

IBCC MEETING

June 18, 2024 - DURANGO, CO



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**COLORADO
WATER PLAN**

WELCOME



QUORUM – MINUTES – AGENDA

IBCC CHAIR
BECKY MITCHELL

WELCOME



A grayscale map of Colorado serves as the background. A black pushpin is stuck into the map, its tip pointing to the city of Denver. The word 'BASIN' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters, and 'REPORT OUTS' is written below it in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The map shows various cities, rivers, and mountain peaks, with state boundaries for Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska visible.

BASIN REPORT OUTS

DENVER

Colorado Springs

PUBLIC COMMENT





SHOSHONE

WATER RIGHT

Andy Mueller

Keep Shoshone Flowing


*Andy Mueller
General Manager, Colorado River
District*



SHOSHONE

WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION





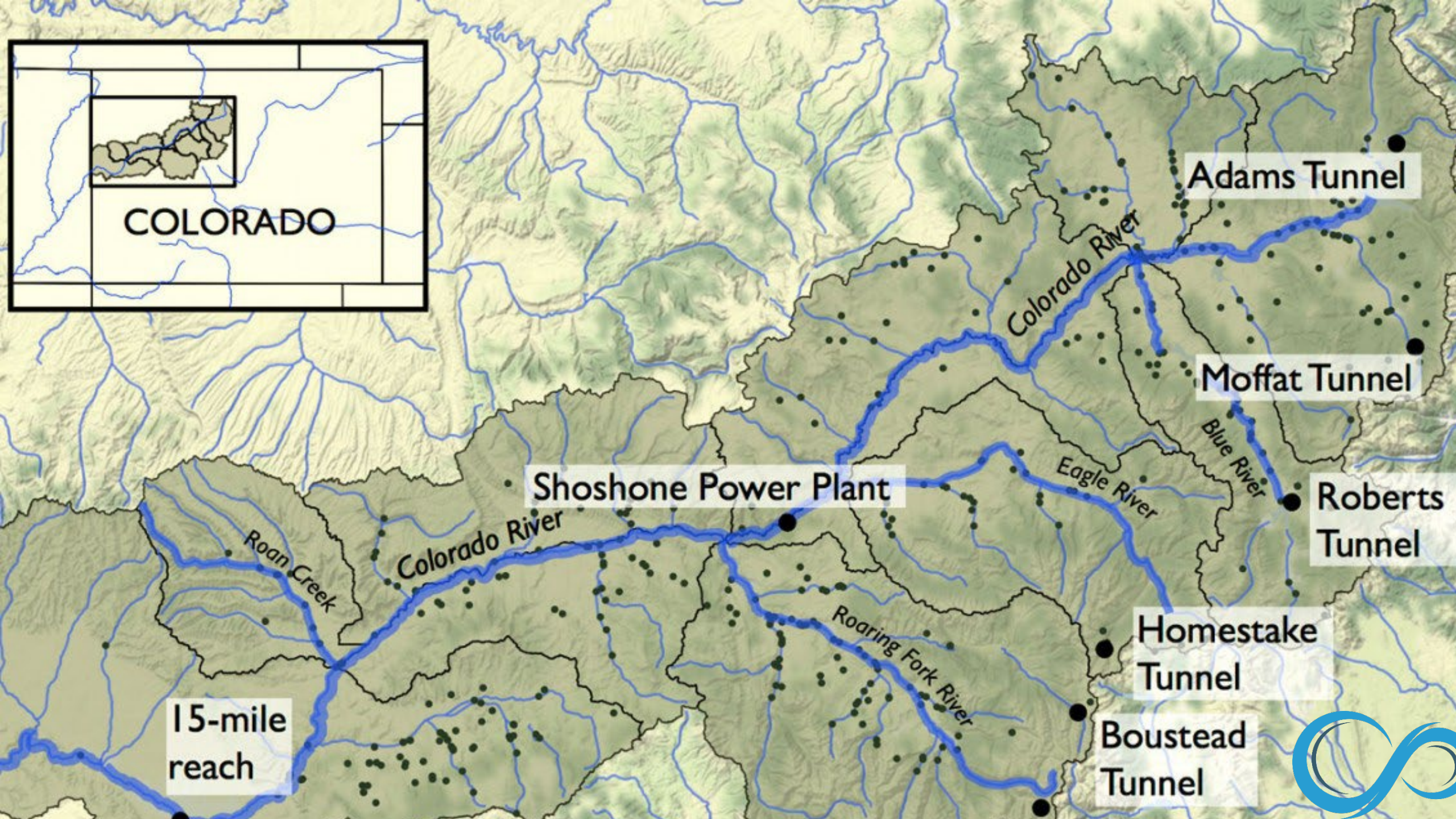
**The Colorado River District
was formed in 1937 to protect
West Slope water users AND
to safeguard for Colorado all
waters of the Colorado River
to which the state is entitled.**



ABOUT SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS

- Large and very senior non-consumptive right on the Colorado River – 1250 cfs under a 1902 right & 158 cfs under a 1929
- The full Shoshone call can command 1,408 cubic feet per second, or up to 1.02 MAF per year
- Benefits on the West Slope from the Headwaters to the State Line and Statewide.





Shoshone Water Right Preservation Coalition

**Summit County – Grand County – Eagle County
Garfield County – Mesa County**

- Clifton Water District
- Clinton Ditch and Reservoir Company
- Colorado River District
- Eagle Park Reservoir Company
- Basalt Water Conservancy District
- Eagle River Water and Sanitation District
- City of Glenwood Springs
- City of Grand Junction
- Grand Valley Irrigation Company
- Grand Valley Water Users Association
- Mesa County Irrigation District
- Middle Park Water Conservancy District
- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District
- Palisade Irrigation District
- City of Rifle
- Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority
- Ute Water Conservancy District
- West Divide Water Conservancy District



www.KeepShoshoneFlowing.

TIMELINE



Negotiating an Instream Flow Agreement between seller, CRD, and CWCB



Successful completion of a change case



Ongoing fundraising with support from local, state and federal partners



Approval from Colorado's Public Utility Commission



Anticipated Closing in 2027

On December 19, 2023, the Colorado River District executed a Purchase & Sale Agreement with Public Service Company of Colorado (A subsidiary of Xcel Energy) for \$99 million.



WHY NOW?

- 20 years, 20 western Colorado governments and water entities
- A willing partner in Xcel Energy.
- Historic amounts of funding at the state and federal level.
- Increased impacts from a hotter, drier future



15-Mile Reach



Over 1,250 water projects in Colorado depend on a successful 15-Mile-Reach for continued ESA compliance

In dry years, the Shoshone call can deliver up to 41,000 acre-feet under current demand conditions and up to 86,000 AF under future demands

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program supports four endangered and threatened fishes

Shoshone flows are critical for sustaining temperature and water level targets





SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION



[www.KeepShoshoneFlowin
g.org](http://www.KeepShoshoneFlowing.org)

Get Involved



@KeepShoshoneFlowing



@KeepShoshoneFlowing



@ShoshoneFlows

Sign up for the
newsletter



COLORADO RIVER UPDATES

FOLLOWED BY OPEN DISCUSSION WITH THE IBCC

Amy Ostdiek
Becky Mitchell



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June 2024 IBCC **Colorado River Updates**

Amy Ostdiek

Interstate, Federal, and Water
Information Section Chief



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Upper Division States Alternative

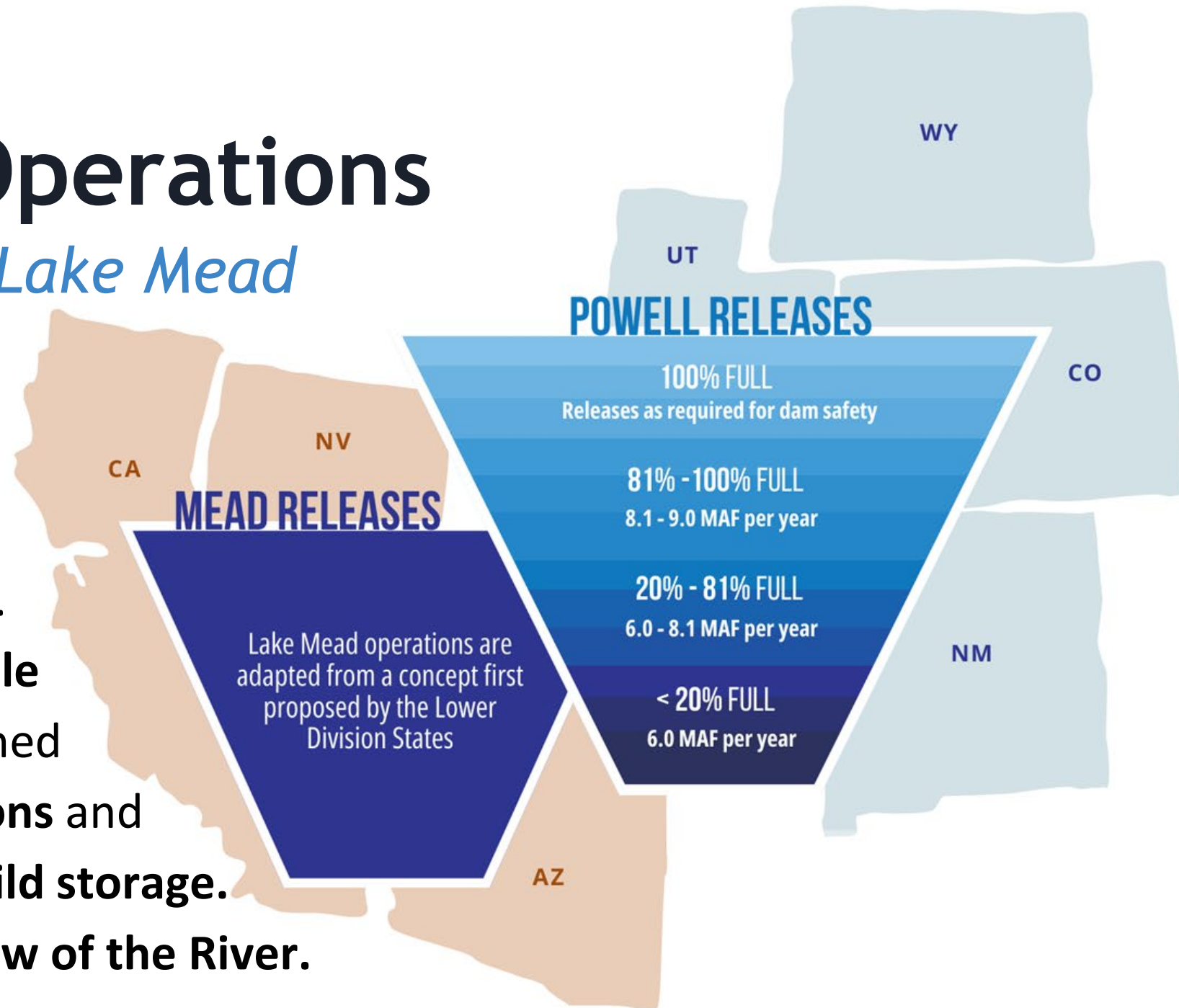
The Upper Division States Alternative provides an approach for Post-2026 operations of Lakes Powell and Mead that is designed to **respond to hydrologic conditions, help rebuild storage, protect water users and resources, and operate within the Law of the River.**

UDS Alternative

Post-2026 Operations

Of Lake Powell & Lake Mead

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming submitted the “UDS Alternative” on March 6. It provides for **sustainable operations** that are aligned with **hydrologic conditions** and is designed to help **rebuild storage**. It operates within the **Law of the River**.

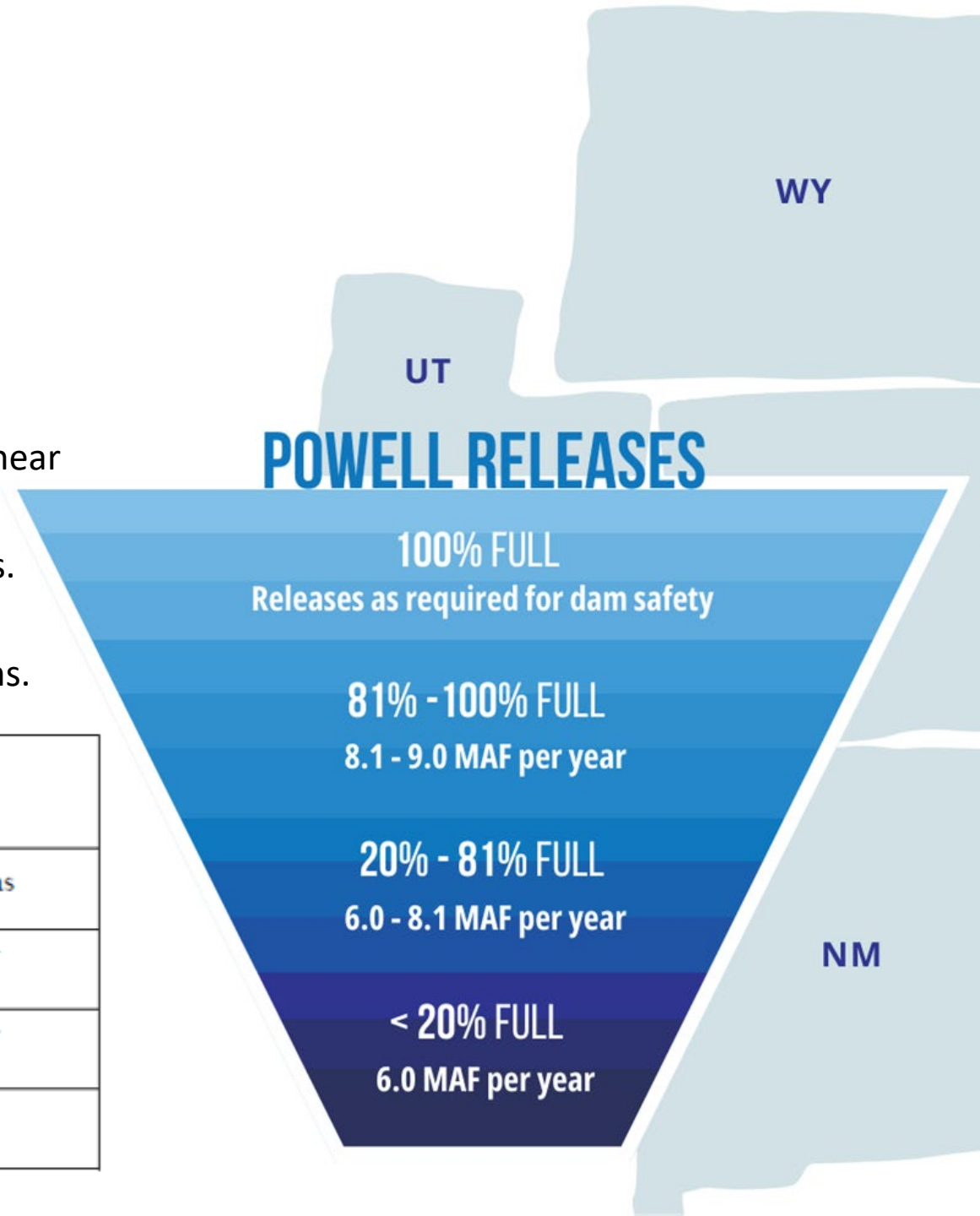


UDS Alternative

Powell Operations

- Lake Powell operations designed to be responsive to hydrologic conditions and help rebuild storage.
- Lake Powell release is determined by a continuous and linear rule curve based on storage level on October 1.
- Avoids sharp deviations and discontinuities between tiers.
- No balancing releases.
- Lake Powell level used as a proxy for hydrologic conditions.

Lake Powell Elevation (October 1)	Lake Powell Percent Full (live storage)	Lake Powell Water Year Release
> 3,700'	100%	As required by dam safety regulations
3,670' - 3,700'	81% – 100%	Linear Rule Curve - 8.1 - 9.0 MAFY
3,510' - 3,670'	20% – 81%	Linear Rule Curve - 6.0 - 8.1 MAFY
< 3,510'	< 20%	6.0 MAFY



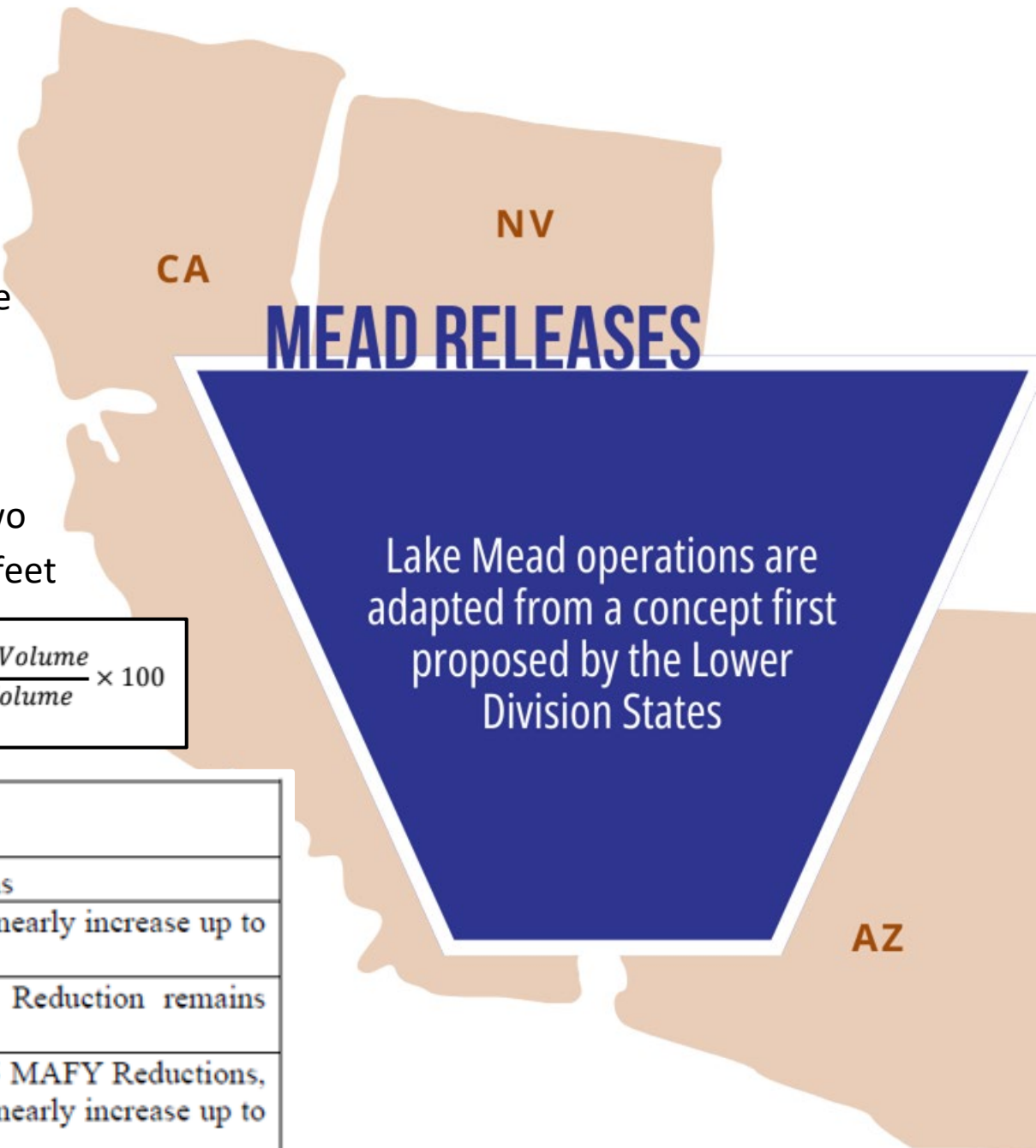
UDS Alternative

Mead Operations

- Lower Basin reductions are based on combined storage of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
- Storage amounts are used to determine a Trigger on October 1 that sets operations.
- Trigger is a percentage of current live storage of the two reservoirs with a threshold volume of 8.7 million acre-feet (combined) removed.

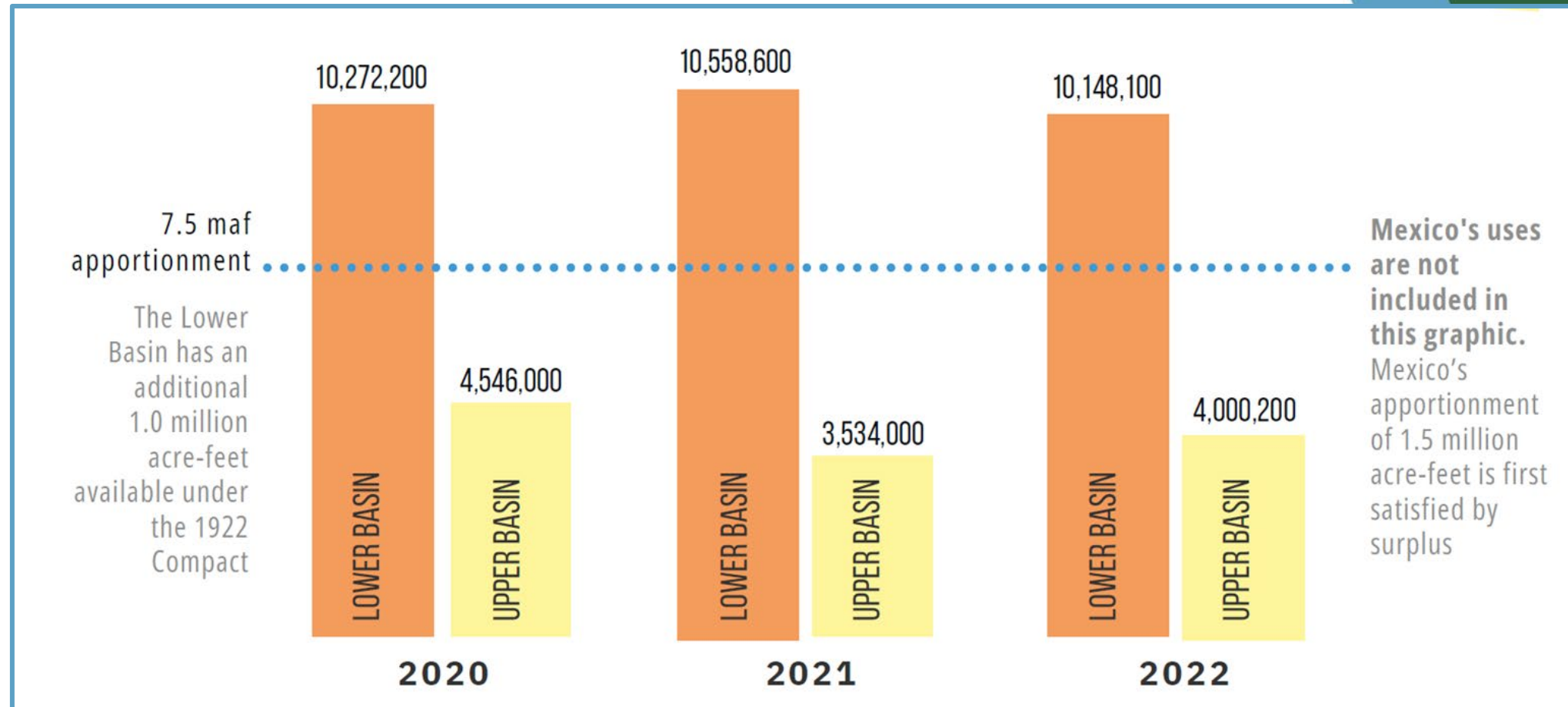
$$\frac{\text{Current Live Storage} - \text{Threshold Volume}}{\text{Total Live Storage} - \text{Threshold Volume}} \times 100$$

October 1 Trigger	Lower Basin Reductions	Description
> 90%	0 MAFY	No Lower Basin Reductions
90% - 70%	0 – 1.5 MAFY	Lower Basin Reductions linearly increase up to a maximum of 1.5 MAFY
70% - 20%	1.5 MAFY	Lower Basin 1.5 MAFY Reduction remains static
20% - 0%	> 1.5 MAFY	In addition to the static 1.5 MAFY Reductions, Lower Basin Reductions linearly increase up to an additional 2.4 MAFY





Hydrologic Shortage



Parallel Activities



- The Parallel Activities section acknowledges that there may be activities **outside the scope of the Post-2026 Operations framework** that may complement the Post-2026 Alternative.
- Parallel Activities may be pursued if the UDS Alternative is adopted.
- Parallel Activities may include:
 - Voluntary conservation
 - Potential releases and recovery at CRSPA Initial Units (Blue Mesa, Flaming Gorge, Navajo)
- Any such Parallel Activities would be subject to new agreements outside the scope of the Post-2026 process and should be used to **protect Lake Powell's continued ability to make releases** and to **protect Upper Basin interests**.
- The UDS Alternative also acknowledges **undeveloped settled Tribal water rights**.



