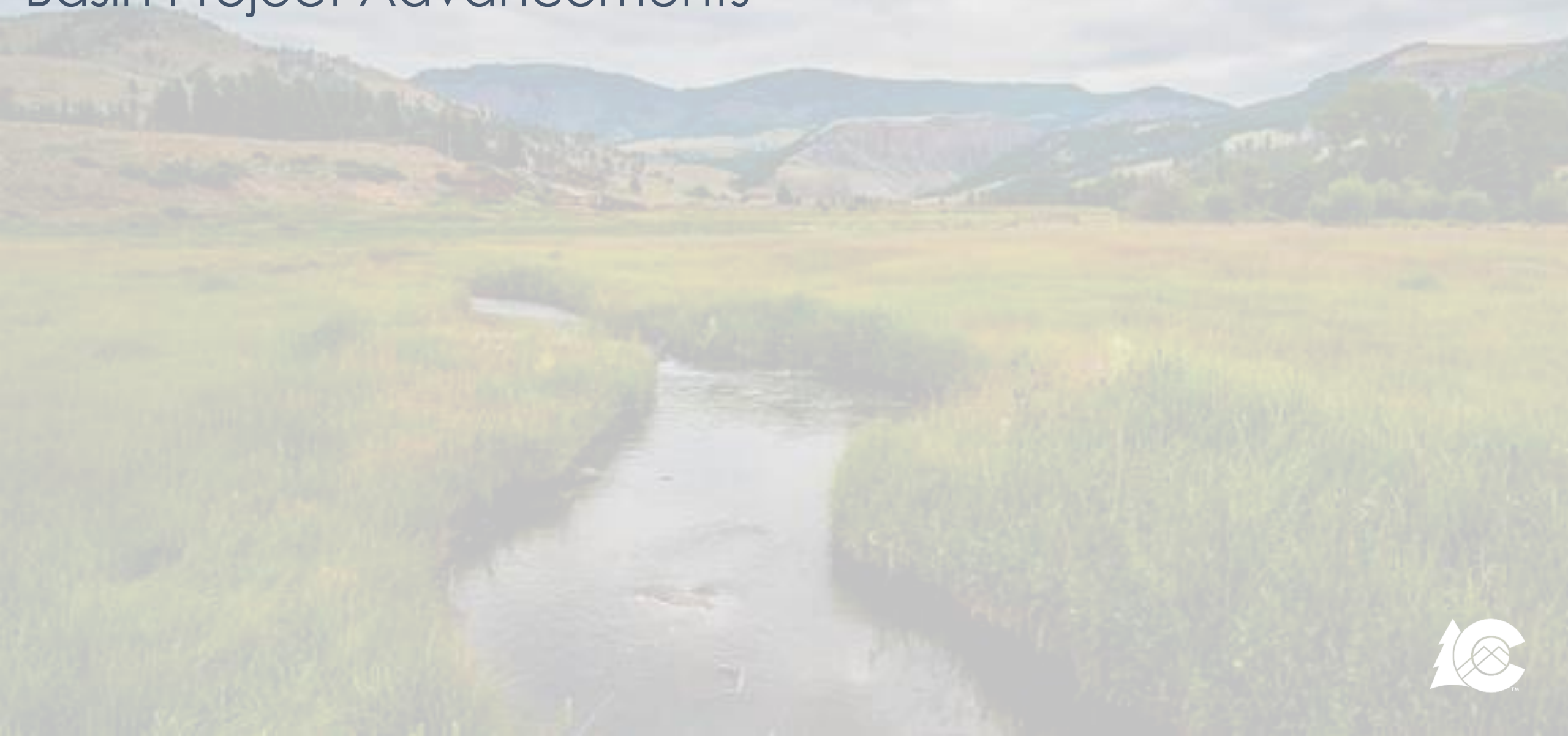
# C-9 SUGGESTED TOPICS RANKED

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



# ANSWERING THE CALL

## Basin Project Advancements





# FINAL THOUGHTS

