IBCC MEETING

JUNE 25, 2025 - GRAND JUNCTION, CO

WELCOME TO GRAND JUNCTION & LOCAL PROJECTS

Randi Kim

Utilities Director, City of Grand Junction

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

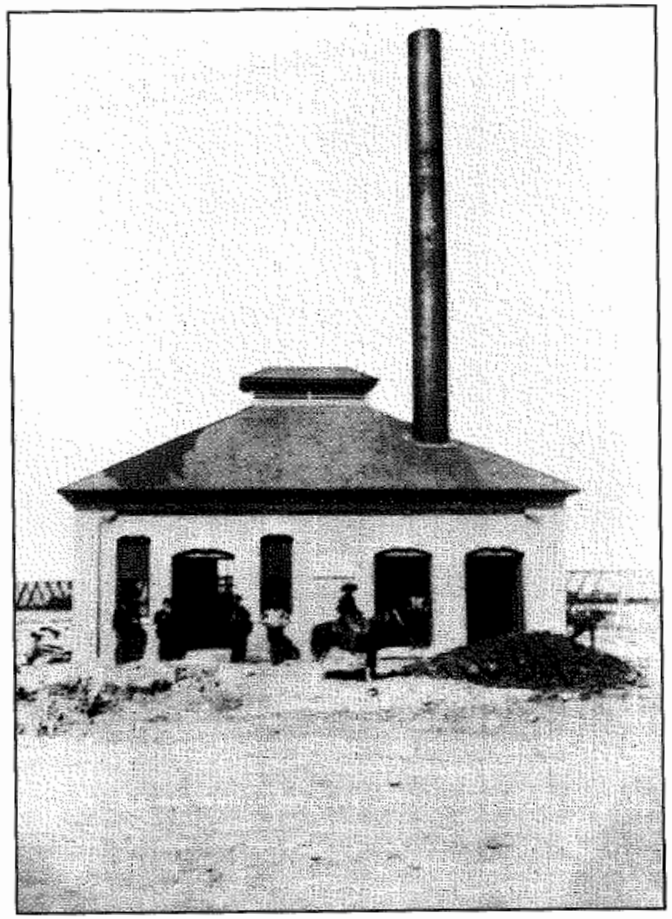
Grand Junction Long-term Water Supply Planning

Randi Kim

Utilities Director

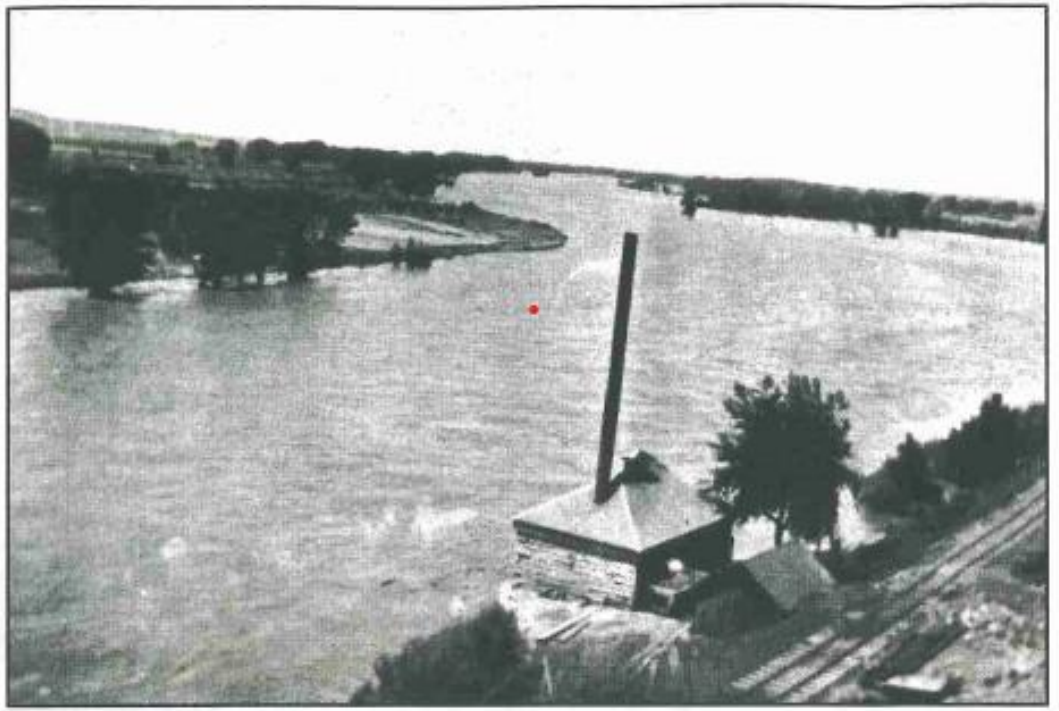
June 25, 2025 IBCC Meeting

Welcome to Grand Junction!



Krusen Waterworks 1884-85.

Courtesy of the Museum of Western Colorado.



Gunnison River pump station.

Courtesy of the Museum of Western Colorado

CITY OF Grand Junction COLORADO

July 4th 1912 Mountain Water Day Celebration

Celebration of Mountain Day Unequalled by any Before

From Early Until Late at Night the Festivities Including two Parades, Races and Ball Games Keep all in Good Spirits

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFER

The Want Ad page of The Daily News is the ... effort on all sales or trades made in the Gra...

MOUNTAIN WATER TURNED ON---$440,000 SYSTEM COMPLETE---SUPPLY GREAT

Commissioner Vedder Completes Stupendous Job In Seven Months.---No Sprinkling Hours Hereafter.---Plenty of Water For City of 50,000 People.

75 FLOATS IN PARADE

Almost Every Establishment In City Will Be Represented.—Automobiles Wanted.

REMARKABLE DEMAND FOR COPIES OF SENTINEL'S MOUNTAIN WATER ISSUE

Below is shown a reproduction of the first page of the Daily Sentinel's special "Mountain Water Day Edition," which was printed and distributed from The Sentinel float in the parade yesterday. An edition of 2,000 copies was circulated over the city, but today there is an insistent demand for extra copies. Scores of citizens have called up the office and asked for more copies, and to satisfy this demand The Sentinel will issue another edition. If you want to send copies to your friends elsewhere or file one away for yourself, call up Junction 50 and list your order. They are free for the asking. The order, however, must be in by 8 a. m. next Monday morning.

Mountain Water Edition — THE DAILY SENTINEL — Mountain Water Edition

VOL. XIX. GRAND JUNCTION, COLO., THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1912 No. 198

$450,000 SYSTEM DONE

Over Ten Thousand Dollars Saved After Big Job is Finished.

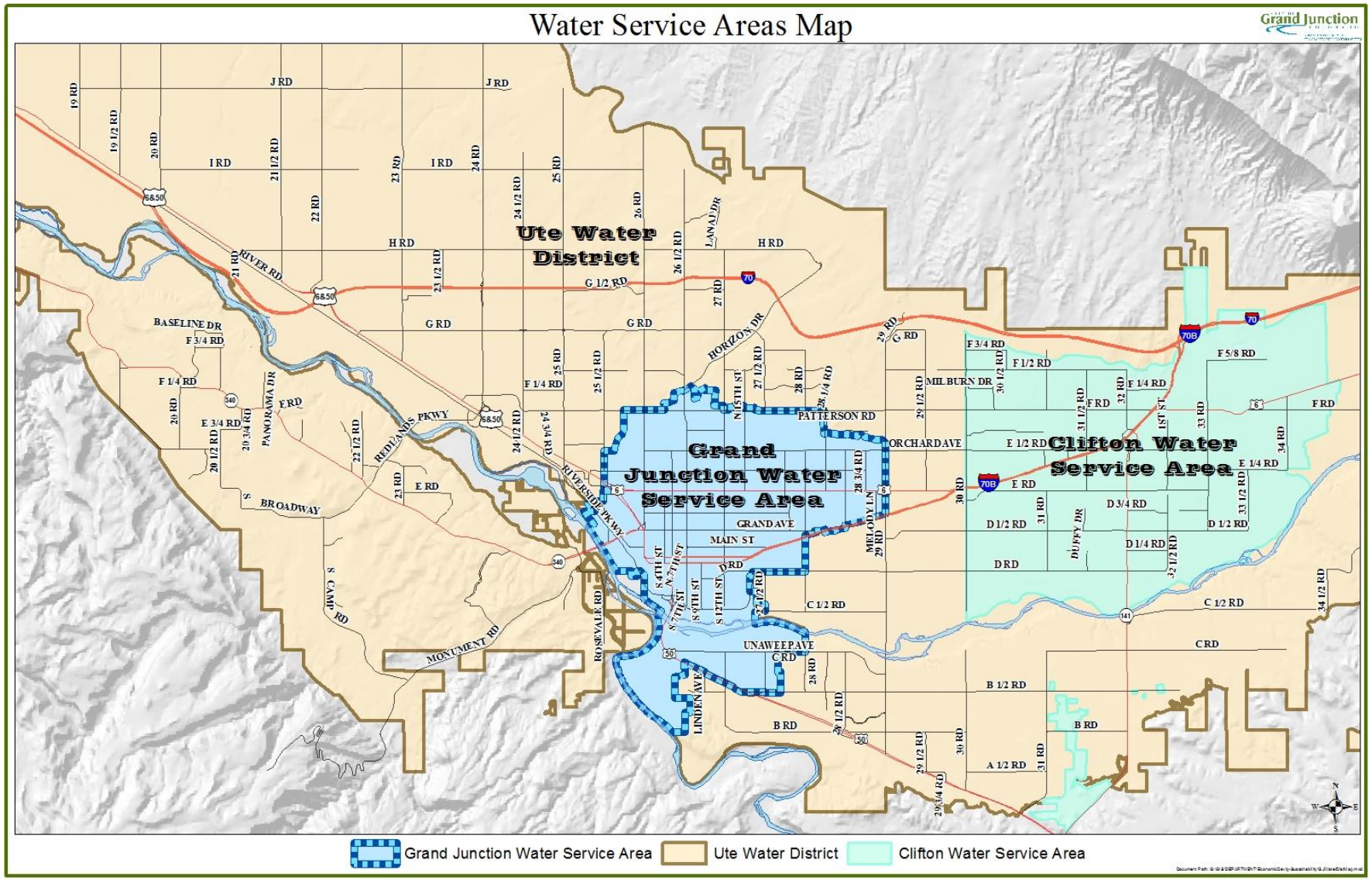
VEDDER, BUILDER OF WATER SYSTEM, IS HONORED BY CITY IN HUGE CELEBRATION TODAY

VEDDER IS HONORED

With Salary of $125 a Month the Commissioner Bosses Work.

ROSTWICK W. VEDDER
COMMISSIONER OF WATER AND STREETS

Grand Junction's Water Utilities



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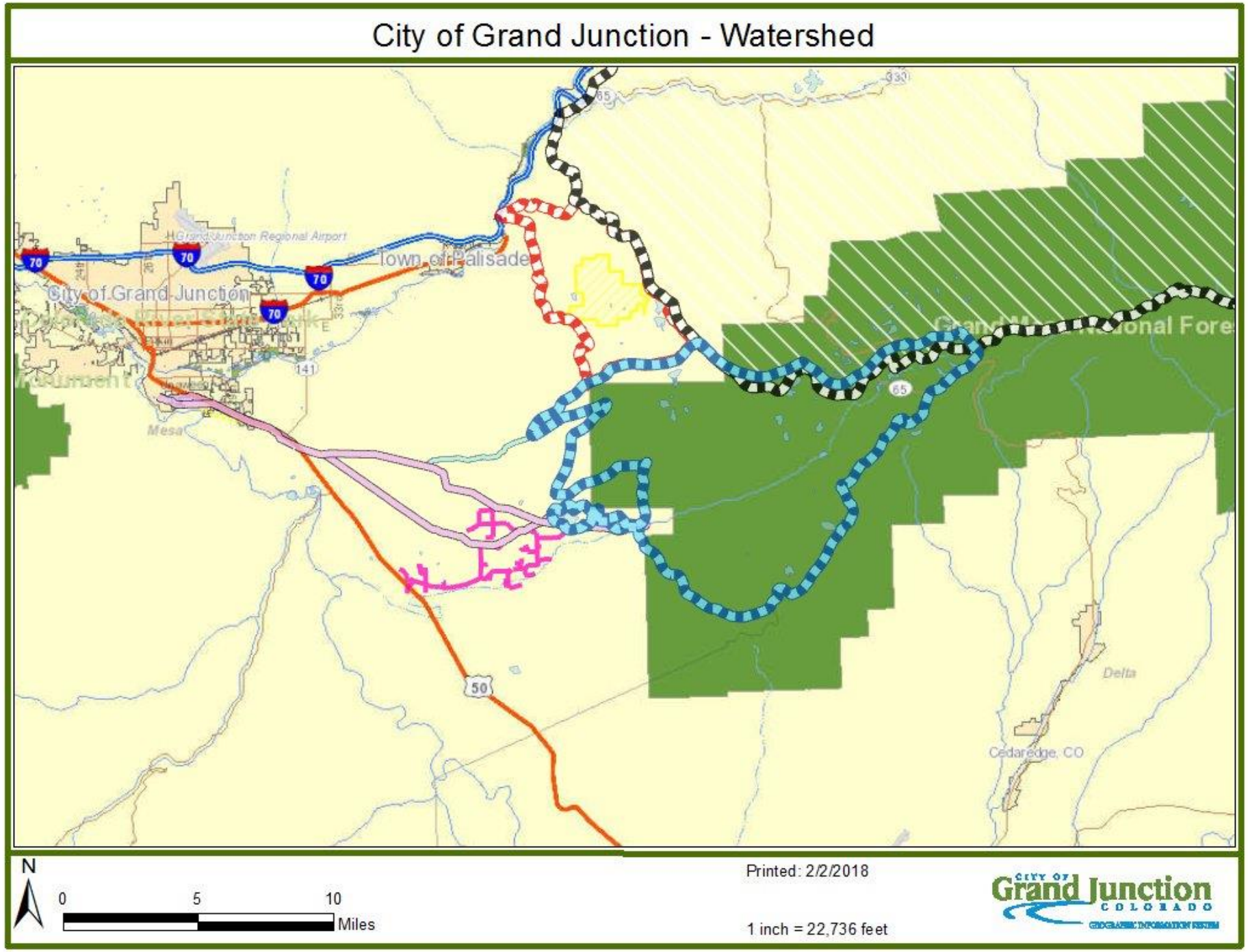

Kannah Creek Watershed

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Water Assets

- 19 Water Reservoirs
- 40 miles Water Supply Lines
- 308 miles Water Distribution Pipeline
- 10,108 Meters
- 2 Service areas
  - City of Grand Junction
  - Kannah Creek

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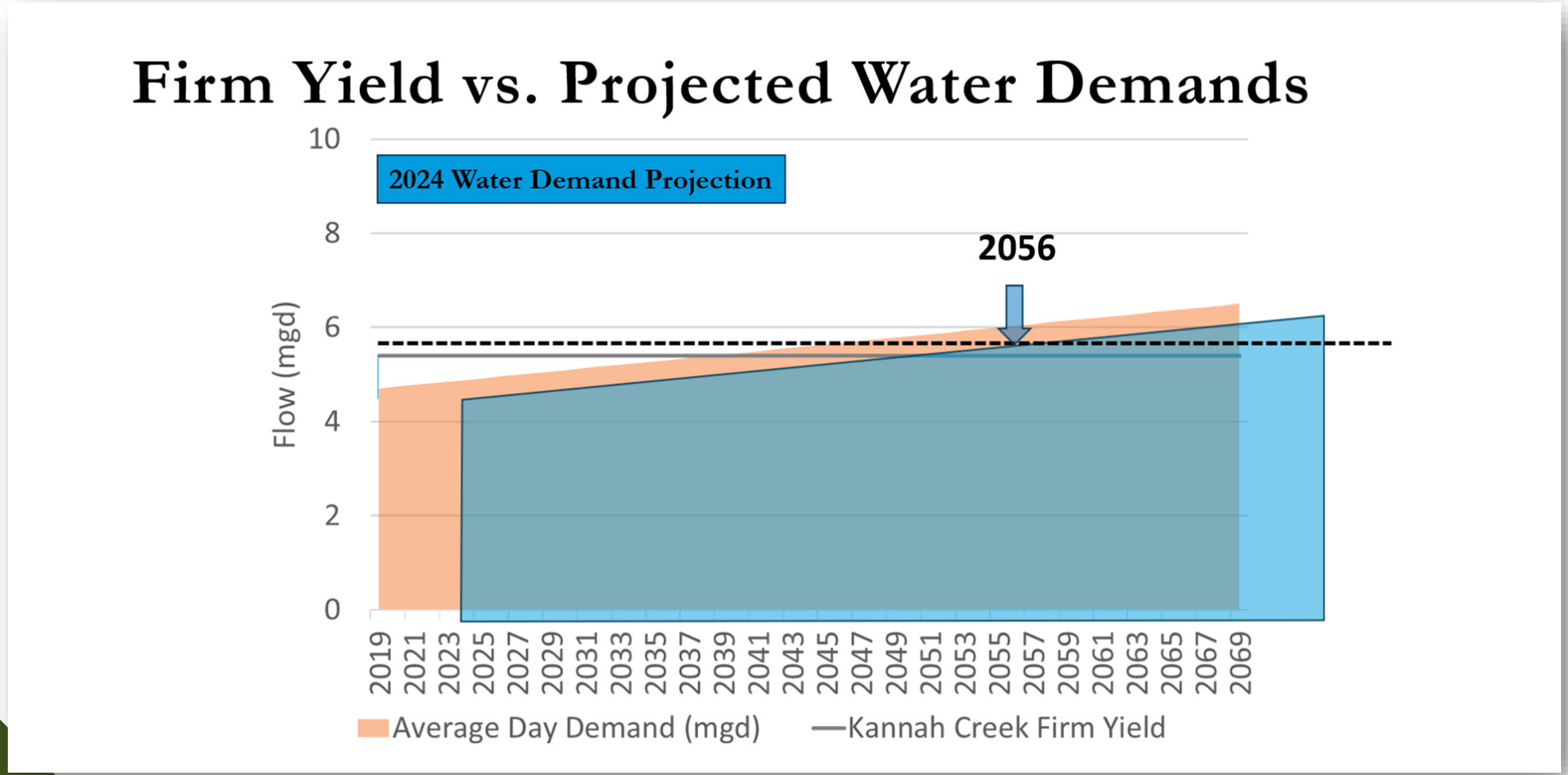
Long-Term Water Supply Planning



Long-Term Water Supply Planning

Three-pronged Strategy

1. Water Conservation to extend Kannah Creek supply
2. Water Efficiency to reduce system losses
3. Supplement Supply with Gunnison River water

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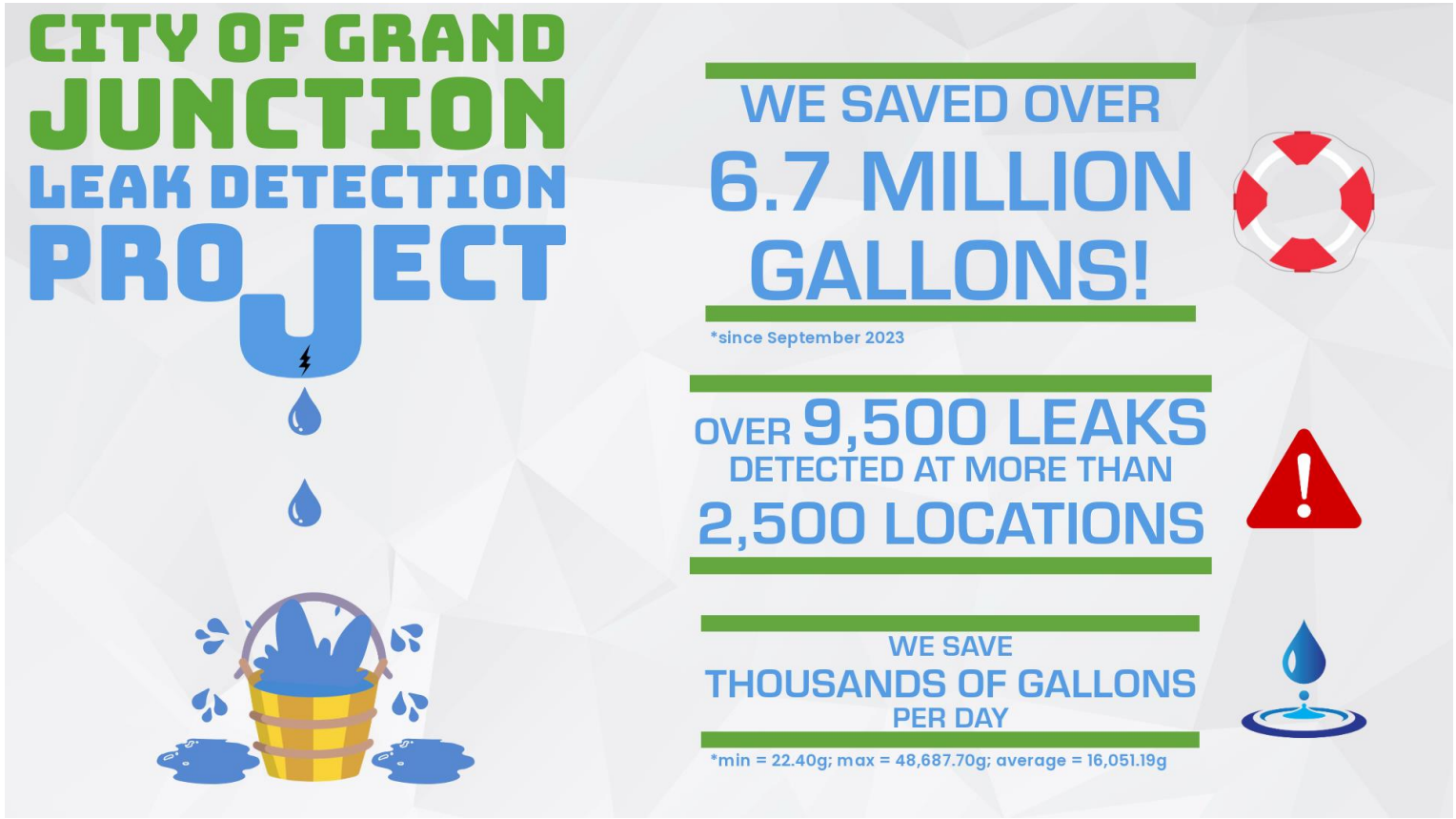
Water Conservation Programs

- Turf Replacement
- Garden in a Box
- Water Efficiency Rebates
- AMI Leak Detection
- Assistance to high water users



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Juniata Ditch Piping/Lining Project

- Reduce 30 - 40% Water Loss
- Water Efficiency Savings
  - 909 AF Agriculture
  - 511 AF Municipal
- Funding for Design
  - BOR $160,000
  - WSRF $100,000
  - Colorado River District $25,000
  - City of Grand Junction $30,000
  - Juniata Ditch Co. $5,000

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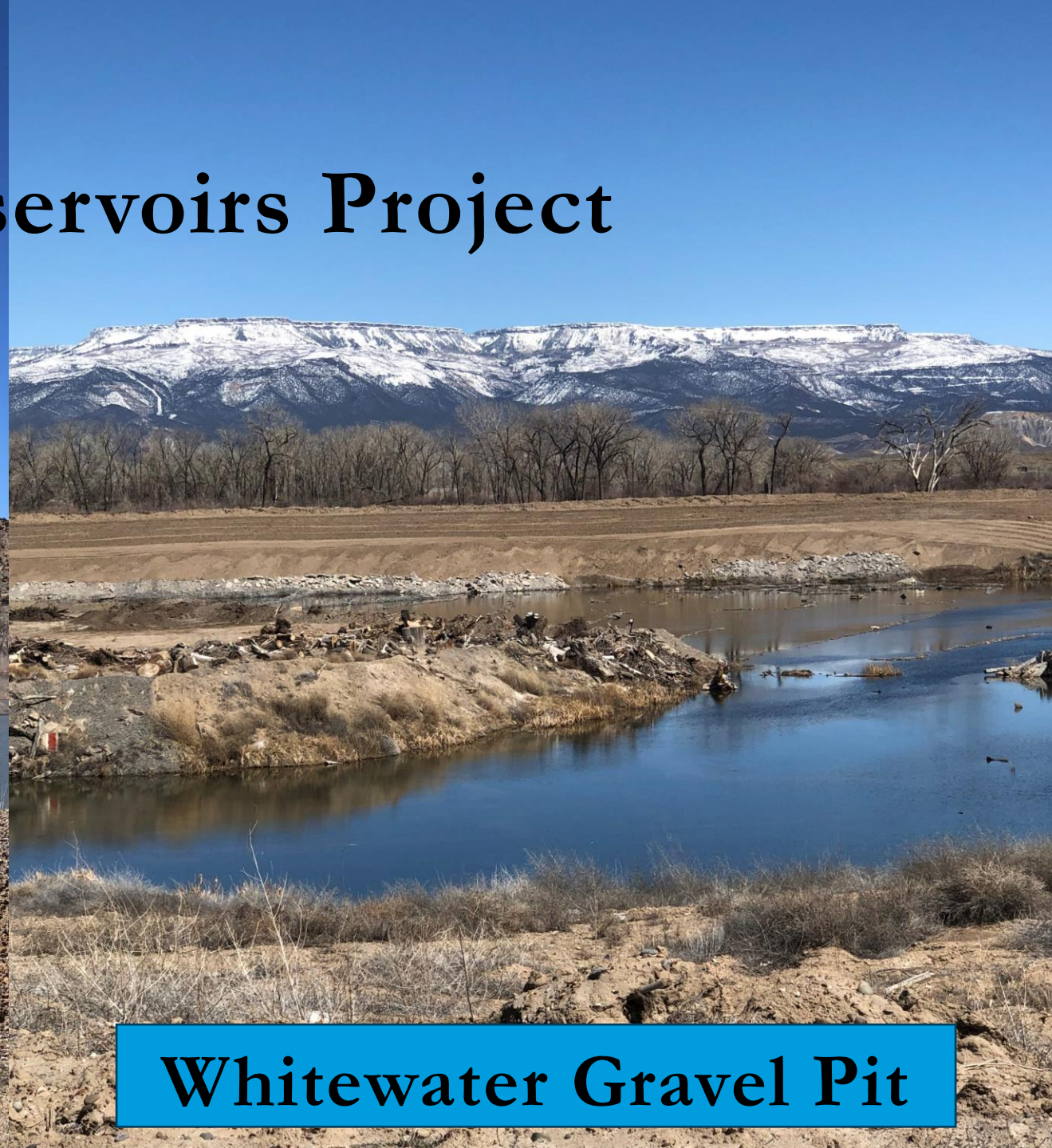
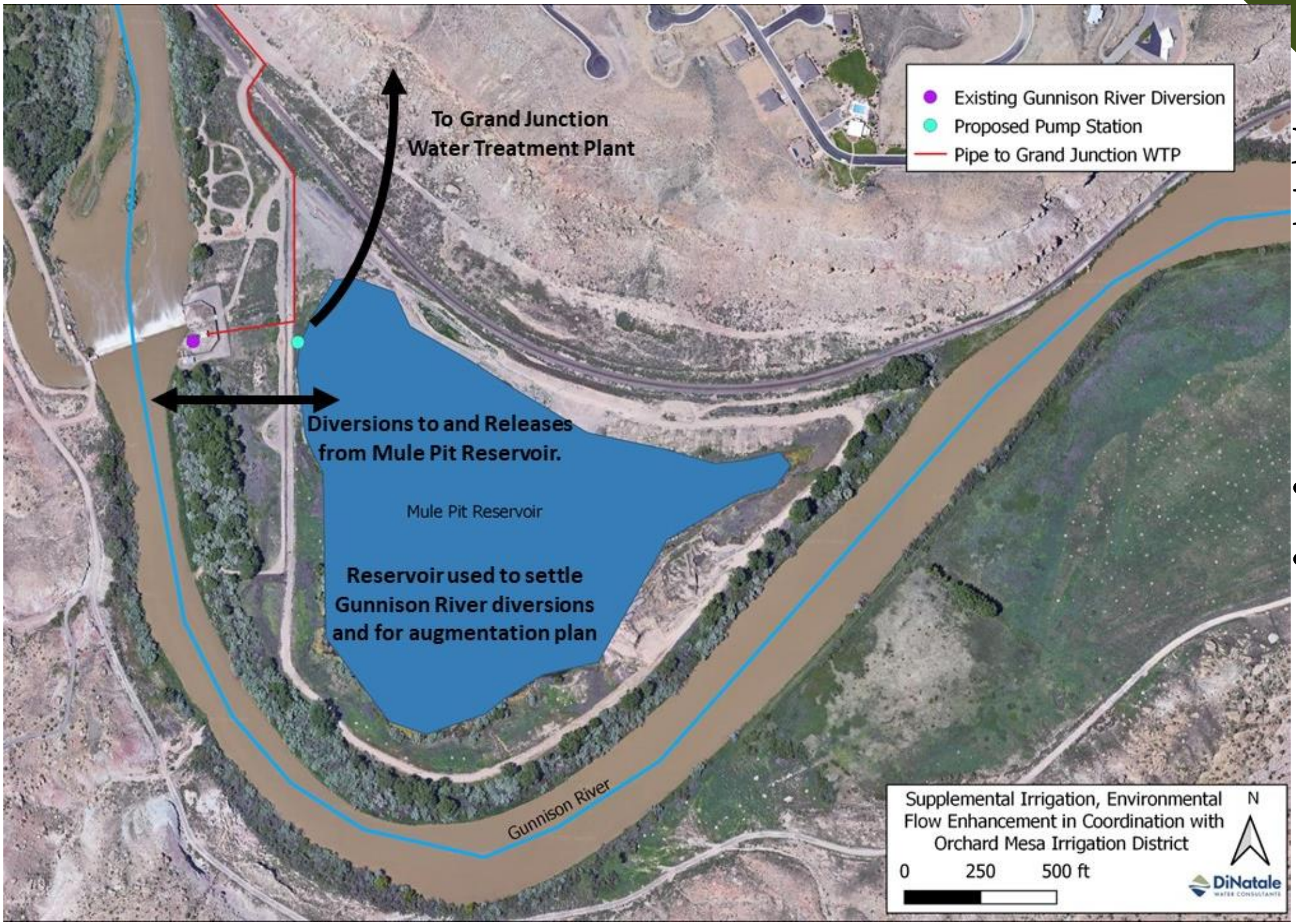
Gunnison Reservoirs Project