Next Steps

Reclamation is currently developing Alternatives.

The Upper Division States are committed to continued collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Basin States, Tribal Nations, water users, and environmental and recreational groups.



March 11
Reclamation
deadline to submit
modeling proposals



March 6
Upper Division States
submit Alternative
for Reclamation to
model



**March 2024 and
beyond**
Discussions continue



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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Record of Decision

Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the
Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

December 2007

Recommending Official:

Robert Johnson December 13, 2007
ROBERT JOHNSON Date
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

Approved:

Dirk Kempthorne December 13, 2007
DIRK KEMPTHORNE Date
Secretary of the Department of the Interior

*The '07 Interim
Guidelines expire
in 2026*



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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Regular Colorado River Updates



Stay Informed

- Commissioner's Corner
- State staff
 - DNR_ColoradoRiver@state.co.us
 - Amy.Ostdiek@state.co.us



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Colorado River Communication Efforts & Tools

Michael Sakas

Colorado River Communications
Specialist

michael.sakas@state.co.us



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Latest Webinar

Panel: Taking Cuts to Your Colorado River Water Supply

Hannah Cranor-Kersting

Rancher, Gunnison County Extension Director,
Gunnison, CO

Mike Camblin

Rancher, board president of the Maybell
Irrigation District, Maybell, CO

Letisha Yazzie

Water Resource Director, Ute Mountain Ute
Tribe, Towaoc, CO

Ken Curtis

General Manager, Dolores Water Conservancy
District, Arriola, CO



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Turning this into a podcast episode,
email me if you'd like access to video



"It was nice to hear directly from ranchers trying to keep their ranches going in scary water times during water cuts in dry years. As a Denver resident I rarely get the chance to directly hear ranchers' point of views. I was struck by their heartfelt emotion and responsibility they felt to previous generations to keep a family business operating. ... Compelling. Real sense of anxiety for ranchers and variability of the water supply. Helps me get a handle on the difference between Upper and Lower Basin water supplies and how Upper Basin really does rely so much more on year-to-year supplies."

- Reporter

Help us tell these stories!!!



Upcoming Webinars

Stay Informed

TENTATIVE!

July 11 - 11:30 to 12:30

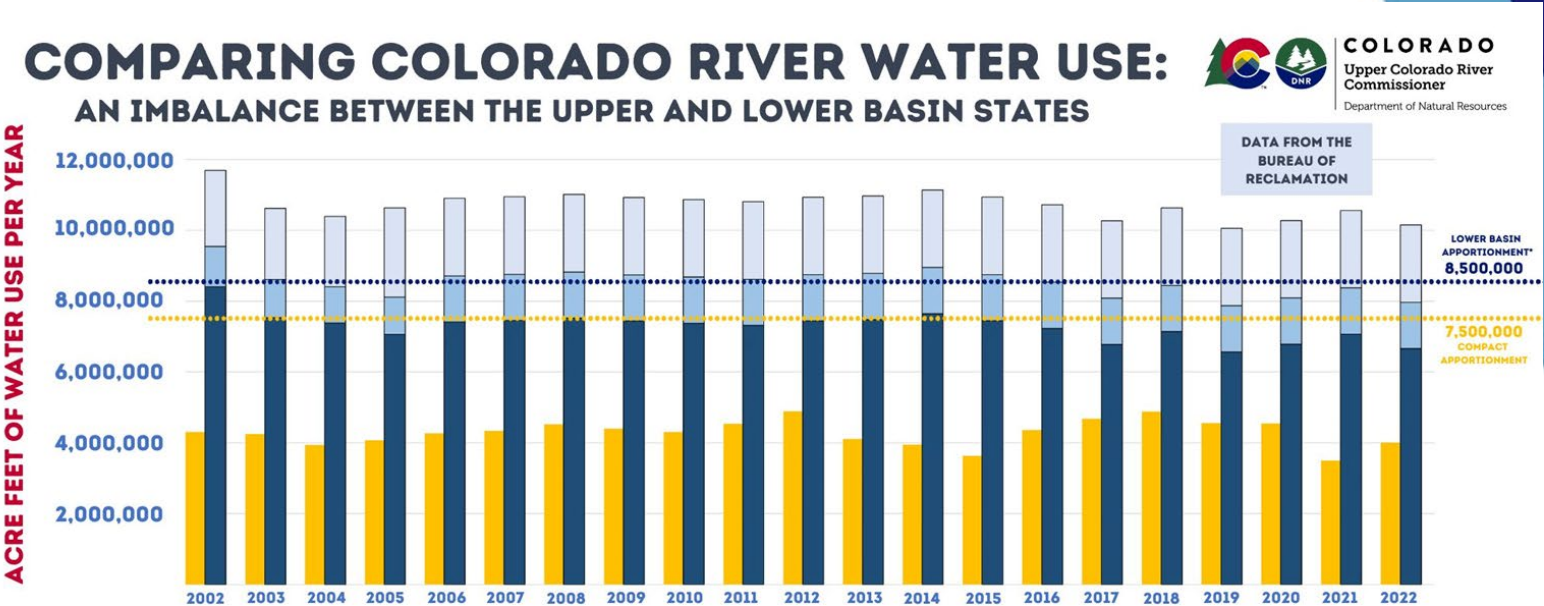
Aug 8 - 11:30 to 12:30

Zoom links can be found
on the CWCB calendar

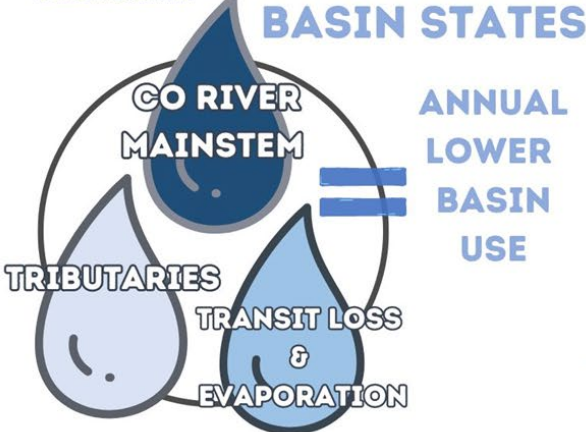
<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/fullcalendar>

Want to ask a question? Email
me: michael.sakas@state.co.us

Infographics - In Progress



*UNDER THE 1922 COMPACT, THE LOWER BASIN IS APPORTIONED 7.5 MILLION ACRE-FEET, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 1 MILLION-ACRE FEET

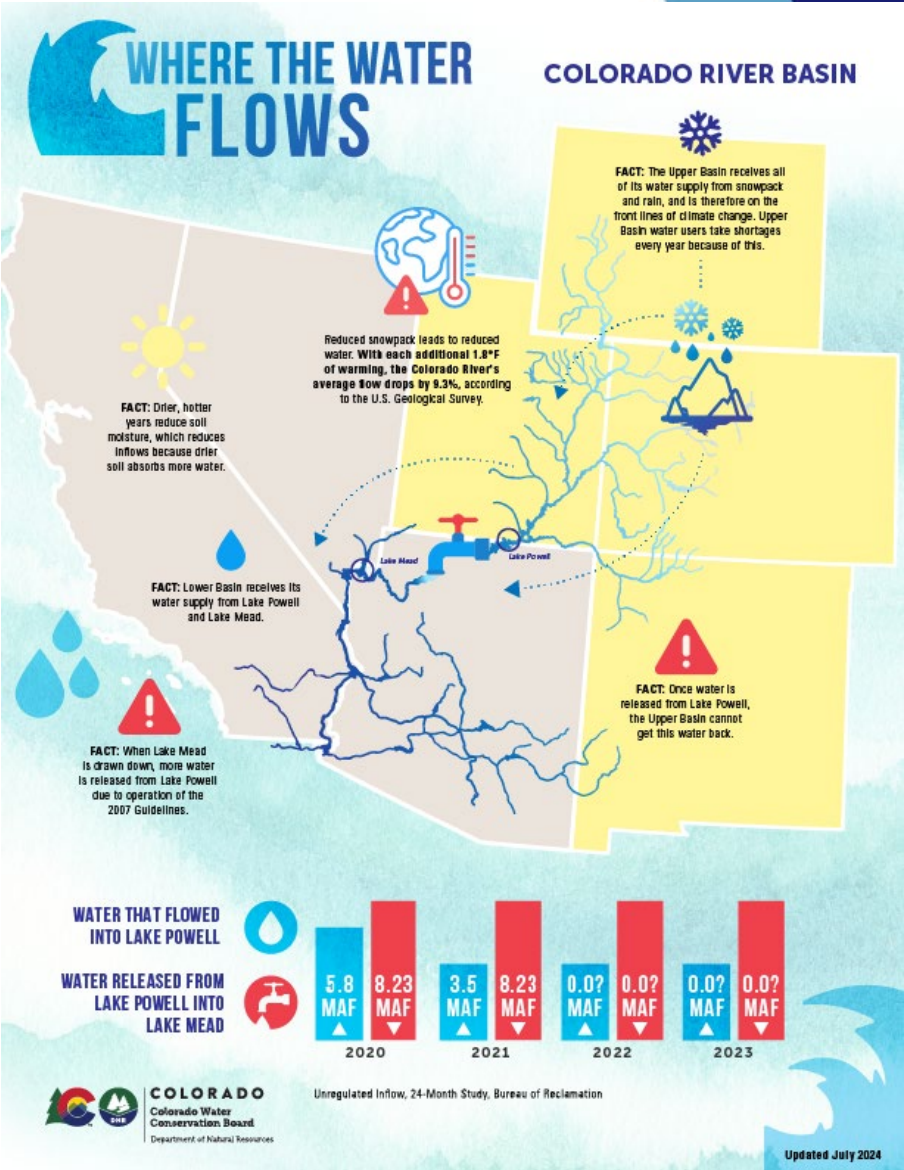
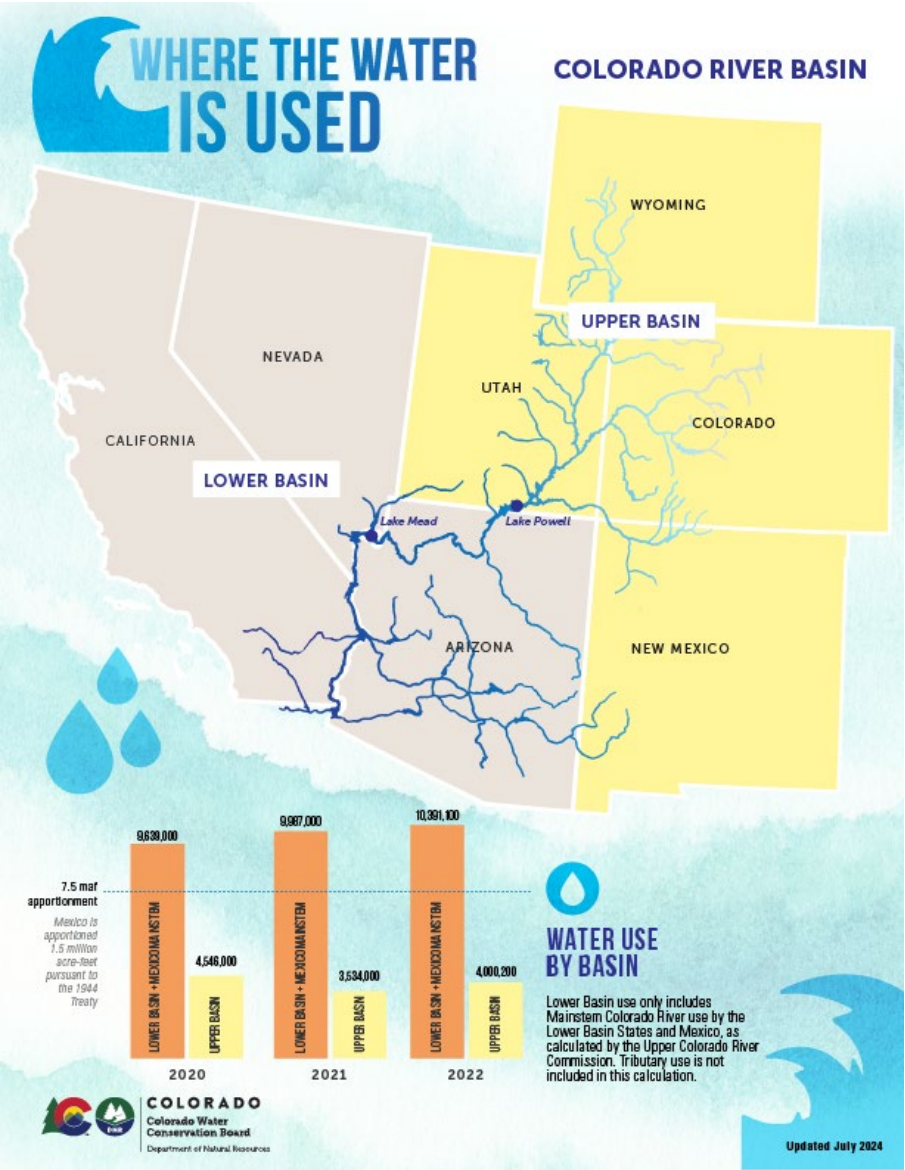


UPPER BASIN STATES



*UPPER BASIN USE INCLUDES ALL MAINSTEM, TRIBUTARY, EVAPORATION & TRANSIT LOSSES COMBINED

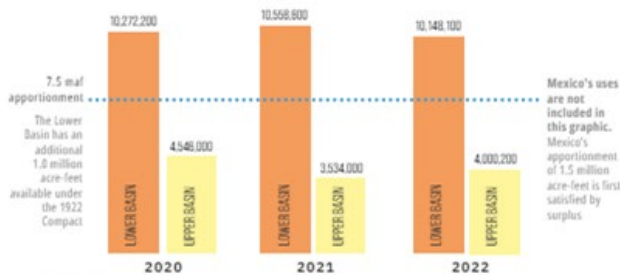
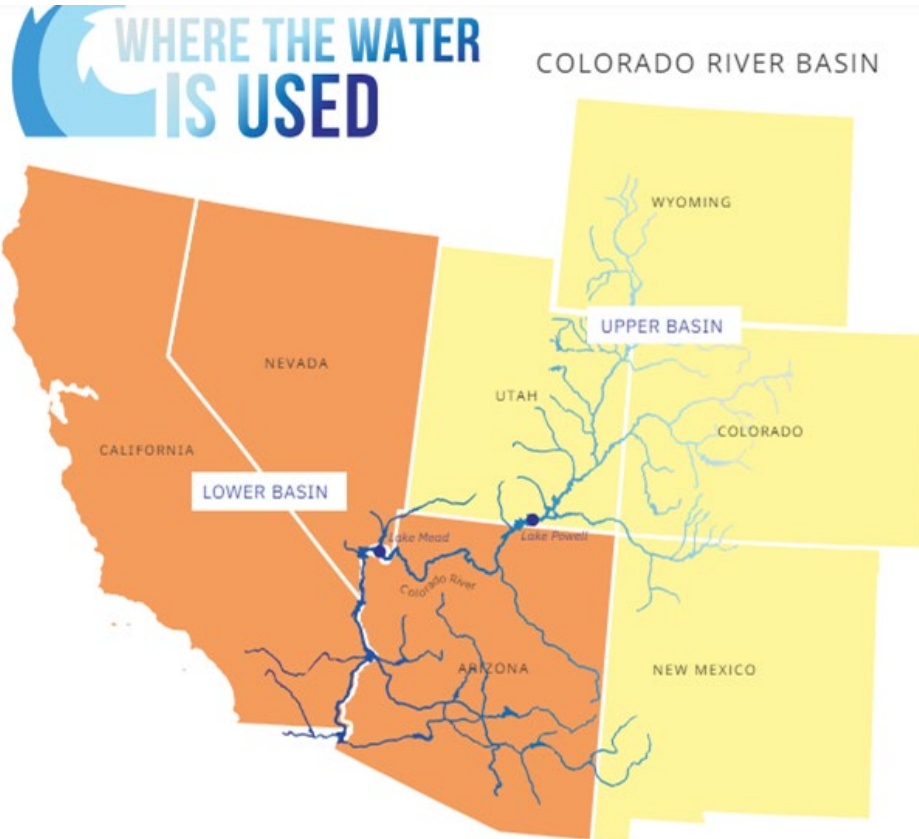
Infographics - In Progress



Where the Water is Used



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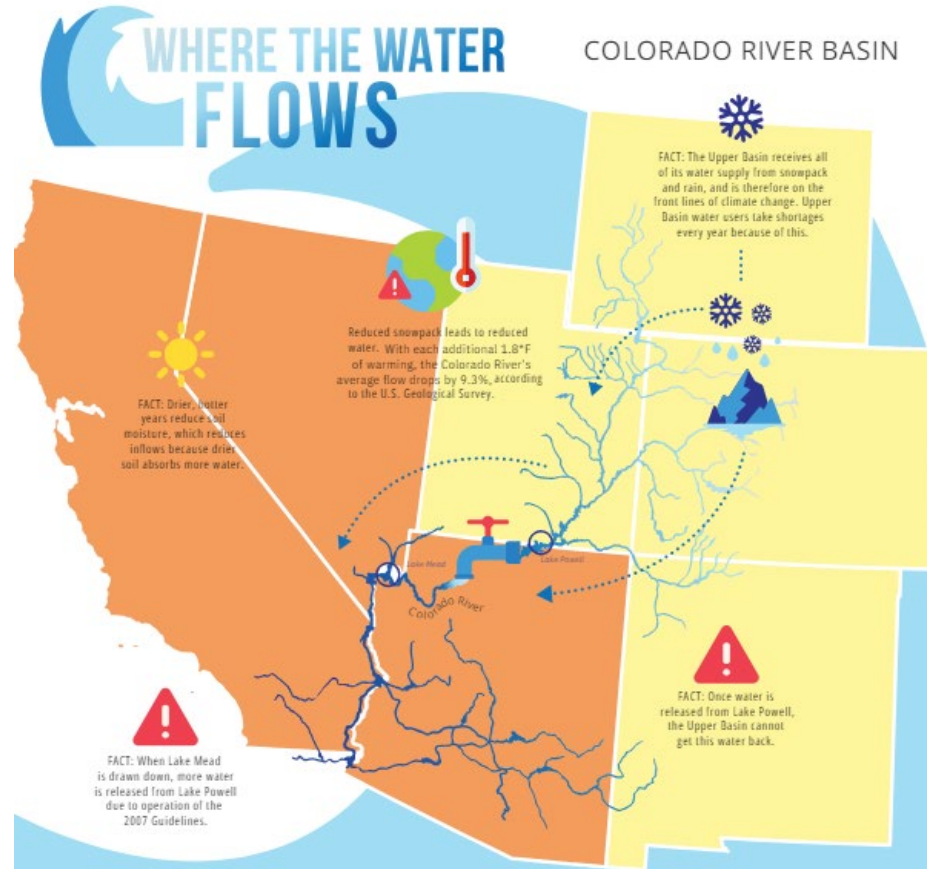


WATER USE BY BASIN

Lower Basin use includes Mainstem Colorado River deliveries, evaporation and transit losses, and estimated tributary use.

Lower Basin tributary uses have not been reported since 2005.

Updated March 2024



WATER THAT FLOWED INTO LAKE POWELL

WATER RELEASED FROM LAKE POWELL INTO LAKE MEAD

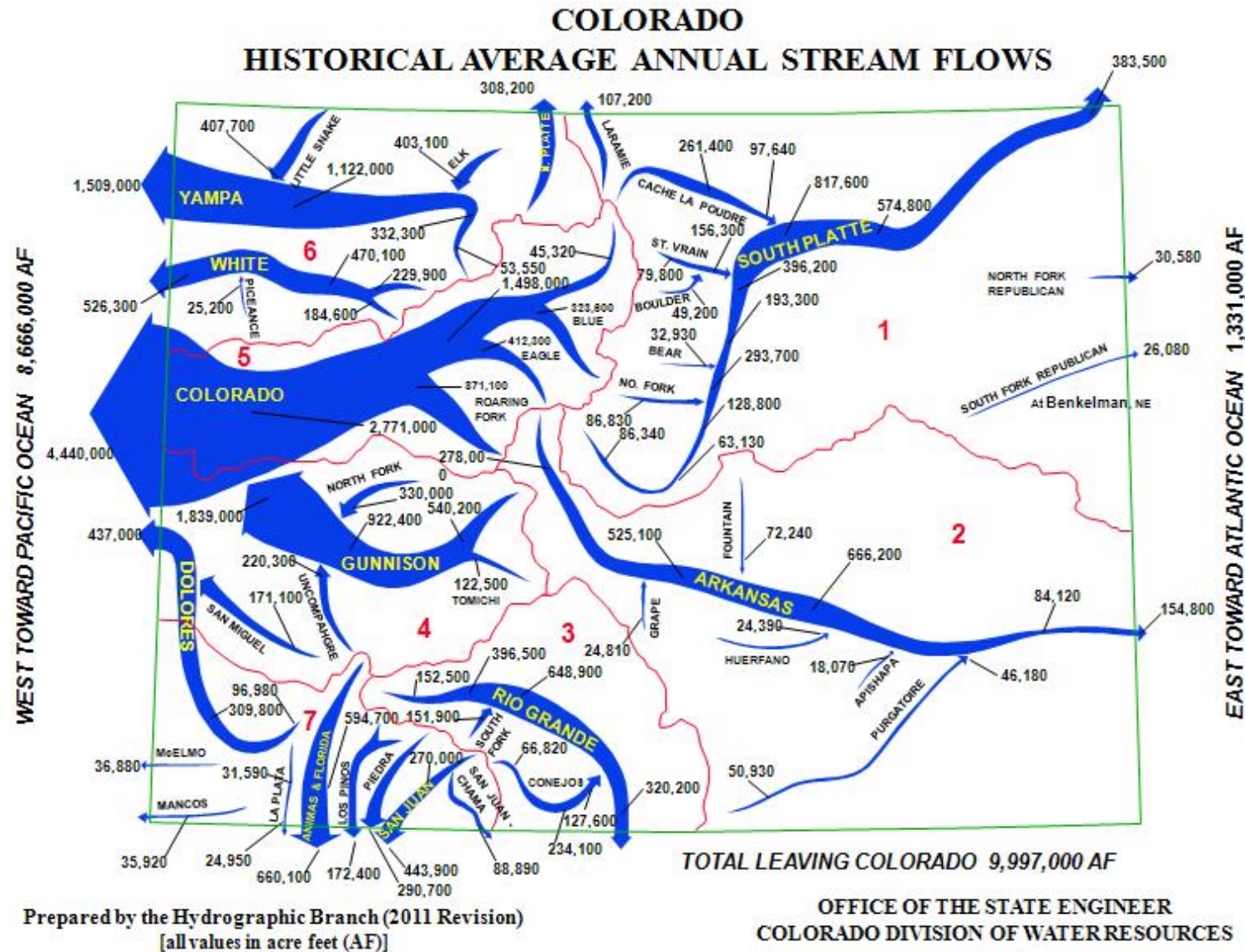


Unregulated Inflow, 24-Month Study, Bureau of Reclamation

Infographics - In Progress



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UDS Alternative FAQ



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A Sustainable Colorado River UPPER DIVISION STATES ALTERNATIVE FAQ

What is the purpose of the UDS Alternative?