Mule Farm Gravel Pit



Whitewater Gravel Pit



Mule Farm Reservoir

- 973 AF
- New Pump Station

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Whitewater Reservoir

- 1,200 AF
- Used for augmentation

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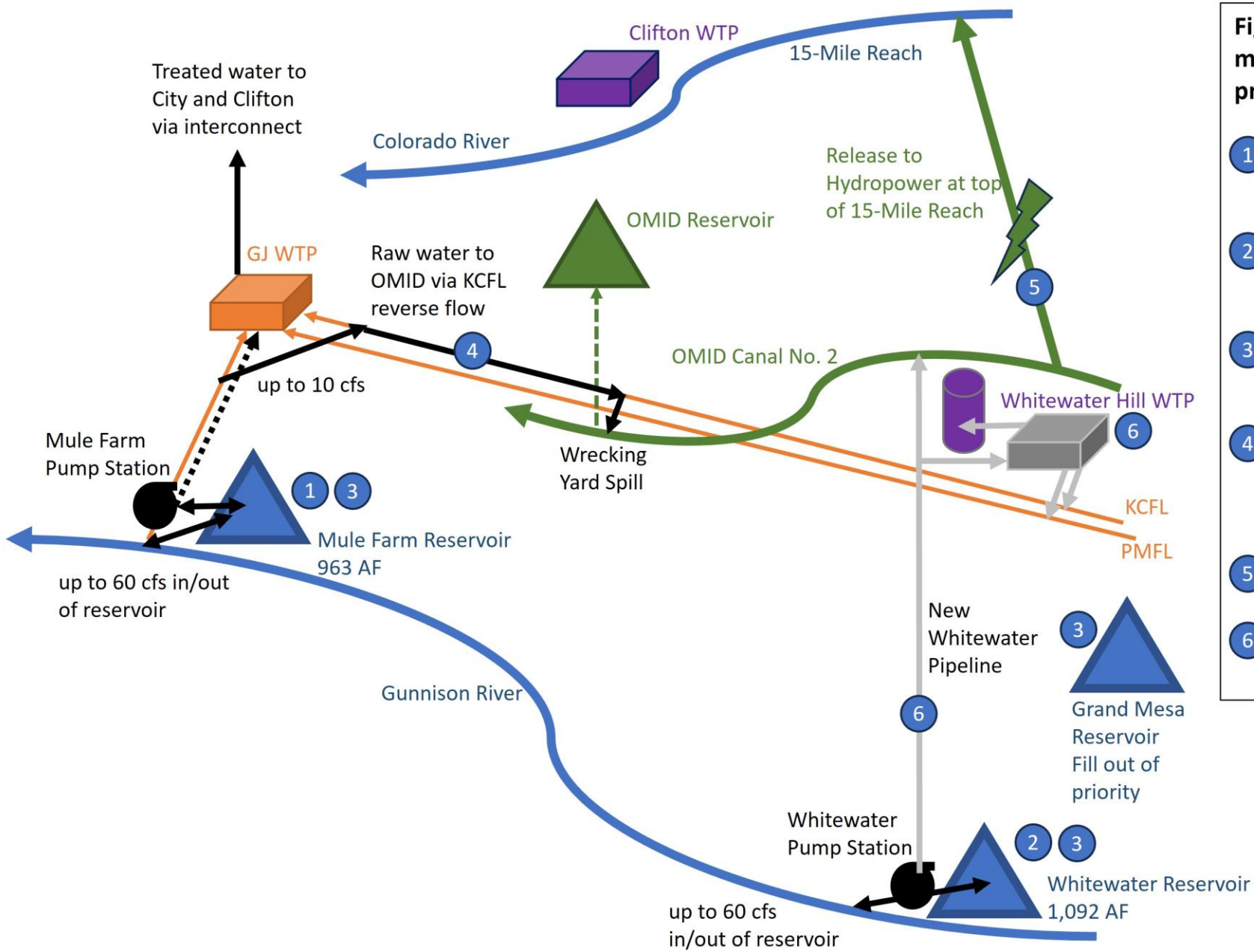


Figure ES-2. Schematic diagram showing multiple benefits of the Gunnison Reservoirs project.

1. New Mule Farm Reservoir and Pump Station.
2. New Whitewater Reservoir and Pump Station.
3. Augmentation Plan for Grand Mesa diversions.
4. Reverse Flow in existing Kannah Creek Flowline to OMID Canal No. 2 at the Wrecking Yard Spill.
5. Hydropower tailrace to 15-Mile Reach.
6. Potential future Whitewater Pipeline and water treatment plant at Whitewater Hill.

Gunnison Reservoirs Project Benefits

1. Augmentation

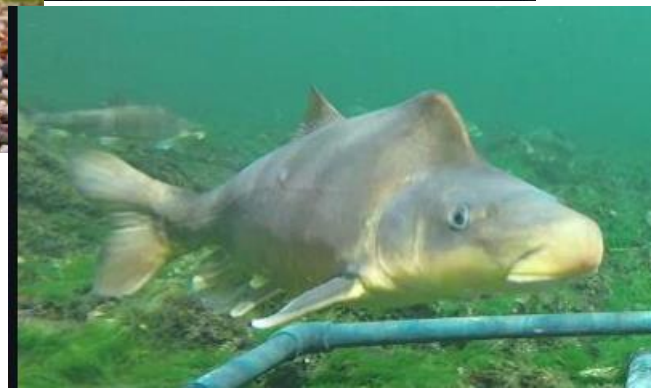
- Allows Grand Junction to divert Kannah Creek water rights with senior call

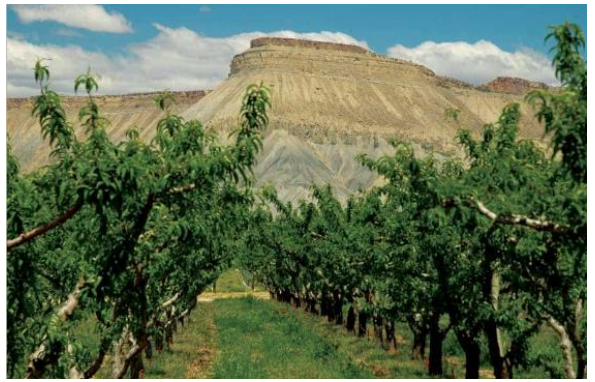
2. Direct Municipal Use

3. Multiple Benefits

- Agriculture
- Environmental flows

Bonytail, Colorado Pikeminnow, Humpback Chub, Razorback Sucker
Photos: coloradoriverrecovery.org





Orchard Mesa Irrigation District

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Questions?

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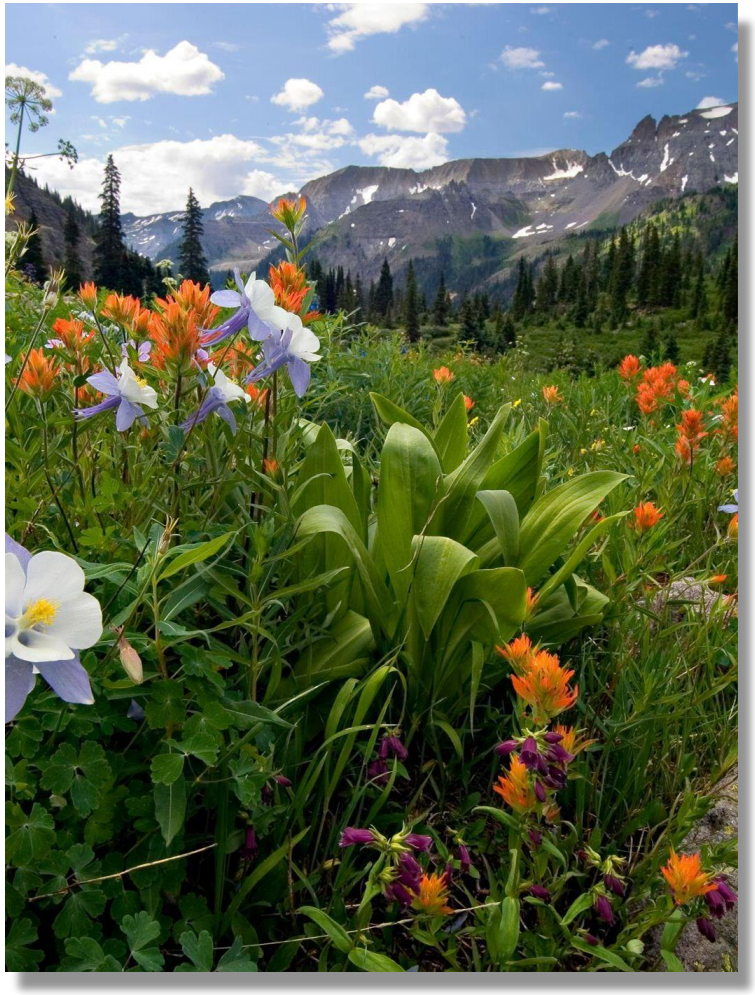
WELCOME

- QUORUM
- MEETING MINUTES
- AGENDA



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AGENDA

9:00 **Welcome to Grand Junction & Local Projects** (*Randi Kim)*

9:20 **Welcome and Meeting Logistics** (*Becky Mitchell; Kat Weismiller; Jeff Rodriguez)*

9:25 **Message from the Chair** *(Becky Mitchell)*

9:45 **Colorado & Platte River Updates + Open Discussion** (*Becky Mitchell; Amy Ostdiek, Jason Ullmann)*

10:45 **Networking Break**

11:00 **No & Low Regrets Subcommittee Report** *(Sean Cronin, Pat Wells, Lisa Darling, Kat Weismiller, Jeff Rodriguez)*

11:45 **No & Low Regrets & DRAP Discussion** *(Facilitated by Kelsea MacIlroy)*

12:30 **Lunch**

1:30 **Legislative Updates (*Senator Dylan Roberts)***

2:15 **IBCC Member Project Highlights**

3:15 **Break**

3:30 **C9 Summit Planning & Additional Information** *(Kat Weismiller)*

3:45 **Recap, Next Meeting Planning & Closing Thoughts** *(Kat Weismiller)*

4:00 **Public Comment**

4:15 **Adjourn**

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WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Becky Mitchell, IBCC Director

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COLORADO & PLATTE RIVER UPDATES & DISCUSSION

Becky Mitchell, IBCC Chair, DNR
Jason Ullmann, Colorado State Engineer, DWR
Amy Ostdiek, Section Chief, IFWI, CWCB

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COLORADO WATER PLAN

Colorado River Updates

Amy Ostdiek

Chief of Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

June 2025

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Post-2026 Operations of Lakes Powell and Mead

2024

December: Upper Division States submit refinements to Alternative (originally submitted March 2024) for Reclamation to model

2025

January: Reclamation releases alternatives report

Currently: Basin State discussions continue


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
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

Date

2026

2007 Interim Guidelines expire

Natural Flow-Based Powell Operations Concept

- Concept currently under discussion among Basin States
- “Conscious uncoupling” of Upper and Lower Basins
- Lake Powell release is a percentage of the last X years of Natural Flow measured at Lee Ferry, subject to upper and lower bounds.
- Key parameters:
  - X Years of Natural Flow – *as measured at Lee Ferry*
  - Percentage that is released
  - Upper and lower bounds

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Natural Flow-Based Powell Operations Concept

It is…

a supply-driven approach, if appropriately developed

an opportunity to set aside legal arguments

a mechanism to allow both Upper and Lower Basins to manage within available supplies

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Natural Flow-Based Powell Operations Concept

It is not…

a delivery obligation

a determination of any Compact issues

a consideration of the whole system, as defined in the Compact (Natural Flow at Lee Ferry *does not* include Lower Basin tributaries)

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Questions?

Amy Ostdiek

Chief of Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board

amy.ostdiek@state.co.us

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Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

Amy Ostdiek
Chief of the Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

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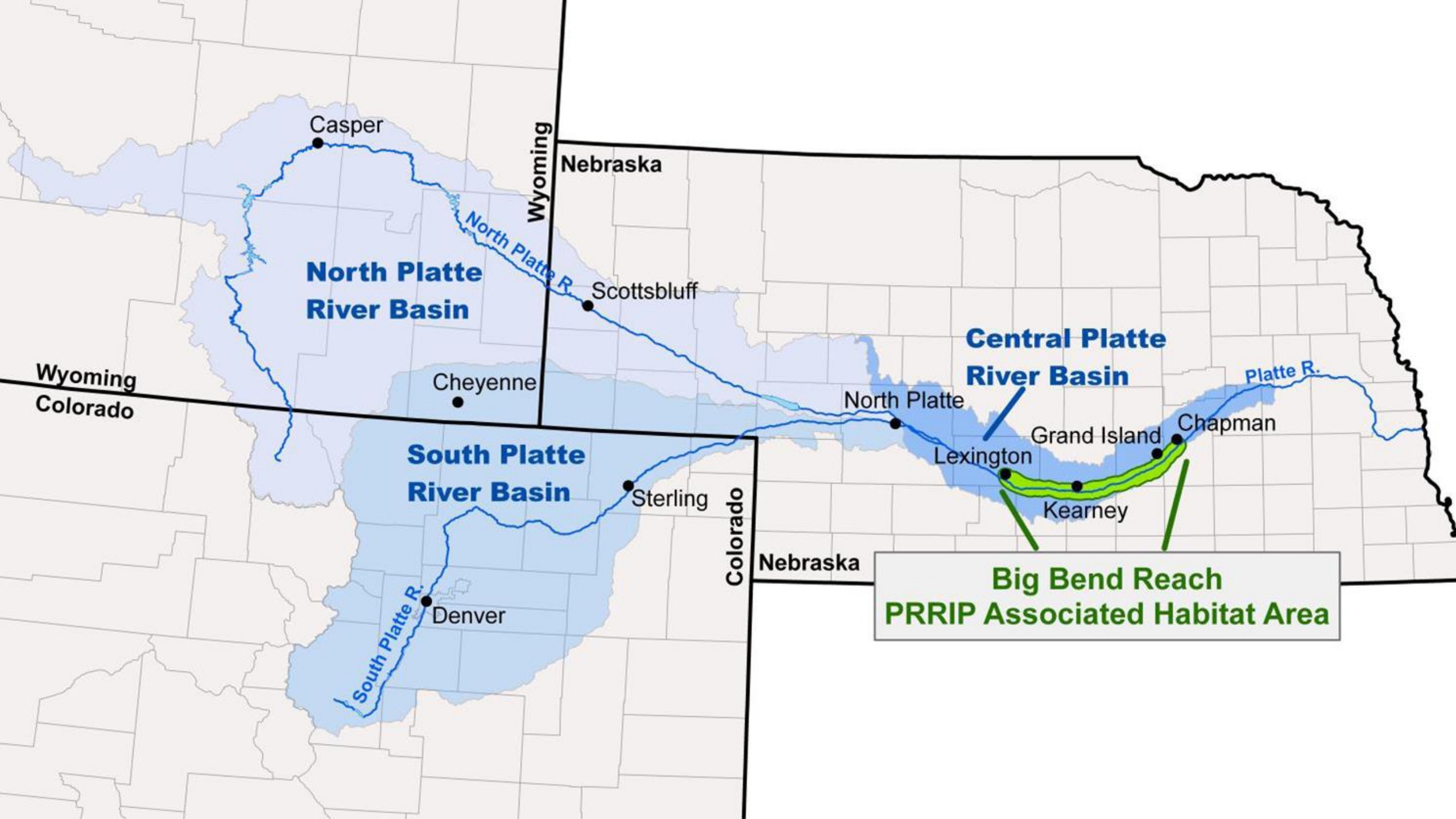

Casper
Wyoming
Nebraska
North Platte R.
North Platte
River Basin
Scottsbluff
Central Platte
River Basin
Platte R.
Wyoming
Colorado
Cheyenne
North Platte
Grand Island
Chapman
Lexington
South Platte
River Basin
Sterling
Kearney
Colorado
Nebraska
South Platte R.
Denver
Big Bend Reach
PRRIP Associated Habitat Area

TARGET SPECIES

Program Goals

Assist in the recovery of the four target species

Provide ESA compliance to allow for continued water development

PRRIP

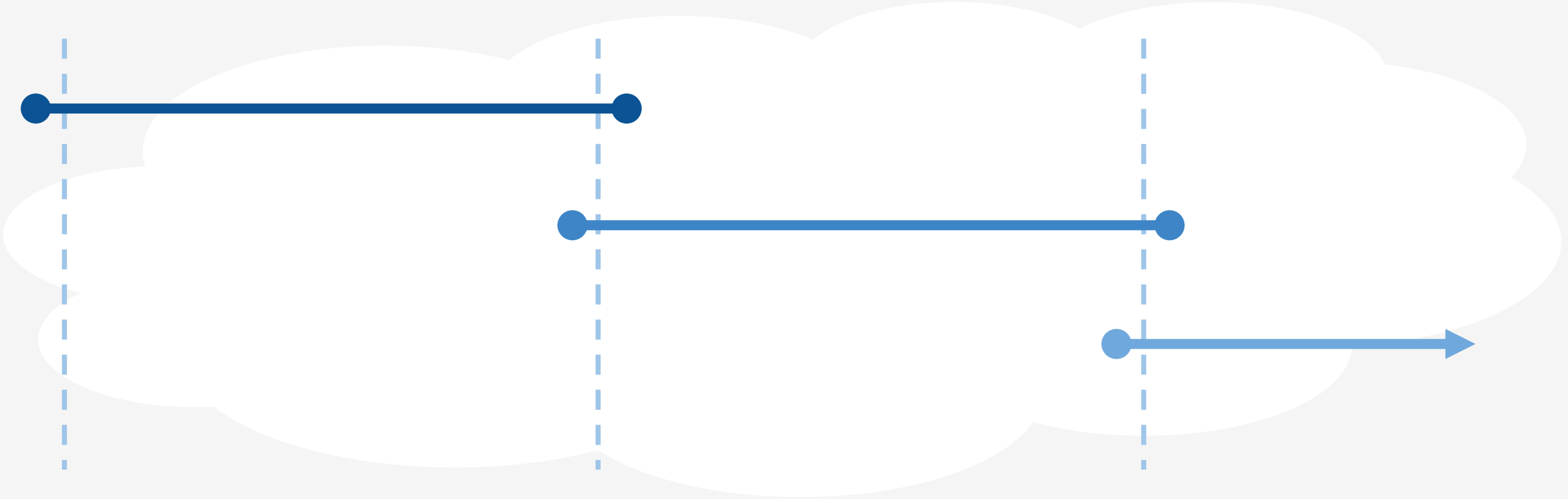
Program Elements

WATER

LAND

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Program Increments



2007
First Increment

2020
Extension

2032
Second Increment

Program Success

- 160 out of 217 total streamlined ESA compliance in Colorado
- Interior least tern was delisted in 2021
- Record 506 whooping cranes reported on Program habitat in 2019
- Greatly increased habitat for piping plover and have seen a steady increase in breeding pairs

Next Steps & Future Challenges

- Achieve water and land objectives
- Addressing “chokepoint”
- Approaching Second Increment
- Facing new challenges

AMY.OSTDIEK@STATE.CO.US

Learn more:
platteriverprogram.org/

South Platte Compact Administration

IBCC Meeting
June 25, 2025

Jason Ullmann, P.E.
State Engineer/Director

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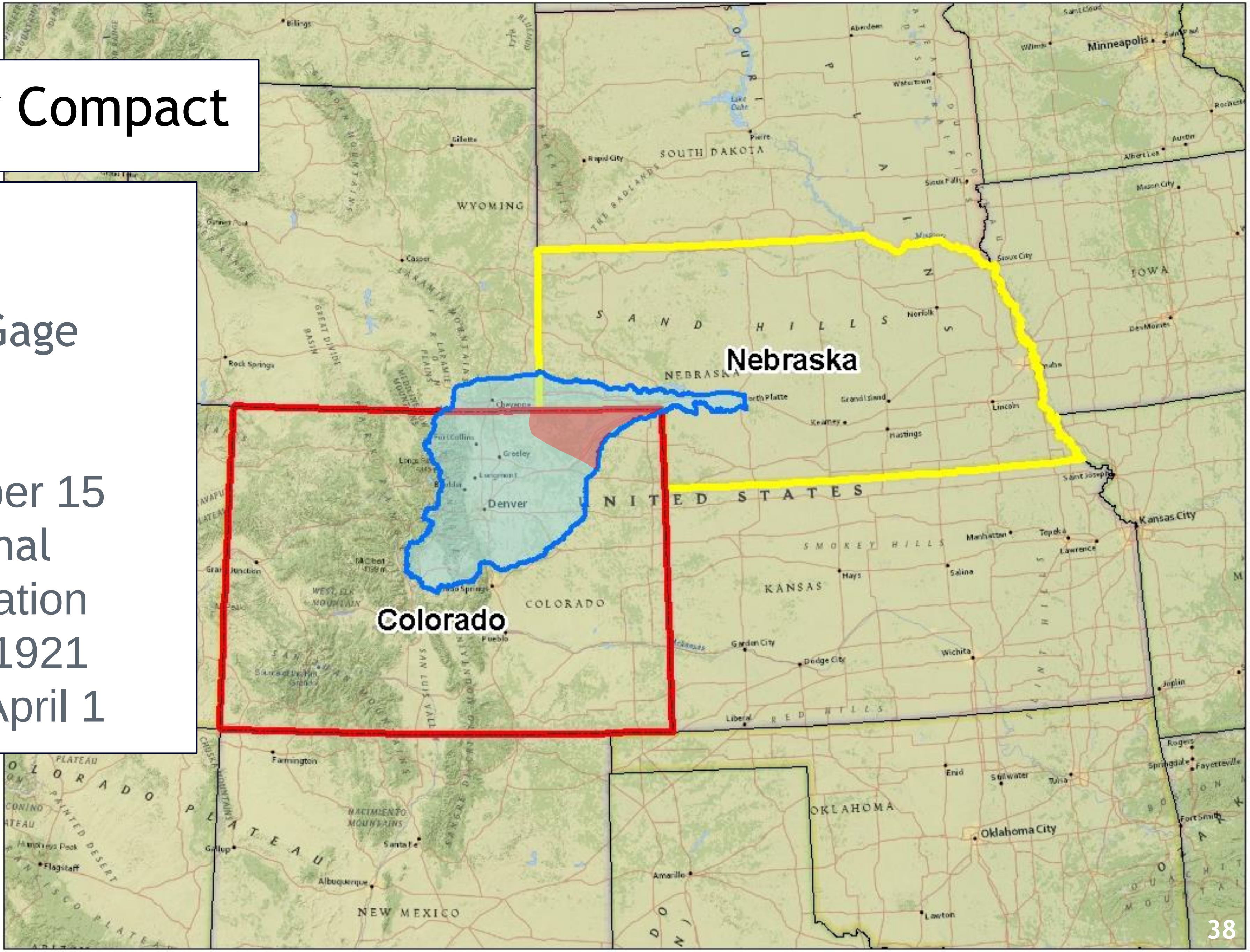
South Platte River Compact

- Signed in 1923
- No Commission
- Call at Julesburg Gage
  - 120 cfs
  - June 14, 1897
  - April 1 to October 15
- Perkins County Canal
  - 500 cfs for irrigation
  - December 17, 1921
  - October 15 to April 1



South Platte Compact

- Split River into Upper Section & Lower Section
- Return flows and supplies in the Lower Section are available to Nebraska
- Administration is limited to Water District 64

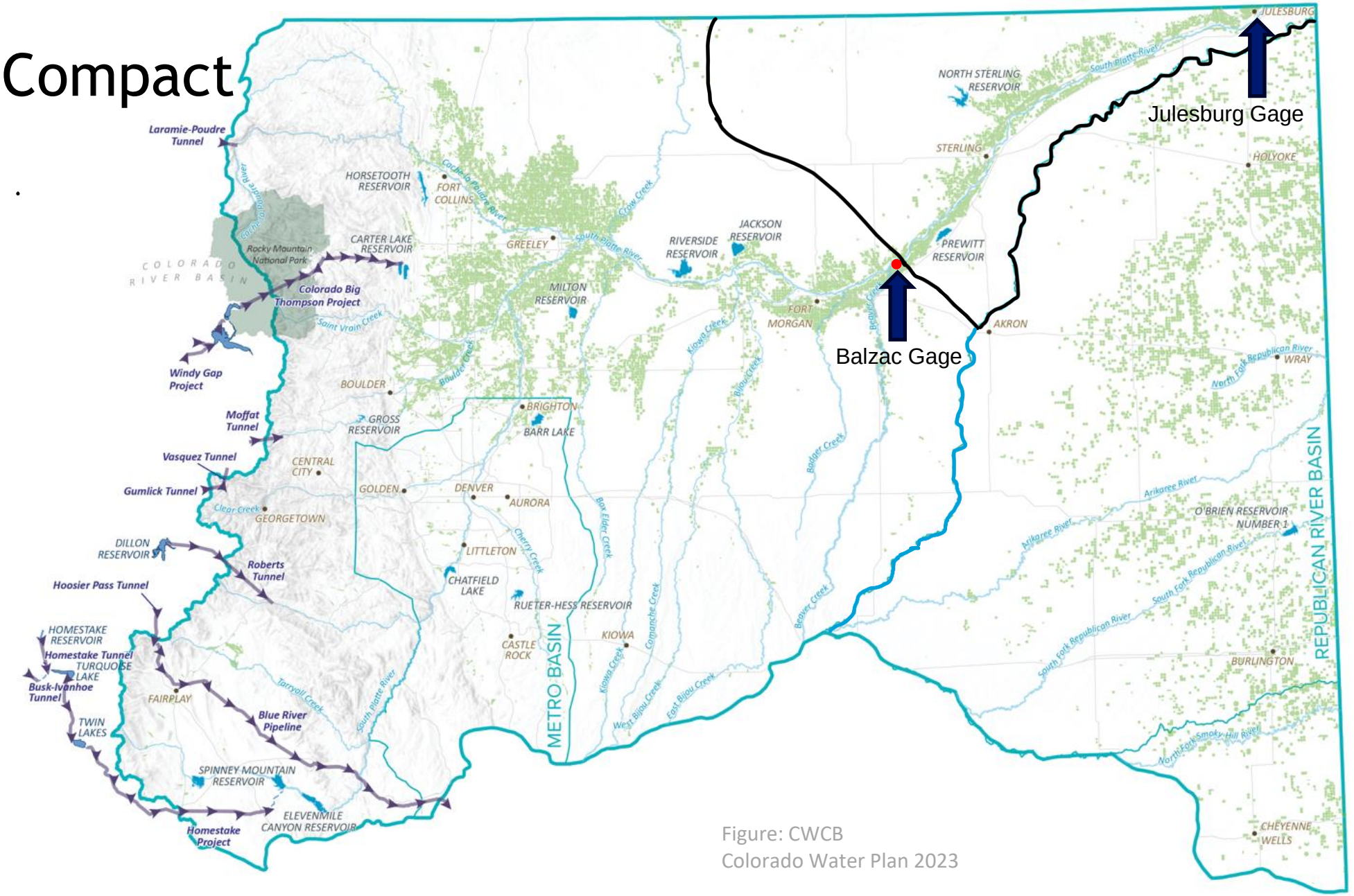
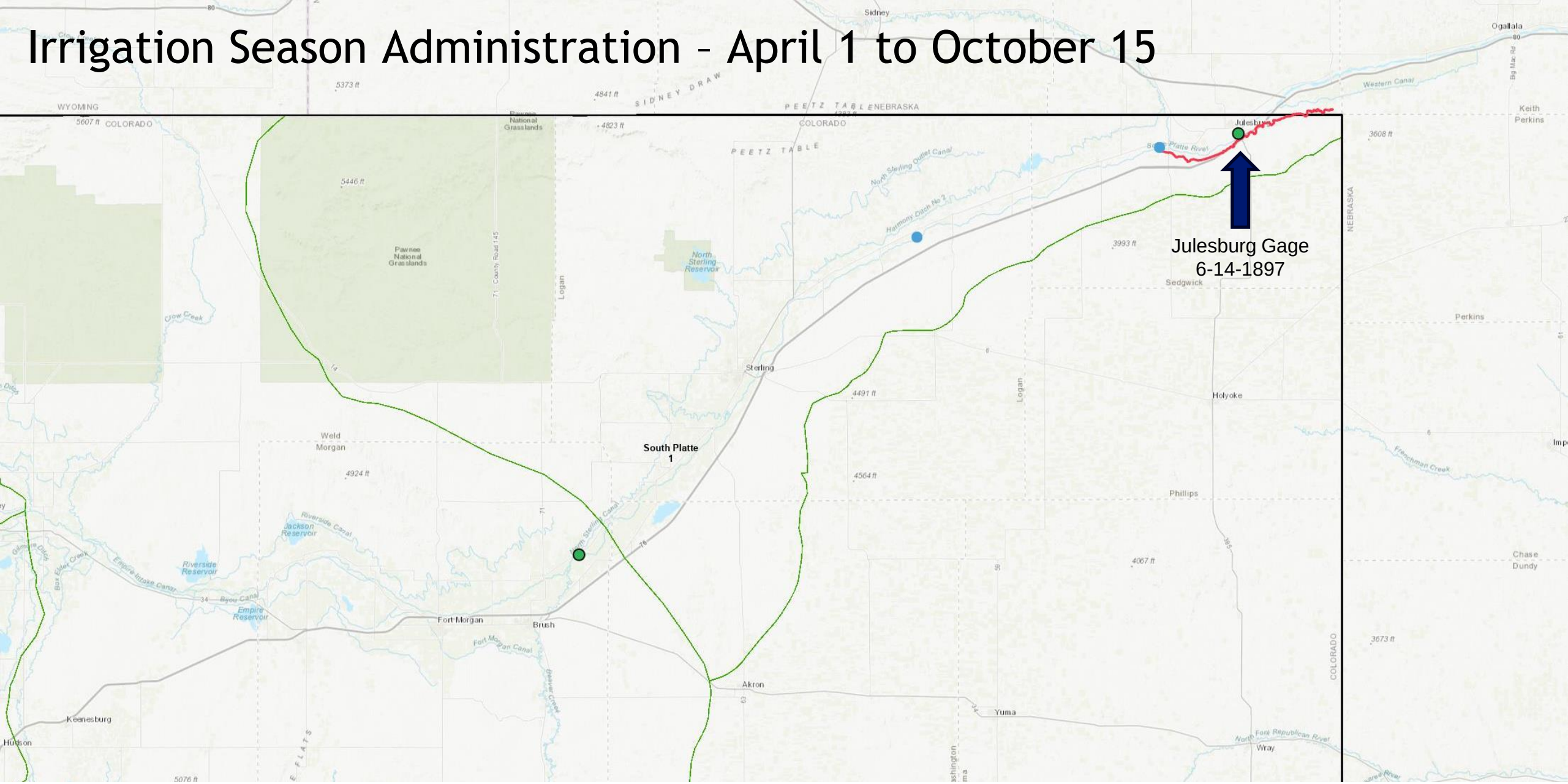


Figure: CWCB
Colorado Water Plan 2023

Irrigation Season Administration – April 1 to October 15



Administrative Calls - Active

Search Fields Hide

eographic Location Water Division

1 - South Platte

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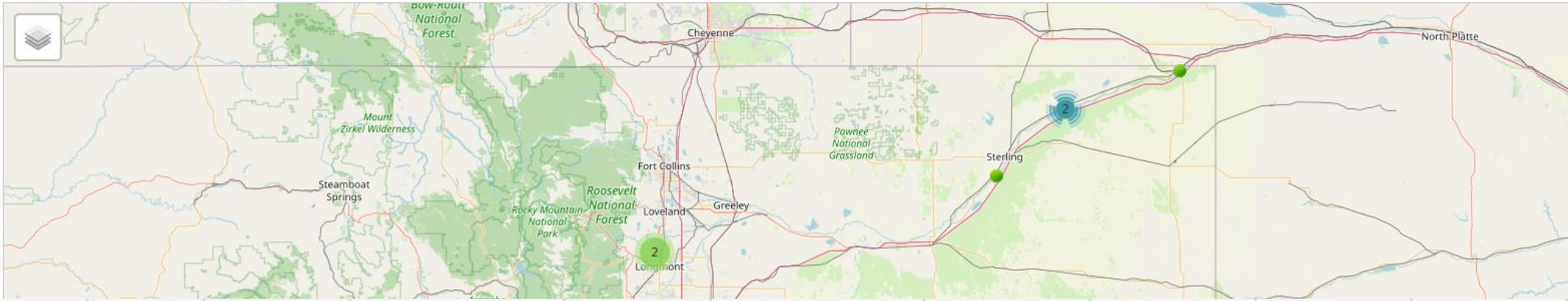
Search

Additional Resources

bout Colorado Water Administration

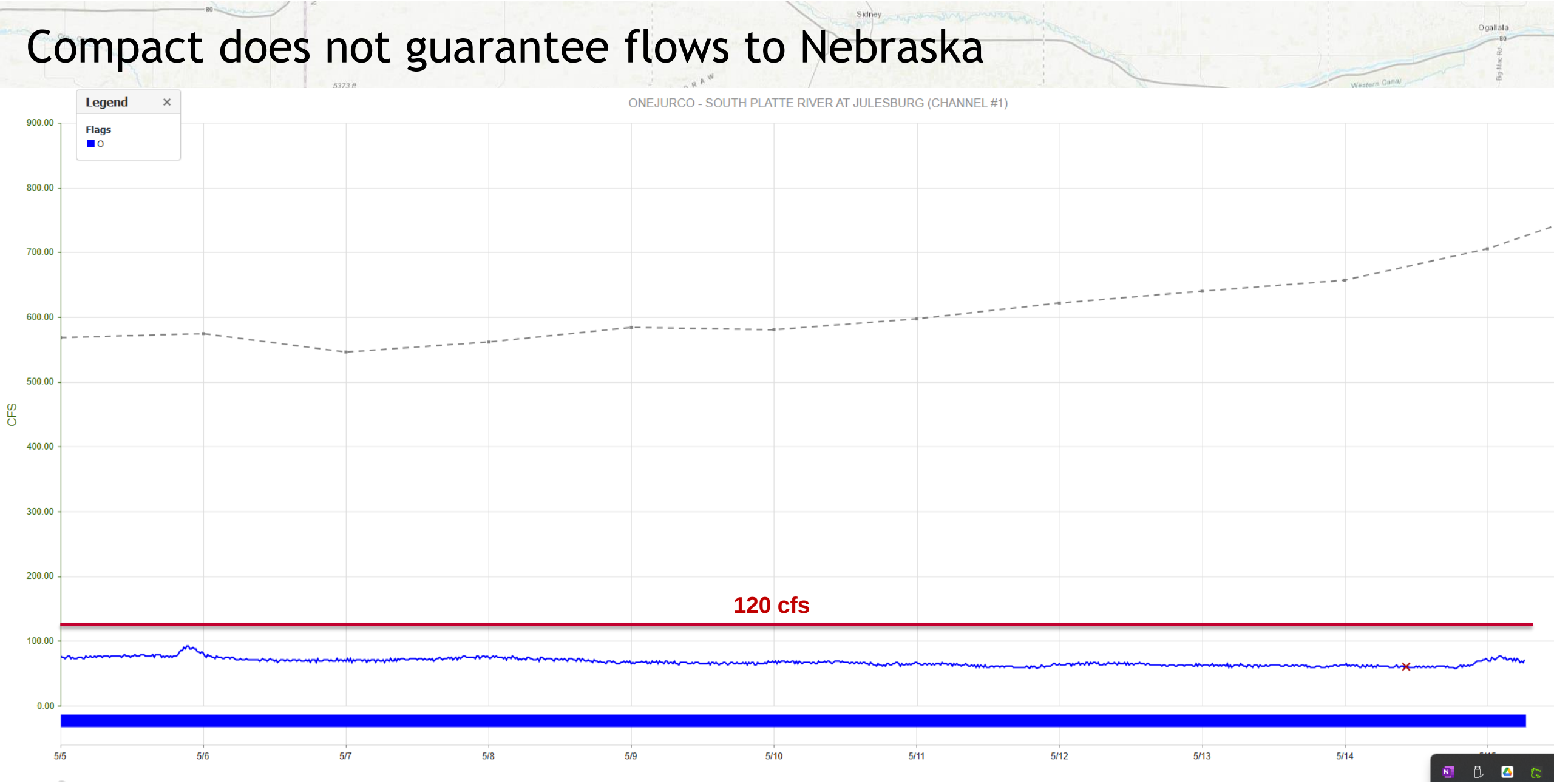
istorical Calls

Map ON Table ON

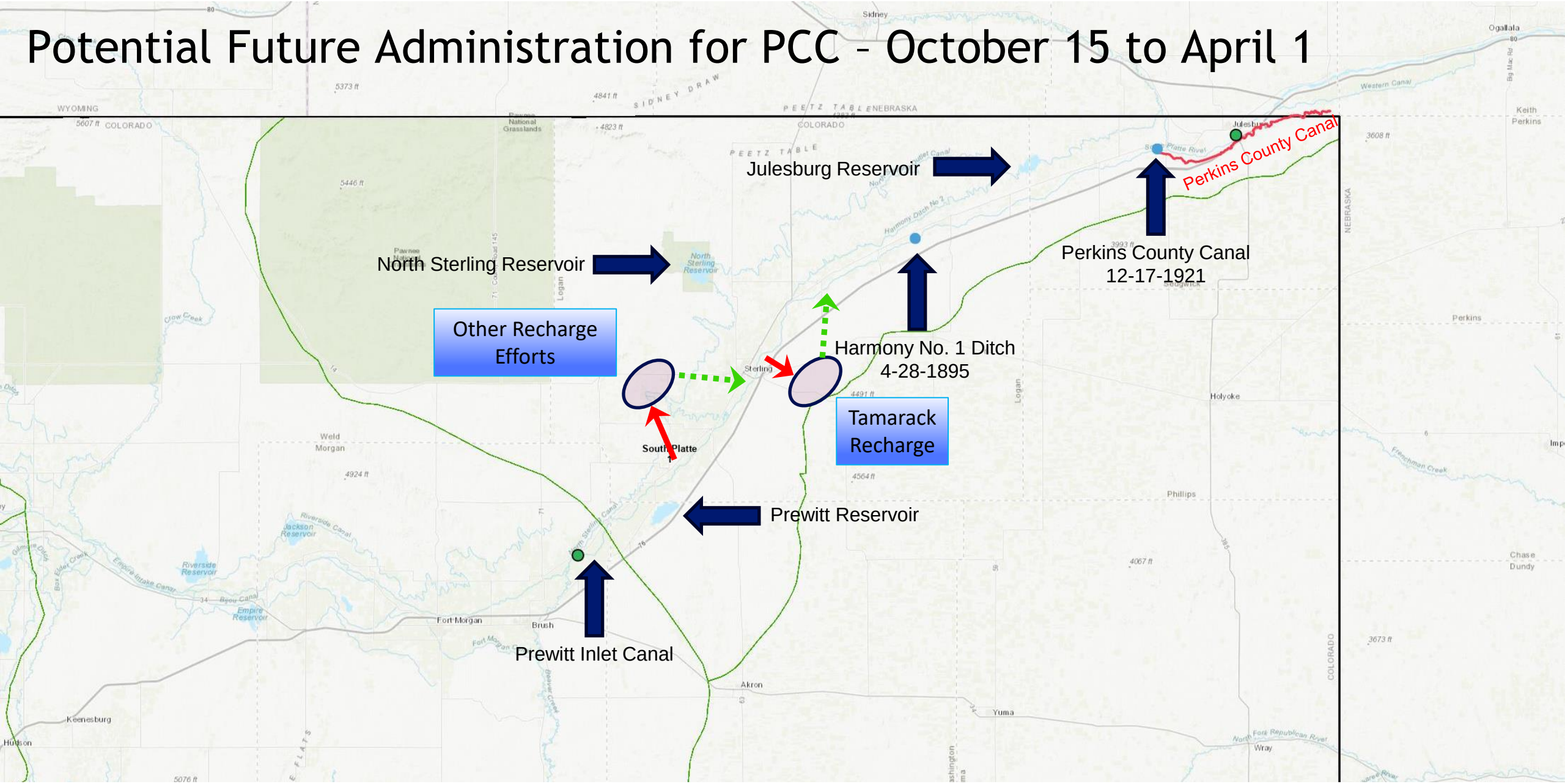


Date Time Set	Water Source	Stream Mile	Location WDID	Location Structure Name	Call Priority WDID	Priority Structure Name	Priority Admin No	Priority Date	Priority No	Bounding WDID
5/15/2025 8:00 AM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	42.79	6400511	HARMONY DITCH 1	6400515	HARMONY DITCH 2	17290.00000	5/3/1897		
5/13/2025 4:00 PM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	75.55	6400528	STERLING IRR CO ...	0100507	BIJOU CANAL	14154.00000	10/1/1888		
5/12/2025 4:00 PM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	42.79	6400511	HARMONY DITCH 1	6400515	HARMONY DITCH 2	17290.00000	5/3/1897		
5/12/2025 8:00 AM	LITTLE THOMPSON...	20.24	0400600	OSBORNE CAYWOO...	0400602	SUPPLY LATERAL DI...	6314.00000	4/15/1867		
5/9/2025 8:00 AM	CLEAR CREEK	15.2	0700652	ROCKY MOUNTAIN ...	0700569	FARMERS HIGHLIN...	8127.00000	4/1/1872		
5/6/2025 8:00 AM	SAINT VRAIN CREEK	25.49	0500553	HAGERS MEADOW ...	0504037	NICK SEKICH JR RE...	10911.00000	11/15/1879		
5/1/2025 8:00 AM	CLIFFORD GULCH S...	0.04	8000812	CLIFFORD GULCH ...	8000812	CLIFFORD GULCH ...	11475.00000	6/1/1881		
4/15/2025 12:00 PM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	2.61	6499999	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	6499999	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	17332.00000	6/14/1897		6499998

Compact does not guarantee flows to Nebraska



Potential Future Administration for PCC – October 15 to April 1



Thank You

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10 MINUTE BREAK

IBCC NO & LOW REGRETS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lisa Darling, Metro Roundtable
Sean Cronin, South Platte Roundtable
Pat Wells, Governor's Appointee
Kat Weismiller, CWCB
Jeff Rodriguez, CWCB

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COLORADO WATER PLAN

IBCC No & Low Regrets Subcommittee

- The Why
- The How
- The Result
- Next Steps

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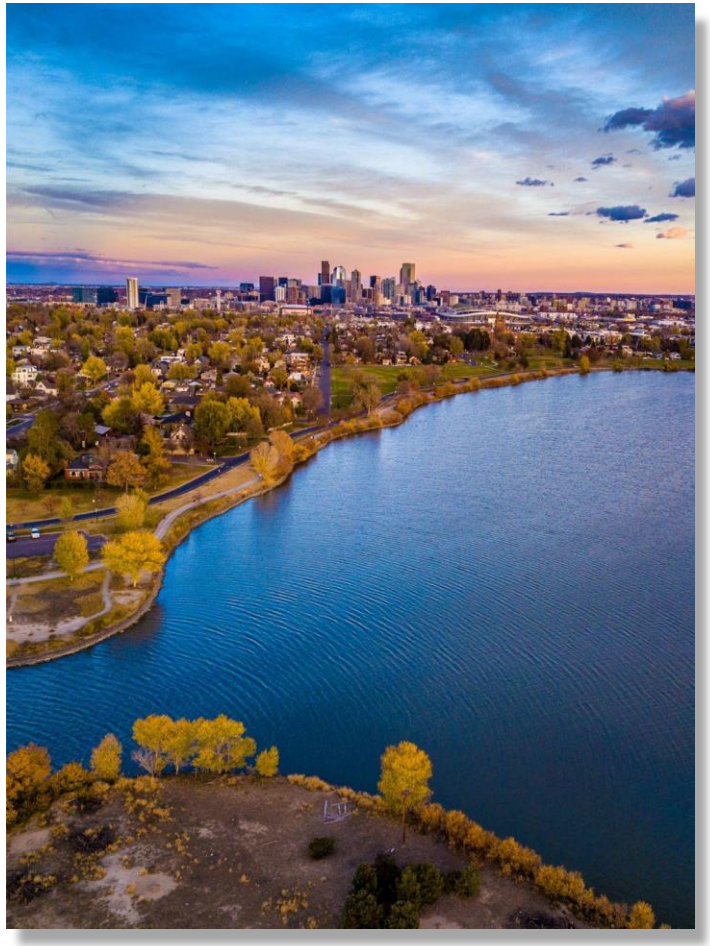
THE WHY

- Established at the February 2025 IBCC Meeting
- Asked to investigate and compare themes in NLR & DRAP



THE HOW

- Reviewed 2013 NLR Document
- Compared to C9 Summit DRAP Topics
- Identified progress to Date on NLR
- Reviewed similarities and differences
- 4 Meetings in 4 Months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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

TO:
FROM: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members
DATE: Rebecca Mitchell, Water Supply Planning Section
September 13, 2013

Key Themes from C9 DRAP Breakout

1. Nature-Based Solutions & Natural Infrastructure
   - Using nature-based solutions for water conveyance (snow, streams, riparian areas).
   - Solutions include shade (trees), beaver projects, and maximizing forests' ability to hold snow/water.
   - Supports ecosystem functions like soil carbon storage, riparian habitat restoration, and flood prevention.
   - Application across multiple sectors (snowpack, water storage, urban landscapes).
2. Water Efficiency & Storage
   - Increase water storage at higher elevations to reduce evaporation.
   - Create new storage options (e.g., reservoirs, aquifers) and collaborative storage solutions across water users.
   - Expand monitoring (snow, soil moisture, streamflow) to improve water management.
   - Promote efficient water use in agriculture, urban areas, and landscapes.
3. Collaboration & Education
   - Build collaborative relationships through trust and engagement in basin roundtables and public programs.
   - Support education for new water leaders, elected officials, and the public (focus on water conservation and adaptation).
   - Mentorship for the next generation, creating internship and capacity-building opportunities.
   - Encourage informal and formal collaboration across sectors and communities.
4. Fire Management & Post Wildfire Recovery
   - Post-fire recovery strategies, including remediation, restoration of wet meadows, and firewise community engagement.
   - Integrate indigenous knowledge and stakeholder involvement for effective wildfire management.
   - Optimize fire treatments and prioritize critical watersheds through mapping.
   - Utilize mapping for fire prevention and watershed restoration.
5. Climate Change Adaptation
   - Addressing both temperature increase (warmer) and reduced snowpack impacts (less snow).

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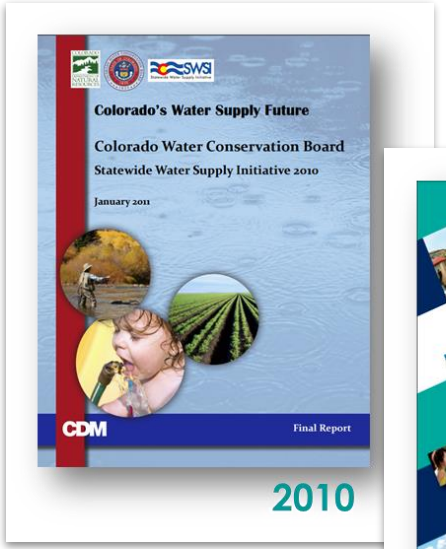
THE RESULTS

- Similar Philosophy
- Similar Priorities
- Different Work Product Goals
- There is a need to update NLR to be more relevant to today's discourse



THE RESULTS

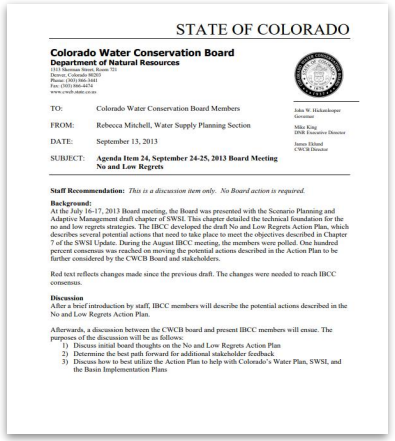
2013 No & Low Regrets Actions

- Minimize Statewide Agricultural Acres Transferred (per Basin Goals) and Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects
- Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply
- Establish Low/Medium Conservation Strategies
- Implement Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods
- Have a High Success Rate for IPPs
- Implement and Assess Storage and Other Infrastructure
- Implement Reuse Strategies

2024 C9 DRAP Key Themes

- Nature-Based Solutions & Natural Infrastructure
- Water Efficiency & Storage
- Collaboration & Education
- Fire Management & Post Wildfire Recovery
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Protecting Colorado Agriculture
- Urban & Land Use Planning
- Cross-Sector Innovation

Progress to Date:



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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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

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.

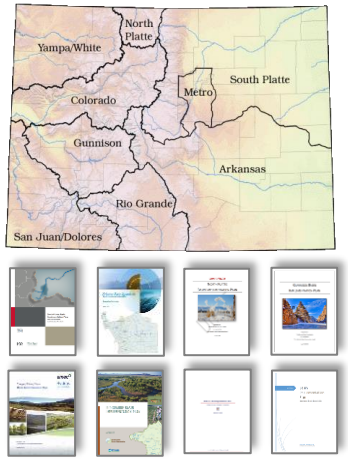
Discussion
After a brief introduction by staff, IBCC members will describe the potential actions described in the No and Low Regrets Action Plan.

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

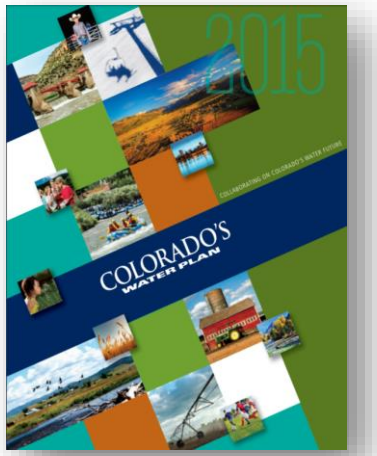
2013

2013 No & Low Regrets Strategies (10-15 years horizon)

- Minimize Statewide Agricultural Acres Transferred & Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects
- Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply
- Establish Low/Medium Conservation Strategies
- Implement Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods
- Have a High Success Rate for IPPs
- Implement and Assess Storage and Other Infrastructure
- Implement Reuse Strategies



2014



2015

Colorado Legislative Council Staff

Summary of Legislation 2017

Water

During the 2017 legislative session, the General Assembly considered measures to address Colorado's growing demand for water and to fund public drinking water and wastewater projects.

Addressing Colorado's Growing Demand for Water

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (board) in the Department of Natural Resources is the state's primary water policy and planning agency. It is governed by a 15-member board that is charged with conserving the state's waters to promote utilization and to prevent floods. According to the board, an additional 630,000 acre feet of water will be needed annually to meet demand in 2030, primarily for municipal and industrial purposes. An acre-foot is approximately the amount of water used by two families in a year.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund provides low-interest loans for water projects. Revenue for this revolving loan fund comes from interest earned on outstanding loans and the fund's cash balance and distribution of royalties from federal mineral leases. *House Bill 17-1248* appropriates $30.4 million for several water supply projects including $1.0 million for continuation of the Alternative Agricultural Transfer Methods Grant Program; $1.5 million for implementation of the Colorado water loss control initiative; $10.0 million for continuation of the Rio Grande cooperative project; $5.0 million for continuation of the watershed restoration program; and $10.0 million for implementation of the Colorado Water Plan. The act also appropriated $260,000 from the Public and Private Utilities Sector Fund to the Water Quality Control Division in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for updating regulations related to nonpotable water reuse and graywater usage.

Alternatives to Permanent Agricultural Water Rights Transfers

Under current law, the board administers a pilot program to demonstrate the practice of fallowing irrigated agricultural land and temporarily leasing the associated water rights. Fallowing is the practice of leaving plowed agricultural land unseeded for one or more growing seasons. *House Bill 17-1272* makes changes to the program and allows the board to authorize up to 15 pilot projects. No more than five pilot projects may be located in any one of the four major river basins. Applications to sponsor a project must be received by December 31, 2023. All projects must be completed by 2034.

Allowable Uses and Changes of Water Right

A water right is a property interest that may be sold or transferred, provided that no other water right is injured and the transfer is approved by the division water court. Water rights are created by using water for a legally recognized use, such as irrigation. Water

Primary Author: David Beaujon ✦ 303-866-4781 ✦ david.beaujon@state.co.us

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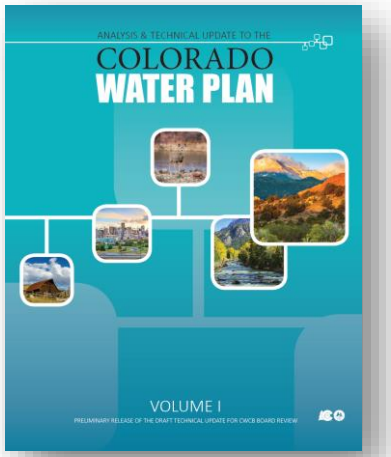
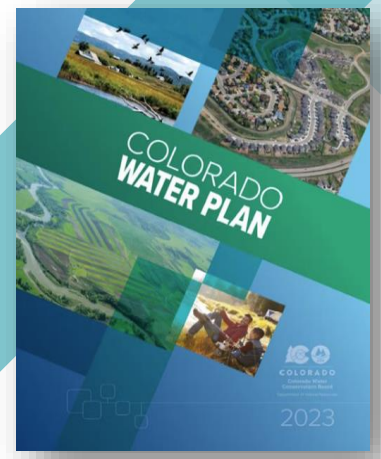
2017



2019

2022



2023

THE RESULTS : Progress to Date

2013 No & Low Regrets	Additional Details	Progress to Date
2013 No & Low Regrets Actions		
Minimize Statewide Agricultural Acres Transferred & Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects	Develop an Incentives Program →	Water Plan Grant Funding for Water Sharing Agreements (2017)
Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply	Establish ATM Demonstration Projects →	2015 Water Plan ATM Goal The ATM status update 2020 CWSA Update 2025
Establish Low/Medium Conservation Strategies	Establish Basin Goals and Ongoing Progress →	BIP Updates 2014, 2022 2015 Water Plan Critical Actions 2023 Water Plan Robust Agriculture (2023)
Implement Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods		
Have a High Success Rate for IPPs	Implement ATM Program →	Created tools and resources for CWSAs 2017 Water Plan Grant Program 2023 Water Plan Agency Actions: 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 5.2
Implement and Assess Storage and Other Infrastructure		
Implement Reuse Strategies		

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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

THE RESULTS : Progress to Date

2013 No & Low Regrets	Additional Details	Progress to Date
2013 No & Low Regrets Actions Minimize Statewide Agricultural Acres Transferred & Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects	Support Local Implementation of IPPs →	Ongoing support through funding in the WPG, WSRF, Loans, and other CWCB programs
Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply	Update Tracking and Data Collection via the Basin Needs Decision Support System (BNDSS) →	2015 IPP Lists, CWCB funded creation of online Project Database 2022/2023, Ongoing support and maintenance of the project database by CWCB staff.
Establish Low/Medium Conservation Strategies	Optimize Funding Sources for IPPs →	Establish WPG Program 2017 Prop DD / Prop JJ Funding Initiatives Stabilize volatility in WSRF by changing the funding structure, Stimulus into WSRF (HB 21-1260), Special $17M infusion into WSRF
Implement Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods		
Have a High Success Rate for IPPs	Generate Political Support for IPPs →	The establishment of the Water Plan Grant program and funding through voter initiatives demonstrate state level support for developing water projects.
Implement and Assess Storage and Other Infrastructure		
Implement Reuse Strategies		

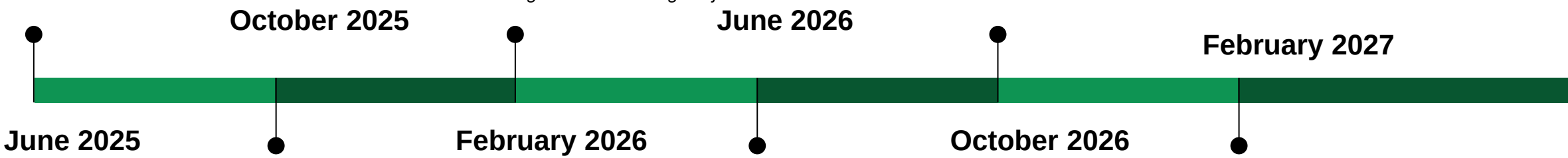
THE NEXT STEPS

Proposed work plan and calendar

NLR Action Plan Achieves IBCC Support
Rough work plan established

Protecting Colorado Agriculture
Minimize Statewide Agricultural Acres Transferred (per Basin Goals) and Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects

Fire Management & Post Wildfire Recovery
Implement Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods



Storage / Climate Scenarios
Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply

Implement and Assess Storage and Other Infrastructure

Water Conservation & Efficiency

Urban & Land Use Planning

Establish low/medium conservation strategies

Implement Reuse Strategies

Nature-Based Solutions & Natural Infrastructure
Implement Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods

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THE NEXT STEPS

Proposed work plan and calendar

Climate Adaptation Cross-Sector Innovation

June 2027

October 2027

Education and Collaboration

Additional Topics (if needed)

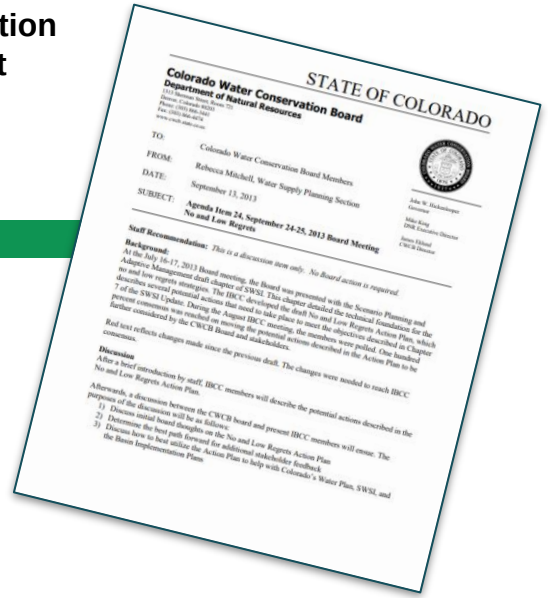
February 2028

June 2028

Review DRAFT NLR Action Plan

Finalize NLR Action Plan & Present NLR Action Plan at C9 Summit

October 2028


STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

TO:

FROM: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

DATE: September 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Rebecca Mitchell, Water Supply Planning Section

Agenda Item 24, September 24-25, 2013 Board Meeting
No and Low Regrets

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.