The Upper Division States Alternative (UDS Alternative) was submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation by Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Reclamation will model the UDS Alternative as part of the NEPA process for Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Alternative presents a way to operate Lake Powell and Lake Mead based on observed, real-world hydrologic conditions (instead of unreliable forecasts). The plan would help rebuild storage in the reservoirs and protect water users and resources. The current guidelines expire in 2026.

How will the UDS Alternative improve Colorado River management?

Under the guidelines in place through 2026, more water is regularly released from Lake Powell and Lake Mead than flows in. These large downstream releases support overuse in the Lower Basin States. The current guidelines tie together the operations of Powell and Mead, so the drawdown of Mead consequently causes a drawdown of Powell as well. This has caused both reservoirs to reach critically low elevations in recent years. The UDS Alternative is designed to operate within the means of the river by only releasing what is available in a given year based on storage conditions.

Are there conservation proposals in the UDS Alternative?

The UDS Alternative will consider 'parallel activities' that support Upper Basin resilience and protect Lake Powell. These potential activities would be separate from the post-2026 NEPA process. The activities could include voluntary conservation and potential releases from the Colorado River Storage Project Act Initial Unit reservoirs, which include Flaming Gorge, the Aspinall Unit (Blue Mesa), and Navajo, in order to protect Lake Powell's ability to continue to release water.

Help tell the story of why Colorado River water is important to Colorado
(720)-624-6723



michael.sakas@state.co.us

www.cwcb.colorado.gov/ColoradoRiver

www.cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner



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Upper Colorado River
Commissioner

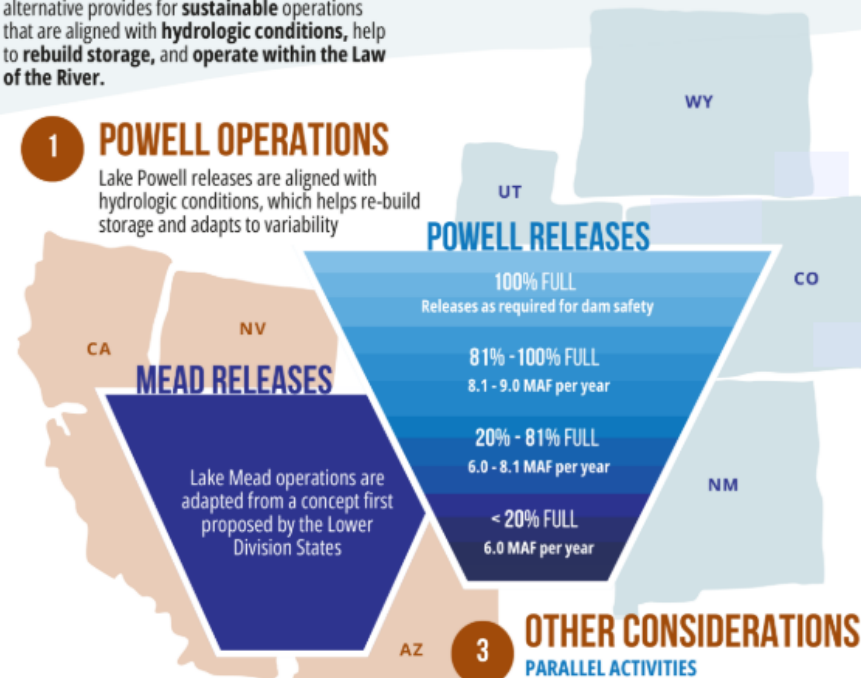
UPPER DIVISION STATES ALTERNATIVE FOR POST-2026 OPERATIONS OF LAKE POWELL AND LAKE MEAD

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming's alternative provides for **sustainable** operations that are aligned with **hydrologic conditions**, help to **rebuild storage**, and **operate within the Law of the River**.

1

POWELL OPERATIONS

Lake Powell releases are aligned with hydrologic conditions, which helps re-build storage and adapts to variability



2

LAKE MEAD OPERATIONS

Modeled Lower Basin operations call for reductions in use depending upon reservoir conditions, with Lower Basin reductions of 1.5 million acre-feet under most conditions

3

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

Under agreements separate from the Post-2026 NEPA process, Upper Basin actions could include CRSPA* initial units and voluntary conservation, and acknowledgement of undeveloped settled Tribal water rights

*Colorado River Storage Project Act

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

The Upper Division States are committed to continued collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Basin States, Tribal Nations, water users, and environmental and recreation groups



Commissioner's Corner

cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner



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Updates

Events

News Stories

Infographics

Request Speaking Engagement

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the "Colorado River Commissioner's Corner" page. The browser's address bar shows the URL "cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner". The page has a navigation bar with links for "Recents", "Chat", "Calendar", "Mail", "Add To MyRegis...", "Kronos Workforce C...", "Michael-Chris Chec...", "Home | Content Ma...", and "All Beginner Course...". The main heading is "Colorado River Commissioner's Corner". Below this is a section titled "About Commissioner Mitchell" which includes a portrait of Becky Mitchell. The text describes her appointment by Governor Polis to represent Colorado in the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC). It mentions that the UCRC includes one Commissioner from each of the Upper Colorado River Basin states (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming) who work together on interstate collaboration for the Colorado River, which flows 1,450 miles across the Western U.S. and into Mexico. It also states that the UCRC was established in 1948 with the goal of facilitating discussion, collaboration, and decision-making among the Upper Division States. The text concludes with "In her role as Commissioner, Mitchell works with a team of Colorado's water experts".


Colorado River Commissioner's Corner

About Commissioner Mitchell

Becky Mitchell was appointed by Governor Polis to represent Colorado in the [Upper Colorado River Commission](#) (UCRC). The UCRC includes one Commissioner from each of the Upper Colorado River Basin states (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming) who work together on interstate collaboration for the [Colorado River](#), which flows 1,450 miles across the Western U.S. and into Mexico.

The UCRC was established in 1948 with the goal of facilitating discussion, collaboration, and decision-making among the Upper Division States.

[In her role as Commissioner](#), Mitchell works with a team of Colorado's water experts



Upper Division States Alternative

cwcb.colorado.gov/coloradoriver



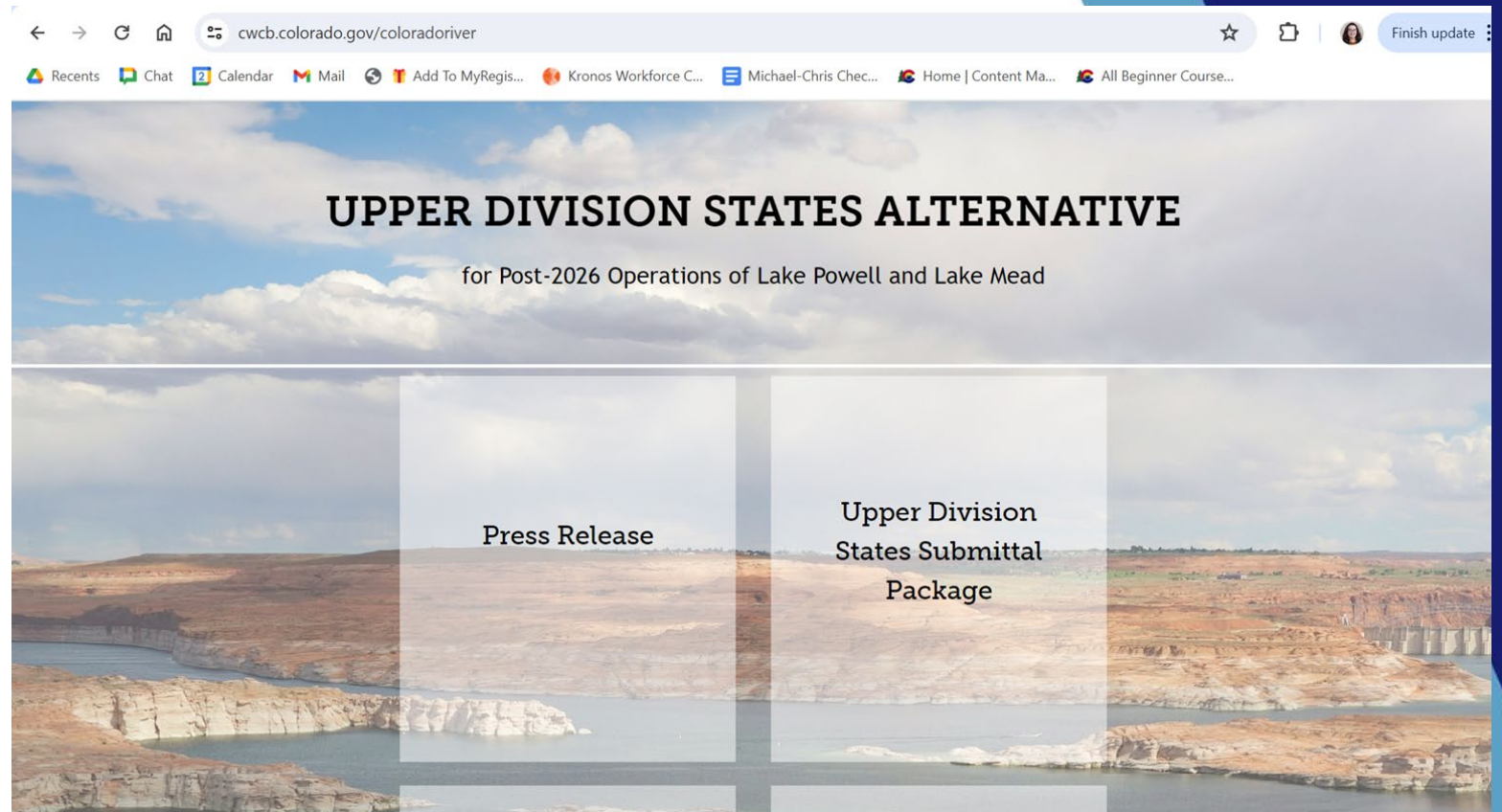
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Press Release

Submittal Package

Infographic

FAQ





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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Regular Colorado River Updates



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Want emailed updates? We
can add you to our email list!

michael.sakas@state.co.us



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Daphne Gervais

Department of Natural Resources



IBCC Legislative Update
Daphne Gervais, Director of Legislative Affairs
June 18, 2024



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Agenda

1. Review of Passed Legislation
2. Review of DNR Legislative Agenda



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Water



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SB24-005, Prohibiting Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation



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SB24-148, Precipitation Harvesting Stormwater Detention



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SB24-179, Floodplain Management Program



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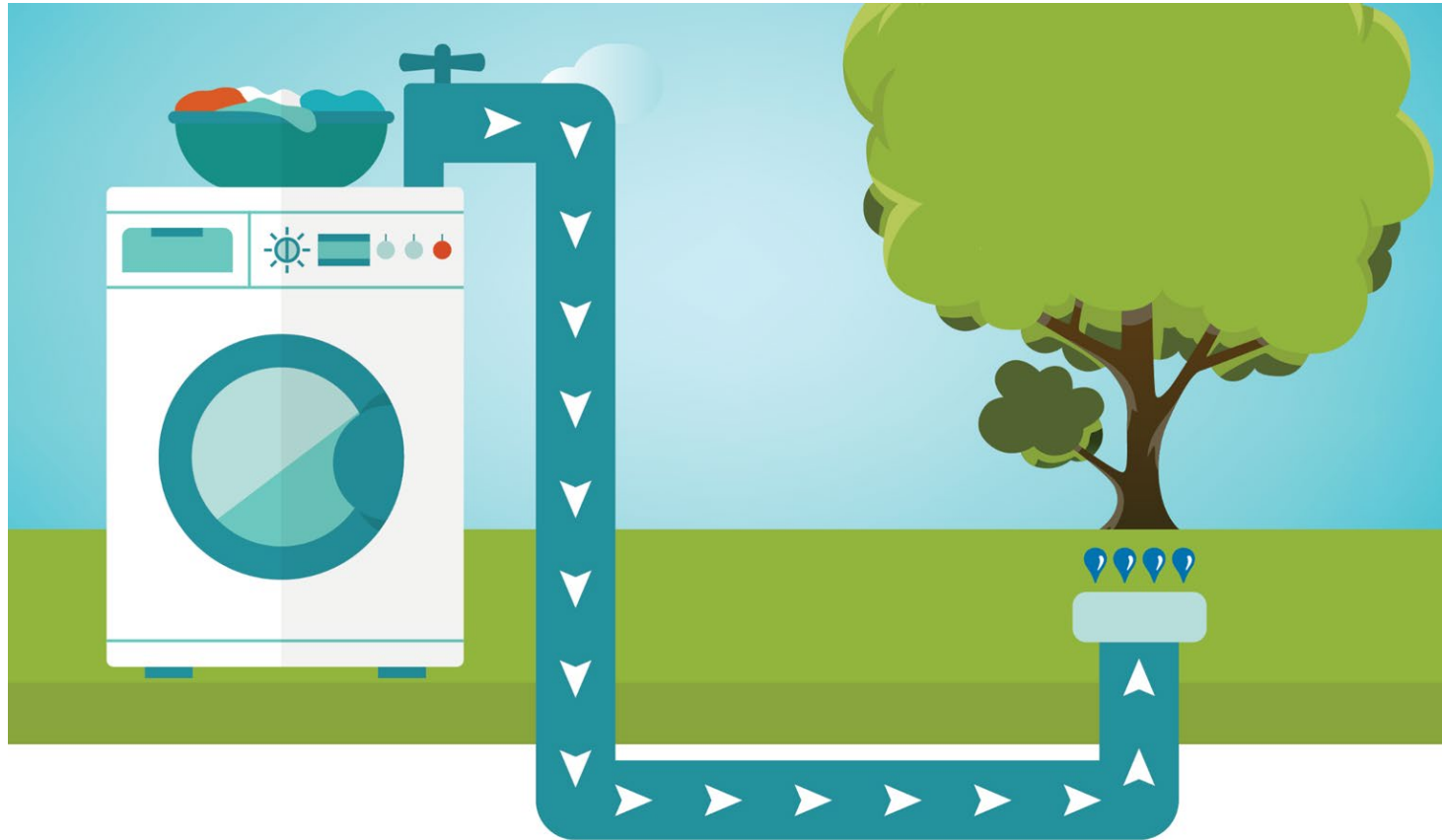
SB24-197, Water Conservation Measures



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HB24-1362, Measures to Incentivize Graywater Use



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HB24-1379, Regulate Dredge & Fill Activities in State Waters



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HB24-1436, Sports Betting Tax Revenue Voter Approval



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HB24-1463, Restrictions on Tap Fees

CITY OF GOLDEN WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEE SCHEDULE JANUARY 2010			
METER SIZE	WATER FEE	SEWER FEE	TOTAL FEES
RESIDENTIAL SINGLE UNIT			
3/4"	\$20,742	\$3,486	\$24,228
1"	\$34,856	\$5,811	\$40,667
1 1/2"	\$69,057	\$11,822	\$80,879
COMMERCIAL SINGLE UNIT			
3/4"	\$30,080	\$7,504	\$37,574
1"	\$50,204	\$12,703	\$62,907
1 1/2"	\$100,188	\$25,298	\$125,484
2"	\$160,344	\$40,511	\$200,855
3"	\$350,947	\$88,680	\$439,645
4"	\$601,526	\$151,990	\$753,516
MULTI UNIT			
PER UNIT	\$12,243	\$2,729	\$14,972
URBAN MULTI UNIT			
PER UNIT	\$8,653	\$1,673	\$10,326
IRRIGATION			
3/4"	\$29,680		\$29,680
1"	\$49,587		\$49,587
1 1/2"	\$98,736		\$98,736
2"	\$158,056		\$158,056
3"	\$346,190		\$346,190



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Climate, Energy & Conservation



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SB24-126, Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit



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SB24-214, Implement State Climate Goals



SB24-230, Oil and Gas Production Fee



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Miscellaneous



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SB24-026, Agriculture and Natural Resources Public Engagement Requirement



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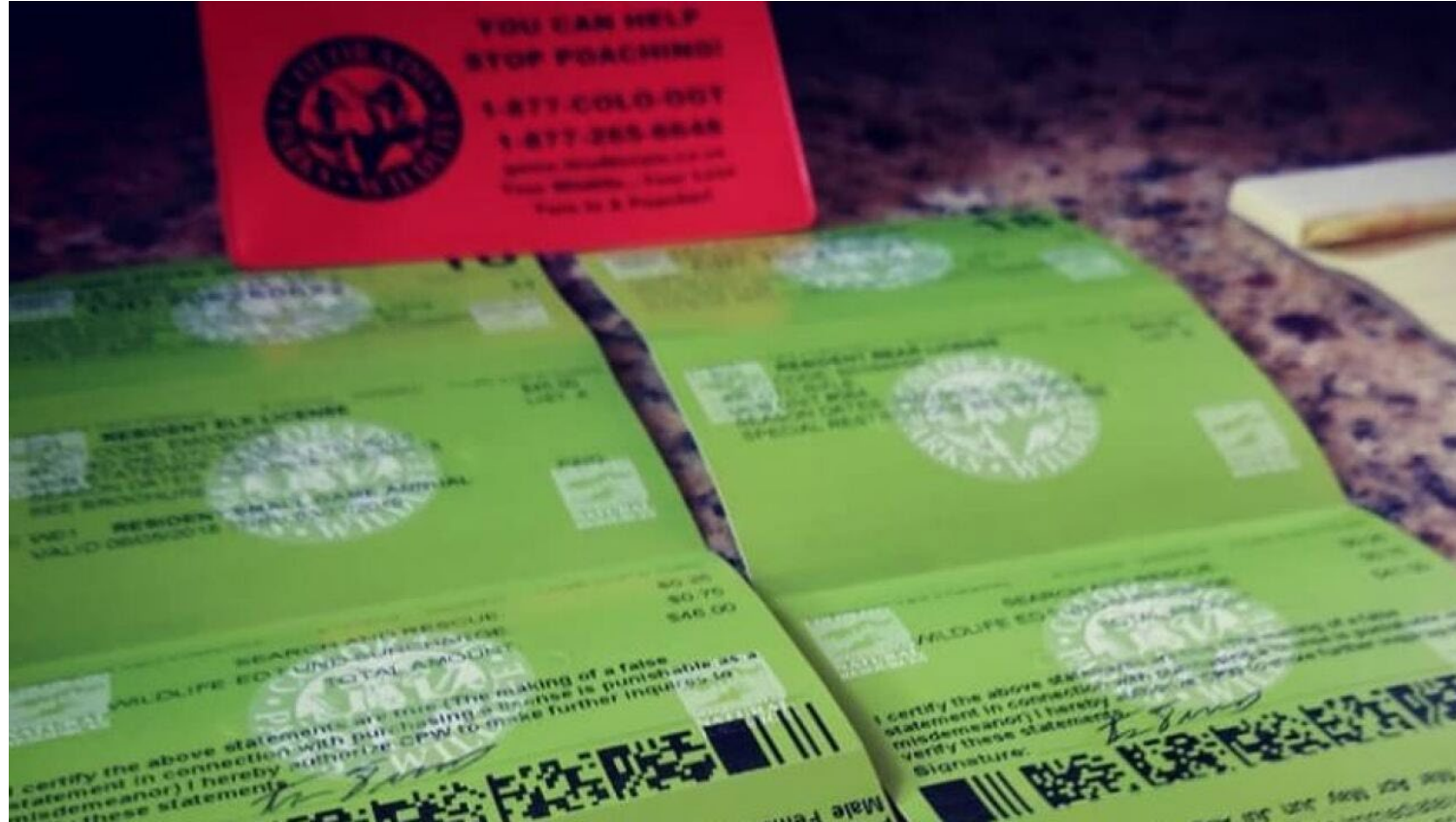
DNR Priorities



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SB24-161, CPW Passes and Licenses



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SB24-171, Restoration of Wolverines



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SB24-199, Annual Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects



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HB24-1117, Invertebrates & Rare Plants Parks and Wildlife Commission



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HB24-1346, Energy and Carbon Management Regulation



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HB24-1435, CWCB Water Projects



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Questions?