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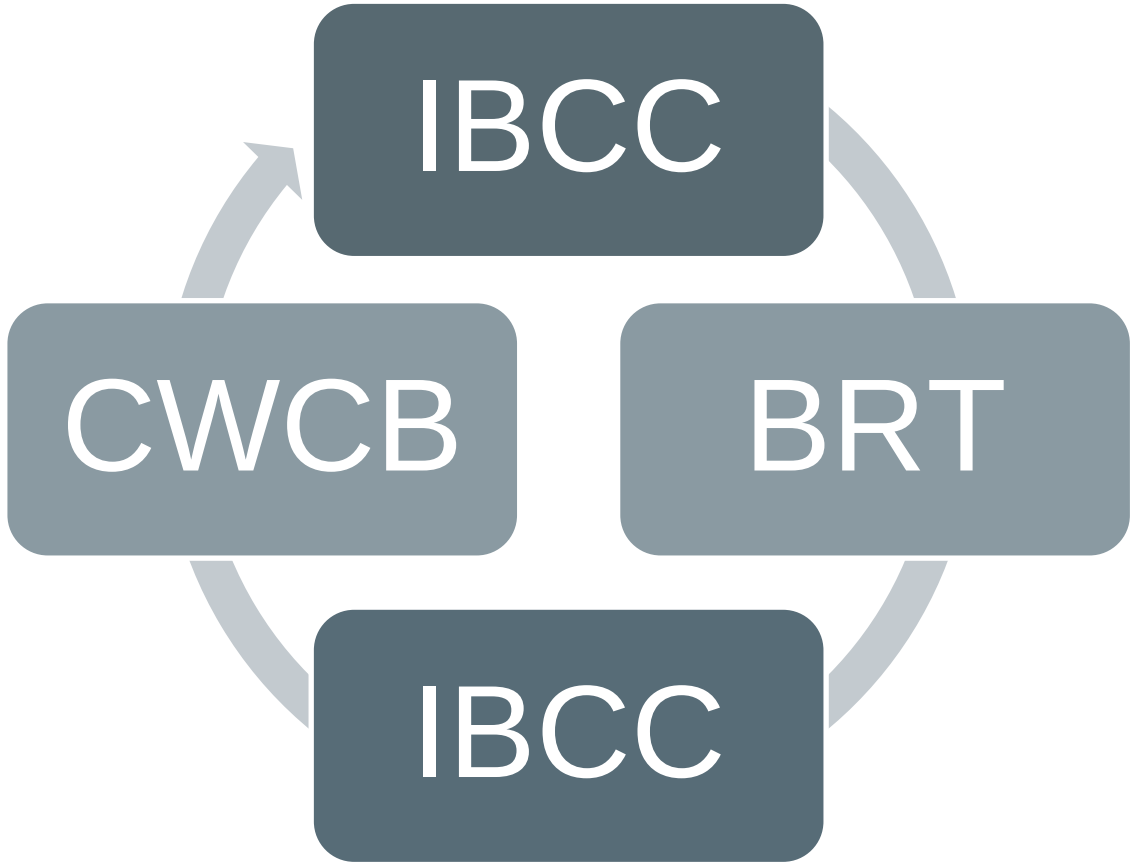
THE NEXT STEPS

- Between IBCC meetings review the next topic series with your stakeholders/roundtables.
- What opportunities and challenges do they see?
- Take IBCC work products back to roundtables for review & feedback between meetings



THE PROPOSAL

- The NLR Actions Update is a chance for IBCC to cast a vision for the next Water Plan
- This is where IBCC can have new hard conversations to revisit old NLR topics and explore new areas of interest.
- Work plan and schedule are flexible. This is a 2-3 year plan.
- Work plan topics are sequenced to inform Tech Update, BIPs and 2033 Water Plan.
- Roundtable and stakeholder information gathering and review will be expected from all IBCC members to inform the plan.
- **Is this a workable plan for the IBCC?**

THANK YOU!

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Department of Natural Resources

COLORADO
WATER PLAN

IBCC NO & LOW REGRETS
& DRAP DISCUSSION

Kelsea MacIlroy
The Langdon Group

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Department of Natural Resources

COLORADO
WATER PLAN

BREAK FOR LUNCH

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dylan Roberts, Senator, Colorado's 8th Senate District

Majority Caucus Chair, Chair of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

IBCC Member

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Department of Natural Resources

WATER POLICY AT THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE - 2025

SENATOR DYLAN ROBERTS

SENATE DISTRICT 8 –

CLEAR CREEK, EAGLE, GARFIELD, GILPIN,

GRAND, JACKSON, MOFFAT, RIO BLANCO, ROUTT,

AND SUMMIT COUNTIES

2025 QUICK STATS

- 650+ bills introduced
- Nearly 500 passed, most signed into law but 11 were vetoed
- 87% of bills passed with bipartisan support
- Major themes:
  - Cost of living - housing
  - Balancing our state budget
  - Responding to actions at the federal level
  - Education funding
  - Climate, Environment, and Water

HB25-1115
Water Supply Measurement & Forecasting Program

Sponsors: Speaker McCluskie, Representative Soper, Senator Roberts, Senator Catlin

- Creates a statewide snowpack measurement program under CWCB
- Improves water forecasting using LiDAR & satellite tech alongside SNOTEL
- Supports flood mitigation, dam safety, and long-term water planning
- Keeps tech flexibility to adapt as methods evolve
- Backed by water managers statewide; funded through CWCB water projects bill

SB25-040
Future of Severance Taxes & Water Funding Task Force

Sponsors: Senator Roberts, Senator Simpson , Representative Martinez, Representative McCormick

- Creates a task force to study the future of severance tax revenue and water project funding
- Tasked with developing recommendations for long-term, stable water funding
- Final contractor report due July 15, 2026
- Members include DNR, CWCB, Ag Dept, local officials, environmental & industry reps
- Supported by stakeholders including Farm Bureau, CML, CCAT & The Nature Conservancy
- Draft Report due back by January 15, 2026, Final Report due back by July 15, 2026

SB25-283
Funding Water Conservation Board Projects

Sponsors: Senator Roberts, Senator Simpson , Representative McCormick, Representative Soper

- Funds $69 million in statewide water projects (no General Fund impact)

- Funded by CWCB cash funds from project loan interest

- Key investments:
  - $6 million - Republican River irrigation retirement
  - $29 million - Water Plan Grants
  - $5 million - Wildfire-Ready Watersheds
  - $2 million - Yampa River restoration
  - $1.4 Million - Turf use analysis

WATER LEGISLATION IN 2025

SB25-040: **Future of Severance Taxes and Water Funding Task Force.** *Senate Sponsors- Roberts and Simpson, House Sponsors- McCormick and Martinez*

Creates a task force to investigate and recommend ideas to better fund water projects and the Colorado Water Plan.

SB25-283: **Funding Water Conservation Projects.** *Senate Sponsors- Roberts and Simpson, House Sponsors- McCormick, Soper*

Invests $67 million in state funds to water infrastructure, quality, conservation, and resiliency across the state.

HB25-1014: **Increasing Efficiency in the Division of Water Resources.** *Senate Sponsors- Roberts and Simpson, House Sponsors- Johnson and Lukens*

Streamlines internal processes of DWR to better serve the needs of Coloradans, including permitting and approving of water conservation and well drilling process.

HB25-1115: **Water Supply and Development Mapping & Planning**. *Senate Sponsors- Roberts, Catlin House Sponsors- McCluskie, Soper*

Authorizes the creation of a program to measure and compile water supply and snowpack levels and forecast the levels of water needed in the future.

HB25-1311: **Deductions for Net Sports Betting Proceeds.** *Senate Sponsors - Roberts, House Sponsors - McCluskie, Soper*

Removes the tax deduction casinos can take on their water tax for “promotional bets”. Will increase funding for water by nearly $12m/year.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

- Funding the Water Plan continues to be a priority
- Following the ongoing Colorado River negotiations
- Severance tax dollars funding alternatives
- Promoting more conservation in water use
- Monitoring past legislation for potential tweaks

QUESTIONS?

- Contact me anytime!

  E-mail: Dylan.Roberts.Senate@coleg.gov

  Contact/Follow on social media if you'd like!

  Facebook: State Senator Dylan Roberts

  X: @Dylan_RobertsCO

  Instagram: @dylanroberts_co

IBCC MEMBER PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

At the request of IBCC members, this agenda item will feature updates from the Rio Grande, Metro, and Yampa/White/Green Basins to showcase key projects, offer opportunities to share lessons, and provide strategies for successful project implementation.

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Department of Natural Resources

PLATTE REGIONAL PROJECTS UPDATE

IBCC
June 25, 2025

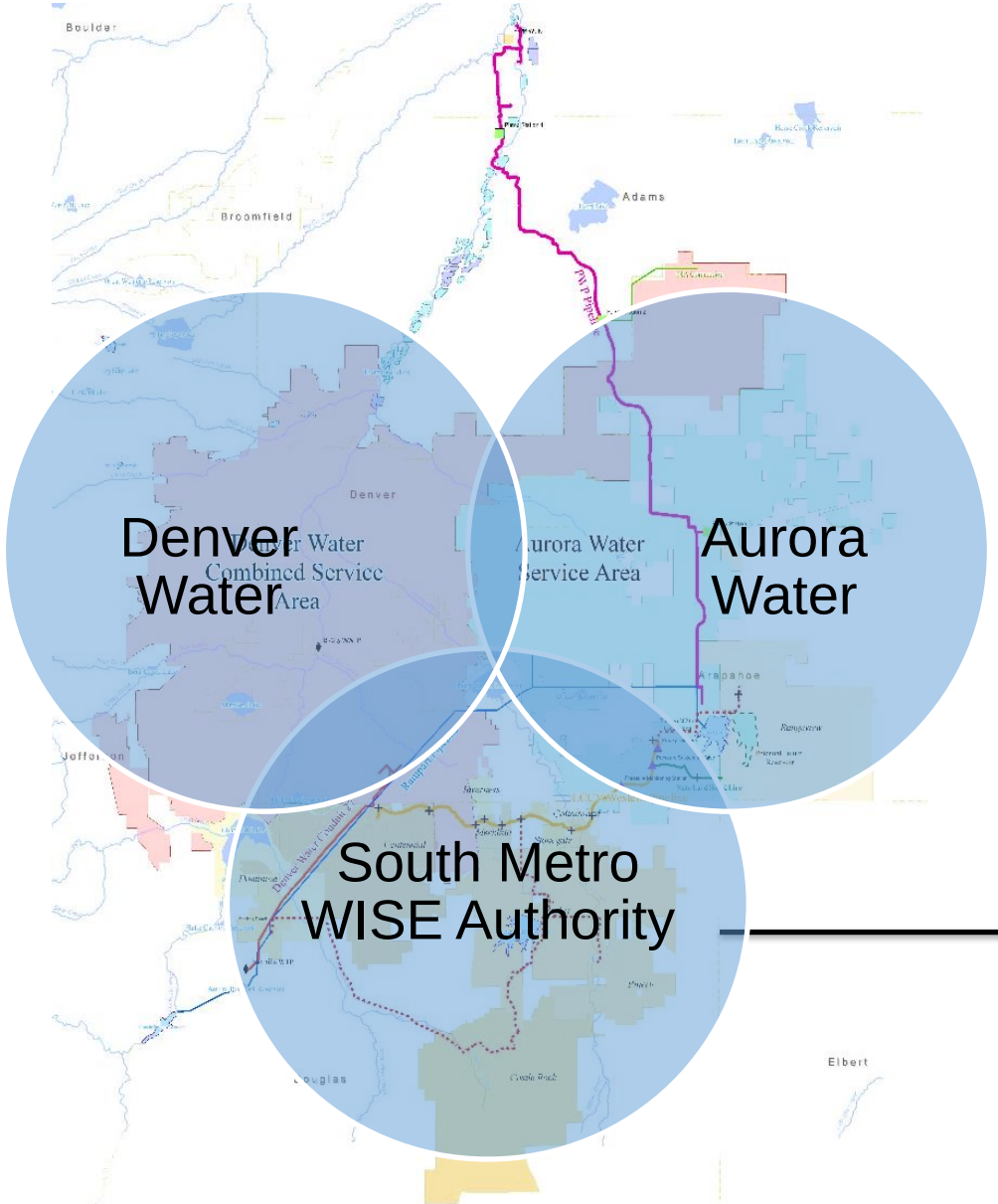
DENVER WATER

SMWSA
SOUTH METRO WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) Partnership Overview

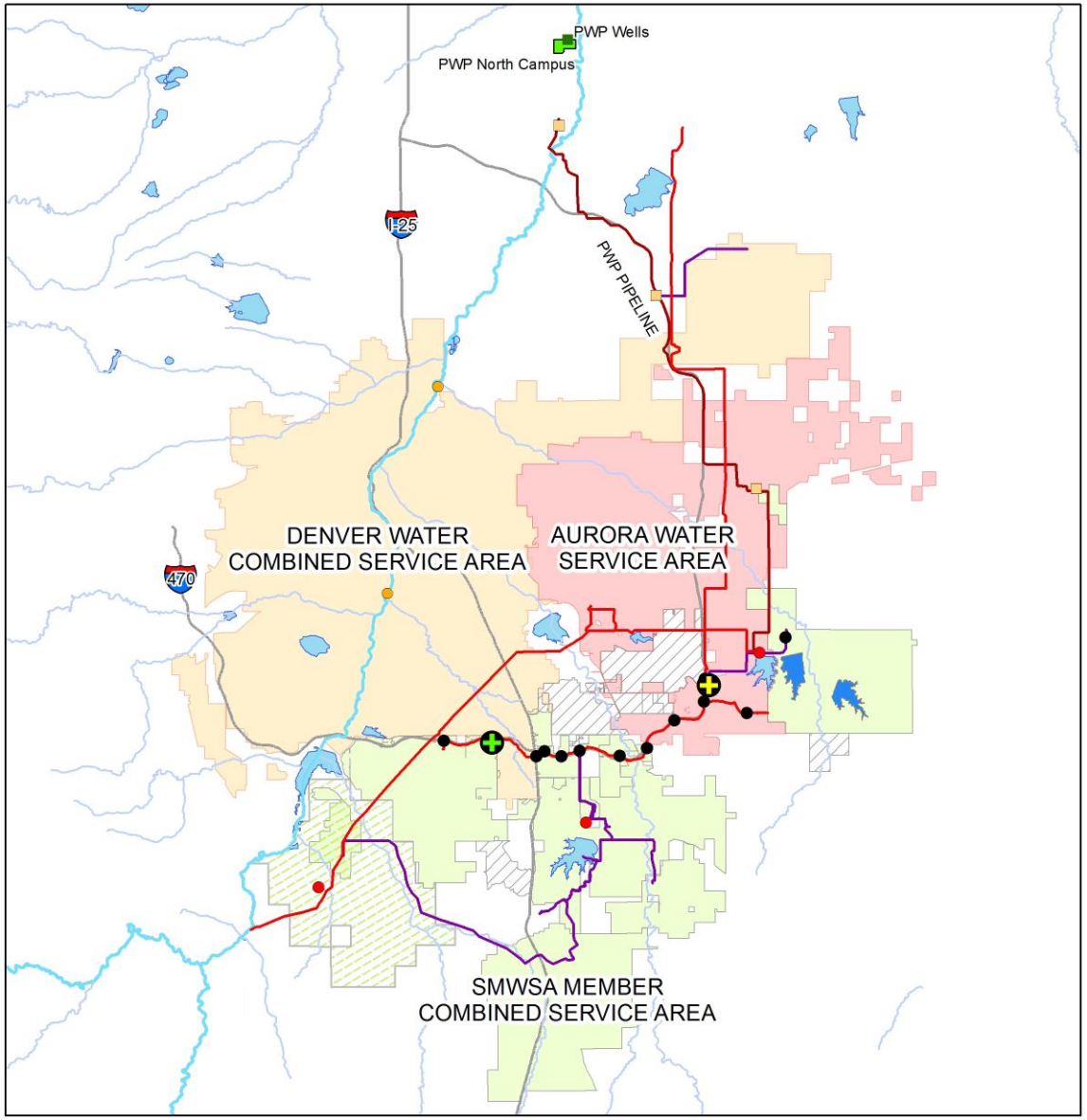
- Who's Involved
- Infrastructure and Operations
- Agreements and Key Terms
- Project Benefits
- Lessons Learned

Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency Participants



- Highlands Ranch Water
- Cottonwood Water and Sanitation
- Dominion Water and Sanitation
- Inverness Water and Sanitation
- Meridian Metropolitan District
- Parker Water and Sanitation District
- Pinery Water and Wastewater
- Rangeview Metropolitan District
- Stonegate Village Metropolitan
- Town of Castle Rock

How WISE works



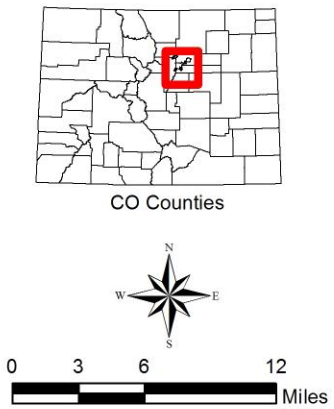
Aurora's PWP Infrastructure

↓

Denver & Aurora Water Supplies

↓

Delivery to SMWA



Uses $800 million in existing infrastructure

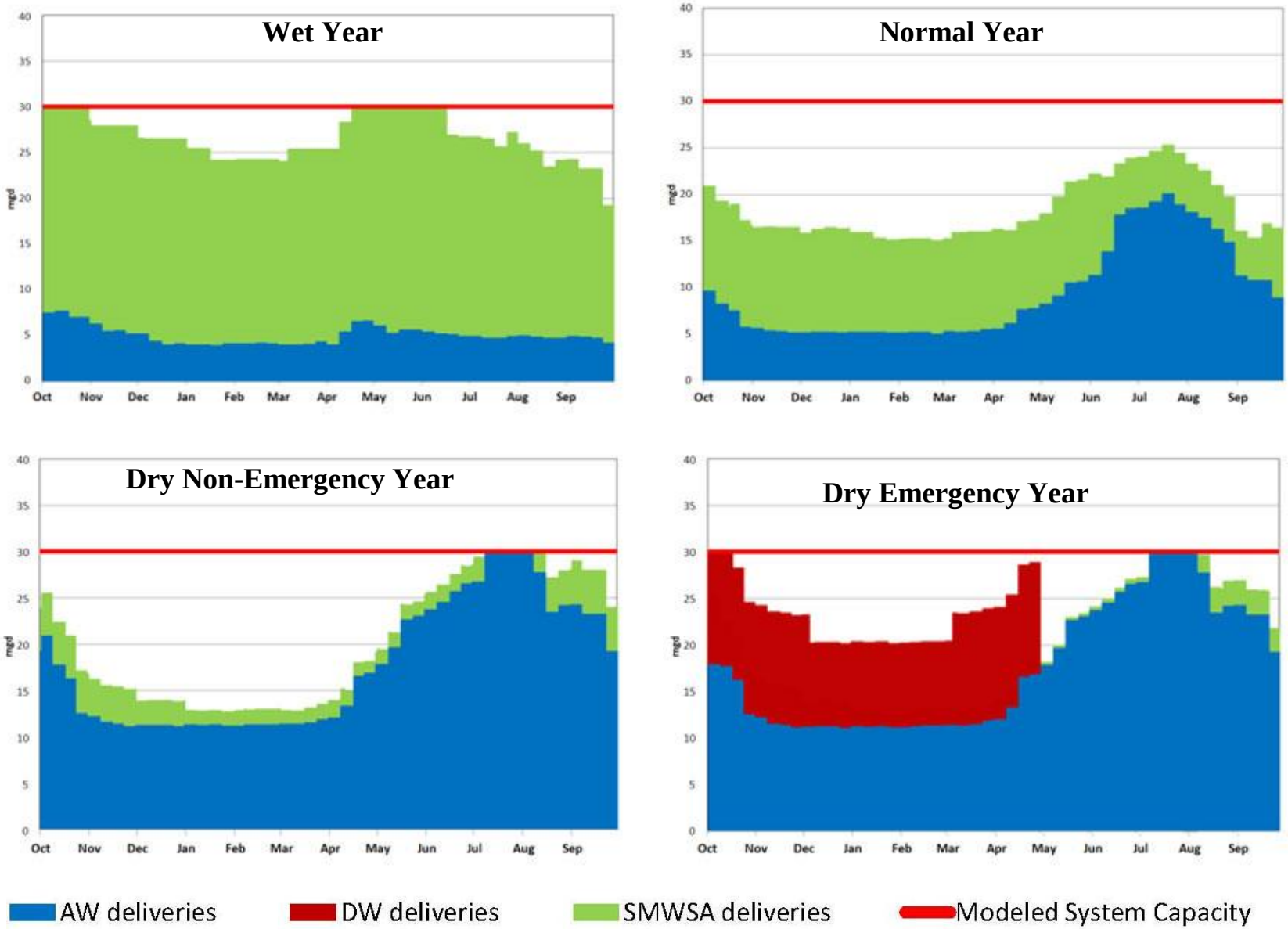
- Cost Recovery for Aurora's Investments
- Purchase of existing "Western Pipeline"

Construction of ~$150M of new infrastructure

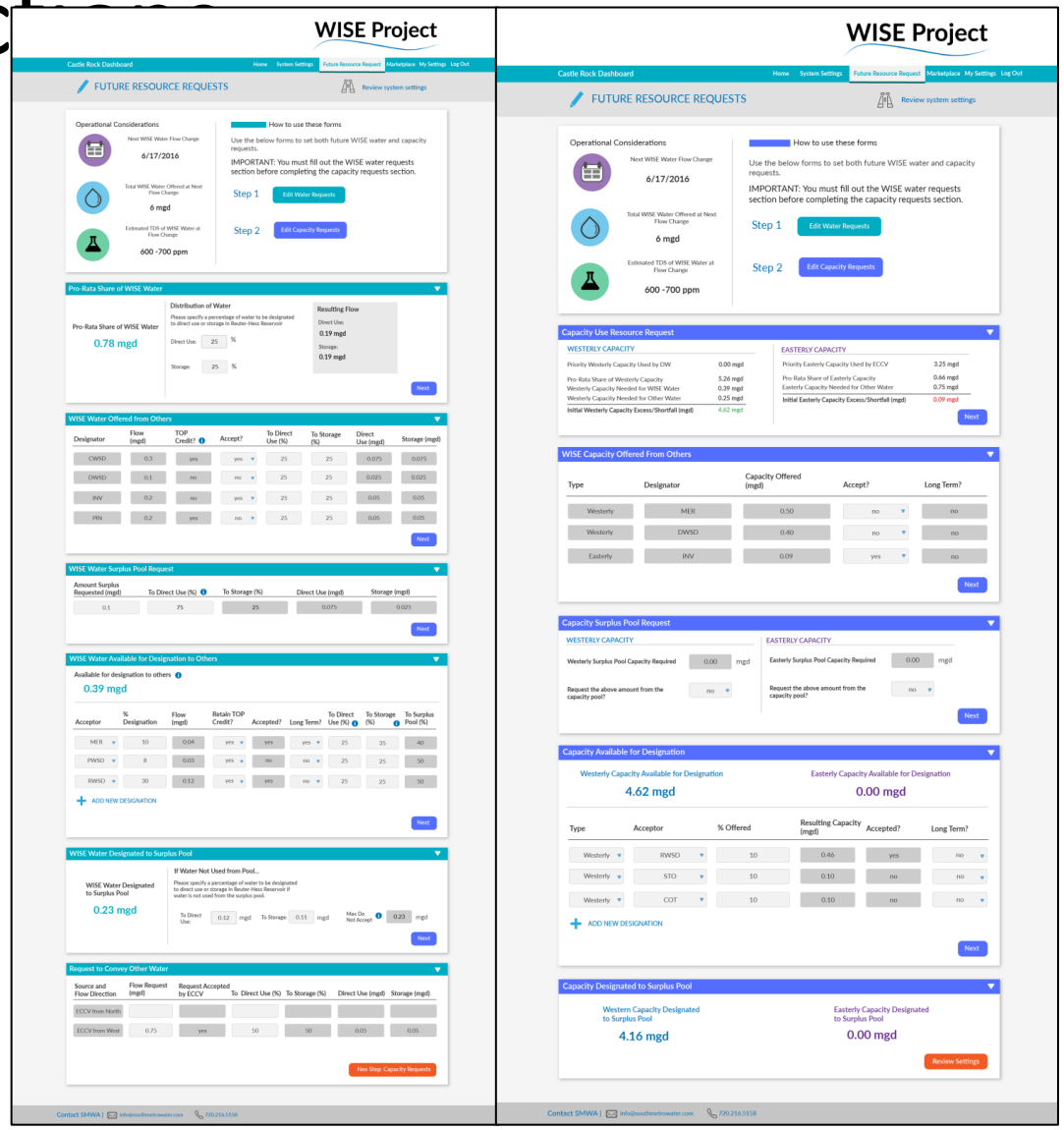
$2.5M in WSRF Grants (Supported by all 9 Roundtables)

$35M in SRF Loans

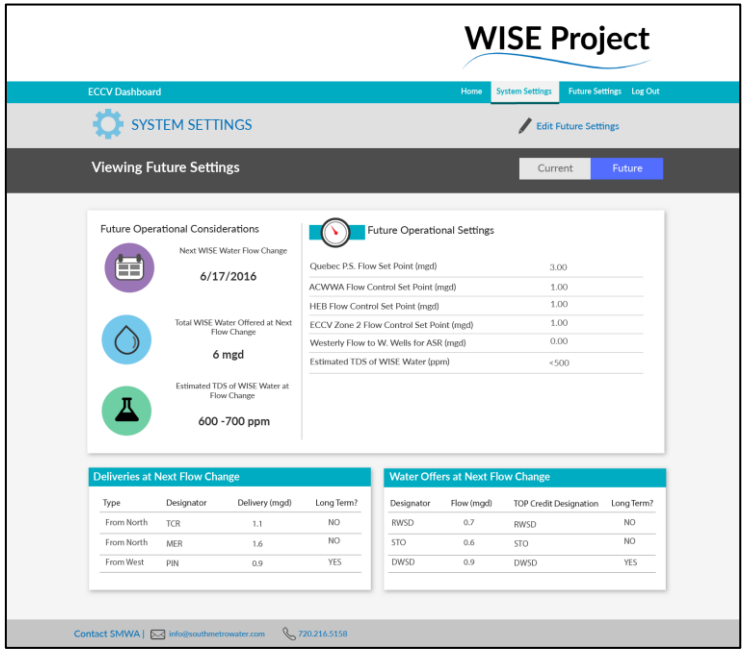
PWP Anticipated Operations



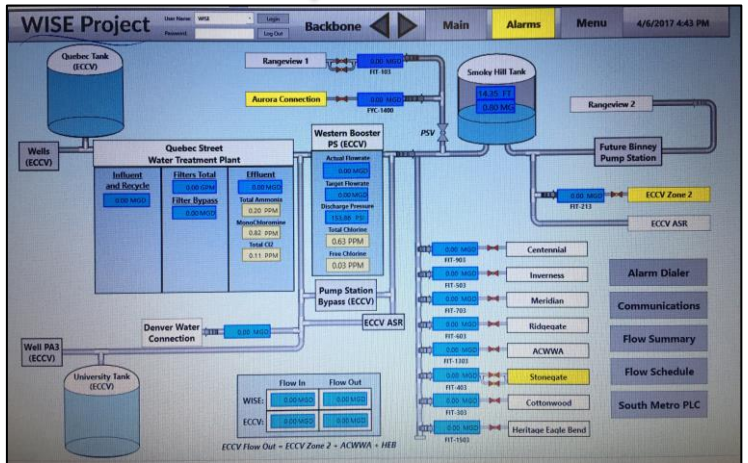
Managing 10 Connections



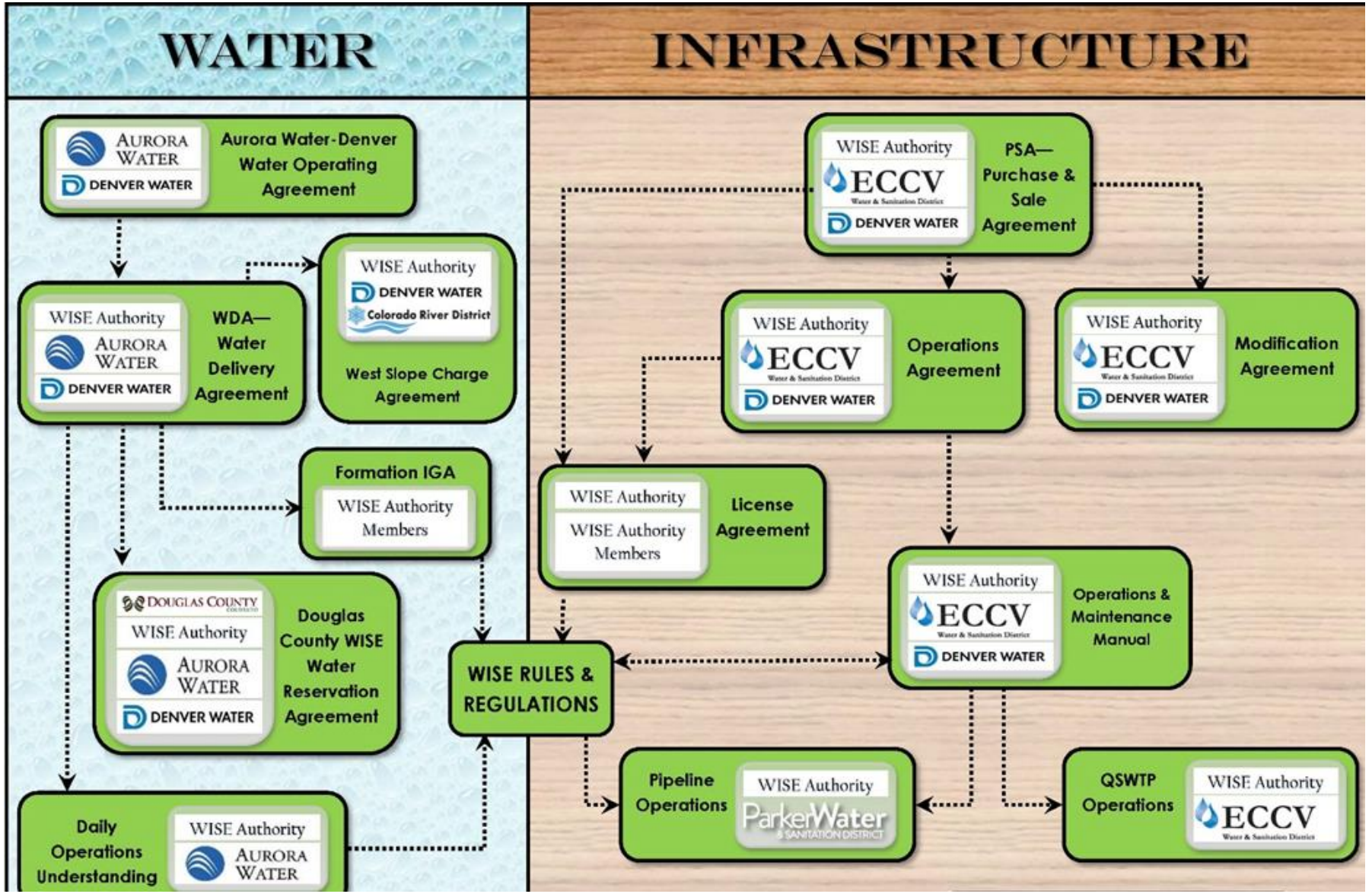
Partner Ordering Portal



Orders Entered into SCADA System



WISE AGREEMENTS



WISE Timeline

- 2007 Began Planning / Negotiations
- 2010 Aurora completes Prairie Waters Project
- 2013 WISE Water Delivery Agreement executed
- 2014-2017 WISE Infrastructure
- 2017 First WISE deliveries (ramp up schedule)
- 2020-2025 Additional infrastructure
- 2025 Full-scale deliveries begin