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10 MINUTES
BREAK

BREAK FOR
LUNCH
AT LAKE NIGHTHORSE



FOREST HEALTH UPDATES

INTEGRATION & IDEAS FOR COLLABORATION



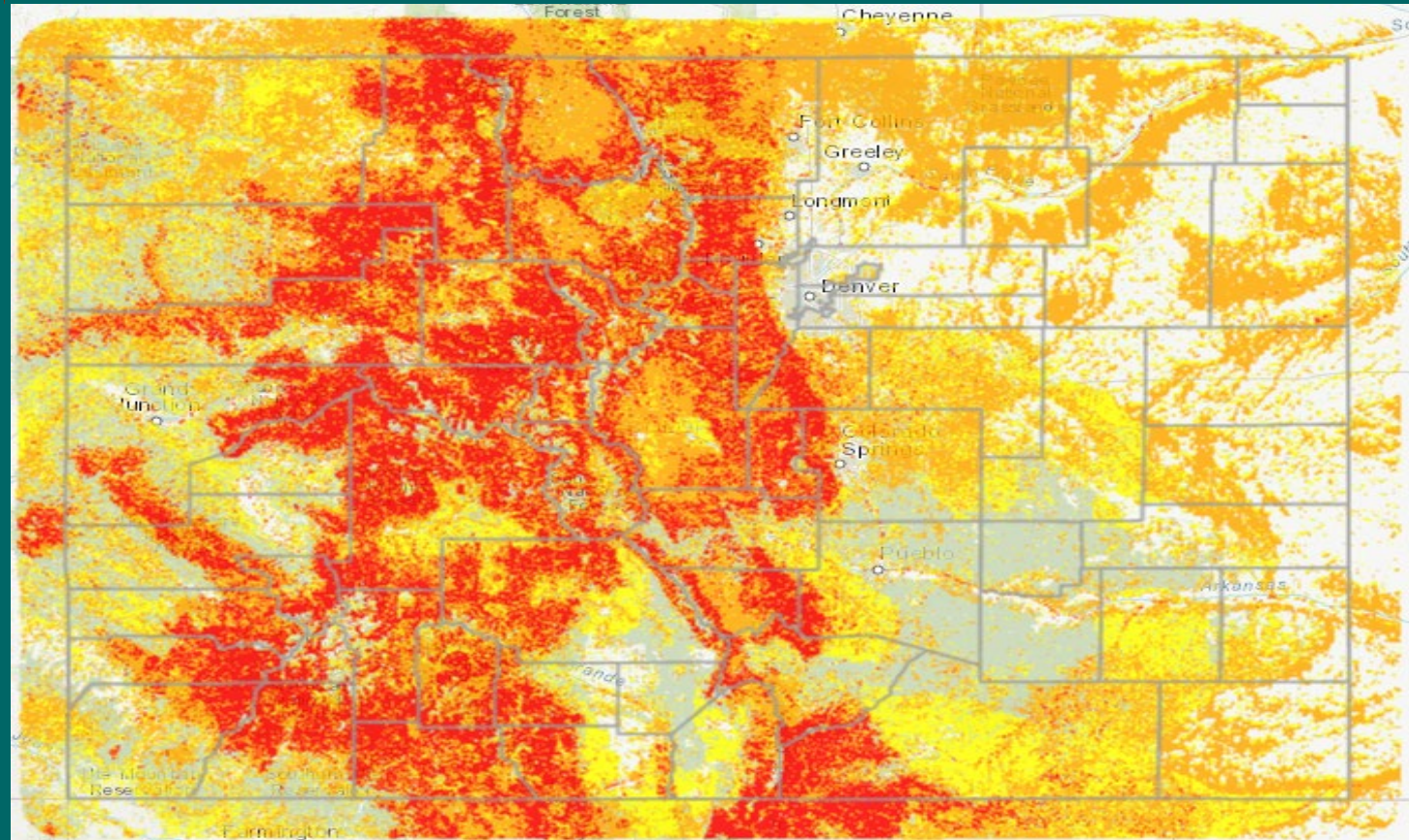
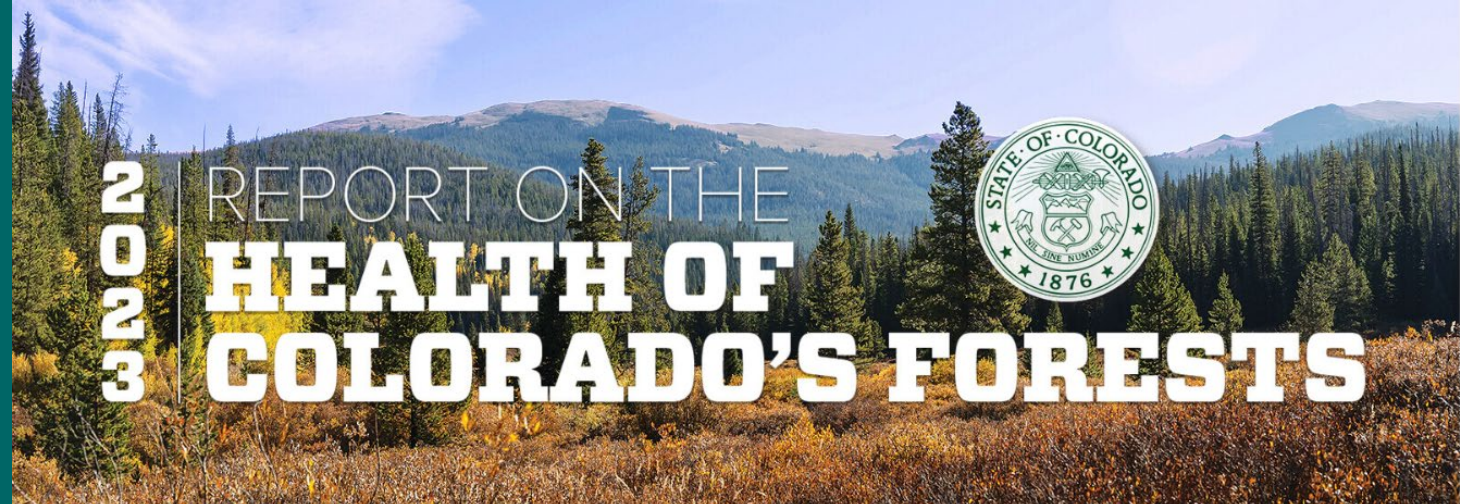
CHRISTINA BURRI
DEPUTY STATE FORESTER

Presentation Outline

- Threats to forest health and costs
- Watershed protection goals
- Collaborative opportunities – statewide and local
- Strategies and recommendations for IBCC and Roundtable engagement

Threats to Forest Health

- Wildfire
- Drought
- Insects and Disease





The costs are significant.

“About 10% of CO’s 24 million acres of forest need urgent attention to address forest health, wildfire risk, and threats to water supplies” The estimate is over \$4B.





Watershed Protection Goals

- **Goal 1:** Improve and maintain water quality and quantity
- **Goal 2:** Improve resiliency of critical water infrastructure
- **Goal 3:** Sustain or restore fundamental ecological functions for watershed health

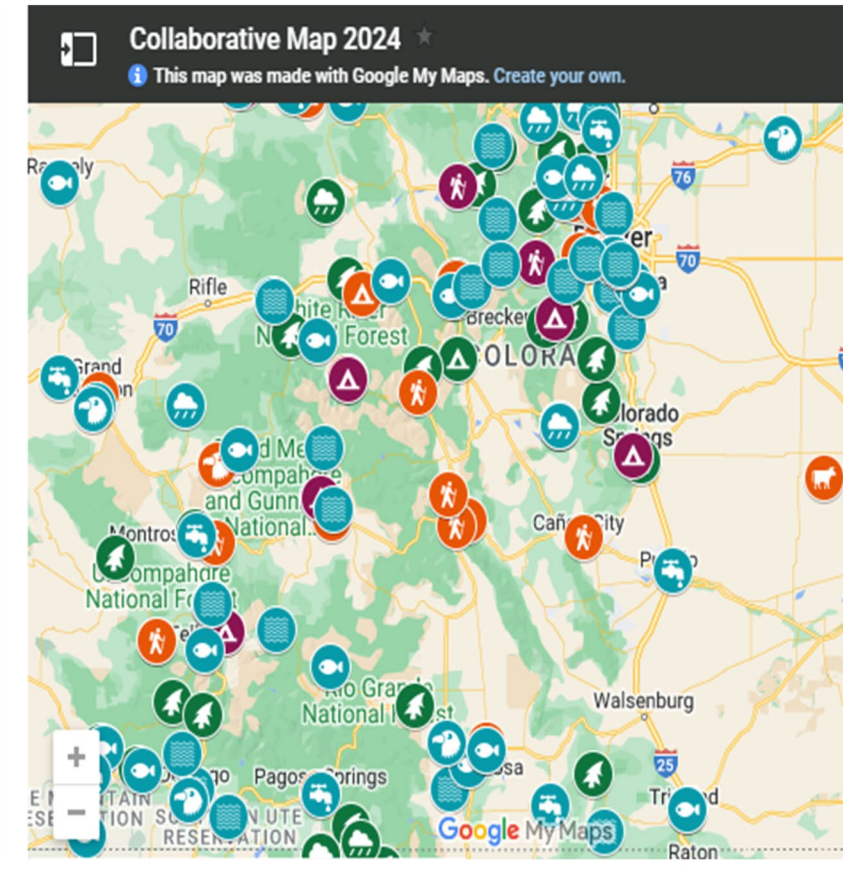


Collaboration, Communities, and Water

- 220+ collaboratives, more than half of which focus on forest and/or water related issues.

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- Wildfire Ready Watersheds





Southwest Colorado

RMRI's marquee project working to restore over 300,000 acres of public and private lands in priority areas across their 750,000 acre project area.



Upper Arkansas

Additional RMRI landscape working to restore 30,000-45,000 acres of public and private lands in priority areas across their 900,000 acre project area.



Upper South Platte

Additional RMRI landscape working to restore 150,000 acres of public and private lands in priority areas across their 885,000 acre watershed.

The Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative is an effort that has a project here in Durango.

RMRI Southwest Colorado Project Area

Legend


 Southwest Colorado Project Area

 Counties in Colorado

Surface Management Agency

 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

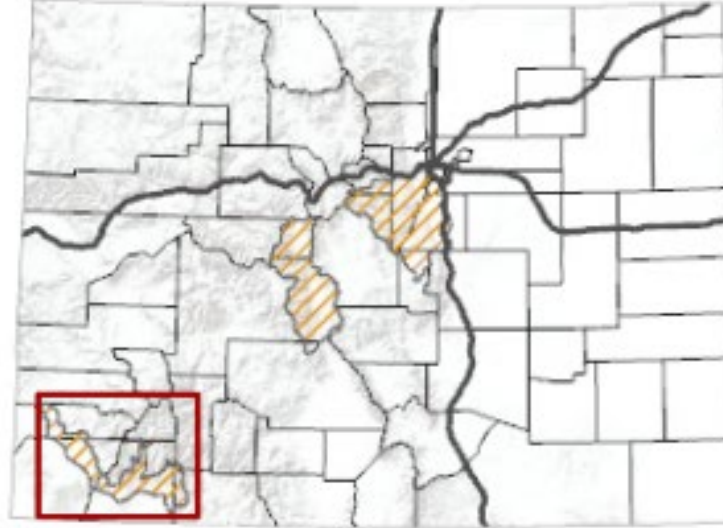
 National Park Service (NPS)

 US Forest Service (USFS)

 Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

 State

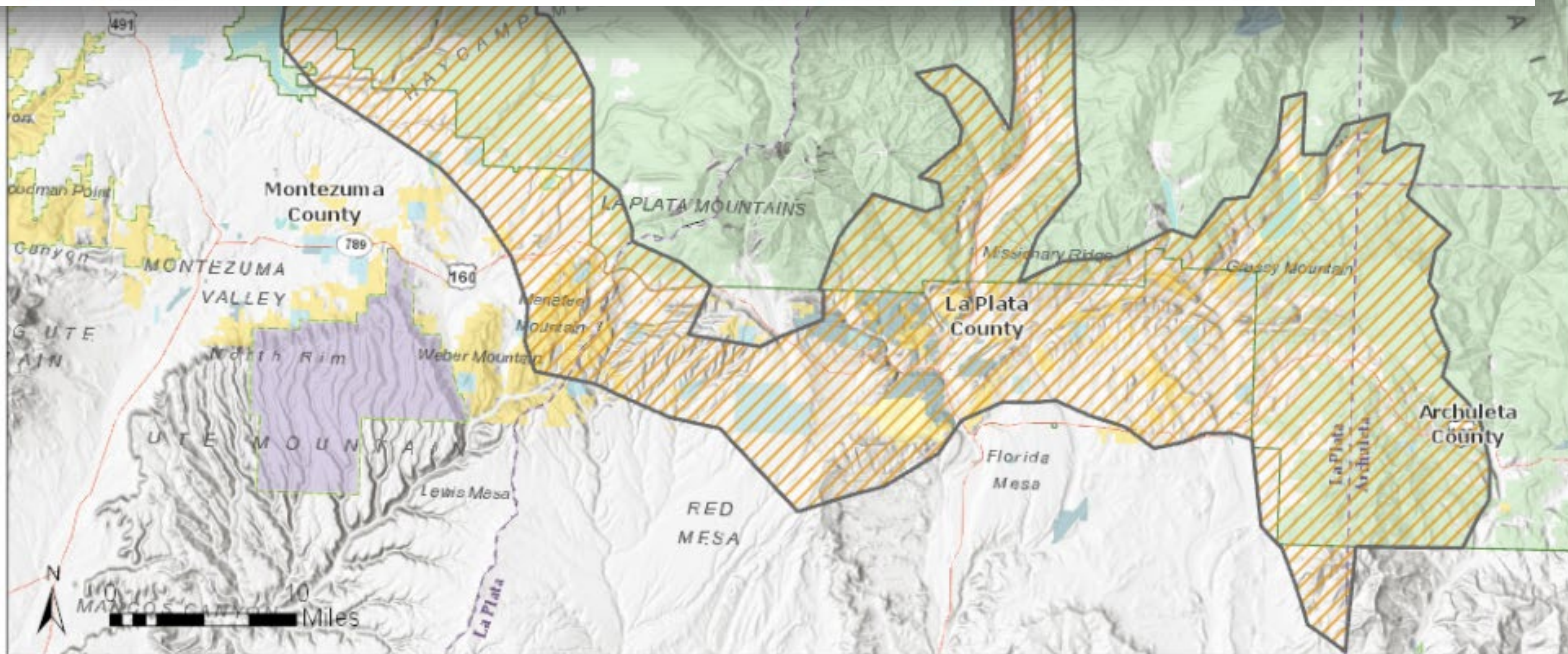
 Local



In 2019, the RMRI unanimously selected Southwest Colorado as the first place where it wants to focus its collective efforts.

The project area encompasses nearly 750,000 acres, stretching 120 miles.

In 2022, the RMRI landscape in this area received a total investment of \$11,949,786 for restoration work



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate roundtable/IBCC input with the Forest Health Council
- Continue to elevate Watershed Values-at-Risk and Water Supplies as a priority for federal funding
- Focus on a portfolio of projects that can be timed to work with and around NEPA: don't put all your eggs in one basket
 - Work to advance NEPA process on federal lands where possible
 - Develop projects/partnerships on private lands that do not need NEPA
 - Broaden projects to include cultural burning, Rx burning, and other multi-benefit projects
- Protecting existing infrastructure from wildfire should be a priority for water quantity and quality benefits



WILDFIRE READY WATERSHEDS

STATEWIDE POST-FIRE
SUCEPTIBILITY



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Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Healthy Watersheds:

- Maintain flow regimes at historic conditions
- Are able to resist, absorb, and recover from natural hazards (Resilience)
- Provide high quality water supply for agriculture, municipal, and environment
- Provide diverse and complex habitat features in upland and riverine environments





Wildfire Ready Watersheds

MISSION

The CWCB will assess the susceptibility of Colorado's water resources, communities and critical infrastructure to post-wildfire impacts and advance a framework for communities to plan and implement mitigation strategies to minimize these impacts – before wildfires occur.

Legislative directive from SB21-240



Wildfire Ready Watersheds

VALUES AT RISK

Aquatic Ecosystems

Reservoirs and Dams

Municipal Water Intakes

Agricultural Water Infrastructure

Road Crossings

Life and Property

HAZARDS

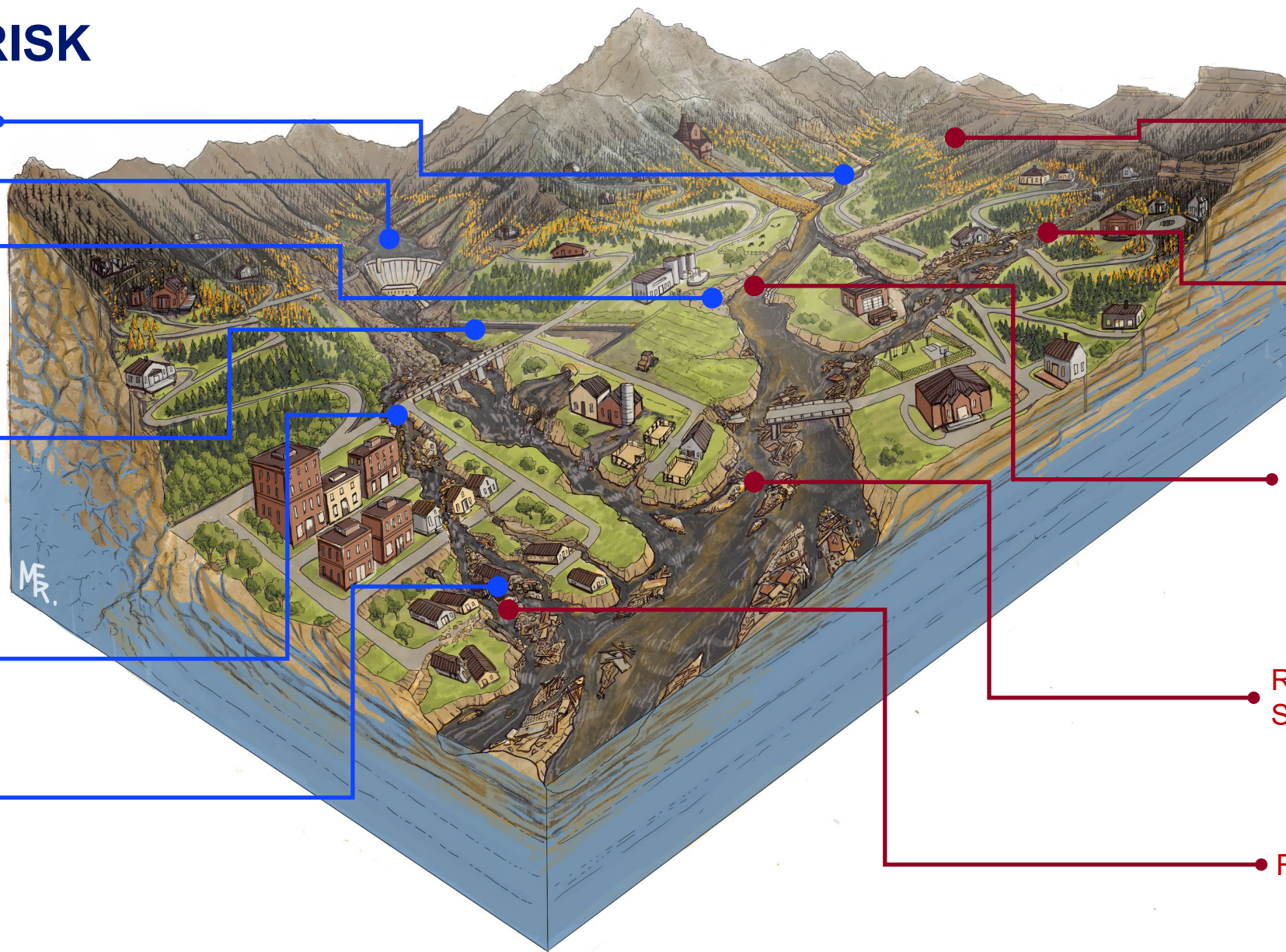
Hillslope Erosion

Debris and Mud Flows

Water Quality Degradation

Riverine Erosion & Sedimentation

Flooding



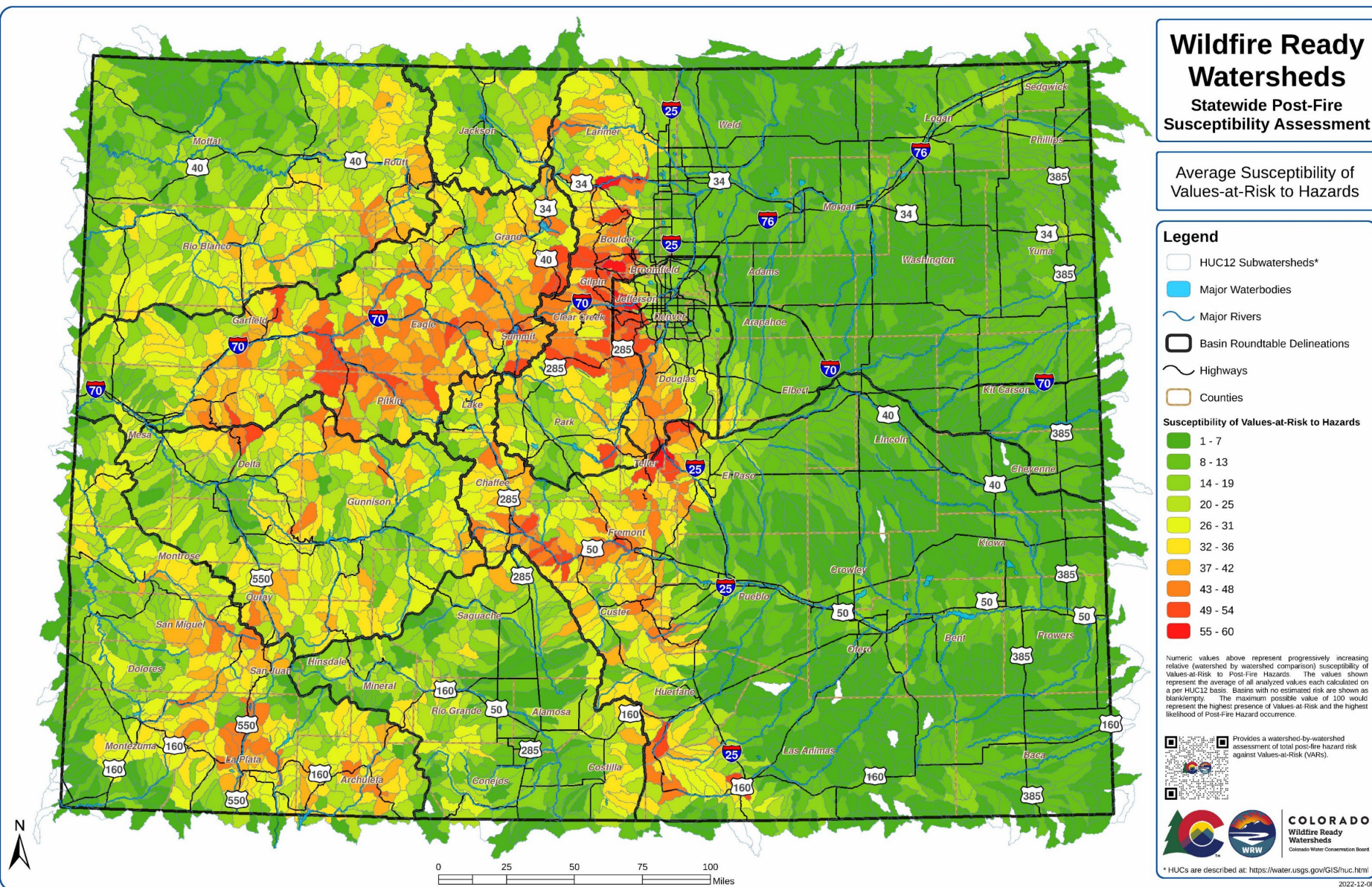


Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Post-Fire Risk

Statewide relative risk for all values and post-fire hazards.

Map represents overall average susceptibility.



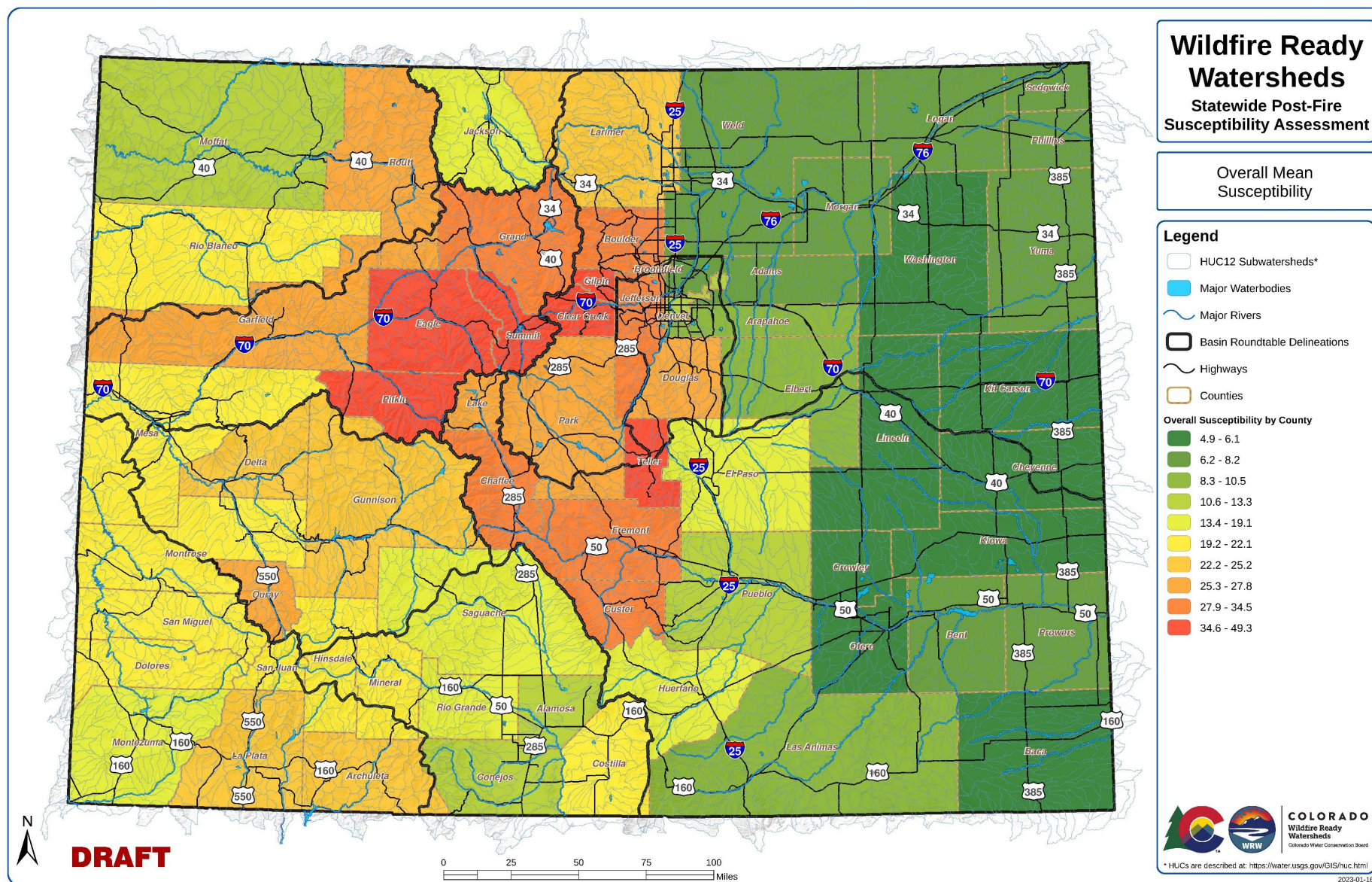


Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Post-Fire Risk

Statewide relative risk for all values and post-fire hazards.

Map represents overall average susceptibility.





COLORADO
Wildfire Ready
Watersheds
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Statewide Post-Fire Susceptibility Explorer

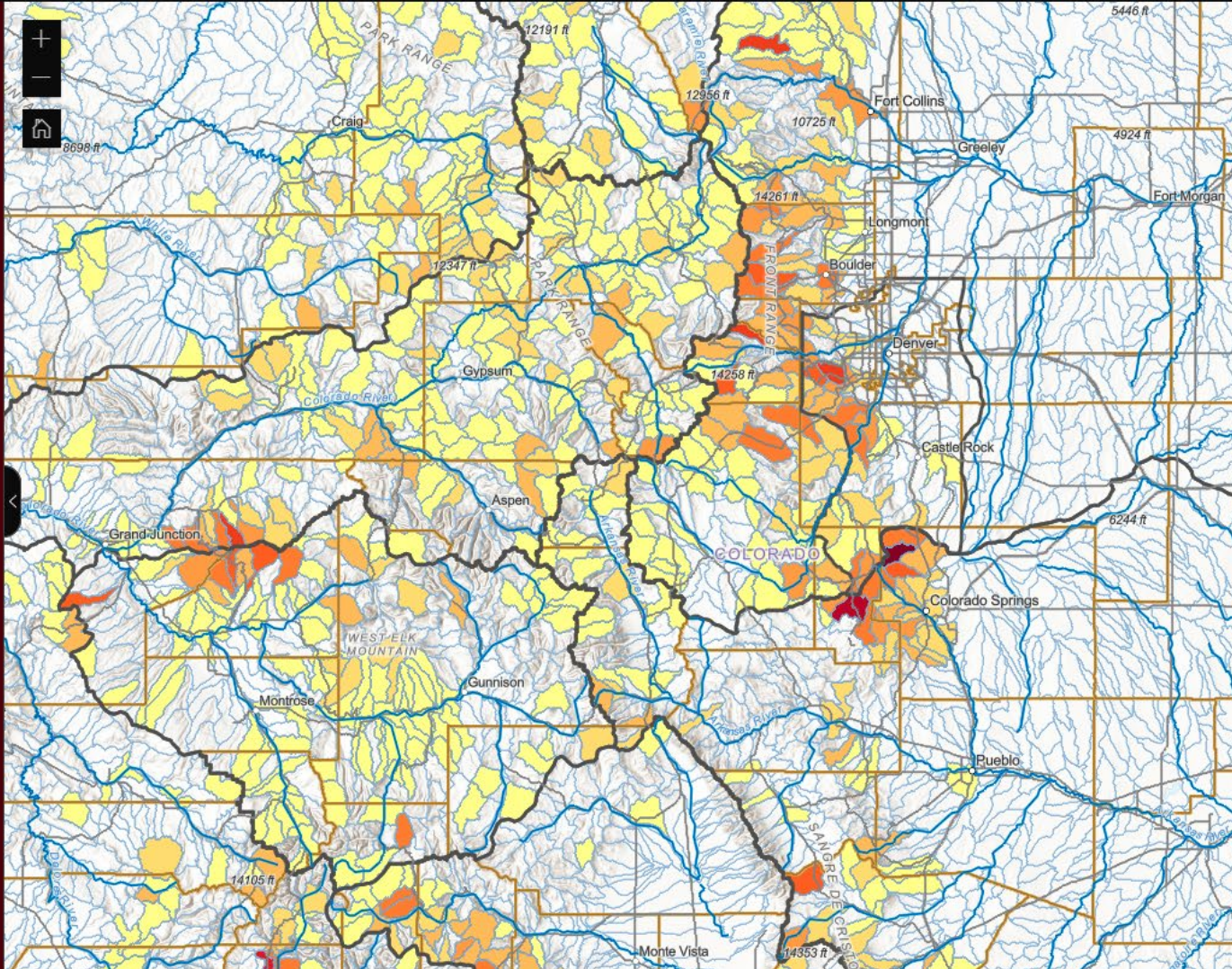
Explore Your Susceptibility

The Wildfire Ready Watersheds (WRW) program seeks to assess the susceptibility of Colorado's watersheds to post-fire hazard risk in order to support development of pre-fire and post-fire mitigation plans, preparing communities and stakeholders for these impacts - before fires occur.

This web map provides an overview of the susceptibility mapping and associated analyses and evaluations performed to assess statewide susceptibility to post-fire hazards at a watershed (HUC-12) scale. This analysis was completed in three steps.

- 1. Values-at-Risk (VAR) Identification.** This work curated available asset data classes at a statewide level and summarizes the relative presence of assets within any given HUC-12 watershed.
- 2. Hazard Analysis.** Hazard analyses were collected or performed at a watershed scale for hydrologic change, post-fire flooding, sediment/hillslope erosion, and debris flow probability.
- 3. Risk Assessment.** The risk assessment represents the intersection of VARs with hazards ($\text{risk} = \text{probability} \times \text{consequence}$).

[Learn More](#)



- Reference Features
- Top Level Summaries - Values-at-Risk and Hazards
- Reservoirs
 - Reservoirs Susceptible to Hydrologic Change
 - Reservoirs Susceptible to Sedimentation

Reservoirs Susceptible to Debris Flows

- Built Flowlines (Ditches, Canals, and Pipelines)
- Decreed Features (Ditches, Ditch Systems, Pipeline, and Pump Points)
- Intake Watersheds (Sourcewater Assessment Areas)
- Aquatic Resources
- Roads Crossings (Intersections with Natural Flowlines)

Reference Features

Selected Rivers

CDOT Highways (State, US, and Interstate)

IBCC Basins

Counties

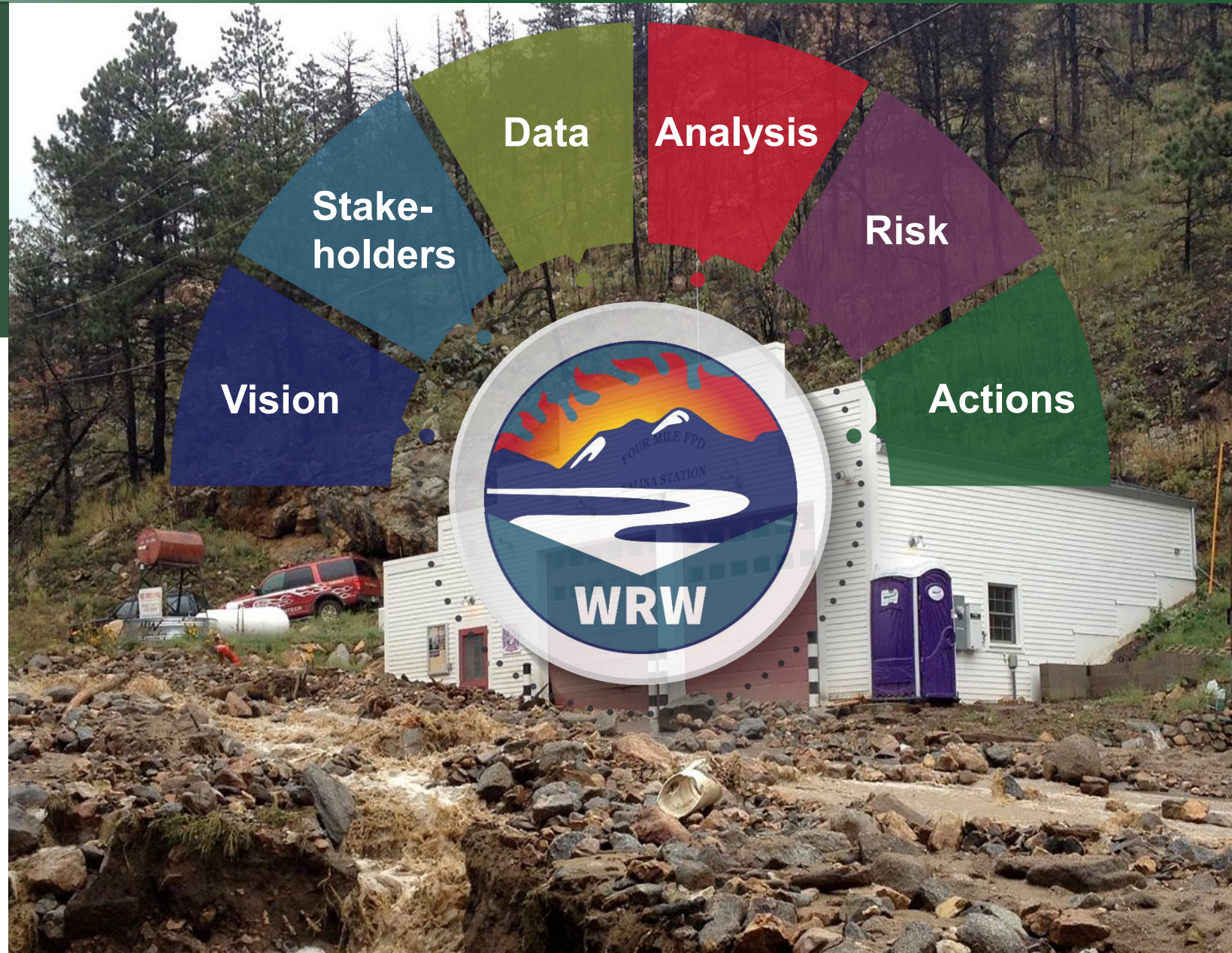


Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP)

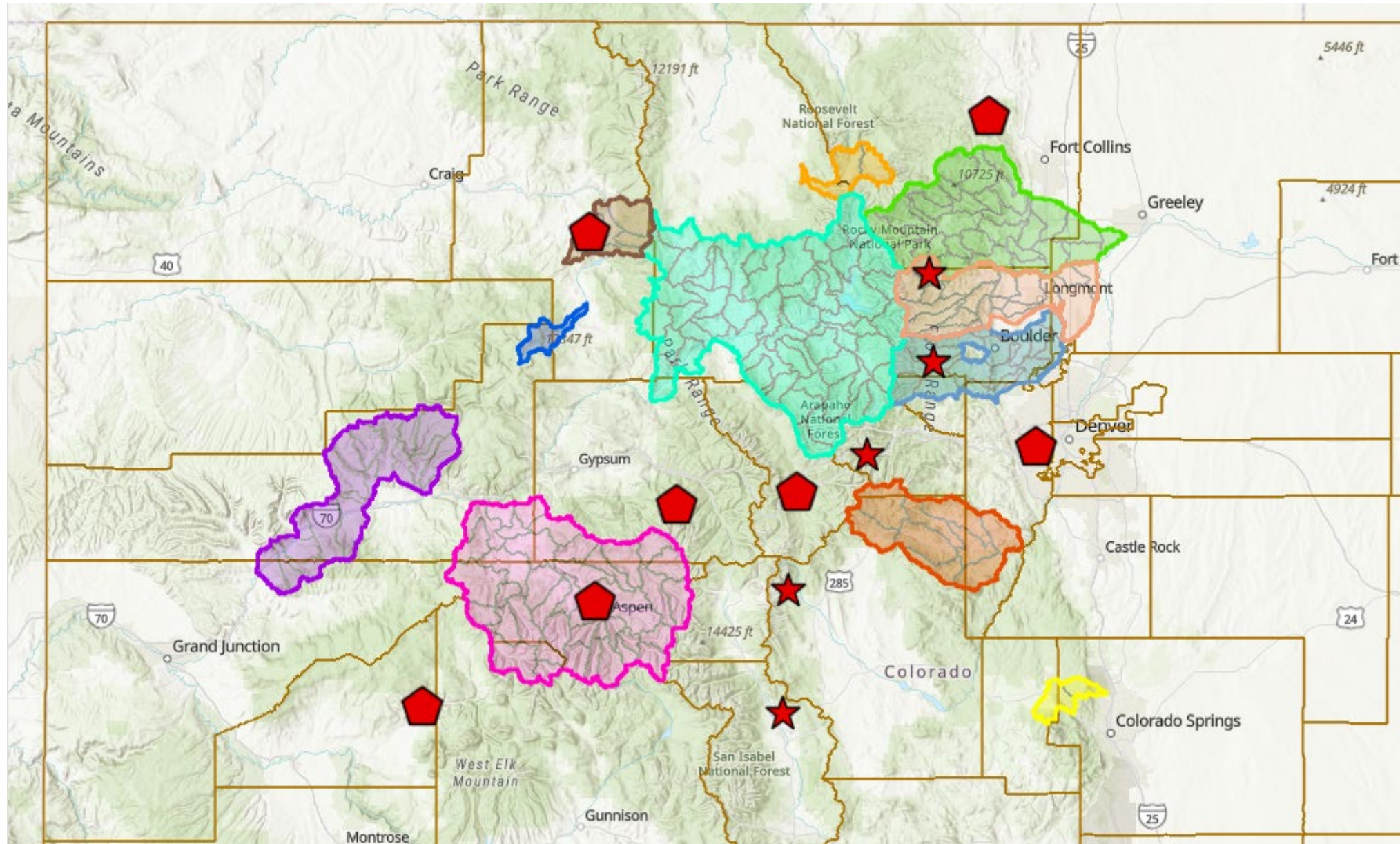
A comprehensive template scope of work that details necessary tasks.

- Goals and Objectives
- Stakeholder Collaboration & Outreach
- Data Collection, Gap Analysis, & Development
- Post-wildfire Hazard Analysis
- Susceptibility Analysis to evaluate risk
- **Pre and Post-wildfire mitigation activities**





Wildfire Ready Watersheds



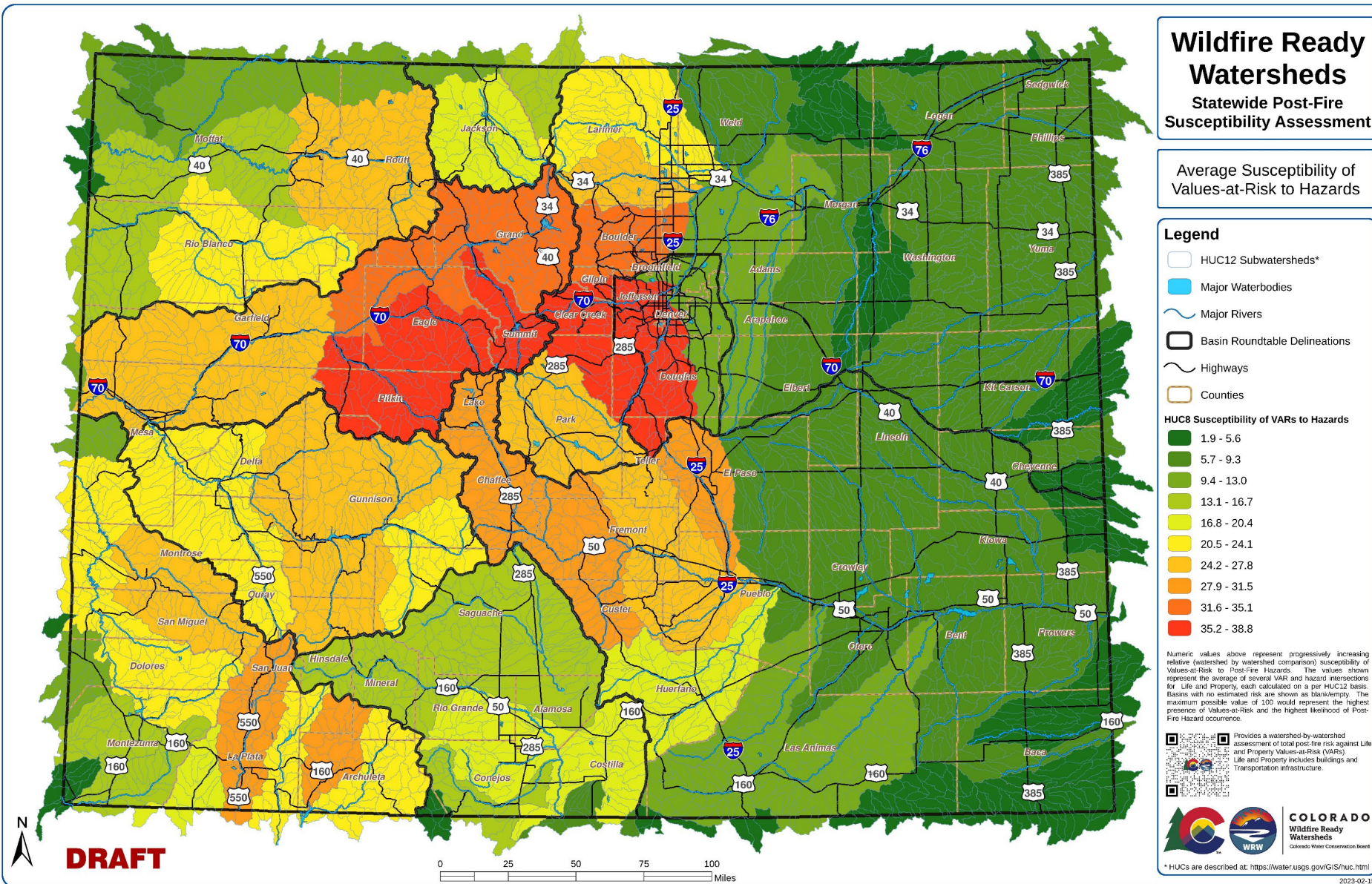


Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Post-Fire Risk

Statewide relative risk for all values and post-fire hazards.

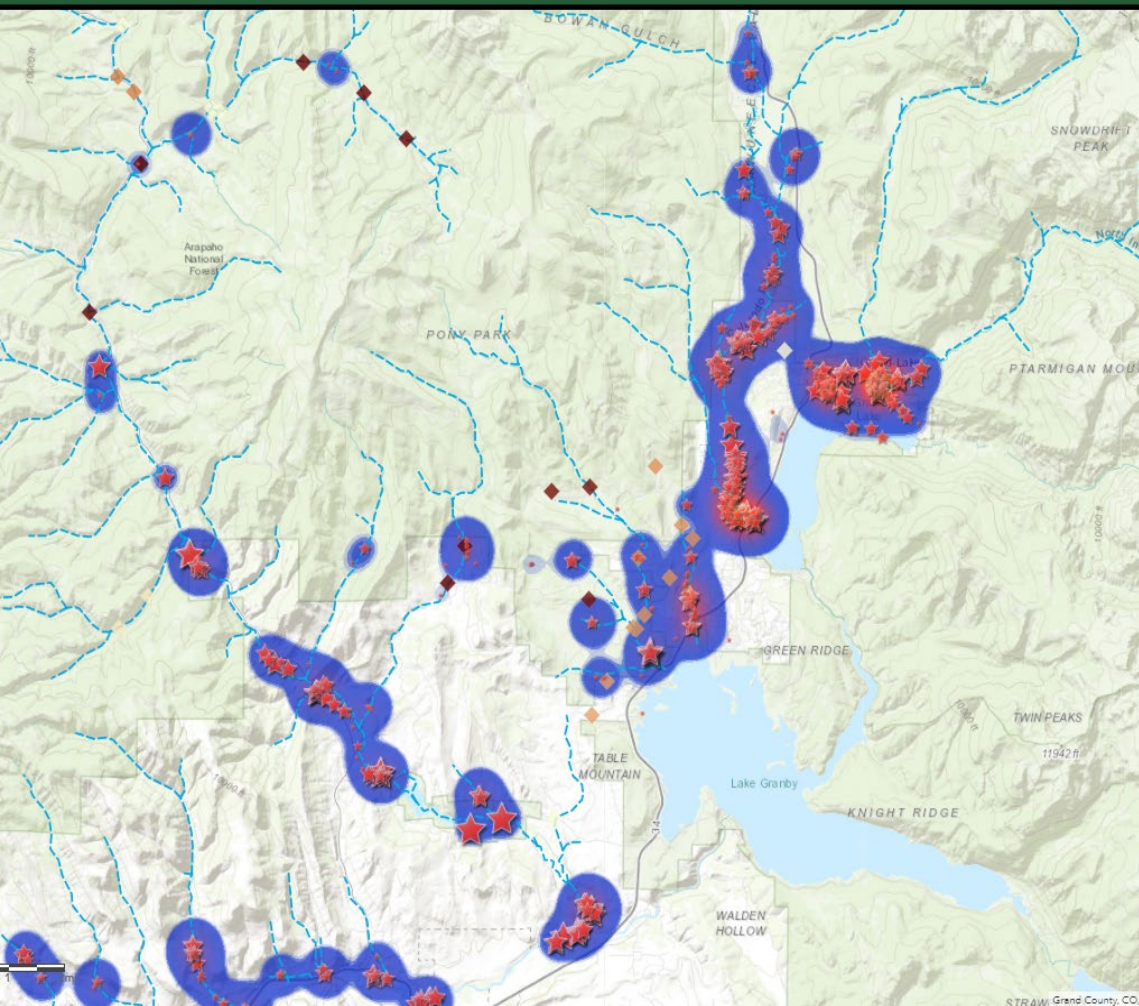
Map represents overall average susceptibility.





Wildfire Ready Watersheds

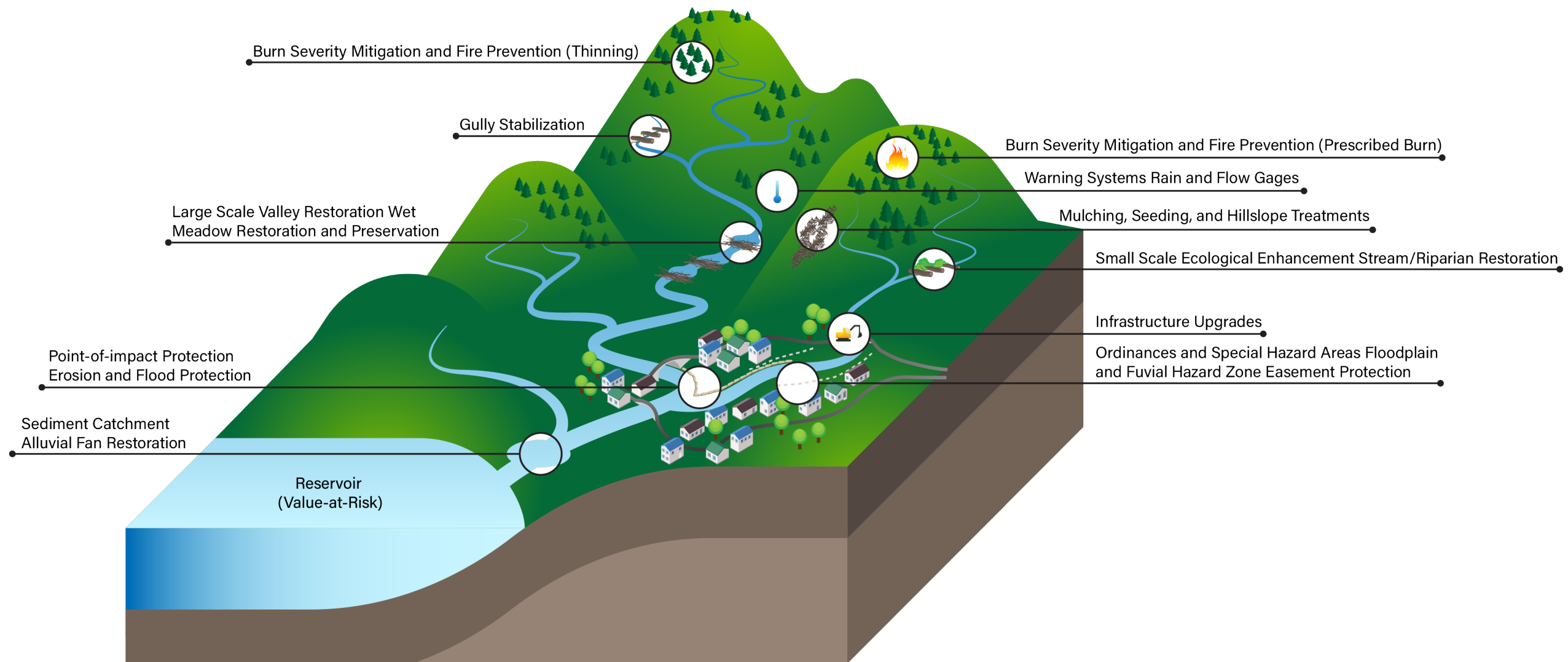
Are values at risk within and near the burn scar susceptible to post-wildfire hazards?