Key terms of WISE

- Permanent agreement, deliveries are interruptible
- Full deliveries (2025+)
  - Guarantee 100,000 acre-feet over successive 10-year periods (10,000 ac-ft/yr average)
  - Variable and interruptible (0 – 25,000 acre-feet per year, no more than 24 consecutive months without delivery)
  - Aurora and Denver agree to balance supply deliveries to the extent practicable
  - After 2030, Aurora and Denver are not required to deliver blend water
- Rates set by cost of service
  - Denver Water Outside Combined Service Area raw water rate + 50% reusability multiplier + 12.5% West Slope Charge
  - Aurora Facility Charge (operations, maintenance, capital recovery)
- Denver Water use
  - Denver Water can use ½ of Prairie Waters capacity 15 years out of 100

WISE Water Supply Benefits

- Aurora Water
  - Offset PWP costs (annual revenue of $10M)
  - Continued use of PWP for drought supply
- SMWSA
  - Renewable supply for SMWSA (100KAF/10yr)
  - Allows use of Denver Basin aquifer for drought supply
- Denver Water
  - Drought and emergency supplies for Denver
- Regional Benefits
  - Cooperation affects 2+ million people
  - Reuses supplies reducing pressure on buy-and-dry & strong support from environmental community and West Slope

Lessons learned

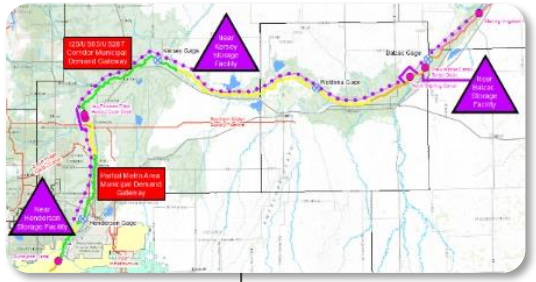
- Be careful what you ask for…….
- Get the right people involved – different areas of expertise
- Open and transparent negotiations
- No side-deals
- Understand what all parties *need* out of the agreement
- Goal is to maximize value for all parties
- Hold off on money discussions
- Stick together
- It takes time to build trust

- Develop and engage stakeholders
  - Internal and External
  - State
  - West Slope
  - Environmental and Recreation Groups
  - Agricultural Interests

South Platte Regional Opportunities Water Group

April 2015

South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SPBIP) described the original "Conceptual Future In-Basin Multipurpose Project" in Section 4.6.2



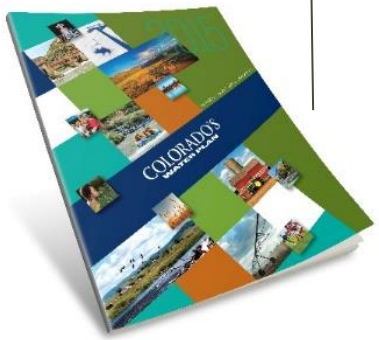
June 2015 – May 2018

South Platte Stakeholders advanced the SPBIP concept and developed the initial regional water concept

SPBIP Update Highlighted SPROWG and reinforced the need for multi-purpose projects

Apr 2020 – Jan 2022

Nov 2015



Colorado's Water Plan voiced the need for storage and collaborative projects

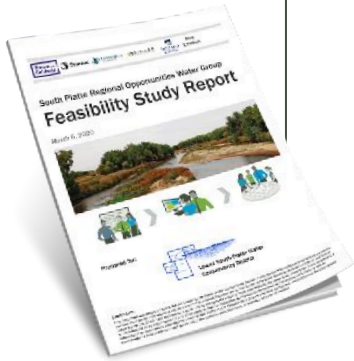
Jan 2017 – Dec 2017

South Platte Storage Study identified potential South Platte River storage projects

June 2018 – Oct 2018

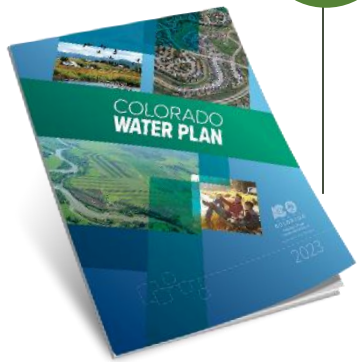
SPROWG Task Force developed scope of study and grant application for feasibility study

Mar 2019 – Mar 2020



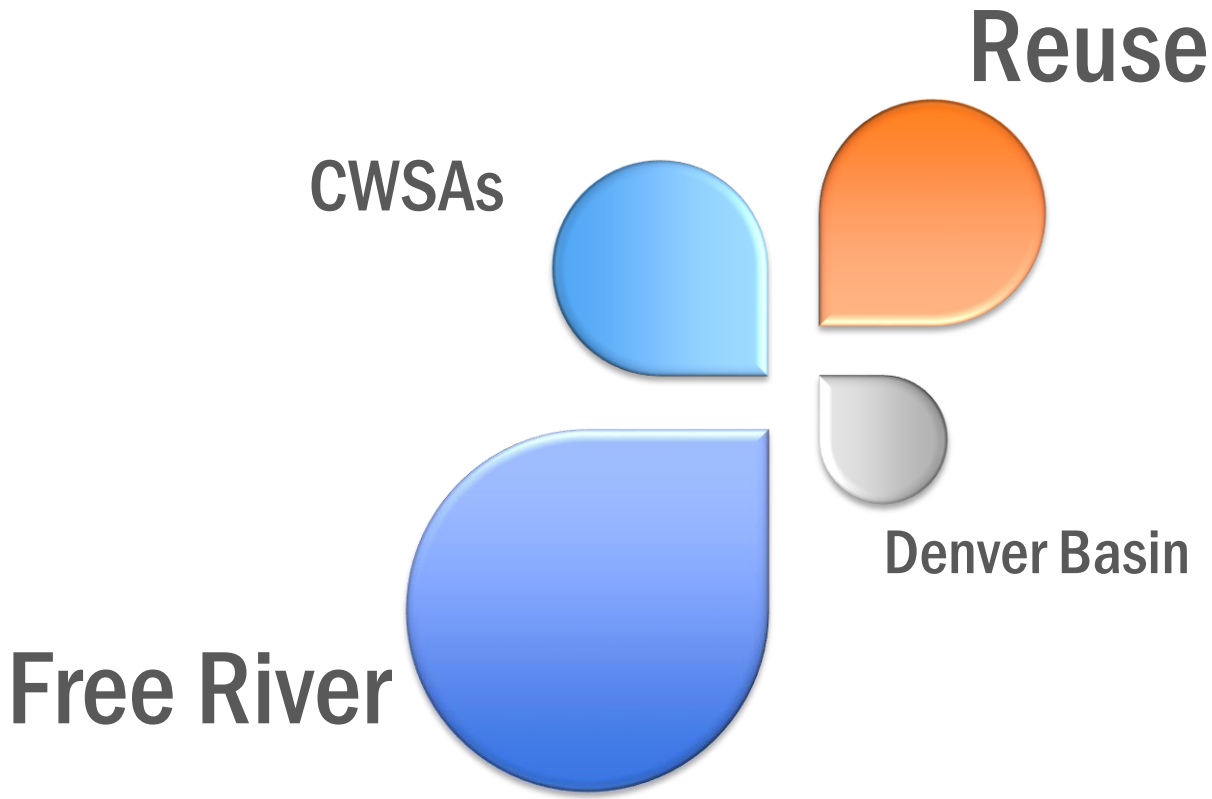
SPROWG Feasibility Study conducted outreach, explored organizational alternatives, and refined the concept

Jan 2023



Water Plan Update Water Plan update highlights need for storage and multipurpose projects

SPROWG concept would manage different sources of water conjunctively

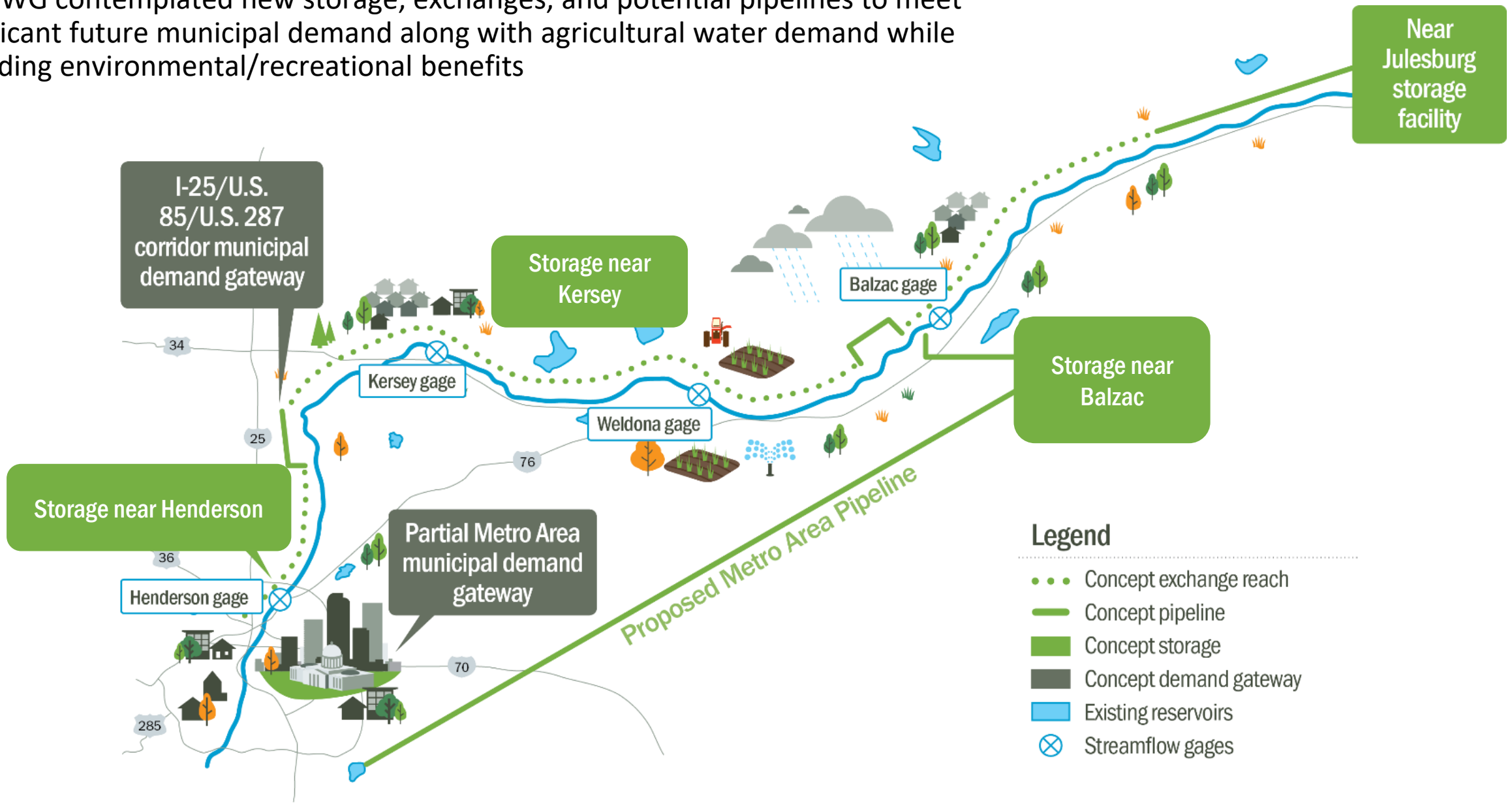


Concept Water Supplies

- **Infrastructure components provide the means to maximize use of water supplies:**
  - Utilize unappropriated supply
  - Ability to utilize CWSAs
  - Enhance exchange capacity
  - Coordinate reservoir operations

CWSA: Collaborative Water Sharing Agreement

SPROWG contemplated new storage, exchanges, and potential pipelines to meet significant future municipal demand along with agricultural water demand while providing environmental/recreational benefits



Platte Valley Water Partnership

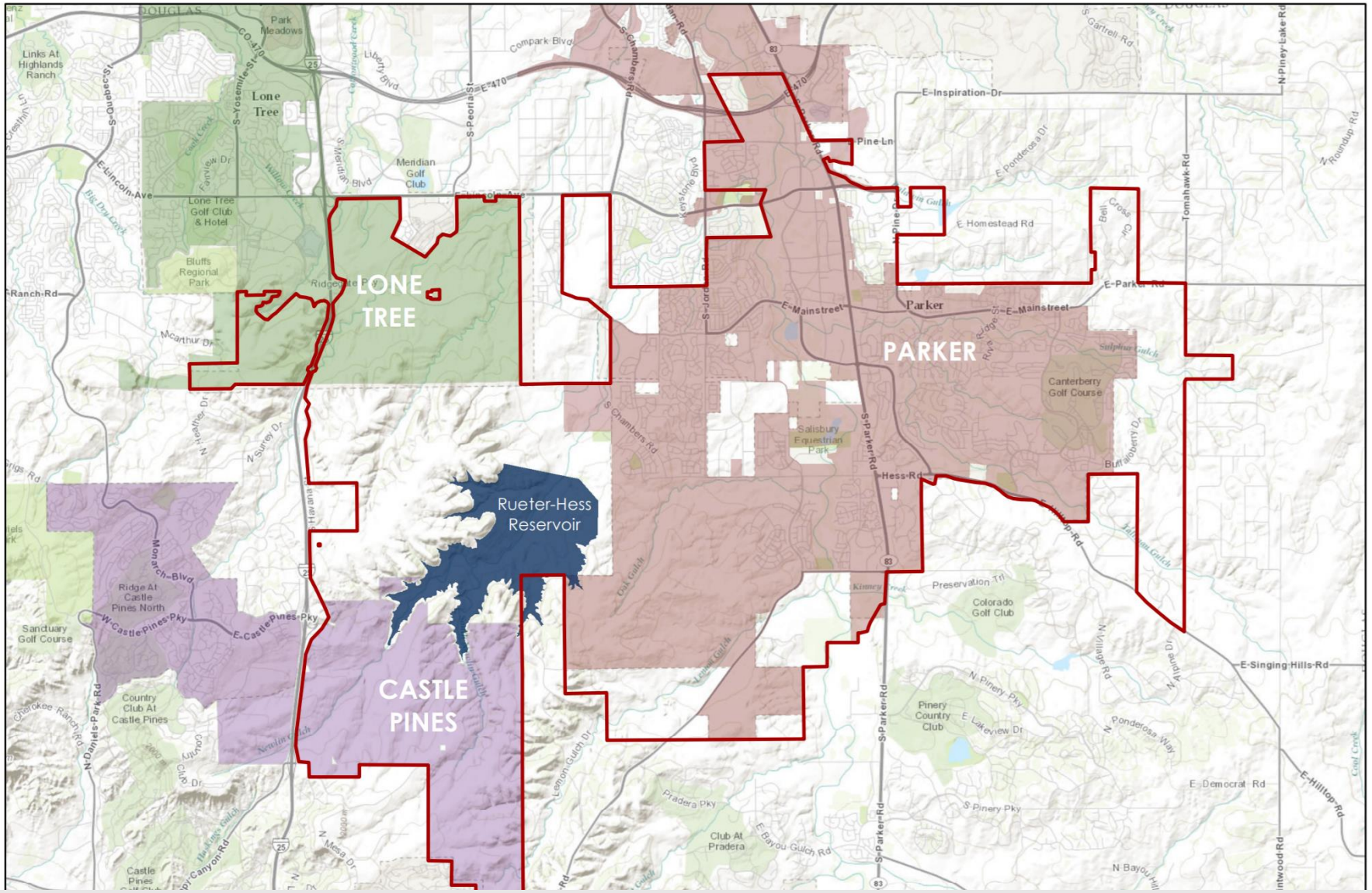
- Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
- Parker Water & Sanitation District

Current:

- 68,000+ Residents
- 44+ square miles

Build-out (2050):

- New Developments to the South and West
- 117,000-120,000 Residents

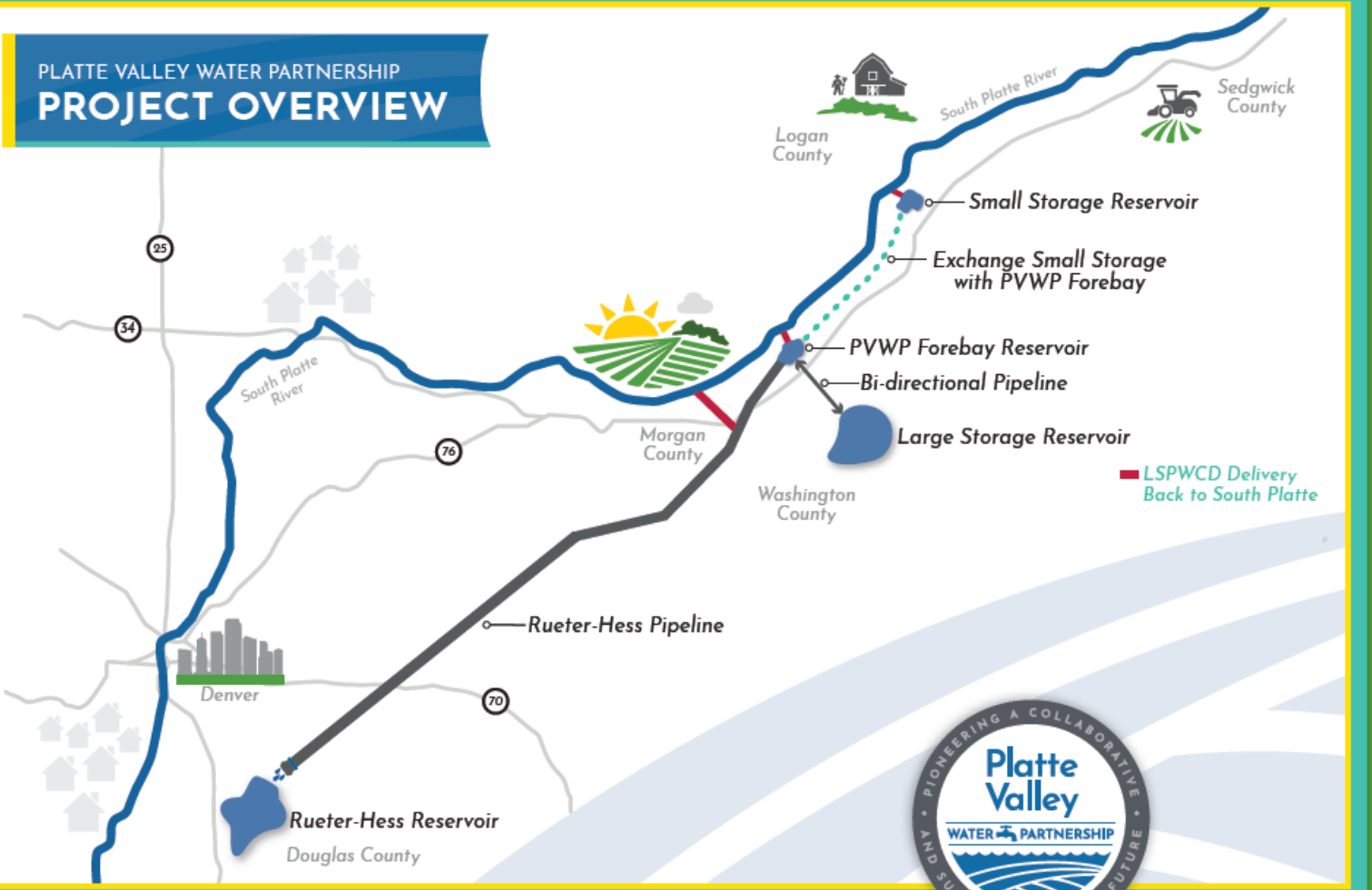


Vision: Sustaining Life for Our Community

Mission: To effectively manage our vital water resources to ensure quality and value to those we serve.

PLATTE VALLEY WATER PARTNERSHIP

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Platte Valley Water Partnership — Pioneering a Collaborative and Sustainable Water Future

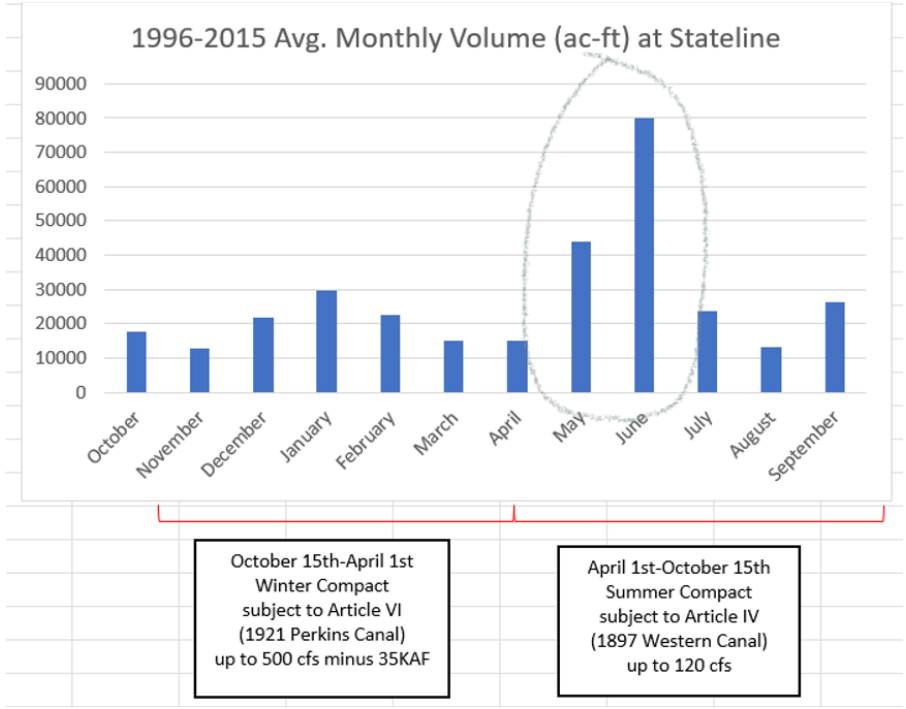
HOW PVWP WILL WORK

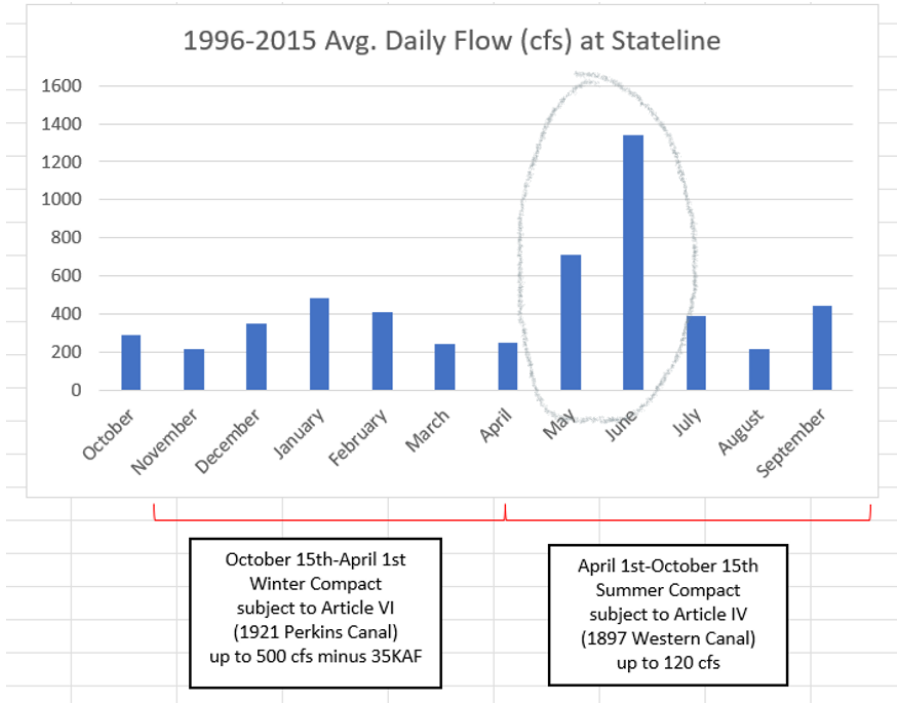
PVWP will create crucial water storage and the infrastructure to transport it. The project is currently in the planning phase, with construction anticipated to begin in the late 2030s, and water being conveyed in 2040.

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

- *Small Storage Reservoir near Illiff (up to 6,500 acre-feet)*
- *PVWP Forebay Reservoir*
- *Pipeline and infrastructure for transport to Rueter-Hess Reservoir and delivery within LSPWCD*
- *Large Storage Reservoir near Akron (up to 72,000 acre-feet)*

Is there really “excess” water?





South Platte River
Summer 2022

South Platte River
Summer 2023

Model for Future Water Development

Agricultural Perspective

- Helps NE Colorado develop water to address current and future water gaps.
- Does not allow “Buy and Dry”
- A Partner like PWSD that listens and adapts to the needs of Ag. Multiple benefits other than Ag, to include environmental, wildlife habitat and recreation.
- The variable Hydrology allows for this project to capture of newly appropriated water that was not able to be captured before.
- Municipal partners help make projects economically feasible for Ag.

Municipal Perspective

- Not just ‘do no harm’, but will provide benefits to our partners
- We’re listening to our communities.
- Setting policies to prevent activities that will harm the community
- Consistent with practices outlined in the Colorado Water Plan
- Support from diverse stakeholders including agricultural, environmental, municipal, political, and Western Slope groups.

No “Buy And Dry”

Agricultural Perspective

- Prohibition is locked into our agreements with our partners.
- Collaborative Water Sharing Agreements allow farmers or other water users to temporarily lease water through the project.
    - Infrastructure has historically been a hurdle for this.
- This project won’t stop “Buy and Dry,” but we want to be transparent up front about not allowing in this project. Water Right holders can still sell their water if they choose through a different project.

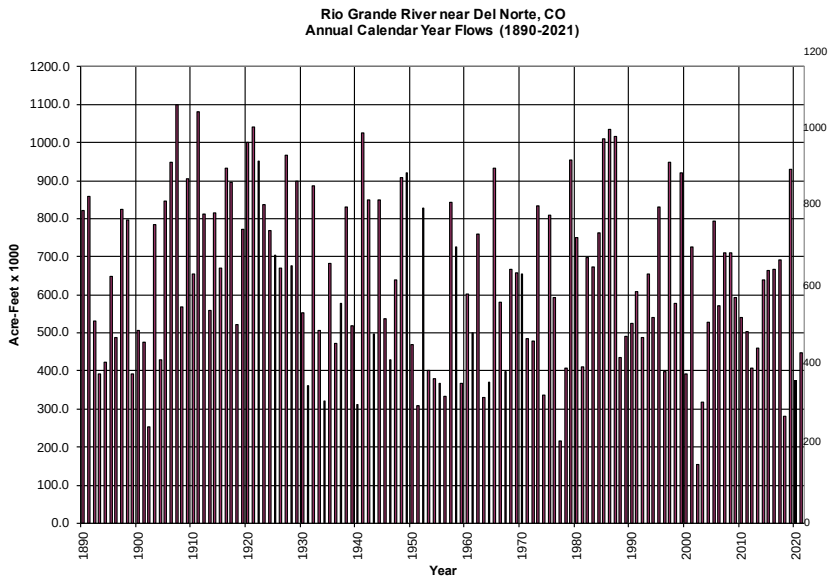
Municipal Perspective

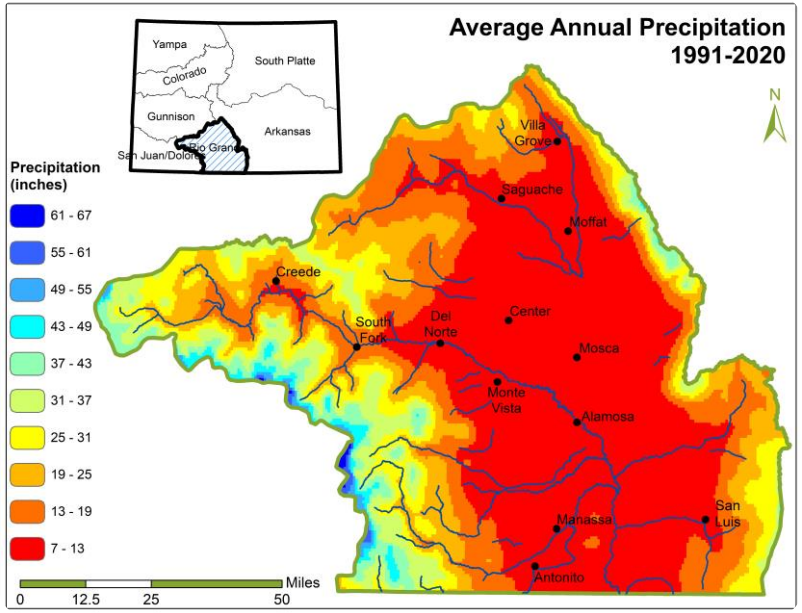
- No need to purchase any additional water.
- Parker Water & Sanitation District’s current water portfolio includes:
    - 5,000 acre-feet Senior Water Right (1883 & 1884) used for collaborative water sharing agreements (aka ATMs)
    - 9,400 acre-feet Junior Water Right (2003)
    - 20,000 acre-feet Junior Water Right (2019 – shared with LSPWCD)
    - Total of 23,900 acre-feet/year

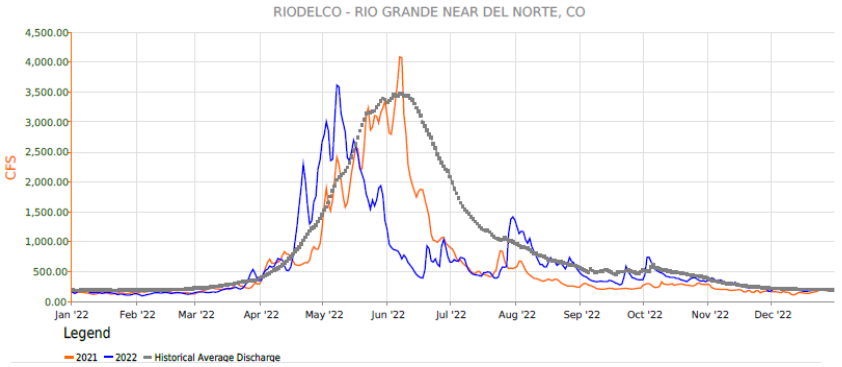
Rio Grande Project Roundup!