East Troublesome Fire 192,560 acres.
Fall 2020



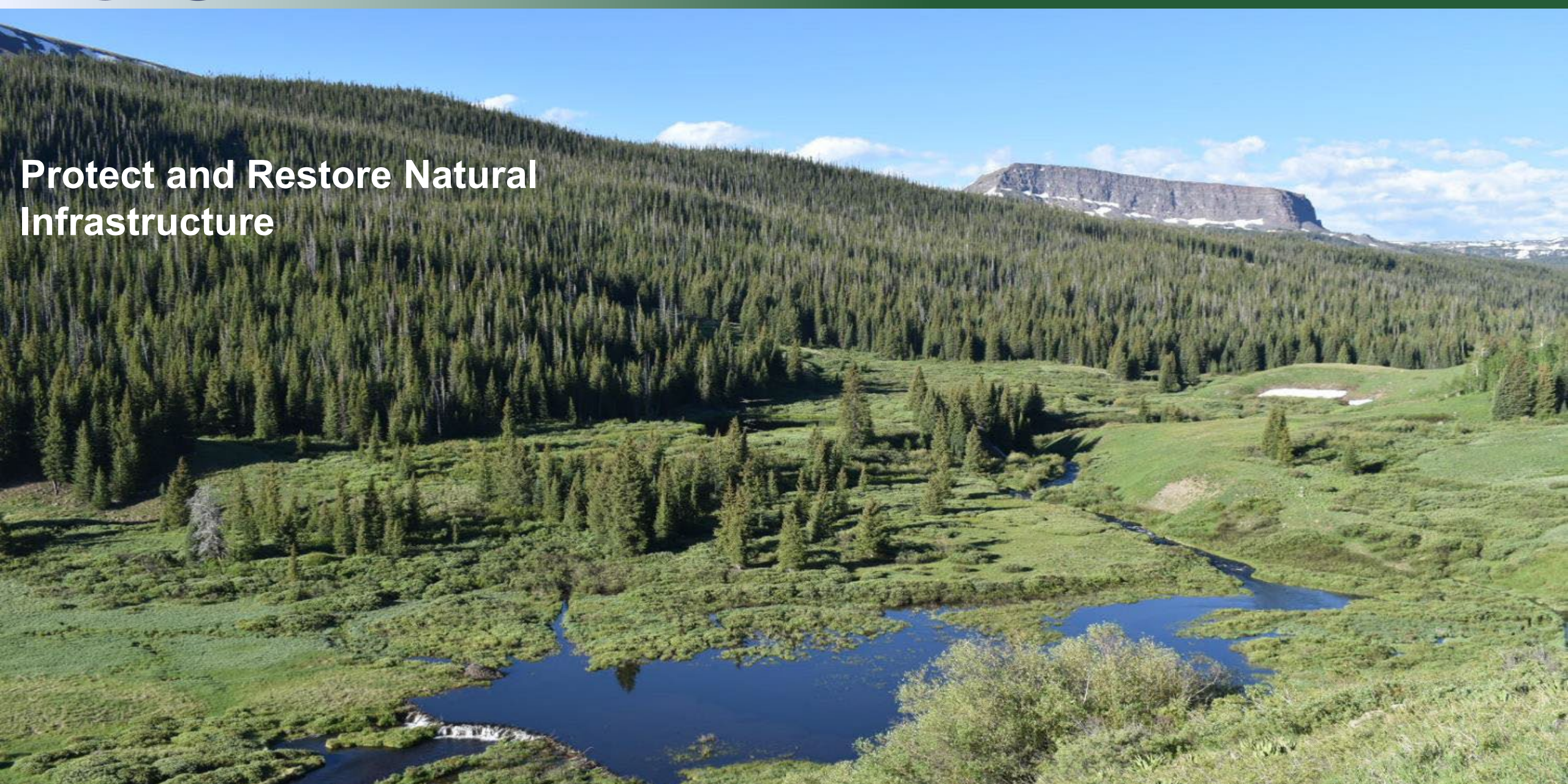
Wildfire Ready Watersheds





Wildfire Ready Watersheds

**Protect and Restore Natural
Infrastructure**





Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Website

www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com



Questions?

Chris Sturm, CWCB

chris.sturm@state.co.us



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Working to understand the susceptibility of Colorado's watersheds to post-wildfire impacts and to plan and prepare for them– ***before fires occur.***

IBCC PEPO

2:15 May PEPO Workshop Report Out

(Ken Brenner and Lisa Darling)

2:30 Outreach Messaging Analysis

(Carrie Padgett and Stacy Beaugh)

2:45 Water Plan Scenarios

(Russ Sands and Lisa Darling)

*3:15 CWCB Guide & Characteristics
Document*

(Lisa Darling and Russ Sands)

PEPO Meeting

June 18, 2024

Education & Outreach Campaign –
PEPO Statewide Initiative Grant




Agenda

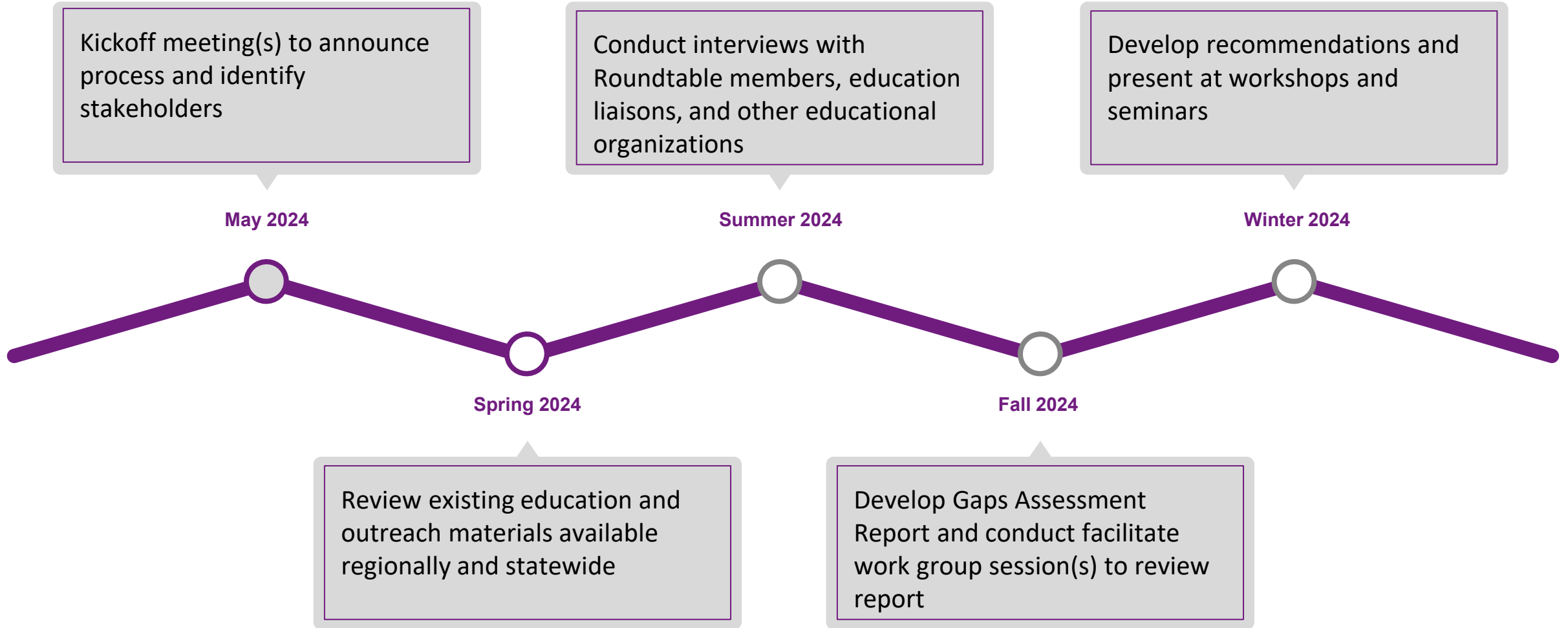


- Grant Objectives
- Grant Timeline
- Targeted Outreach Efforts
- Discussion
- Wrap Up

Objectives

- 
- ❖ To implement identified statewide initiatives as described in the “CWCB & PEPO Workgroup Priorities for the Statewide Initiatives Fund” while supporting actions from the Colorado Water Plan.
 - ❖ Development of a gaps assessment that evaluates the current education and outreach messages and tools used across the state of Colorado.
 - ❖ Development of recommendations for use by Colorado Water Conservation Board to implement actions from the Colorado Water Plan.

Timeline and Tasks



Targeted Outreach Efforts

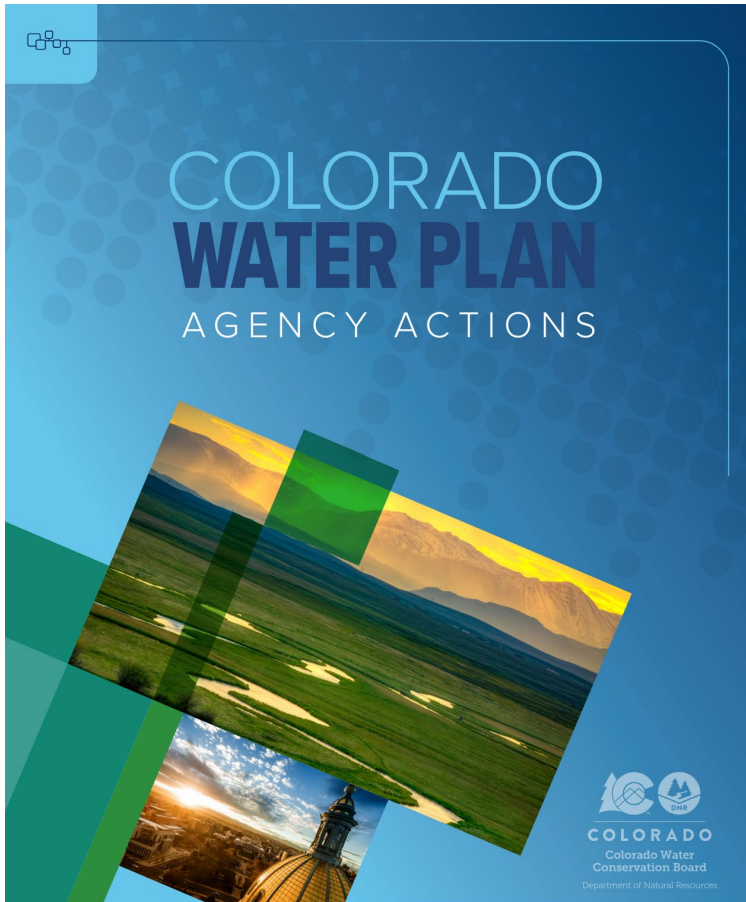
- PEPO Coordinators
- Roundtable Chairs
- IBCC PEPO Liaisons
- Peer Organizations



→ Campaigns

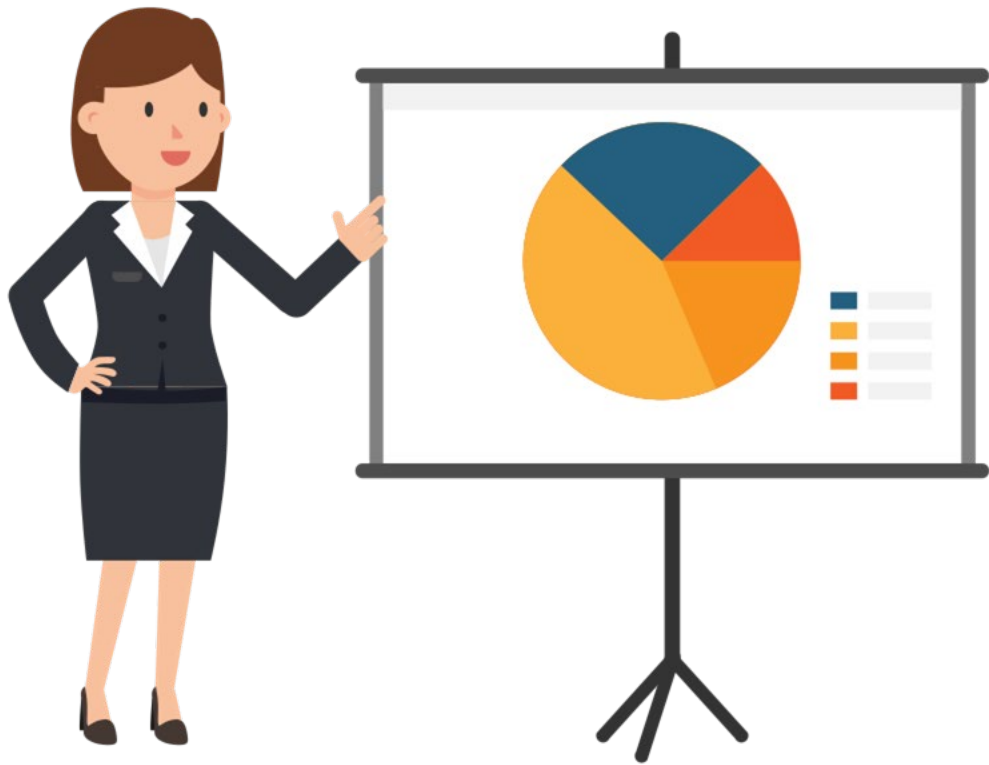
- ◆ Live Like You Love It
- ◆ Water '22
- ◆ Use Only What You Need
- ◆ Save the Colorado
- ◆ Clean Water Action
- ◆ Water for Colorado
- ◆ For the Love of Colorado
- ◆ Keep it Clean
- ◆ Colorado Water 2012
- ◆ AWWA Value of Water
- ◆ Generation Wild
- ◆ Colorado Outdoor Strategy
- ◆ Colorado Proud
- ◆ Do Colorado Right

Colorado Water Plan Actions



- ★ Agency Action 4.3
 - Create a collaborative Colorado Water Plan education and outreach campaign
- ★ Agency Action 4.2
 - Support the long-term stability and impact of the Basin Roundtables

Input Requested



Question: In one word what is the most critical issue on water that the state can play a role in outreach and educating?

Answer: Write your word, your name and the basin you represent on a card at your table or in the chat online

Contact Information

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Harris Water Engineering, Inc.

carrie@durangowater.com

970-259-5322

Stacy Beaugh, Facilitator

Strategic By Nature, Inc.

stacy@bestrategicbynature.com

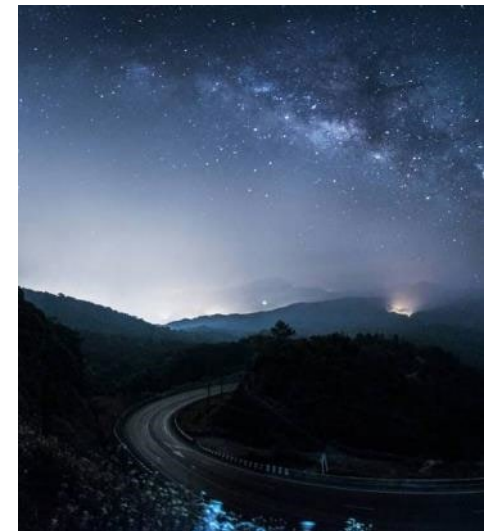
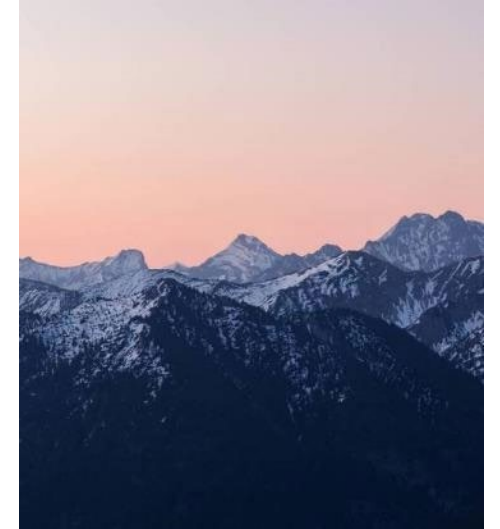
630-854-5129

Shannon Wadas, Facilitator

Strategic By Nature, Inc.

shannon@bestrategicbynature.com

719-440-7429





Thank you!!

SCENARIOS 2009-2015

(PORTFOLIOS, ROADMAPS, SCENARIOS, NO & LOW REGRETS, SWSI, BIPS & WATER PLAN)

2025-2031

LISA DARLING & RUSS SANDS

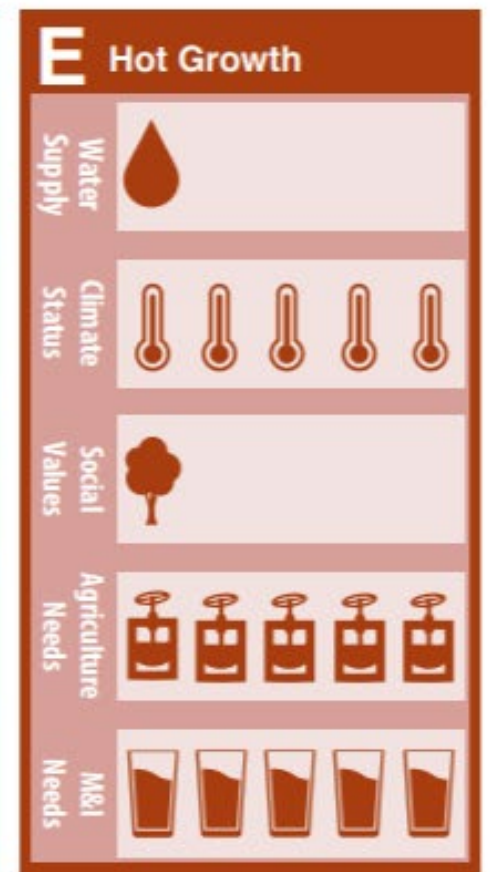
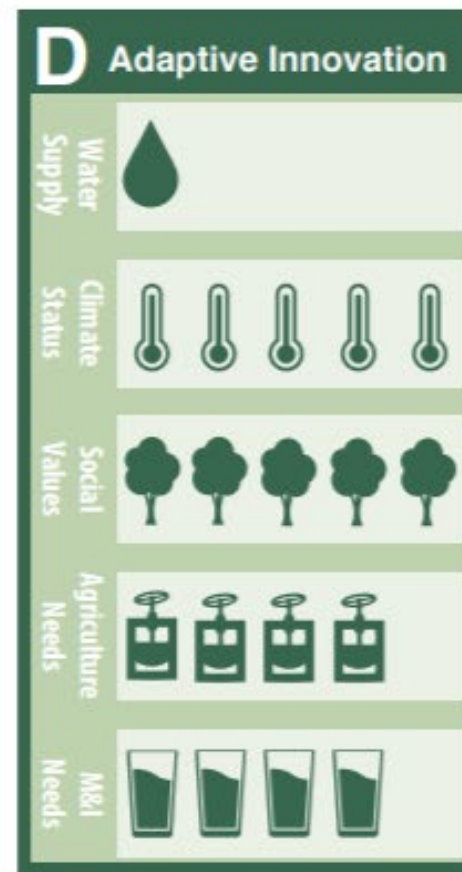
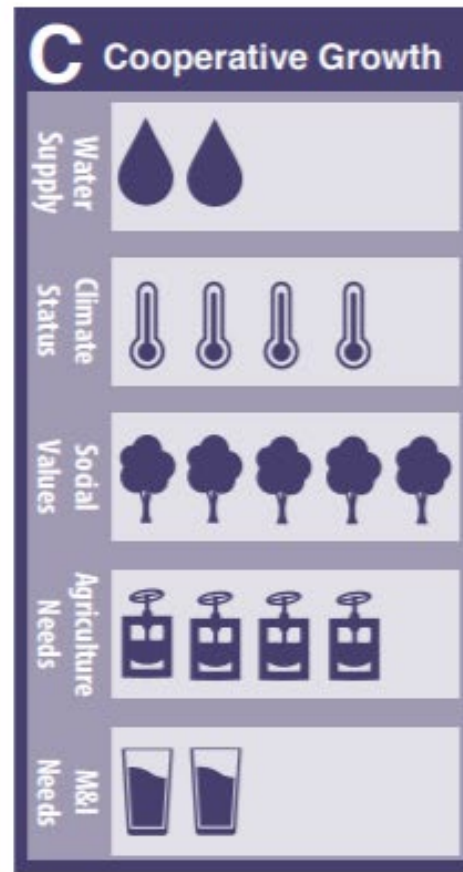
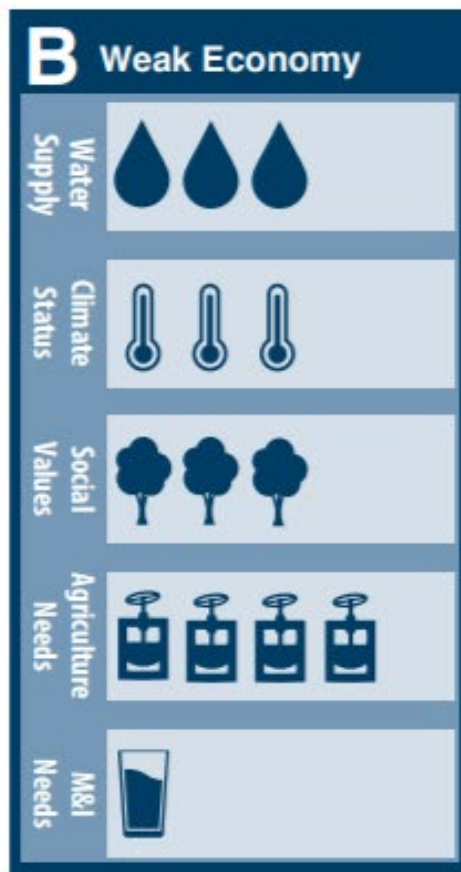
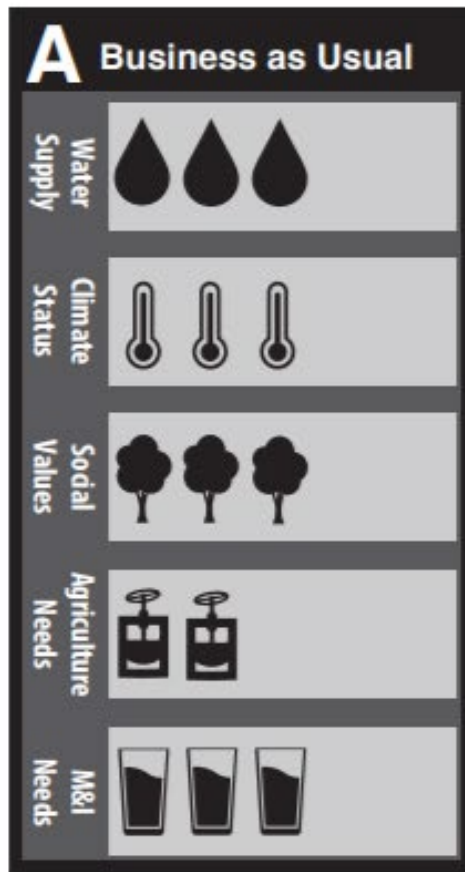


SCENARIO BACKGROUND

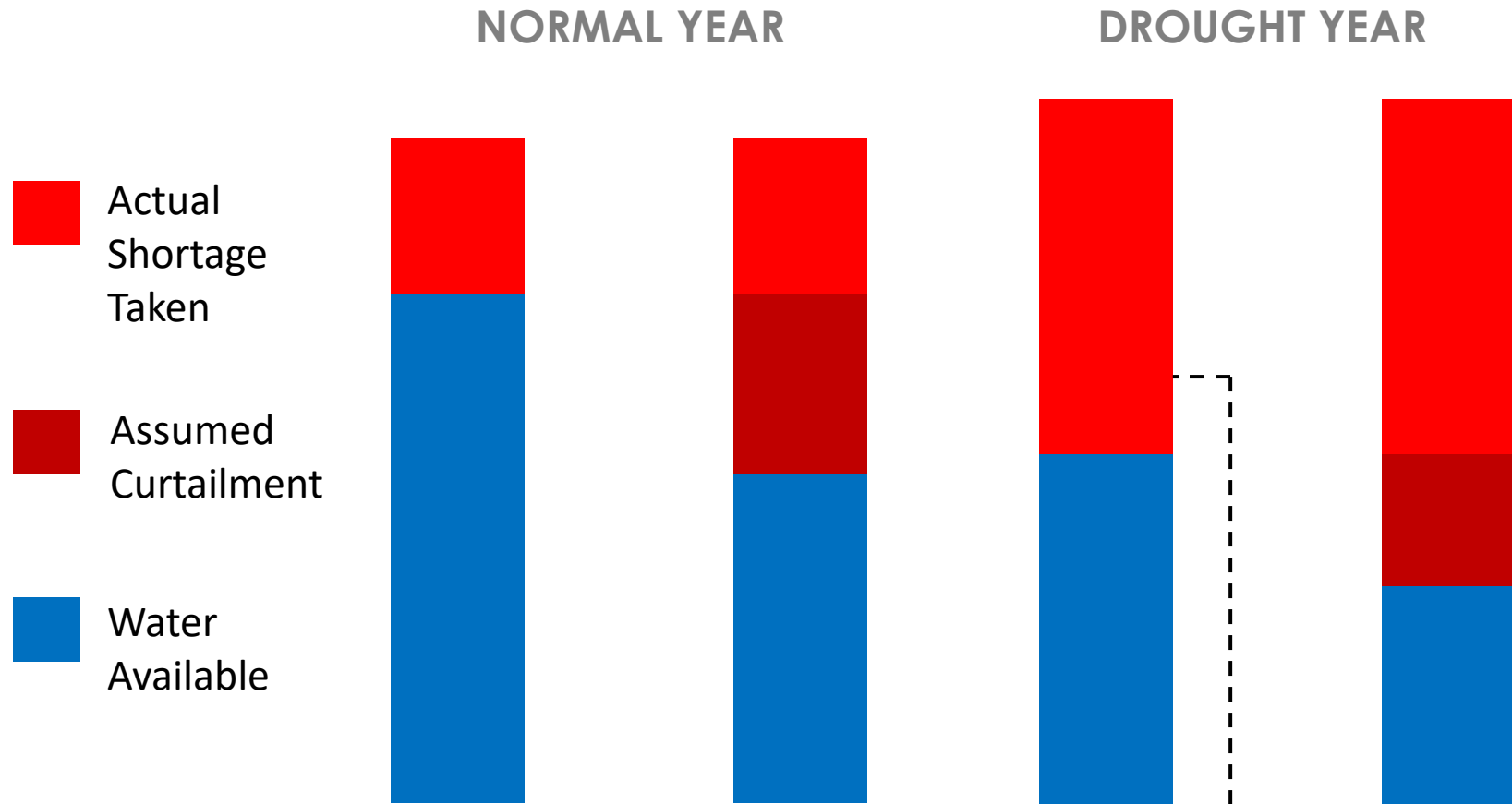
- IBCC looked at the future gap and ways to fill it using a “Portfolio & Trade Off Tool”
- IBCC came up with 34 portfolios of projects; narrowed to 10 portfolios.
- Developed 5 narrative scenarios that CWCB turned into numbers in 2019-2023.



Figure 7-3. Representative portfolios based on basin roundtable's efforts



“Wise and thoughtful water resources planning and management is critical to meet Colorado’s projected future needs, **recognizing that up to 740,000 additional acre-feet of water per year could be needed by 2050.**”



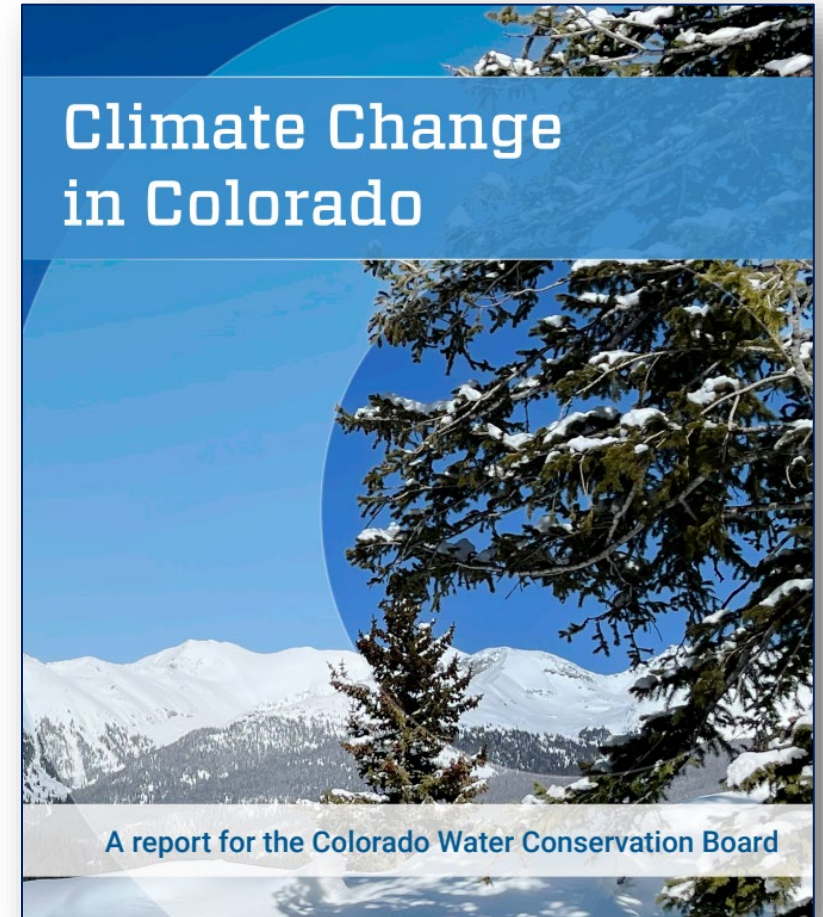
**WHO IS WORKING TO FIND SOLUTIONS
FOR THIS 100% LIKELY PROBLEM?**

WATER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ROADMAP

- We must plan for a variety of possible futures and thus we should continue with Scenario Planning
- There are no easy or straightforward solutions, and we need to pursue all types of projects and methods concurrently in order to balance the trade-offs
- A high success rate for the IPPs/Projects statewide is critical to meet our municipal needs
- Conservation measures should be implemented and monitored to quantify their impact
- Nonconsumptive needs should be addressed
- Agricultural shortages should be addressed and agriculture should be preserved
- Specific solutions need to be identified to address the 2050 water supply gap

CONSIDERING SCENARIO CHANGES

- Some consistency allows us to compare back
- Building on past and recent IBCC input:
 - Aging infrastructure is a major issue (could increase gaps)
 - How to better represent Forest Health?
 - Have we captured Black Swan Events?
- Considering State Demographer's Office (SDO) and climate projections.
- We will keep IBCC informed.



STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1115 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441
Fax: (303) 866-4474
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members
FROM: Rebecca Mitchell, Water Supply Planning Section
DATE: September 13, 2013
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 24, September 24-25, 2013 Board Meeting
No and Low Regrets

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor
Mike King
DNR Executive Director
James Ekland
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation: This is a discussion item only. No Board action is required.

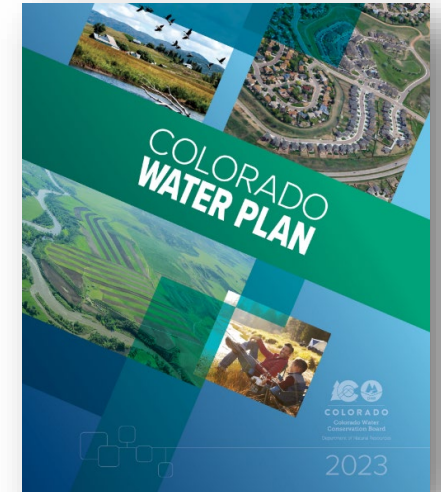
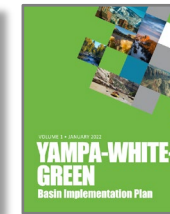
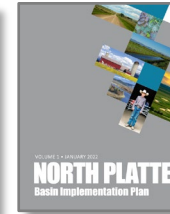
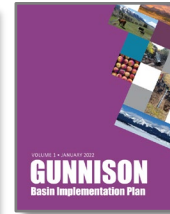
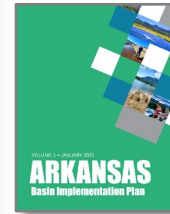
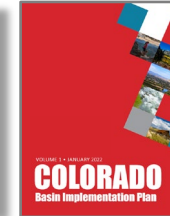
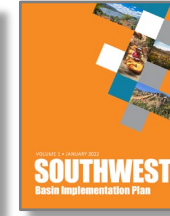
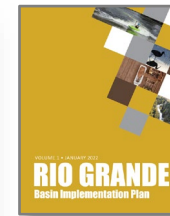
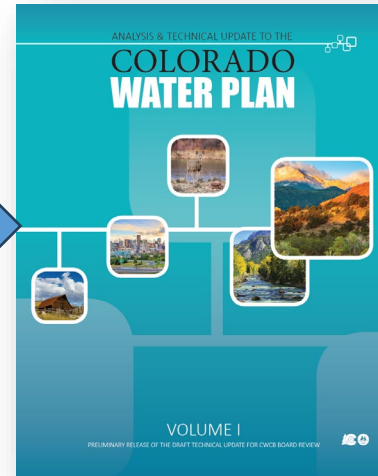
Background:
At the July 16-17, 2013 Board meeting, the Board was presented with the Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management draft chapter of SWSI. This chapter detailed the technical foundation for the no and low regrets strategies. The IBCC developed the draft No and Low Regrets Action Plan, which describes several potential actions that need to take place to meet the objectives described in Chapter 7 of the SWSI Update. During the August IBCC meeting, the members were polled. One hundred percent consensus was reached on moving the potential actions described in the Action Plan to be further considered by the CWCB Board and stakeholders.

Red text reflects changes made since the previous draft. The changes were needed to reach IBCC consensus.

Discussion
After a brief introduction by staff, IBCC members will describe the potential actions described in the No and Low Regrets Action Plan.

Afterwards, a discussion between the CWCB board and present IBCC members will ensue. The purposes of the discussion will be as follows:

- 1) Discuss initial board thoughts on the No and Low Regrets Action Plan
- 2) Determine the best path forward for additional stakeholder feedback
- 3) Discuss how to best utilize the Action Plan to help with Colorado's Water Plan, SWSI, and the Basin Implementation Plans



“Without the full implementation of these foundational actions, the gap between demands and water supplies will be much greater than originally projected”

- 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan

- What would a new Low Regrets Action Plan look like?
- What's general framework we're working in?
- Where can IBCC help lead and integrate?



WHAT COULD LOW REGRETS 2.0 COVER?



DRAFT Concept for “Low Regrets 2.0”

Background

To help advance the next Basin Implementation Plans and advance discussions about drought resilience in Colorado, the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) is considering an interactive process where it would discuss and work with the roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to develop a new Low Regrets Strategies document. The goal is to help positively impact local water planning, enhance the Basin Implementation Plans and support the Colorado Water Plan - especially as it relates to drought and the conservation of water in Colorado.

2013 No & Low Regrets Strategy Document

In 2013 the IBCC worked with the roundtables and the CWCB Board to gain broad basin support on what was called the No and Low Regrets Strategy. Ultimately, the document was finalized and featured in the 2015 Colorado Water Plan (Water Plan) and was used to inform the first Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs). It was not featured in the 2022 BIPs or the 2023 Water Plan as some of the concepts contained old references or were in need of reconsideration. The IBCC and basin roundtables expressed a continued interest in exploring several topics it included and given the recent Colorado River Drought Task Force findings that identified consensus on many of the same topics it may be time for IBCC to consider a revised Low Regrets Strategy. The revised Low Regrets Strategy can inform the next basin implementation plan updates and basin discussions that are ultimately featured in the next Colorado Water Plan update (see Chapter 4 of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan).

Working with the CWCB to Gain Support

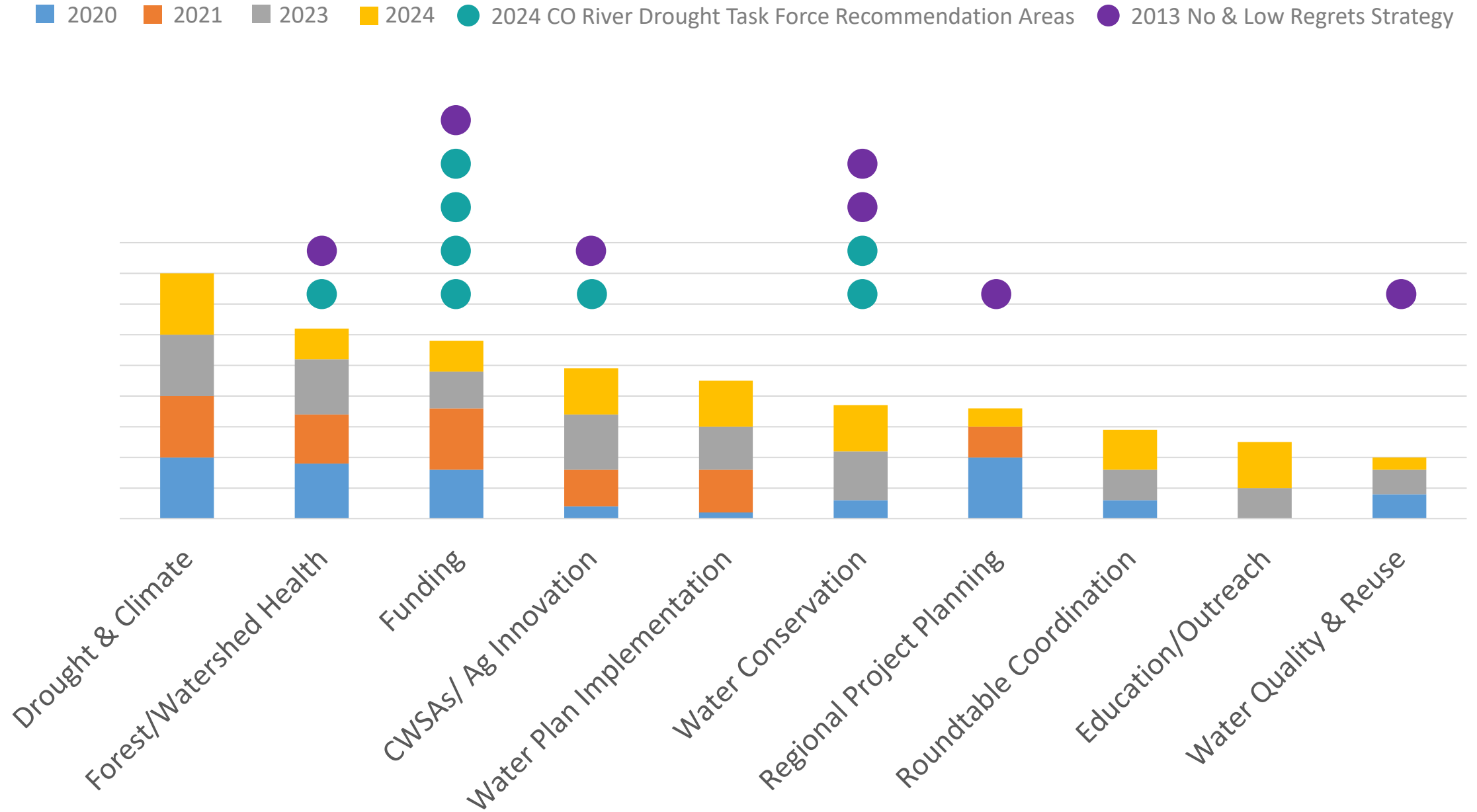
Because the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and the Colorado Water Plan are state/CWCB documents, the CWCB Board will need to be engaged in this process. While the BIPs are shared and co-created documents that basin roundtables help develop, they are ultimately funded by and coordinated through CWCB then integrated into the Colorado Water Plan. To that end, the audience/goal of a Low Regrets 2.0 document would be to generate support from the CWCB board in order to gain approval for inclusion into these CWCB documents. In the process of doing that, the roundtables and IBCC have an opportunity to influence policy by working with the CWCB Board on these efforts.

Ensuring Low Regrets 2.0 Strategies Are Actionable

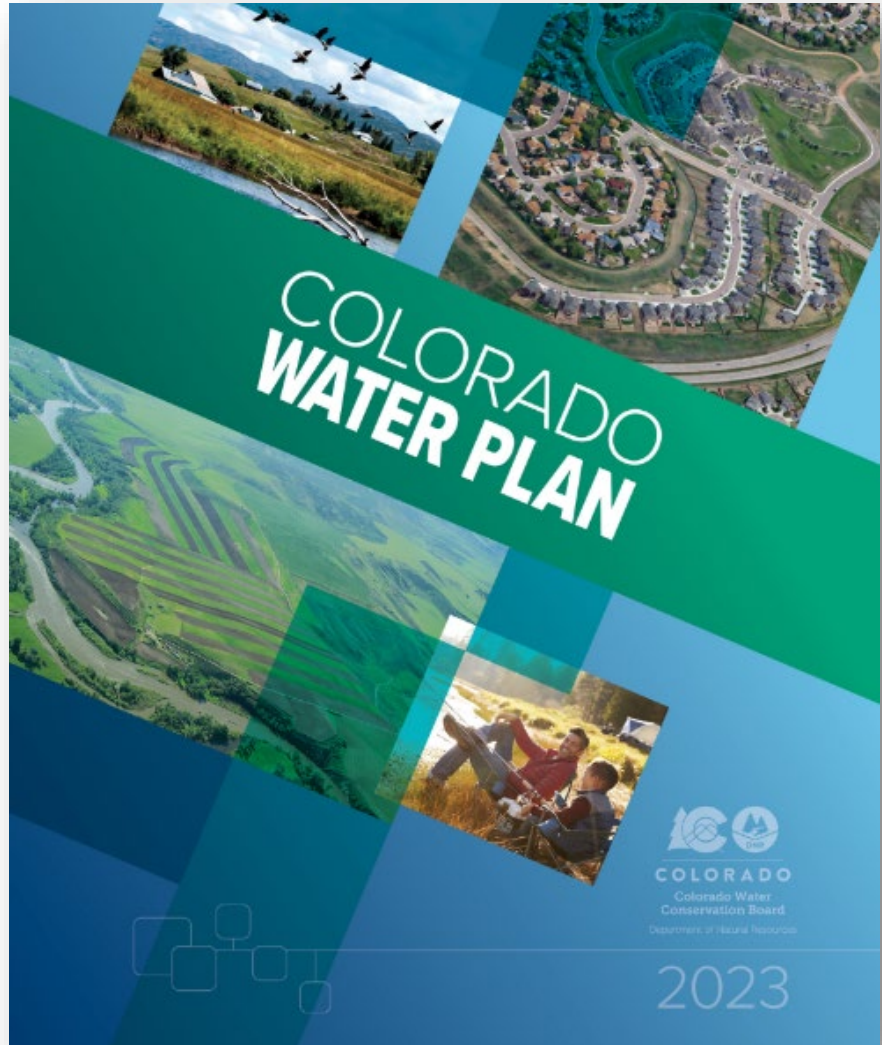
IBCC has recently invested time into helping inform a “NEW 2024 Qualities of Successful IBCC Members & Projects” guidance document. Any new Low Regrets strategy would need to meet this standard as would any topical areas, recommendations, or direction within it. Where suggested work topics align with existing Colorado Water Plan agency actions, the CWCB may be able to contribute to advancing this work with IBCC. If Low Regrets strategies cannot gain consensus support with the basins, IBCC and the CWCB Board, they may not be considered actionable. In other words, an idea that cannot be worked on by CWCB staff due to potential legal or political concerns and/or supported by the CWCB Board for the same reasons is not going to advance. This is why finding early alignment and maintaining good communication across roundtable meetings, IBCC meetings, board meetings and the Colorado Nine Basin (C9) Summit is key.

- A proof of concept.
- The original No & Low Regrets is now outdated, but was included in the 2015 Water Plan because it had broad consensus.
- Helped to highlight topic areas and where IBCC might drill into and create excitement?

2020-2024 IBCC & ROUNDTABLE TOPIC RANKINGS



WHAT'S THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK?



- Would augment the Water Plan and provide insight into the next – particularly for the BIPS (Chapter 4)
- Would likely touch on each area of the Water Plan (2-4 concepts/year)



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
municipalities, utilities, industry, cities, towns, and small urban and rural communities



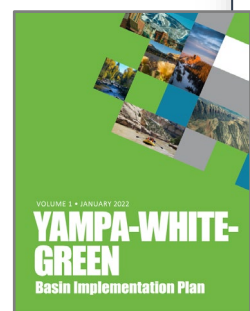
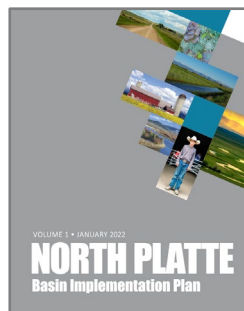
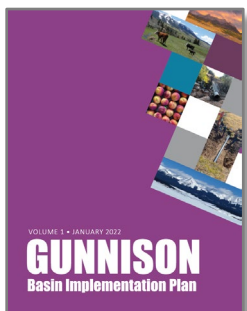
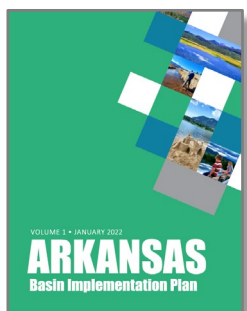
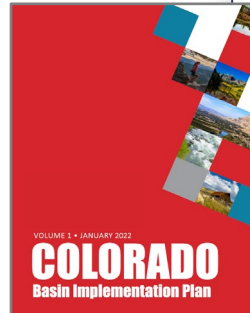
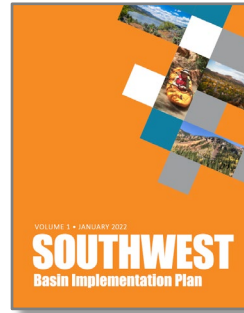
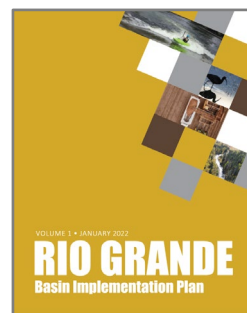
THRIVING WATERSHEDS
environment and recreation, river health, watershed health, forest health, aquatic species



ROBUST AGRICULTURE
established cash crop farms, local food, orchards, ranching, Acequias, ditch companies



RESILIENT PLANNING
climate adaptation, climate extremes, equity, inclusivity, supportive government, education



Section 6. Strategic Vision for the Future

The strategic vision for the future in the South Platte Basin is described in this section. The strategic vision is the amalgamation of the goals, future projects, and desired water future for the basin. The strategic vision for the South Platte and Metro roundtables focuses on four elements:

1. MEET THE MUNICIPAL SUPPLY GAP
2. PROTECT IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE
3. PROTECT AND ENHANCE WATERSHEDS
4. IMPLEMENT PROJECTS

See Volume 2, Section 9 of the South Platte BIP for more detail on the shortage analysis.