Heather Dutton – San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District

IBCC Meeting – June 25, 2025







2022: (73% of average)

2021: (74% of average)

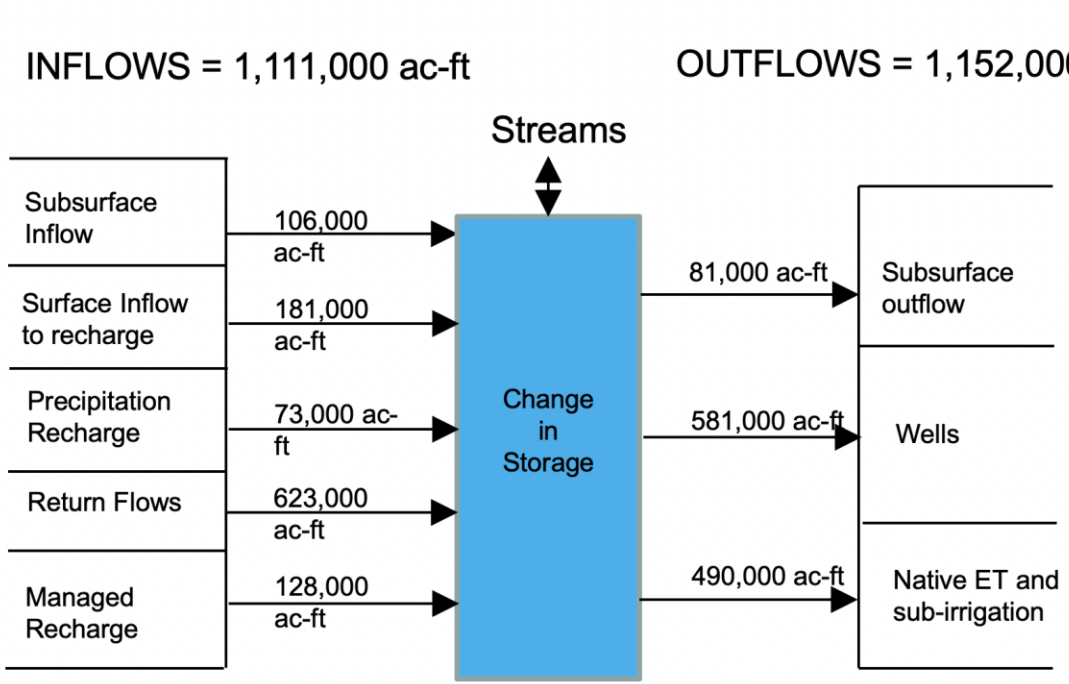
The Challenge: Water Supply Variability

The Challenge: Changing Conditions

Current Water Balance

Groundwater Modeled Results for 2011-2020

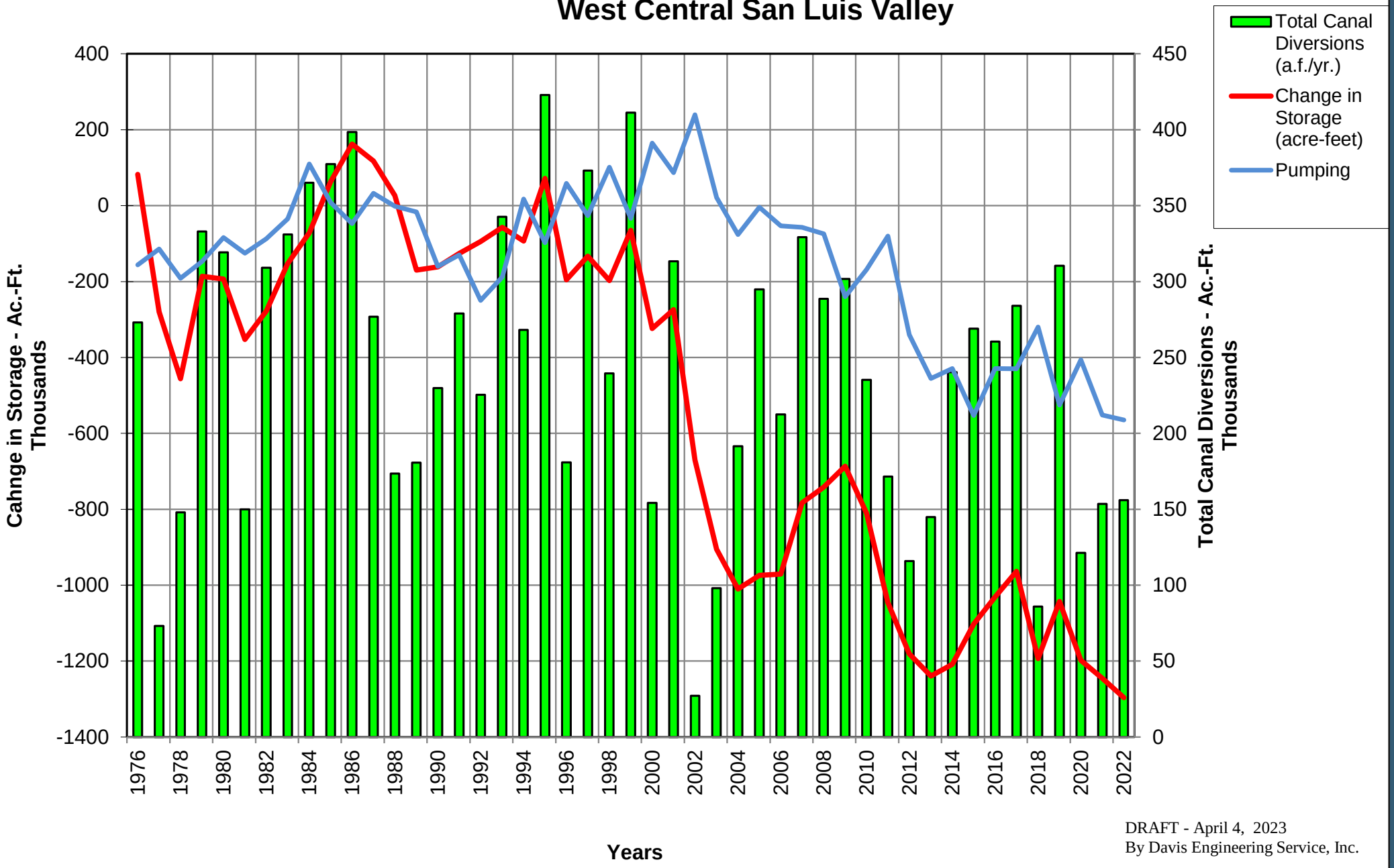
- Subsurface Inflow – San Juan, Culebra, and alluvial subsurface flows
- Surface Inflow to recharge – Net loss of surface streams to the groundwater system.
- Precipitation Recharge – Fraction of Precipitation that becomes recharge (10% on irrigated lands, 3% on non-irrigated lands, and 28% at the Sand Dunes).
- Return Flows – Canal leakage & Deep percolation from groundwater withdrawals & flowing wells.
- Managed Recharge – Recharge under recharge decrees.



- Subsurface Outflow – Along the Stateline.
- Wells – Flowing, Municipal & Industrial (M&I) Wells, and Agricultural Wells.
- Native Evapotranspiration (ET) on non-irrigated lands. ET on irrigated lands is called sub-irrigation.

Annual Average Decrease in storage of 41,000 ac-ft

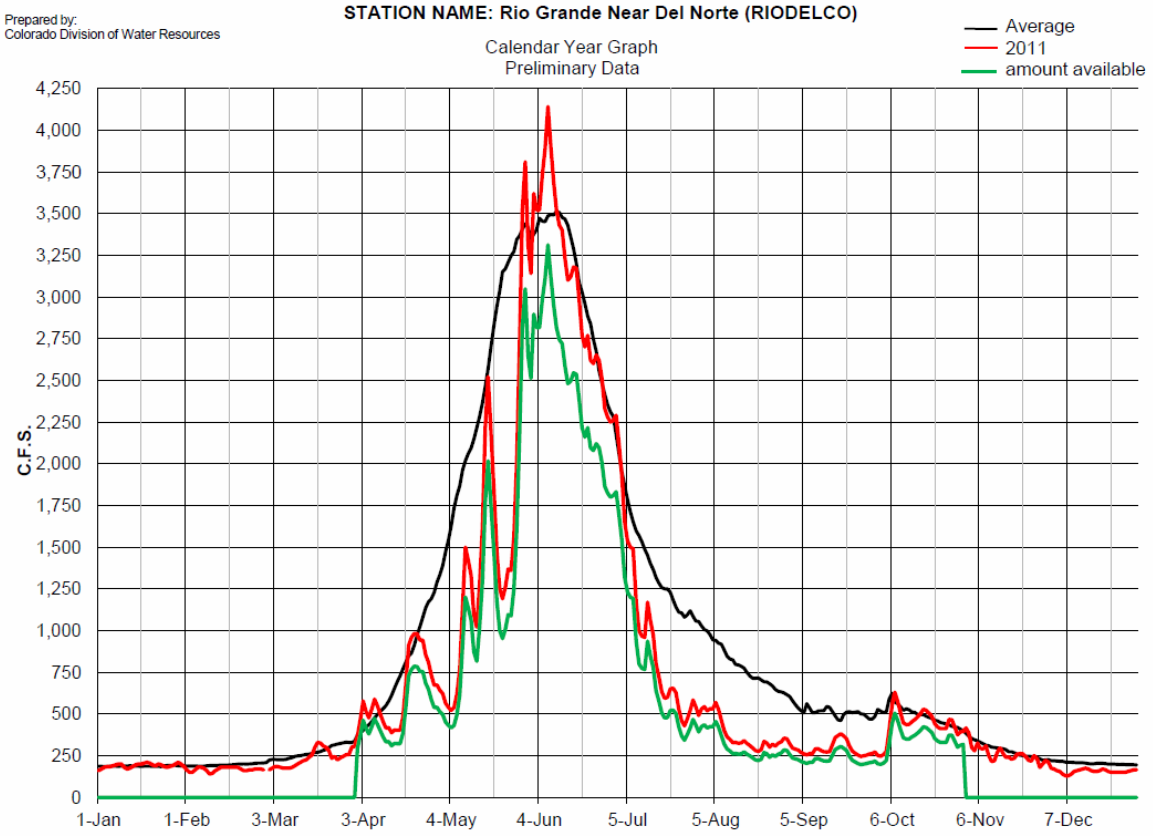
Change in Unconfined Aquifer Storage vs. Total Canal Diversions
West Central San Luis Valley

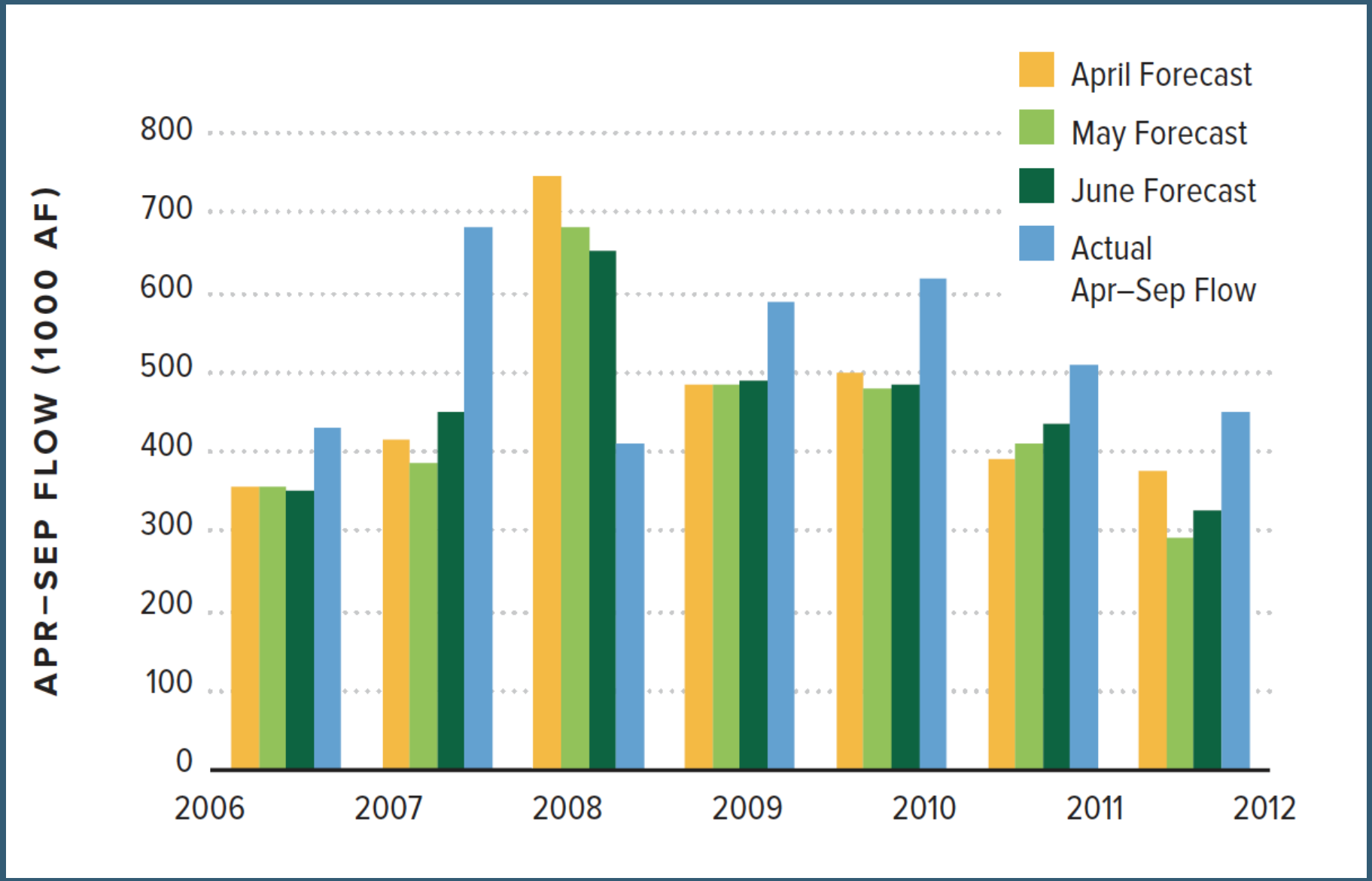


DRAFT - April 4, 2023
By Davis Engineering Service, Inc.

The Challenge: Forecasting

- In addition to the inherent variability that exists in this basin, the watershed conditions, temperatures, and precipitation patterns are rapidly changing.
- This causes challenges for water managers and users who are tasked with predicting the water supply accurately to meet Colorado's Compact obligations and maximize water use that supports agriculture, recreation, and wildlife in the San Luis Valley.



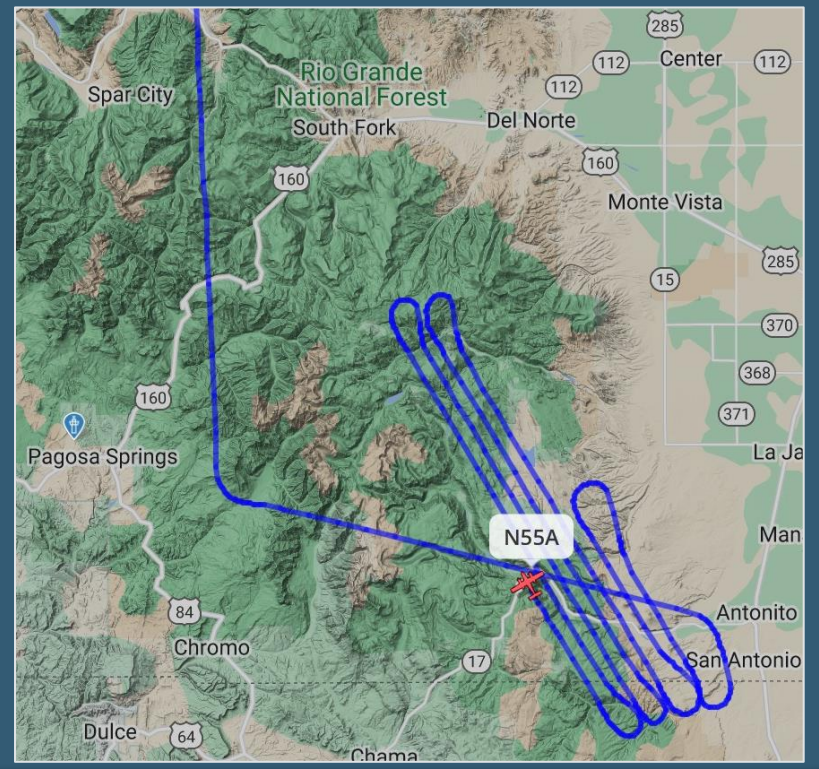

April Forecast
May Forecast
June Forecast
Actual
Apr–Sep Flow
APR–SEP FLOW (1000 AF)
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012

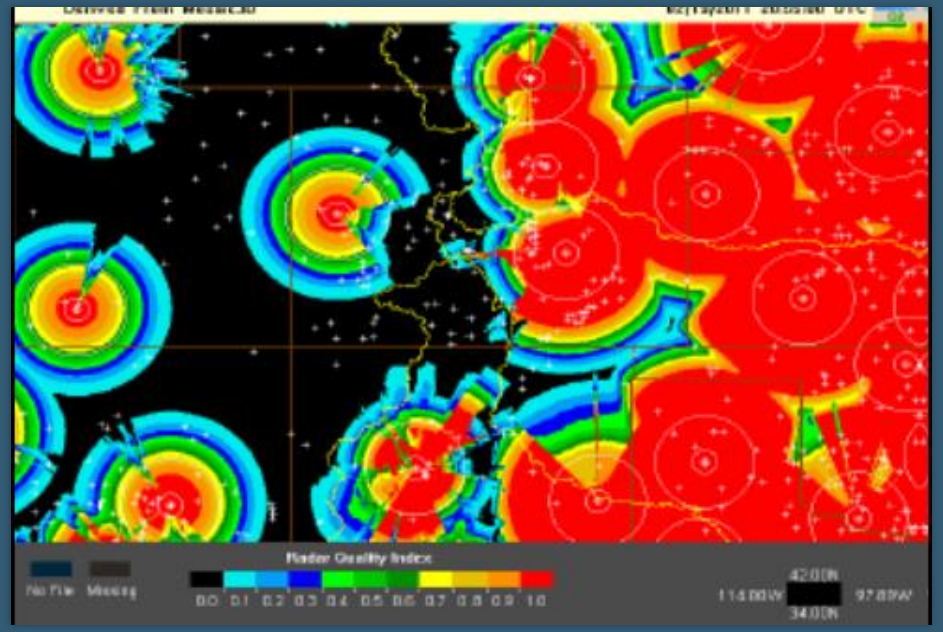
Rio Grande Snow Studies

Improve Streamflow Forecasting

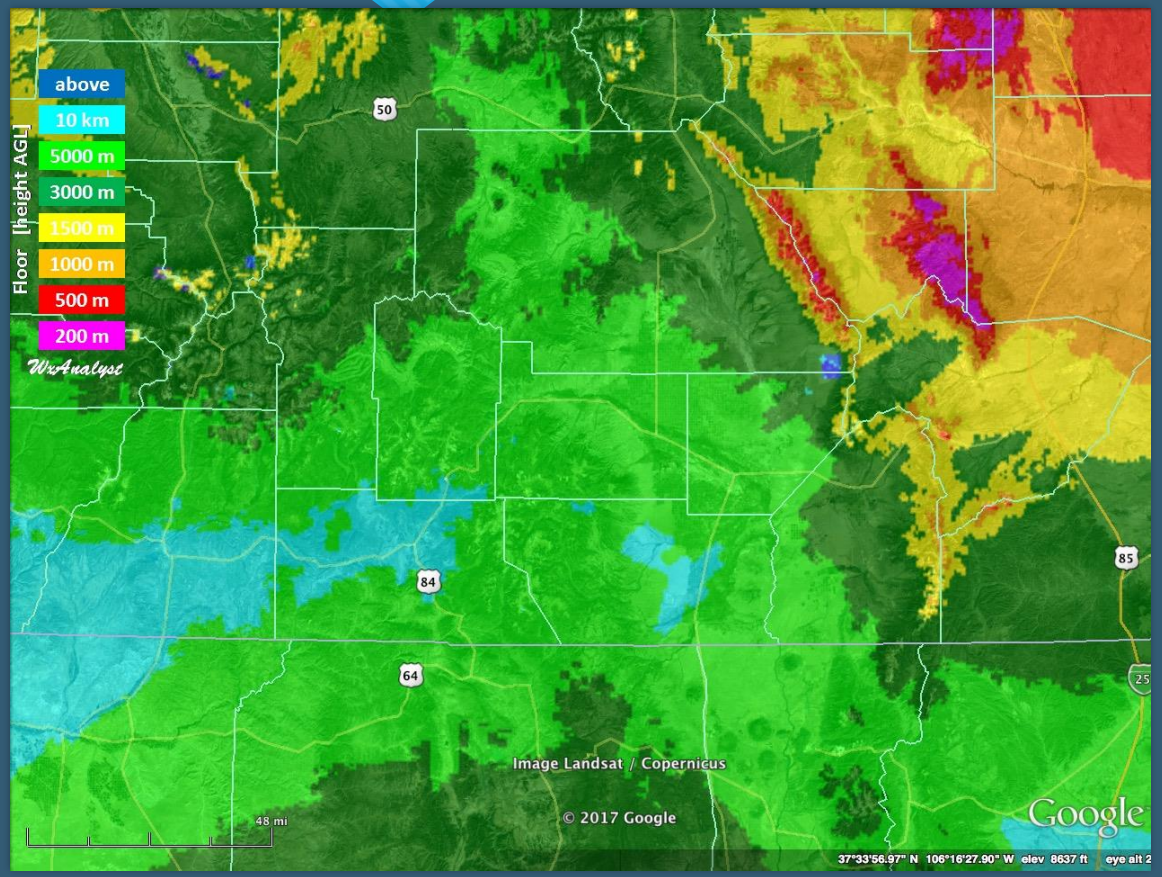
DWR, SLVWCD, RGWCD, CWCD, NRCS, CWCB, and many others are working to expand snow measurement and monitoring networks to improve streamflow forecasts.

- Streamflow forecasts are produced by models, which are simulated conditions. By improving on-the-ground measurements and using ASO, project partners have greatly improved the quantity and quality of the model inputs.
- The resulting data provides watershed-scale snowpack measurements with detail, accuracy, and decision-support value unprecedented in water management.

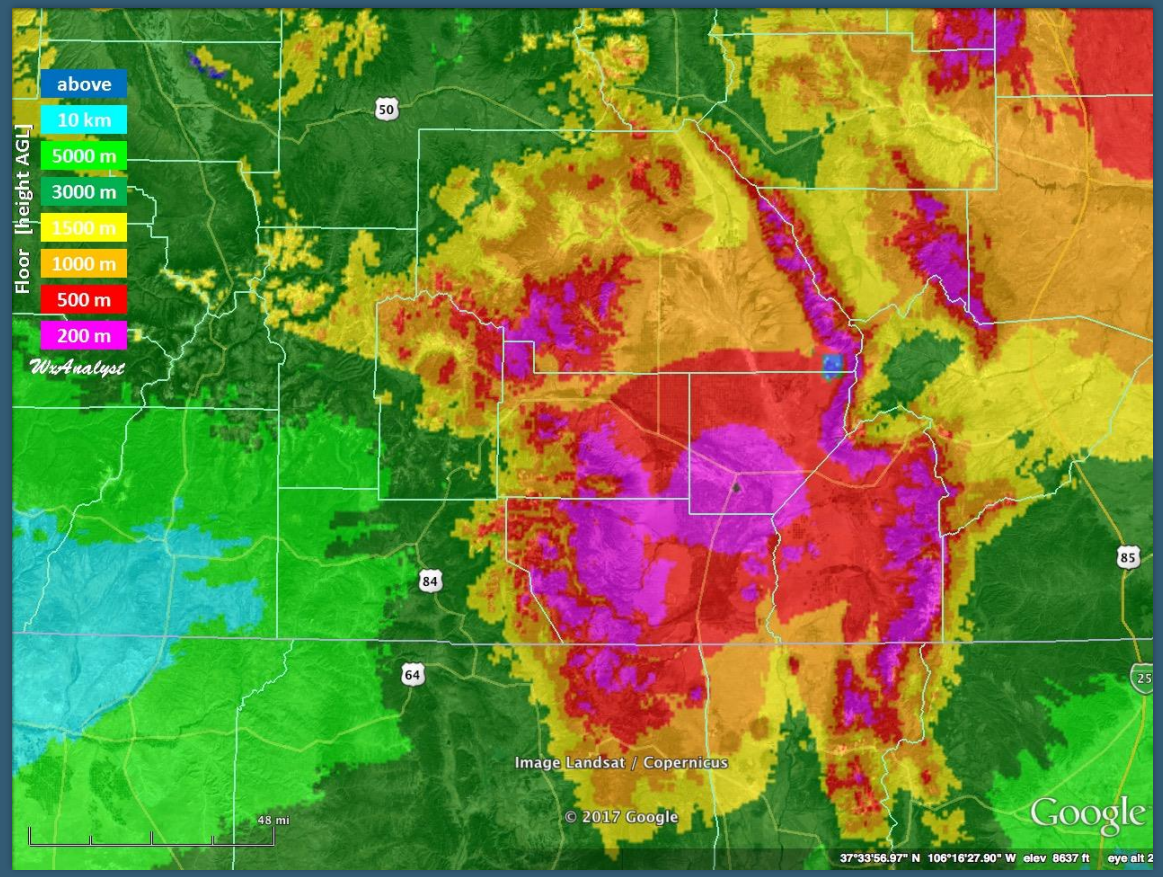




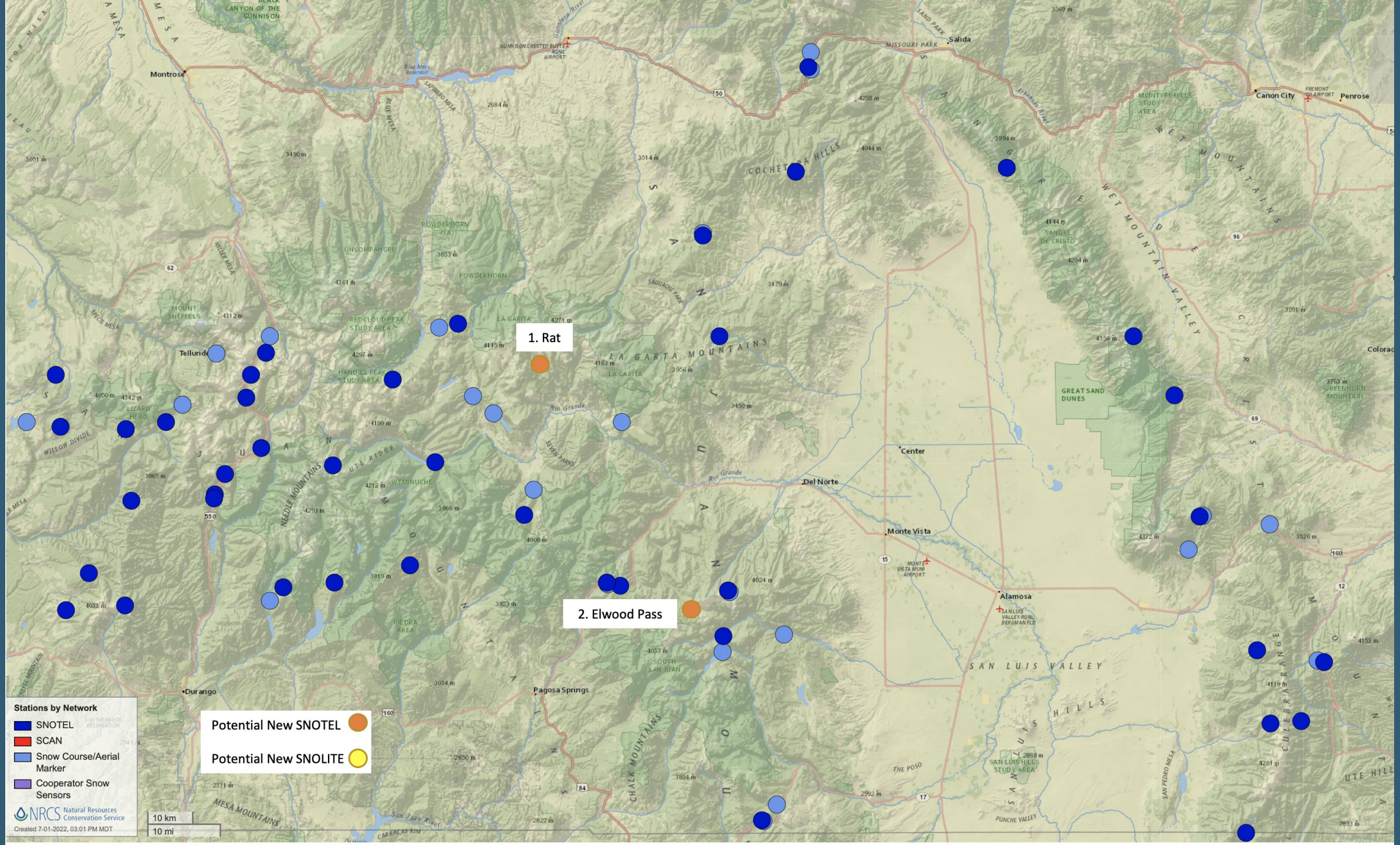
San Luis Valley Radar Coverage



Before



Now


1. Rat
2. Elwood Pass
Potential New SNOTEL
Potential New SNOLITE
Stations by Network
SNOTEL
SCAN
Snow Course/Aerial Marker
Cooperator Snow Sensors
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Created 7-01-2022, 03:01 PM MDT
10 km
10 mi
Montrose
Telluride
Durango
Pagosa Springs
Del Norte
Monte Vista
Alamosa
Center
Salida
Canon City
Penrose
SAN LUIS VALLEY
GREAT SAND DUNES
LA GARITA MOUNTAINS
SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS
SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS
WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY
SAN LUIS HILLS
CULEBRA RANGE
CHALK MOUNTAINS
NEEDLE MOUNTAINS
MESA MOUNTAINS
Rio Grande
San Juan River

Two New SNOTELs in 2024!