Summary of Strategies

1 MEET THE MUNICIPAL SUPPLY GAP

The South Platte Basin is currently home to 70 percent of the state's population, and the cities along the Front Range in the basin are projected to experience significant population increases by 2050. Municipal water providers have been working diligently to develop needed water supply projects and strategies to meet future demands. The South Platte and Metro BRTs included a vision for meeting future municipal needs in the 2015 South Platte BIP, and they renewed the vision in light of the planning scenarios that were analyzed in the Technical Update. The South Platte and Metro BRTs also emphasized that, while the Technical Update's planning horizon was the year 2050, **water will be needed beyond 2050 as population continues to grow.**

The 2015 BIP estimated M&I water demands in the South Platte Basin in 2050 and assumed those demands would be met with a combination of existing supplies and new projects (referred to at the time as "IPPs"). A supply gap was forecast in 2050 based on a shortage of projects to meet the full 2050 demand. Projects included planned water supply projects, estimates of yield from agricultural transfers, and growth into existing supplies.

The future yield from projects was adjusted using a "success rate" to account for the uncertainty of the specific projects being fully implemented and delivering the planned yield by 2050. In the base portfolio, a success rate of 88 percent was used for Metro projects; a success rate of 66 percent was used for projects in the rest of the South Platte Basin.

Shortage analysis for the updated South Platte BIP

The municipal water supply shortage analysis was updated based on the results of the Technical Update, the updated list of future water supply projects and strategies, and input from the BRTs. The updated analysis was conducted using the following general steps:

- **Estimate future additional water demands:** Additional future water demands were estimated based on the projected future increase in 2050 M&I demand beyond current levels (as of 2015).
 - Assumed current M&I demands will be met into the future using existing supplies.
 - Assumed that current storage reserves or contingency supplies need to be maintained into the future (i.e., existing supplies will not be used to meet the estimated increase in future demand).
- **Estimate yield from future water supply projects:** Potential yields were estimated from completed, planned, and conceptual projects and other future supplies, such as agricultural transfers and water efficiency practices.
 - Assumed the potential yield of projects may not be fully realized by 2050 and included "realization of yield" factors to adjust estimated yield across the planning scenarios.
- **Perform a shortage analysis:** The estimated yield of projects was compared to the additional 2050 M&I demand in each planning scenario. Shortages were estimated, and strategies for meeting shortages were proposed.

The shortage analysis was conducted using a methodology that parallels the 2015 South Platte BIP. The shortages differ from the M&I gaps presented in Section 5 in that the gaps do not account for yield from potential future projects, assumptions regarding reserves and contingency supplies are not included in the gap calculations, and water savings from conservation are integrated into the gap calculation and are not specifically identified as they are in the shortage analysis.

WHERE CAN IBCC HELP LEAD/INTEGRATE?

DRAFT Qualities of Successful IBCC Members and Projects

IBCC Overview

The Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) serves an important role in elevating issues that arise from Colorado's major river basins (and nine basin roundtables in particular). The IBCC brings those topics to the statewide conversation at the IBCC, and ultimately to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

Former IBCC Director John Stulp said, "The IBCC has served many specific roles over the years, but the most broadly, has stood as a united think tank to bring the self-interests of basins and stakeholders back to the statewide lens—where most of our self-interests are, in fact, common to the great state of Colorado." As a think tank that's funded and staffed by the CWCB, the group is often working in the discussion space - sharing ideas, building interbasin relationships, learning about different perspectives as well as promoting public education participation and outreach (PEPO) efforts. Often IBCC PEPO is working on targeted outreach to roundtables, CWCB and decision makers, while local basin PEPO efforts coordinate more broadly.

IBCC members receive updates on topics of interest and sometimes inform state initiatives - especially where these relate to the Colorado Water Plan (Water Plan) or other topics of statewide interest. The Water Plan serves as a strategic plan for CWCB, IBCC and the roundtables (and includes the basin implementation plans). These discussions, like all of IBCC's discussions, are valuable for evaluating technical data, identifying solutions to common challenges, and much more. The IBCC is well-suited to have meaningful conversations and work toward a shared understanding when its members have qualities that support thoughtful dialogue that can lead to successful outcomes.

IBCC Member Qualities that Build Success

Certain characteristics of IBCC members that can advance those discussions in a constructive way should be sought out when roundtables or gubernatorial appointments are being considered.

- **Strong Communicator** - Compelling in speech and writing. Works as an integrator to build connections, participation and consensus. Understands when to bring in experts and partners into meeting discussions.
- **Possesses Integrity** - Someone trusted by the roundtable and by other basins. Respected for their honesty, strength of character and their ability to set aside a personal agenda and work towards agreement.
- **Collaborative** - Values collaboration and working towards the collective vision of the Colorado Water Plan. Works to build trust, find common ground and advance basin projects (and is willing to put in the work).
- **Knowledgeable** - Has a deep understanding of Colorado water challenges, solutions and history but is also invested in continuous learning. Knows how to engage others to enhance and broaden understanding.
- **Change Agent** - A solution oriented, open minded and creative problem solver. Has the ability to innovate and visualize a stronger future (can make a paradigm shift).
- **Connected Mentor** - A strong networker across various organizations who cares about and connects people. Helps educate and foster a shared understanding. A mentor to peers and the next generation.
- **Empathetic and Inclusive** - Someone who can put themselves into another's shoes. Has compassion for the issues facing other groups, perspectives and water sectors. Actively considers how to cast a wider net and make conversations more inclusive.
- **Courageous** - Has the strength and respect needed to have tough conversations in ways that facilitate listening, receptiveness and collaboration.

- To identify areas we need to know what projects are ripe for IBCC to advance?
- We talked about how IBCC biggest two efforts (Conceptual Framework and the Low & New Regrets Action Plan) were successful because they brought roundtables and the board together.
- And we need IBCC members who are willing to put in the work to make it happen.

ACTIONABLE PROJECTS

- Broad basin support
- Not in conflict with another group's authority
- Supported by the CWCB/Water Plan (staff can work on it)
- Minimal costs or CWCB already has funds
- Results in something IBCC can workshop with basins and CWCB board to approve



**WHERE IBCC WANTS TO BE
(DOING WORK)**

DISCUSSION

- Single person/basin issue
- Someone else has authority (CWCB; legislature)
- May conflict with CWCB; legislature; etc. (staff can't work on it)
- Requires funding, contractors, etc.
- Does not have an outcome or an outcome that can not be supported by basins and CWCB



**WHERE IBCC IS MOST OFTEN
(IN CONVERSATION)**

PROJECT QUALITIES

- Has broad multi-basin support/supported by many basin roundtables, and
- Is not in conflict with another group's responsibility, legislative purview or explicit duties, and
- Is within the IBCC's purview (e.g. issues within Colorado), and
- Is supported by the CWCB, the Water Plan and by staff (staff are able to work on it), and
- Has minimal costs, already has CWCB funding or funds can be secured by CWCB, and
- Results in something IBCC can workshop with basins/basin roundtables to elicit feedback, and
- May result in a written product or deliverable the CWCB board is able to approve and/or is able to be added into the Technical update, Basin Implementation Plans and/or the Colorado Water Plan, and
- Is a ripe, non-duplicative and timely effort where consensus-based guidelines and principles IBCC creates will add value to discourse and positively impact decisions, and
- Has ample time to be addressed by IBCC, roundtables and the CWCB Board over the course of several meetings (or years) due to each group's unique meeting schedules, review times, and approval processes.

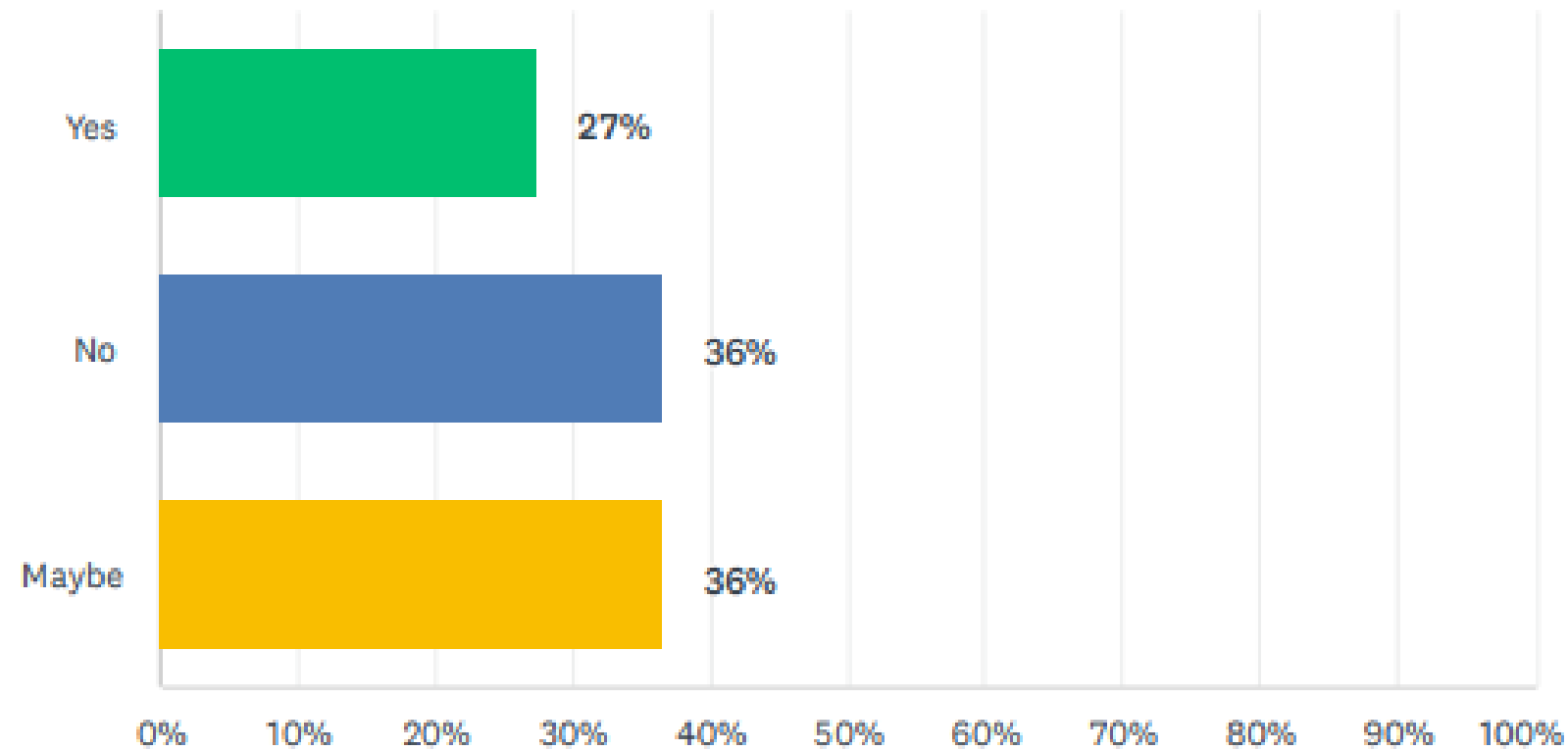


MEMBER QUALITIES

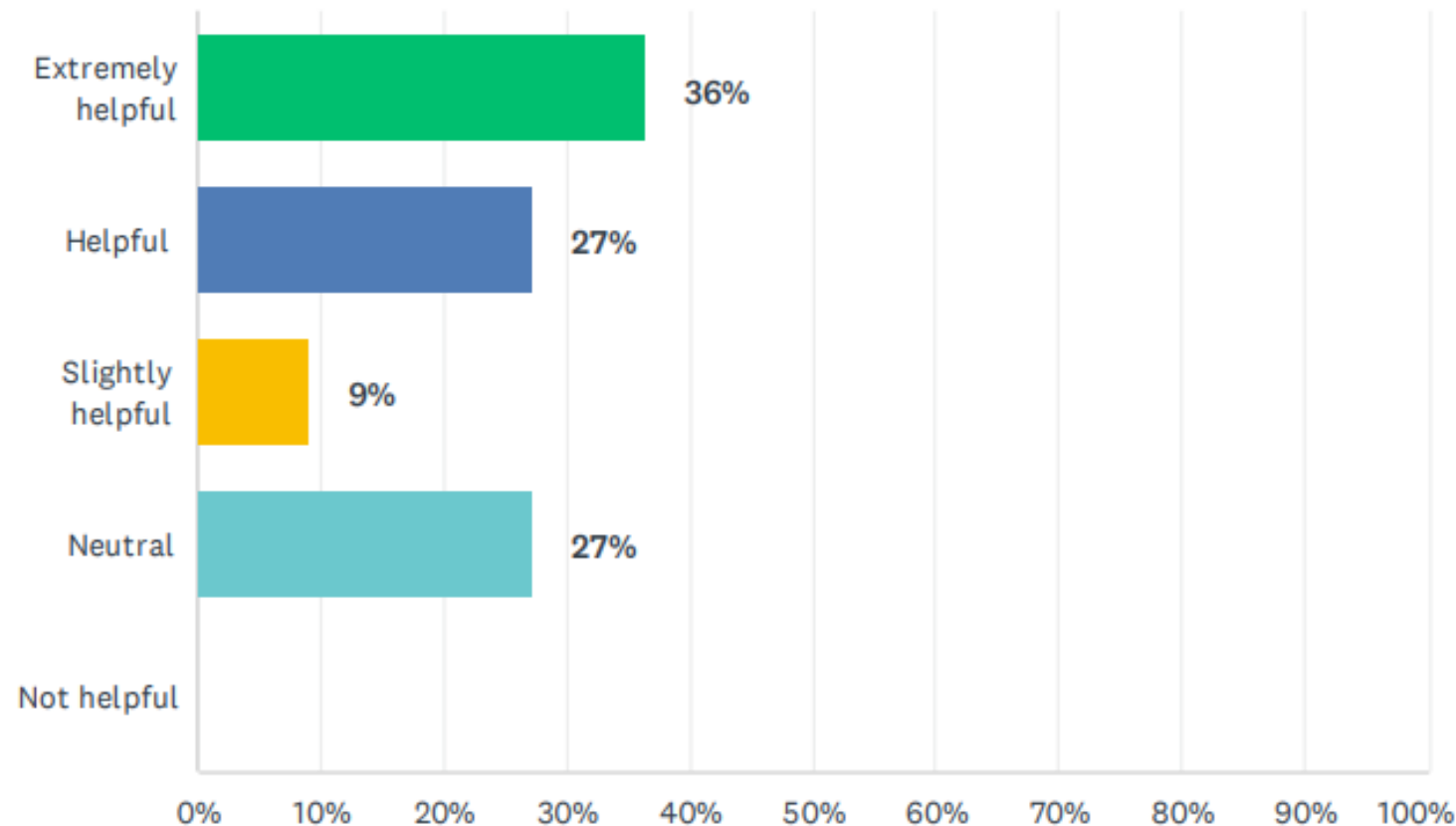
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Q8 Could you easily describe what the IBCC does?



Q10 Do you think it would be helpful to have greater clarity on what the IBCC does, what it means to be an IBCC member, and what qualities are needed to serve effectively as an IBCC member?

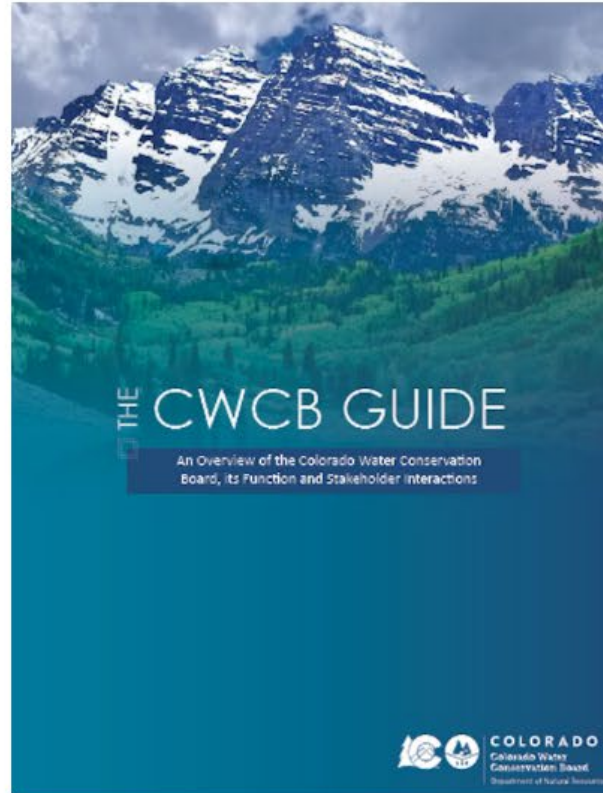


CWCB Guide

For years, the CWCB has maintained a CWCB Handbook that was mainly used by the CWCB Board, and the Colorado Water Plan called for a “universal handbook” in Agency Action 4.2 to help stakeholders and provide consistent answers to common questions. Over the last year these two documents converged to form a single reference document for all CWCB stakeholders, The CWCB Guide (Guide).

The Guide ([linked here](#) and in the right panel) recognizes that the CWCB Board, IBCC, and roundtables often have similar questions, especially as it relates to open meetings laws, the way the Water Supply Reserve Fund works, and other funding and process questions. Creating one reference document for all interested parties will create greater alignment between these groups and support the original vision of the Water for the 21st Century Act, where grassroots input works up to the CWCB Board who can codify policy in grant criteria, the Colorado Water Plan and similar efforts.

The Guide orients CWCB board members, stakeholders and other interested parties on how the CWCB functions broadly, how it interacts with key constituents and the function of both CWCB and those constituents. The Guide is designed to be complementary to roundtable and IBCC bylaws, the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Policy Handbook for Boards and Commissions, and will be edited annually as needed.



Read the Guide

 [CWCB Guide 6-14-24 \(Draft Release\).pdf \(1.66 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Who's Listening

Jeff Rodriguez

Regional Water Coordination Specialist



Russ Sands

Section Chief, Water Supply Planning



Kat Weismiller

Deputy Section Chief
DNR - CWCB



Did we miss something?

IBCC DISCUSSION

- LOW REGRETS 2.0



KELSEA MACILROY
FACILITATOR



THE
LANGDON
GROUP

BREAK OUT

EXERCISE

QUALITIES

- 1) BROAD SUPPORT
- 2) HAS THE AGENCY
- 3) WITHIN COLORADO
- 4) SUPPORTED BY CWCB
- 5) SET FUNDING OR LOW COST
- 6) CREATES A FEEDBACK LOOP
(CWCB, BRT & IBCC)
- 7) CWCB BOARD CAN CODIFY
- 8) RIPE, NONDUPLICATIVE AND POSITIVE
- 9) AMPLE DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW TIME

TOPICS

- DROUGHT & CLIMATE
- FOREST/WATERSHED HEALTH
- FUNDING
- CWSAs/AG INNOVATION
- WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
- WATER CONSERVATION
- REGIONAL PROJECT PLANNING
- ROUNDTABLE COORDINATION
- EDUCATION/OUTREACH
- WATER QUALITY & REUSE

BREAK OUT

REPORTS

C9 DISCUSSION

Russ Sands, CWCB

9

OCTOBER 1 & 2 IN CRESTED BUTTE

SUMMIT

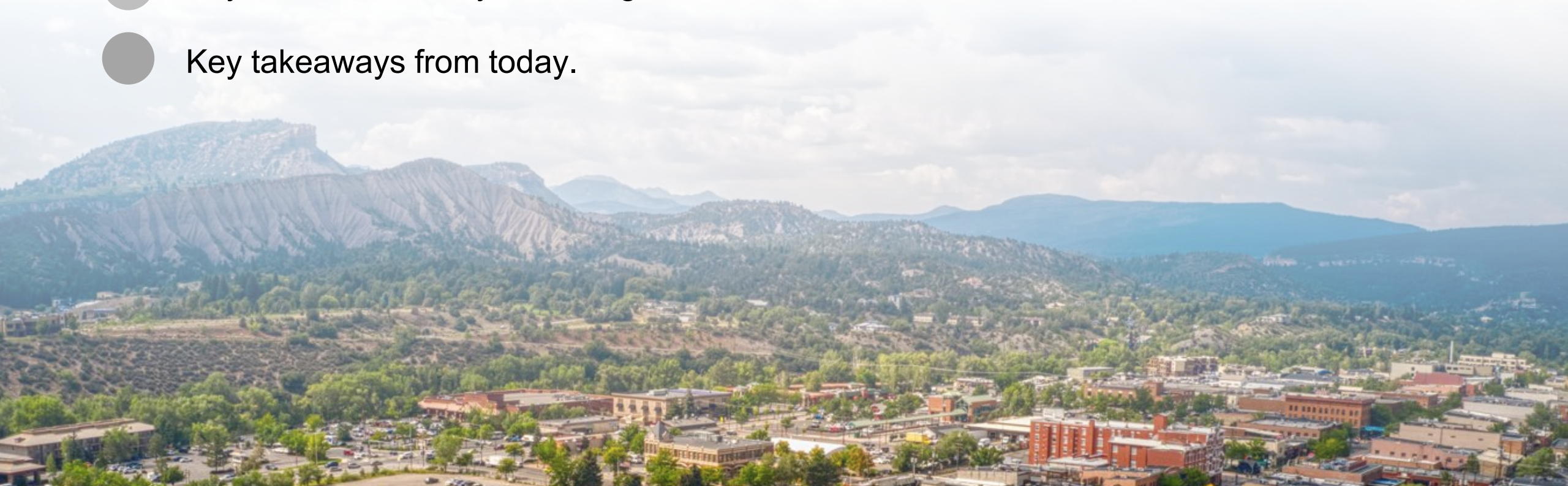
RUSS SANDS

POSSIBLE C9 AGENDA TOPICS

- **Impactful Projects**
- **E&R Discussion**
- **Policy Panel**
- **Colorado River Updates**
- **Conversation with the State Engineer**
- **Ag Security**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Statewide Trends & Low Regret Actions**
- **CWCB Guide**
- **Better Conversations**
- **Forest Health & Wildfire Protection**
- **Roundtable Lessons Learned**

NEXT MEETING, AGENDA & CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Next Meeting: **October 1 & 2** at Crested Butte Center for the Arts.
- Key items from today will be agenda items at the C9 Summit.
- Key takeaways from today.



A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding greenery and the sky. The middle ground is filled with dense evergreen forests covering the slopes of the mountains. In the background, rugged, rocky mountain peaks rise against a blue sky with light clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and majestic.

THANK YOU

WELCOME

TO JAMES RANCH

IBCC RECEPTION & DINNER