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Public Reports | Air & Water Database Pu

NWCC Home | Site Plots | Basin Plots | Interactive Map

Site Information & Details

SNOTEL Site: Rat Creek
State: Colorado
Site Number: 1324
County: Mineral
Latitude: 37 deg; 56 min N
Longitude: 106 deg; 59 min W
Elevation: 11680 feet
Reporting since: 2024-08-26

Questions about this site.

View Daily Sensor Descriptions
View Hourly Sensor Descriptions
View Sensor History

Site Reports:

Report Type
Standard Sensors† (*Most Current Data*)
Precipitation, Accumulated
Snow Depth
Snow Water Equivalent
Temperature
Soil Moisture/Temperature

Shaw Reservoir Rehabilitation

Our Mission:

To restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado for improved water quality, agricultural water use, riparian health, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, recreation and community safety while meeting the Rio Grande Compact.

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

Rye Resurgence Project

Build the Market for San Luis Valley Rye to Reduce Water Use and Keep Farmers Farming!

Project Goal: Increase resiliency of agriculture in the San Luis Valley by helping farmers reduce water consumption, restore sustainable aquifers, and improve soil health while becoming more resilient climate change.

Project Objectives:

- Provide opportunities for farmers to grow low water crops by developing a robust market for San Luis Valley rye within Colorado's distilling and baking communities.
- Reduce erosion and improve soil health by incentivizing winter cover crop growth followed by incorporating the crop into the soil as green manure or with livestock grazing.
- Reduce water use and improve groundwater sustainability by limiting the cover crop and rye production to the surface water recharged in the aquifer by the farmers.

Seed to Bottle

A WHISKEY RELEASE PARTY FOR 1874'S SAN LUIS VALLEY 3 GRAIN WHISKEY

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE RYE RESURGENCE PROJECT

Come celebrate the making of this 3-grain whiskey from seed to bottle and the community of farmers, maltsters, water advocates, distillers and land stewards that made it possible!

November 16, 2024

645 GRAND AVE, DEL NORTE FROM 4-9 P.M.

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, DISTILLERY TOURS, CRAFT COCKTAILS, LOCAL FOOD, & CONVERSATION!

RSVP AT RYERESURGENCE.COM

128 3 16

Liked by **jonesfarmsorganics1925** and **others**

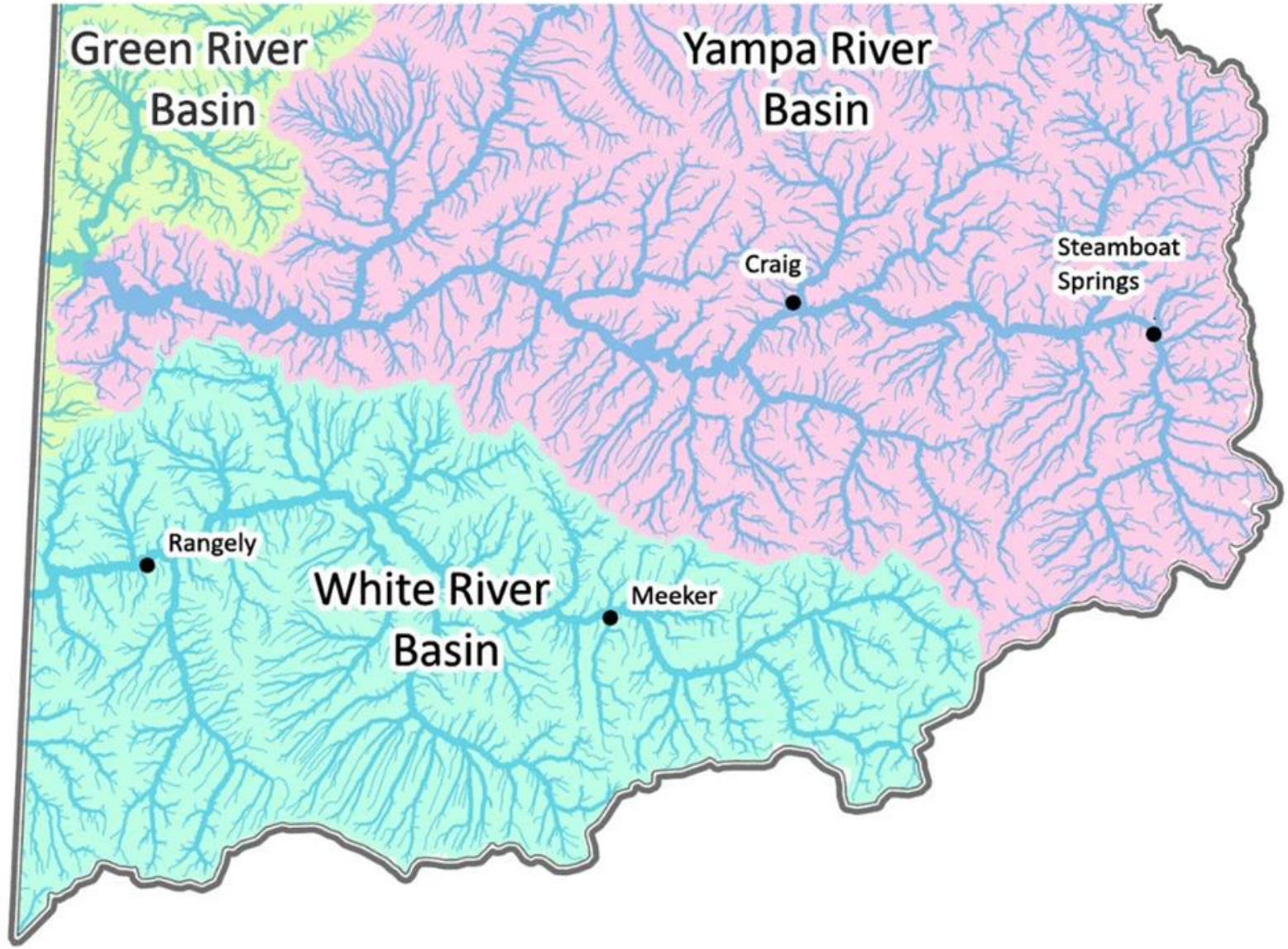
moxiebread_lyons We're so excited to continue supporting the @ryeresurgence project 🌾 We are currently carrying Elbon Rye, grown by Brownell Farms in Hooper, CO. We use their Rye in our chocolate chunk cookies, a small amount in our Mission Sourdough loaf, and of course - in our delicious seeded dark rye!

We hope to bring in more varieties and farms from the San Luis Valley in continued support of this project. Stay tuned :)

Questions or Discussion?

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable

Chair: Stephen Hinkemeyer, Moffat County Municipality Representative
Yampa VP: Ken Brenner, Garfield County Representative



YAMPATIKA

"Inspiring Environmental Stewardship
Through Education"

Water Education in the Yampa/White/Green Basin

YWG BRT PEPO Committee Goals

	PEPO Goals	Yampatika Role
Goal 1	Works to develop and implement an Education Action Plan that facilitates educational opportunities about Colorado and YWG Basin water challenges.	Help to implement the Education Action Plan by bringing water education into the six school districts in the 3 counties that is free, science-based, place-based, experiential learning for grades PreK-12.
Goal 2	Facilitate discussions on water issues, encourage locally driven collaborative solutions, increase collaborations and partnerships with other YWG basin organizations that wish to promote water education.	Partner with partner agencies/organizations on Speakers Bureau, field trips, and events. Design curriculum that explores these topics.
Goal 3	Encourages YWG Round Table members to actively participate with the Education sub-committee, raise public awareness of YWG Roundtable activities, the YWG Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and the Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) information campaign.	Teaching water education lessons that cover topics such as water stakeholders, infrastructure, hydrology, water quality, agriculture, the CO River Compact, drought resiliency, etc. - topics which all relate to the BIP & CO Water Plan.
Goal 4	Plans, implements and facilitates a series of Water Education Forums/Workshops in Craig, Meeker, Rangely and Steamboat.	Participate in water events such as Yampa Basin Rendezous, Meeker Ag Days, Friends of the Yampa River Fest, Craig River Fest, etc…

Yampatika Partnership with YWG BRT

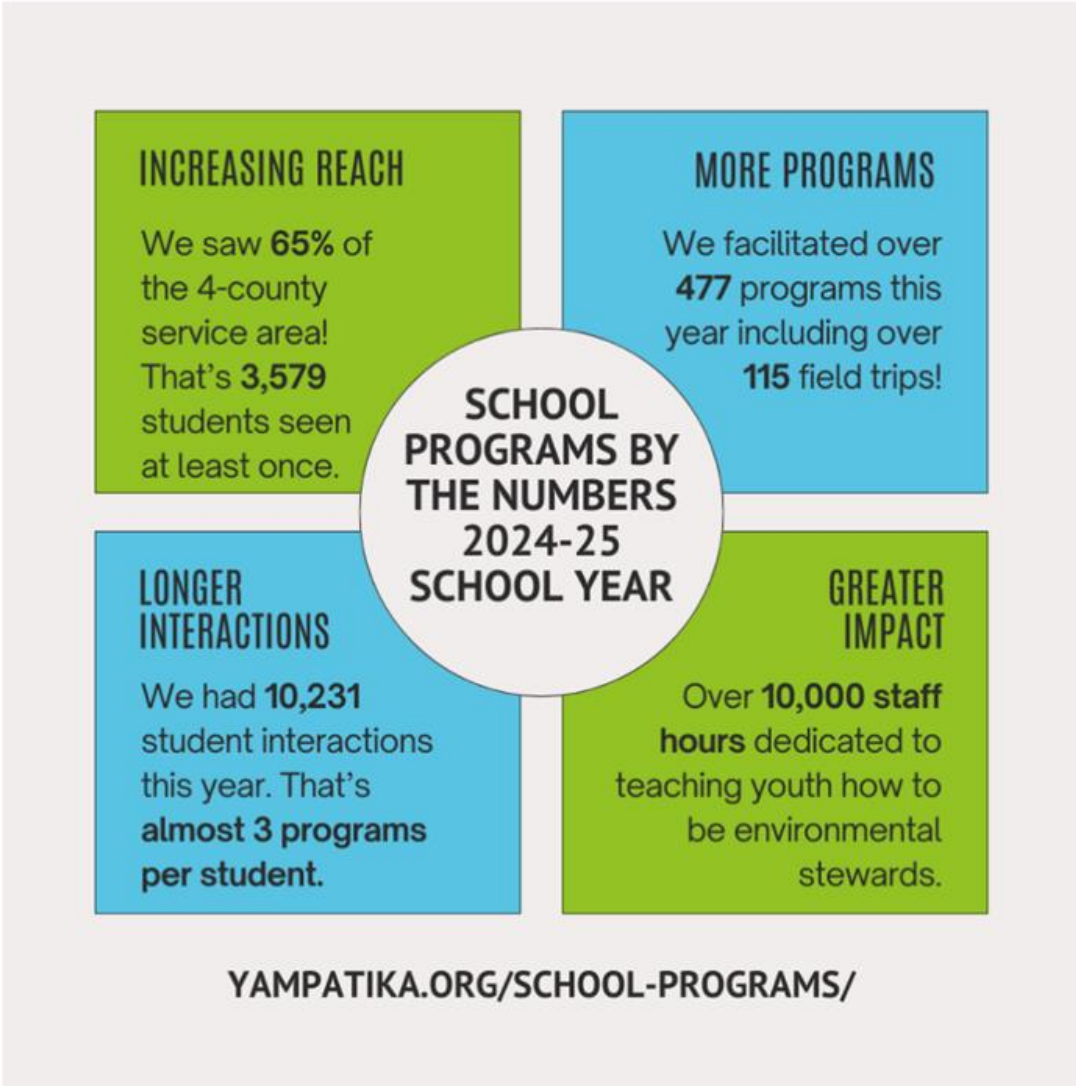
Yampatika's Role

- Yampatika is an implementing partner of the YWG BRT Public Education, Participation and Outreach.
- Funded by grants from the Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable to provide youth and community water education and the Colorado Water Plan.

Scope of 2025 – 2027 Grant

- Provide free, interactive lessons for all grades PreK-12 with curriculum alignment to the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards
- Hire a Craig/Meeker–based part-time educator to grow presence and programming in the White River Basin.
- Expand partnerships to reach more youth and enhance programming.
- Provide work-based learning opportunities for HS students e.g. internships, apprenticeships.
- Increase community awareness about river health and water supply and quality through fun and engaging activities and events.

The Impact of Yampatika's Youth Water Education



YAMPATIKA

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable

Yampatika Water Education Partners

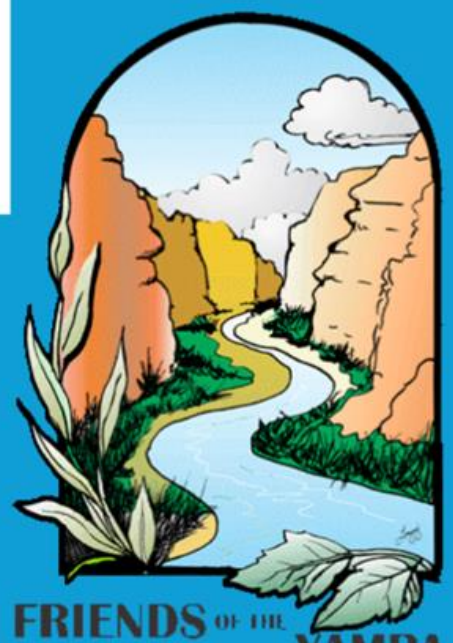
YAMPATIKA

City of Steamboat Springs

RMYC
ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS

WHITE RIVER MUSEUM
MEEKER, COLORADO

RIO BLANCO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



COLORADO PARKS WILDLIFE

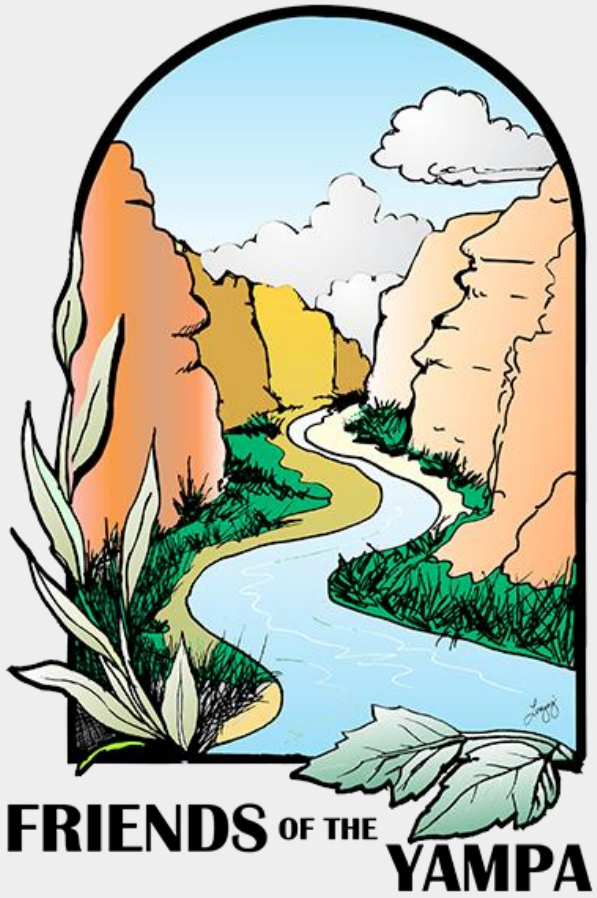
UPPER YAMPA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Moffat County Cattlewomen

Museum of Northwest Colorado
DOWNTOWN CRAIG

RiversEdge West
RESTORE + CONNECT + INNOVATE

EXPERIENCE THE WILD WEST 2024
MEEKER MUSTANG MAKEOVER



Friends of the Yampa's mission is to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries through education, stewardship, partnerships, and advocacy.


YAMPA RIVER
SCORECARD
PROJECT
YAMPASCORECARD.OR

IWMP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS & STRATEGIES

8

Utilize the Yampa River Scorecard Project to centralize collection & reporting of river ecosystem data:

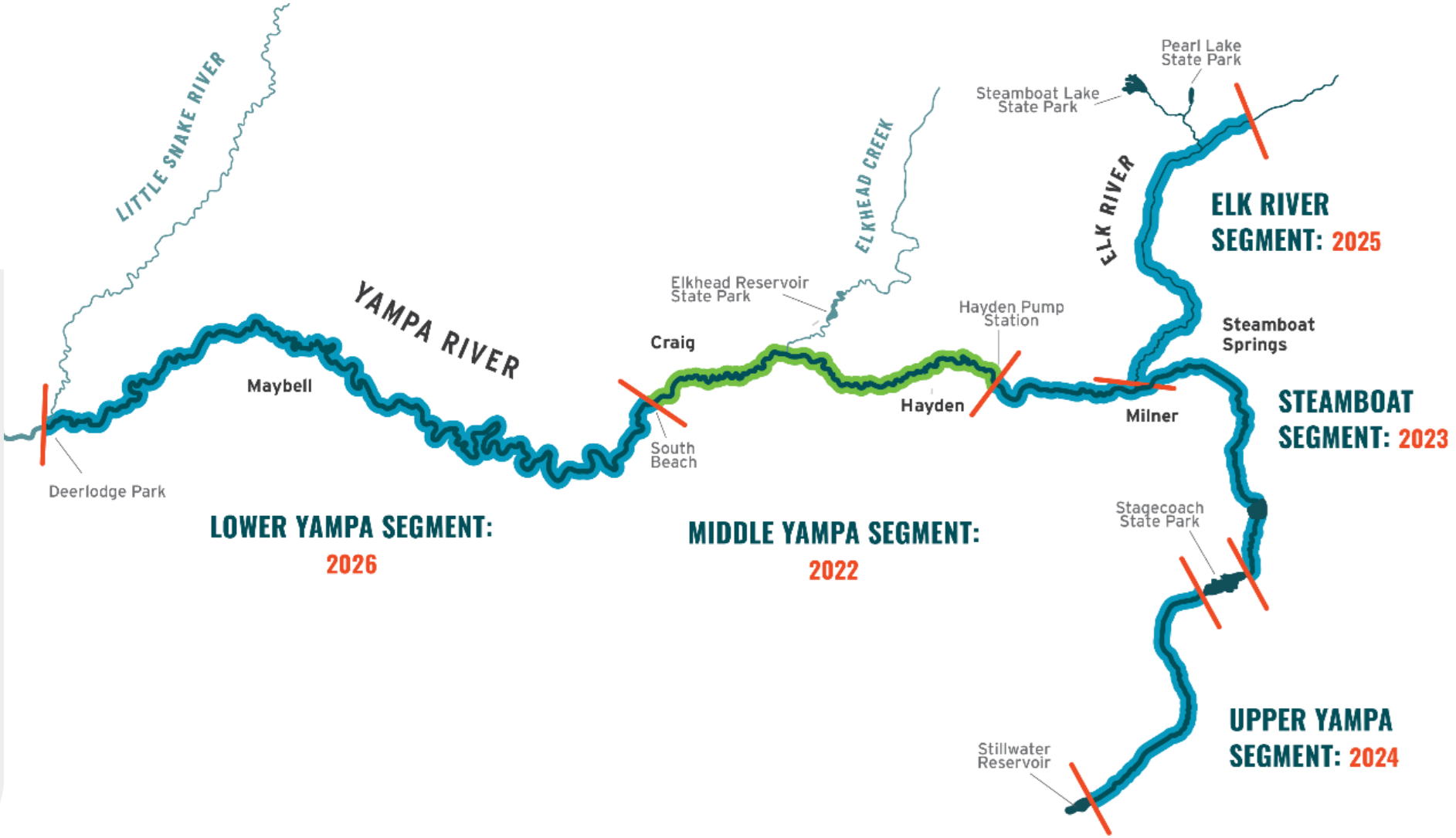
Develop a scorecard to fill data gaps, be a source of easily accessible information, and support a comprehensive understanding of the community benefits a healthy river provides for everyone who uses the river for whatever purpose.

Project Scope & Timing

PROJECT TIMELINE

The Yampa Basin is divided up into 5 focal segments. The year listed is when the majority of the data is collected and most reports will come out early the following year.

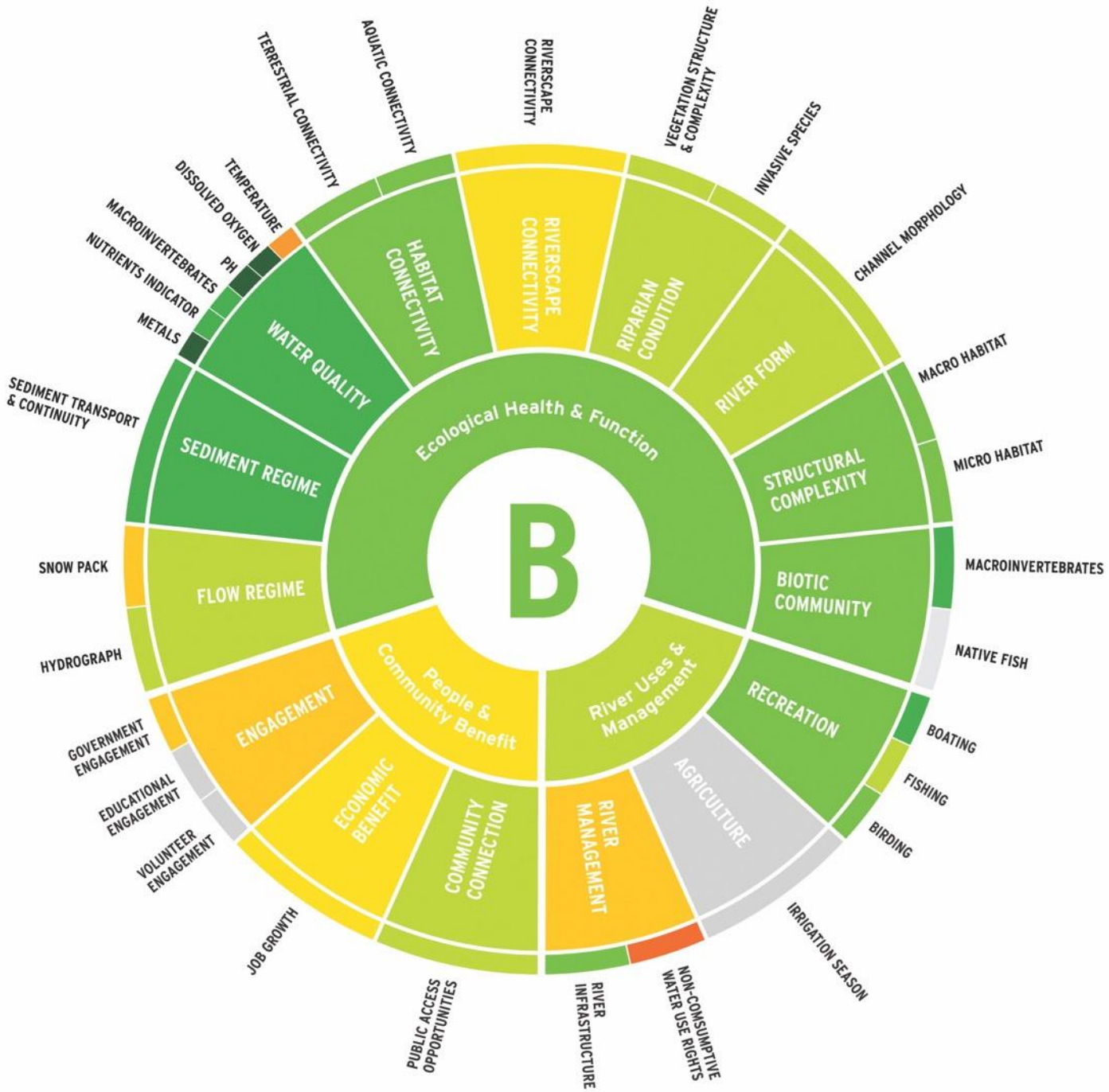
2022: Middle Yampa Segment
2023: Steamboat Segment
2024: Upper Yampa Segment
2025: Elk River Segment
2026: Lower Yampa Segment



Ecological Health and Function:

- Flow regime
- Sediment regime
- Water quality
- Habitat connectivity
- Riverscape connectivity
- Riparian condition
- River form
- Structural complexity
- Biotic community

Middle Yampa Scores:



Middle Yampa TOP Key Takeaways…

- **Flow and sediment regime** reflect natural, historic conditions
- **Structural complexity** is good- large wood, gravel bars, side channels, and backwaters provide habitat heterogeneity
- **Riverscape connectivity**, aka floodplain connectivity, has variable results and is the value most at risk of future degradation

Thank you!

Any questions?

YAMPASCORECARD.ORG

Thank you to our funders:

WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

MIGHTY ARROW FAMILY FOUNDATION

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Maybell Diversion Restoration and Headgate Modernization

MAYBELL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Nature Conservancy
Colorado

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Maybell Ditch and Yampa River

Moffat County, Wyoming Basin Ecoregion

N

Scale: 1:74,243

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

Legend

- Maybell Headgate/Diversion
- Return to Yampa
- Maybell Ditch **(18 miles)**
- Yampa River **(21.3 miles)**

Map Created by:(C. Hanns)
The Nature Conservancy
Colorado Field Office
Data Sources:
CNHP, USGS, ESRI,
CDOT, CSU
Map Projection:
NAD83 UTM Zone 13N

Project Objectives

- Enable irrigators improved access and control of irrigation water with modern, automated headgates.

- Reconstruct the instream diversion with boulders that mimic steps in the river for recreational boat passage.

- Improve critical habitat and movement of native & endangered fish through the Lower Yampa.

Photo credit: JHL Constructors

The project modernized the headgates to the Maybell Ditch

1950s - 2023

March 2024

Project Timeline

- **2019** – Community outreach & engineering design of diversion and fish & boat passage.
- **2020 – 2023** – Permitting, final design, project fundraising, extensive stakeholder engagement.
- **July 2023 – April 2024** – Construction and substantial completion ahead of schedule and under budget.
- **2025** – Reporting plus irrigation operation and maintenance.

Photo credit: Friends of the Yampa

Thanks to Maybell Project Supporters & Funders

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable

The Nature Conservancy Colorado

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

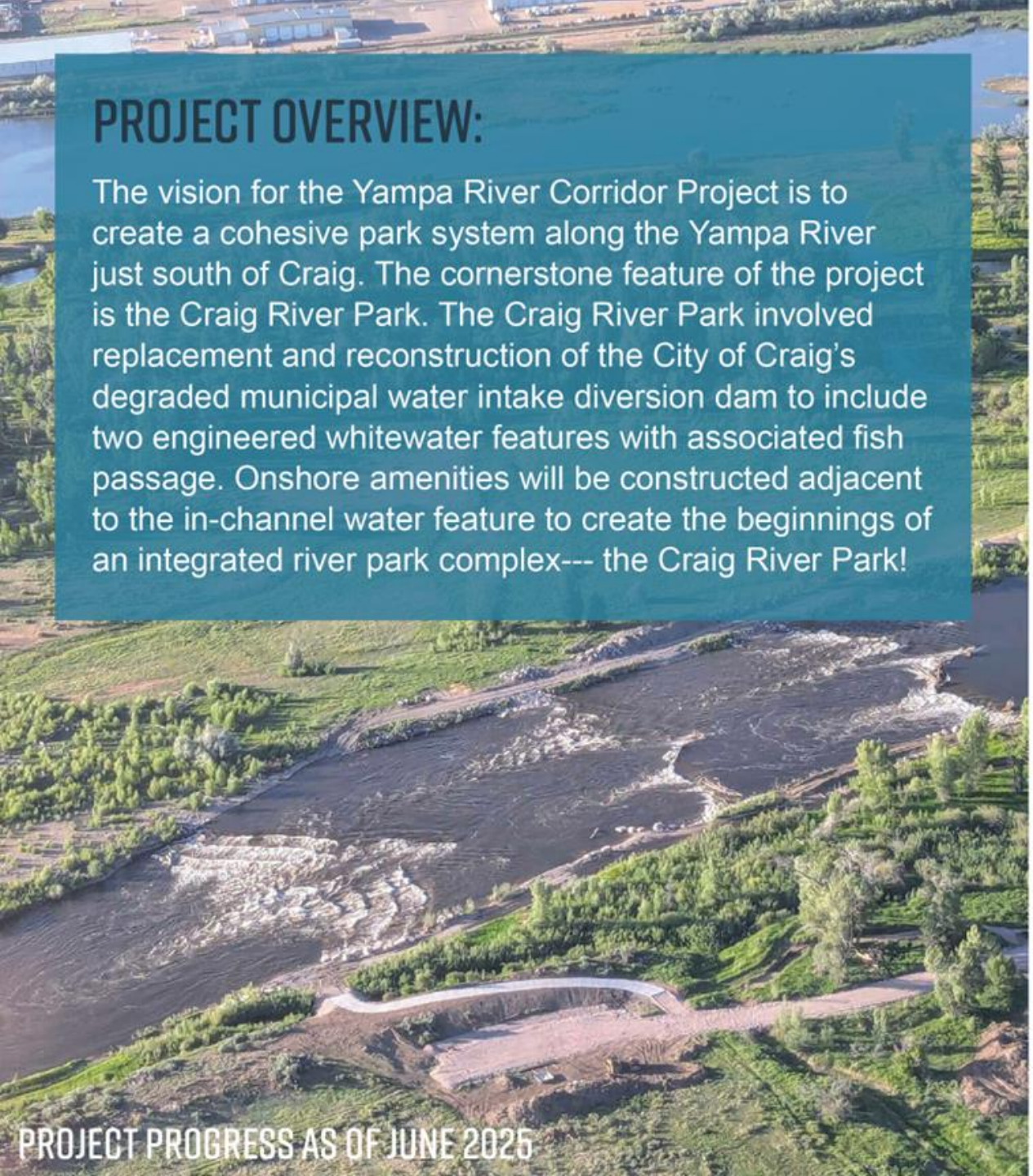
CRAIG
RIVER PARK

CRAIG RIVER PARK

MORE THAN A PARK. IT'S A TURNING POINT.

EST. CRAIG 1908
Colorado's GREAT NORTHWEST

MELANIE KILPATRICK
PROJECT MANAGER
970.826.2016
mkilpatrick@cityofcraig.org



PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The vision for the Yampa River Corridor Project is to create a cohesive park system along the Yampa River just south of Craig. The cornerstone feature of the project is the Craig River Park. The Craig River Park involved replacement and reconstruction of the City of Craig's degraded municipal water intake diversion dam to include two engineered whitewater features with associated fish passage. Onshore amenities will be constructed adjacent to the in-channel water feature to create the beginnings of an integrated river park complex--- the Craig River Park!

PROJECT PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 2025

CRAIG
RIVER PARK

WHY THE CRAIG RIVER PARK?

- Supports economic stimulus, resilience & diversification
- Contributes new recreation opportunities identified throughout multiple local strategic planning documents
- Addresses goals from the Colorado Water Plan & Integrated Water Management Plan
- Creates enhanced aquatic/riparian habitat & fish passage
- Project will sustain the City's municipal water supply in a fiscally responsible manner
- Creates a multiuse park serving a variety of populations
- Supports environmental education opportunities, river advocacy & stewardship
- Broad local, regional, state & nationwide project support

COMPLETION OF THE CRAIG RIVER PARK EQUALS A MASSIVE WIN FOR CRAIG & MOFFAT COUNTY!

PROJECT FUNDING PARTNERS

PHASE I & PHASE 2

YAMPA RIVER FUND

Moffat County LMD
LOCAL MARKETING DISTRICT

CRAIG
Colorado's Great Northwest

RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs

GOCO
GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

Moffat County
COLORADO'S GREAT NORTHWEST

Parrotheads
Pirates of the Yampa Valley
NORTHWEST COLORADO CHAPTER OF PARROTHEADS
CRAIG, COLORADO

chfa

TRAPPER MINING INC.

YWG
Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable

FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA

COLORADO
Department of Labor and Employment
Office of Just Transition

PROJECT COLLABORATORS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609
MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609
JOHN HICKENLOOPER
COLORADO

STATE OF COLORADO 1876
BOB RANKIN
State Senator

COLORADO
Office of Economic Development & International Trade

COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
Office of the Executive Director

AGNC
ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

NARC
Building Regional Communities

VISIT Moffat County
COLORADO'S GREAT NORTHWEST · VISITMOFFATCOUNTY.COM

GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

AMERICAN WHITEWATER

TRI-STATE G&T
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

YAMPA VALLEY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MOFFAT COUNTY
United Way

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

memorial regional health

MC
MOFFAT COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

Craig Chamber
MOFFAT COUNTY
VISITOR CENTER
CRAIG-CHAMBER.COM

Colorado Northwestern
Community College

Good Vibes
RIVER GEAR

BAD ALIBI DISTILLERY
CRAIG, CO

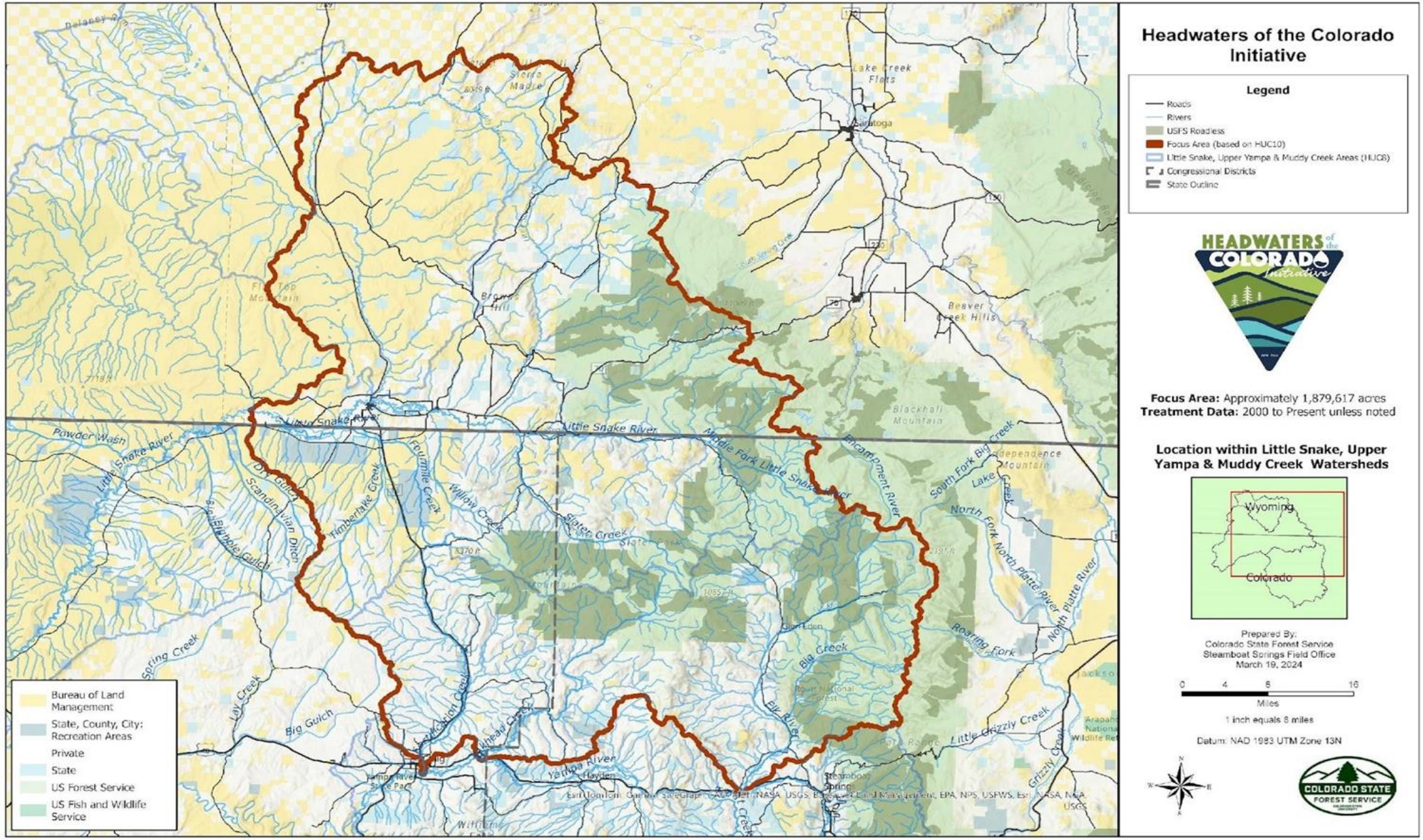
CRAIG
RV
PARK

YAMPA RIVER SYSTEM
LEGACY PROJECT

“Creating Million Acre Solutions” – Pat O’Toole

HEADWATERS OF THE COLORADO INITIATIVE (HoC)

The Geography



Who is HoC?

- **A collaborative, cross-state initiative focused on restoring and managing the forested headwaters of the Little Snake, Elk, Elkhead, and other key river systems in northwest Colorado and southern Wyoming**
- **A consolidated group of landowners, agencies, nonprofits, and stakeholders aligned around shared goals for watershed health and wildfire resilience**
- **Dedicated to building resilient forests and rangelands that support local and downstream communities, ecosystems, and economies**
- **Grounded in science-based planning, focused funding, and landscape-scale coordination across public and private**

Current Funding Sources

- USBR WaterSMART - $300,000
- CWCB Wildfire Ready Watershed - $550,000
- National Forest Foundation Support - $250,000

Plus Applications through the USFS/USDA NRCS for Joint Chiefs and USFS/LSR Conservation District for USBR Bucket IIE totalling ~$32 million

Possible Corporate sponsors coming soon…

Partners

- Western Landowners Alliance*
- National Forest Foundation*
- Walton Family Foundation
- United States Forest Service*
- United States Bureau of Land Mgmt
- US Natural Resource Conservation Service
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Colorado State Forest Service*
- Wyoming Department of Forestry*
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Carbon County Wyoming Commissioners
- University of Wyoming
- Colorado State University
- Routt County Colorado Commissioners*
- Moffat County Colorado Commissioners
- Little Snake River Conservation Dist.*
- Little Snake River Conservancy District
- Pothook Conservancy District
- Gov. Mark Gordon
- WY US Sen. Barrasso and Lummis
- CO US Sen. Bennet and Hickenlooper
- WY Sen. Larry Hicks
- Mountain Pine Management
- Saratoga Forest Management
- Colorado River District
- Colorado Timber Industry
- Yampa-White-Green Roundtable
- Yampa Valley Sustainability Council*
- The Nature Conservancy
- Community Ag Alliance
- Family Farm Alliance
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Partnerscapes
- Ladder Livestock*
- Cobb Cattle Company
- Trout Unlimited
- Wild Turkey Foundation
- Mule Deer Foundation
- American Rivers

The Y-BASIN Project: Monitoring Soil Moisture for Water Resource Management in the Upper Yampa River Basin, Colorado

Jacob Morgan, PhD | Field Research Engineer, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego
On behalf of the Y-BASIN project team

Y-BASIN: *the **Y**ampa **B**asin **A**tmosphere and **S**oil moisture **I**ntegrated **N**etwork*

Project Goals

1. Build a network of soil moisture monitoring stations to better observe hydrometeorology in the Upper Yampa River Basin-30 stations total
2. Establish long-term monitoring of meteorological variables and soil moisture during a changing climate.
3. Support water resource managers by providing near-real time hydrometeorological data that are of operational value to water managers and water users.

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COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
YAMPA VALLEY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

The Y-BASIN Project: Monitoring Soil Moisture for Water Resource Management in the Upper Yampa River Basin, Colorado

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Y-BASIN: *the **Y**ampa **B**asin **A**tmosphere and **S**oil moisture **I**ntegrated **N**etwork*

Long Term Vision

1. Increase coverage and density of soil moisture monitoring in the Upper Yampa River Basin and expand soil moisture monitoring to other key basins of the Upper Colorado River.
2. Understand the effects of antecedent soil moisture on snowpack evolution, snow melt, and streamflow.
3. Improve hydrologic model forecasts of streamflow by understanding of spatial variability of precipitation and soil moisture within watersheds.

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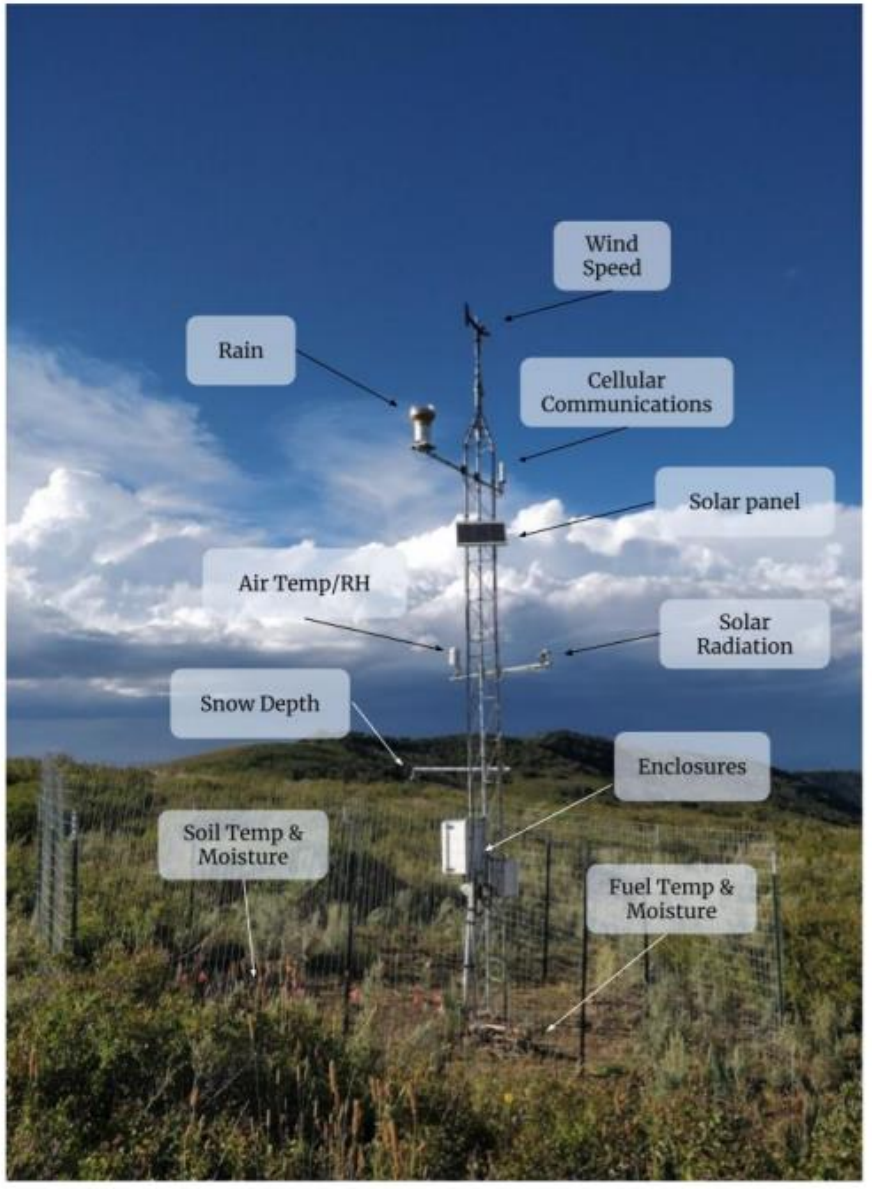
Data Collected

- Monitoring stations measure climate and soil moisture every 2 mins.
- Station locations were chosen carefully to ensure all landscape characteristics are captured.
- Data telemetered every hour and made publicly available via:
  - CW3E website/datashare
  - Mesowest
  - NOAA PSL
  - International Soil Moisture Network



Thank you!

Contact:
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jdmorgan@ucsd.edu

Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY AT UC SAN DIEGO

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See the data!

CW3E Website
(48 hour charts)

CW3E Datashare
(data download)

Mesowest
(data download)

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White River Valley Hydrologic Study

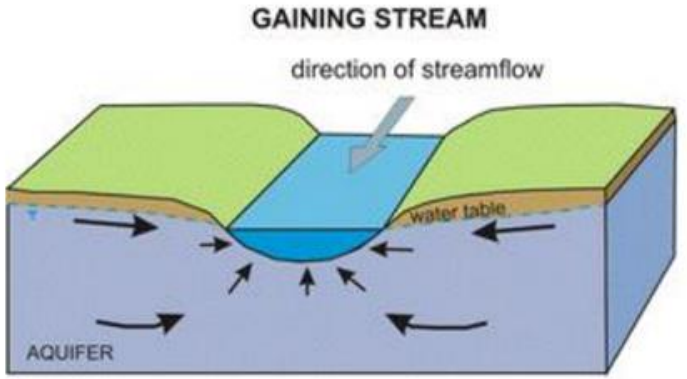
- Led by White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts 970/878-9838

- Ryan Bailey, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, CSU

White River Valley Hydrologic Study

What we want to know

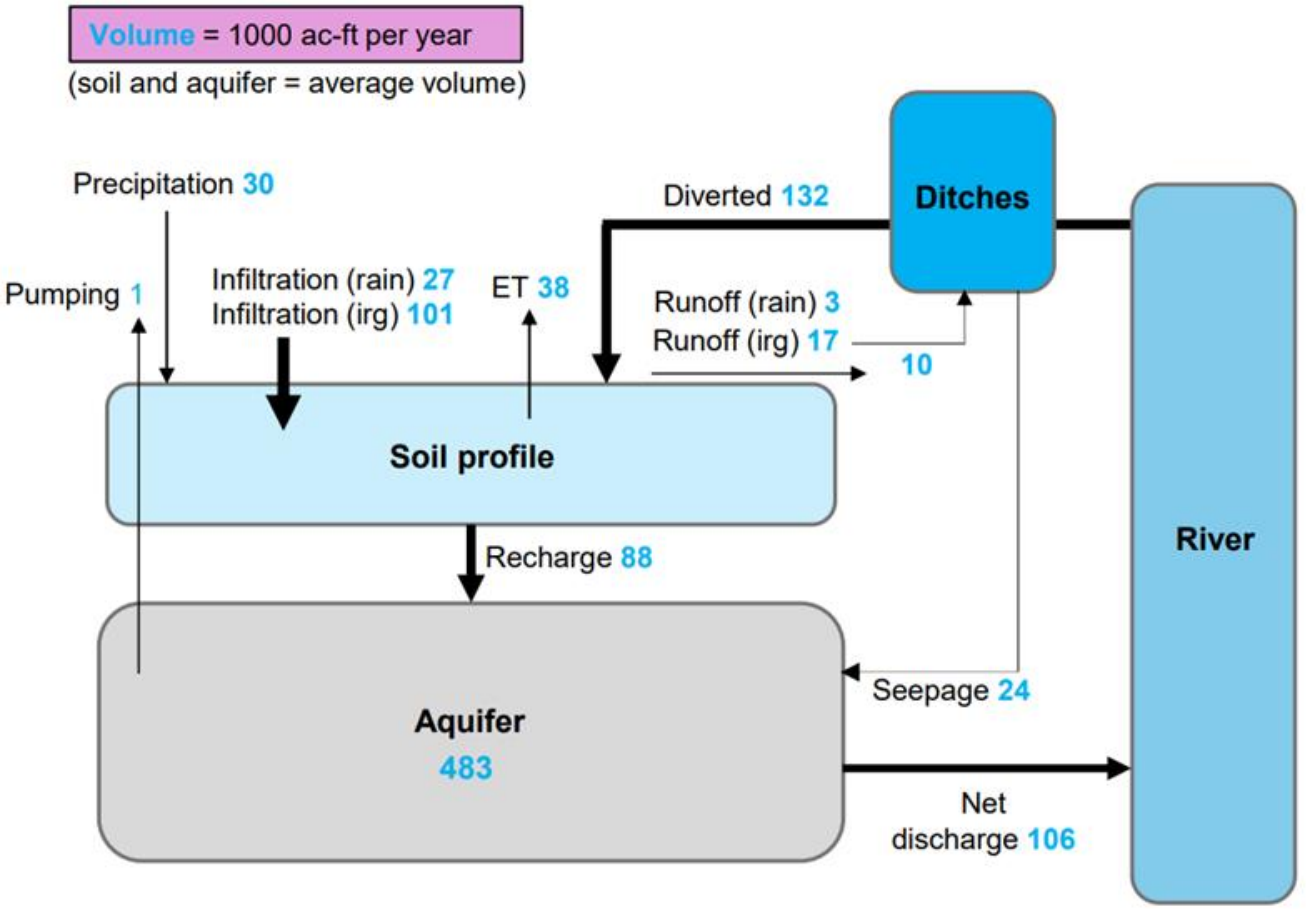
- How much groundwater enters the White River? Where and when does this occur?
- How do ditch diversions and groundwater return flows affect streamflow in the White River?
- What happens to groundwater return flows and the timing of streamflow, if flood irrigation is converted to sprinkler irrigation?



White River Valley Hydrologic Study

Basic Results

General water flow



- *Groundwater fraction*: The ratio of net groundwater discharge (**106**) to diverted water (**132**) is 80%.
- *Ditch seepage:* approximately 20% (**24/132**) of ditch water seeps to the aquifer.
- *Region-wide irrigation efficiency*: (**38**/(**132**-**24**)) = 35%. Although very low compared to other irrigated valleys, the majority of "lost" water recharges the aquifer, **returning to the river slowly** via groundwater return flows.
- For an average year, volumes of canal diversion, recharge, and groundwater discharge rates are equivalent to approximately 20-25% of aquifer groundwater storage. **The aquifer acts as a conveyor system** for unused river water that percolates through the soil profile, recharges the aquifer, returns to the river and its tributaries.

White River Valley Hydrologic Study

Partners

- Colorado River District – Community Funding Partnership
- Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District
- Yampa/White/Green Roundtable
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- CSU Water Center

10 MINUTE BREAK

C9 PLANNING AND OTHER UPDATES

Kat Weismiller
Water Supply Planning Section Chief, CWCB

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Timing Reminders

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Colorado Water Planning Cycle

PHASE 1 (2025–2029)

Analysis and Technical Update

Foundational data sets that describe our current and future water supplies and needs

PHASE 2 (2029–2031)

Basin Plan Update

Local planning conducted by basin roundtables that provide grassroots input to the Water Plan

PHASE 3 (2031–2033)

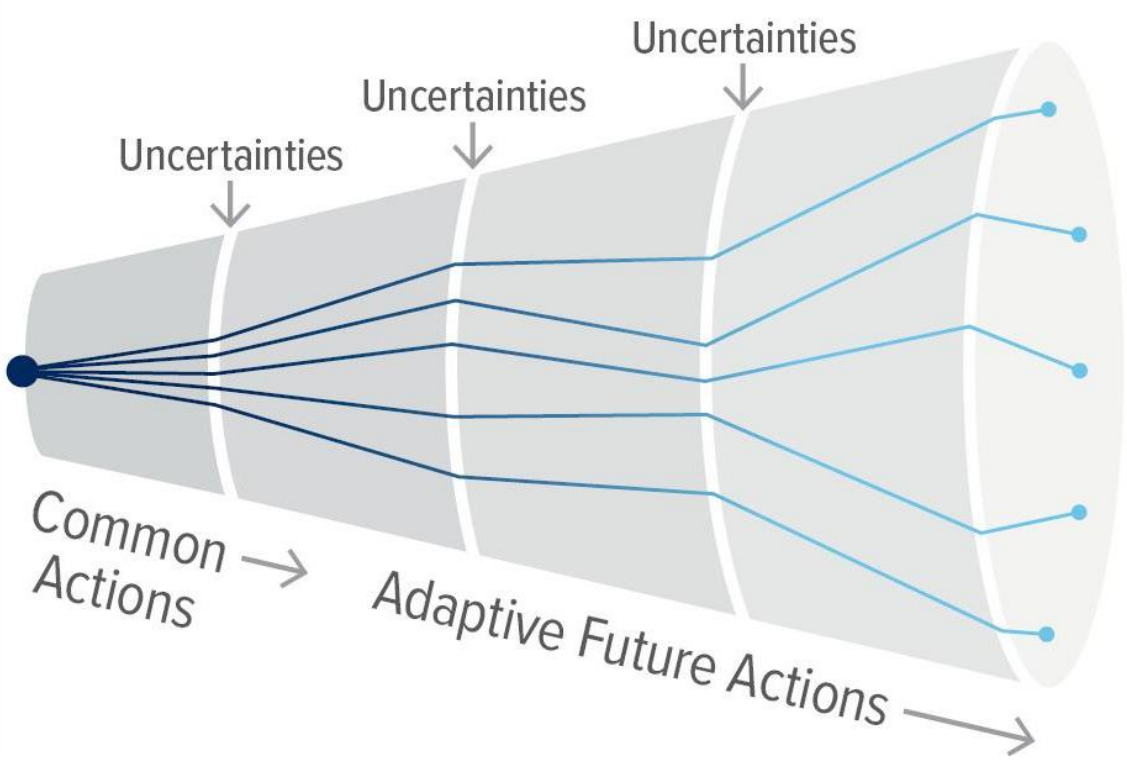
Comprehensive Water Plan Update

Update to the visions and actions in the Water Plan itself

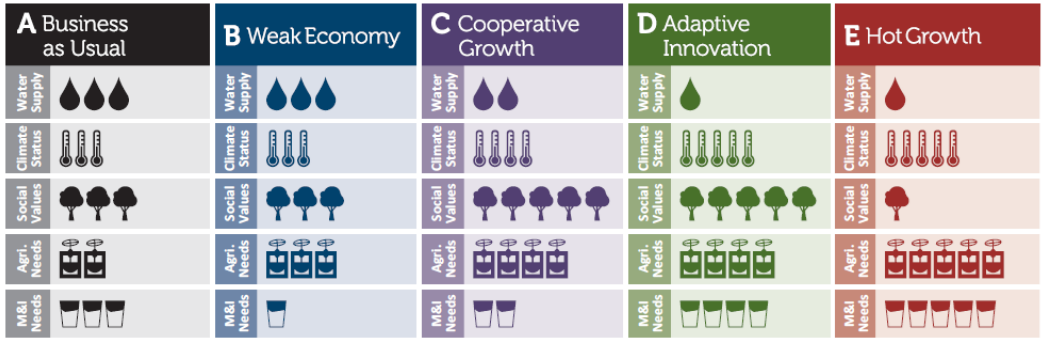
IBCC & Roundtables Tasks

- Scenarios Review (2025)
- Understanding data gaps (2026-2027)
- Building adaptive management strategies for "No & Low Regrets" (2025-2027)
- Integrating strategies from "No & Low Regrets" into Basin Plans (2029-2030)
- Identifying aligned local projects & updating projects database (2027-2028)
- Integrating and aligning strategies from "No & Low Regrets" into Water Plan
- Utilizing improved project and modeling data from Tech Update & BIPs

Plausible Future Conditions



Plausible range of future water conditions in 2050 represented by five Planning Scenarios



COLORADO WATER PLAN

Challenges with Current Planning Scenarios

- Drivers should "drive" the technical analyses.
- Planning Scenarios should each tell a distinct story that is easy to message to the public.
- "Solutions" to meet the gap should be applied to all Planning Scenarios.
- Planning Scenarios should align with other statewide planning efforts.
- Planning Scenarios should start with most current information and continue to move the planning horizon.

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Draft Planning Scenarios

Current Conditions (2025)

Update baseline conditions to create a new "starting point" for the Planning Scenarios

Draft Planning Scenarios (2070)

Low Water Stress	Medium Water Stress	High Water Stress

High Impact Drivers in Planning Scenarios

Warm & Wet Climate Low Population	In-Between Climate Medium Population	Hot & Dry Climate High Population

Strategy/Solution

Municipal & Agricultural Conservation

IBCC Role?

- Set up a working group or subcommittee to "deep-dive" into Planning Scenarios?
- Discuss and refine draft Planning Scenarios as a larger group?
- Develop Planning Scenario narratives?
- Incorporate Planning Scenarios into C-9 Summit topics/exercises?
- Review final Planning Scenarios and narratives after Technical Advisory Group process?

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2025 C9 Summit

- Oct 28-29, 2025
- Lakewood, CO
- Learn more on engagecwcb.org
- IBCC Meeting Day 1
  - Workshopping Efforts
    - No & Low Regrets Actions
    - Scenario Planning

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2025 C9 Summit

- Day 1: Afternoon Meetings and Welcome Reception
  - IBCC Meeting: Scenarios or NLR Topic
  - PEPO Meeting
  - Roundtable Boothing
  - Welcome Reception

- Day 2: All Day Conference Format
  - Peer learning - Innovative Coalitions Across Sectors
  - 20 years of Roundtables / IBCC
  - Climate Hazard Adaptation Interactive Exercise
  - Statewide Water Communication and Outreach Campaign
  - Grants, Funding, Resources, and Interagency Support
  - Piloting ditch management planning
  - Colorado River & Interstate Updates

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NEXT MEETING, AGENDA & CLOSING THOUGHTS


THANK YOU