



# INTERBASIN COMPACT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by the Colorado Water Conservation Board  
October 31, 2025



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Natural Resources





A MESSAGE FROM

# THE CHAIR

Members of the General Assembly,

2025 was a productive year for the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), reinvigorating our commitment to collaboration that elevates solutions for Colorado's future water challenges. As Chair, I have asked the committee to focus on strengthening Colorado's resilience and developing strategies to manage future risks. While State staff continue protecting Colorado's water rights in interstate matters, the IBCC is working with stakeholders, including the Basin Roundtables, to build our state's capacity to adapt under any future scenario. In short, Colorado has the opportunity to create its own solutions, and we are seizing it.

IBCC is considering how we can help build resilience in our water community as things get warmer and drier. More frequent droughts followed by higher intensity wildfires and flooding in burned areas are increasing risk to Colorado communities. As we move into the next statewide water planning cycle, we must build a stronger water future for Colorado, and the IBCC can help us think about new No & Low Regrets strategies to do so. IBCC members have an opportunity to influence the next decade of statewide water planning by engaging the roundtables, fellow IBCC members, and ultimately the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Board in building consensus around potential solutions. The time is now to update the No and Low Regrets Action Plan and the IBCC has accepted the task by consensus.

This won't be an easy or short process. It will require new tough conversations, collaboration, and time. I believe IBCC is up to the task, but it requires IBCC to find alignment on where the committee can provide its highest value. IBCC can bring forward ideas generated by their basin roundtable or other stakeholders for discussion. These ideas can be considered and may ultimately be incorporated into statewide solutions if they generate consensus from the committee. This work will require a collaborative spirit and following in the footsteps of statewide leaders like Russ George and John Stulp.

On that note, I am deeply grateful for the leadership that John Stulp brought to the IBCC and to the entire water community, and we mourn his passing this year. As IBCC Chair, John led with optimism, humility, and a steady commitment to collaboration. He never shied away from the hard problems but instead encouraged us to face them with creativity and resolve. His ability to bring people together and his belief in Colorado's capacity to solve challenges together can serve as a legacy and guide the upcoming work of this committee.

I believe the intent behind IBCC has always been to create a space for thoughtful discussions where we can find common ground and agreement across basins that can inform Colorado water policy. This year the IBCC took strides toward realizing its mission by embarking on creating a new No & Low Regrets Action Plan. I look forward to building on our 2025 efforts, keeping the momentum generated by the IBCC, fostering a renewed interest in statewide water planning, and helping create innovative solutions that can help build a stronger water future for Colorado.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Mitchell  
Interbasin Compact Committee Chair  
Colorado's Upper Colorado River Commissioner



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## IBCC BACKGROUND

Since its inception in the “Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act” (2005), the IBCC has provided an important, diverse, and balanced forum for policy input from across Colorado. Built on a forward-thinking vision that Coloradans can work together collaboratively to address the water needs for the state. Over the last 20 years, the IBCC has helped shape numerous planning initiatives through a focused discourse on the major water challenges facing Colorado, both within and across the basin roundtables. The IBCC has consistently been able to rise above regional, and basin divides to address statewide issues with local perspective in a cooperative, transbasin manner.

As former 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.”* The IBCC’s statewide perspective and ability to function as a think tank has generated critical feedback to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), basin roundtables, and broader water community.

Some past examples of IBCC discussion and work products include:

- **2025** – The IBCC reached a consensus to advance a No & Low Regrets work plan to update the IBCC’s 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan. This consensus built off work from the No & Low Regrets Subcommittee, which IBCC established at the February 2025 meeting. The subcommittee reviewed the 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan, cross referenced against ideas generated during the 2024 C9 Summit for a Drought Resilience Action Plan, and created a [summary document](#). The summary detailed how discussions have evolved, progress to date on the actions identified in 2013, and a workplan for the future advancement of an update.
- **2024** – IBCC members began efforts to update the IBCC’s 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan, and to create a Drought Resilience Action Plan. This statewide strategy document, created with basin roundtable and CWCB Board support, is intended to serve as a tool for opening conversations around how Colorado can create a more resilient future. IBCC also refined its criteria for membership and what projects are ready for IBCC consideration in a document called *Qualities of Successful IBCC Members and Projects*. As in 2023, IBCC also supported CWCB staff in providing ideas and participating in planning the C9 Summit.
- **2023** – IBCC members led efforts to advance projects in their respective basins as a response to Director Gibbs’ 2022 Project Advancement Challenge. IBCC also worked to support and participate in the 2023 C9 Summit.
- **2022** – IBCC refined its work plan to facilitate collaboration among the basins and leverage more readily available State and Federal water project funding for Basin Implementation Plan project advancement.
- **2021** – The IBCC prioritized developing stronger links between PEPO and the IBCC to facilitate communication within the roundtables by reactivating the PEPO subcommittee and naming Lisa Darling the IBCC PEPO representative.
- **2020** – The IBCC acted as a de facto working group on equity in Demand Management (DM) as part of the CWCB board’s DM feasibility study. IBCC produced the [Demand Management Equity Summary document](#), included in the July 2020 CWCB Board packet.
- **2018** – IBCC members and the precursor to the *For the Love of Colorado* campaign team coordinated to identify critical funding areas and possible funding opportunities for the Colorado Water Plan.
- **2014** – IBCC carefully negotiated the Conceptual Framework that was included in the Colorado Water Plan as a guidance document to evaluate a pathway or discussion for any new Transmountain Diversions (TMDs).

- **2013** – IBCC compiled smart near-term actions that support Colorado under any future scenario, known as the *No and Low Regrets Action Plan*.
- **2009** – Evaluated the *Portfolio and Tradeoff Tool* and initiated the scenario planning framework documented in the 2015 Colorado Water Plan that now serves as a foundation for technical analysis.
- **2006** – Created by-laws and charter documents for the IBCC.



## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025 marked a busy year for IBCC including the creation of a new subcommittee, renewed interest in the IBCC work, and generating consensus on a workplan for the group's future direction. The IBCC continued to meet in person, with a virtual option, during the February meeting in Westminster and June meeting in Grand Junction. The IBCC created a No & Low Regrets (NLR) subcommittee to lead the IBCC's effort to update the 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan. The NLR Subcommittee began with a look back at the 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan and created a [summary document](#) noting how the 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan compared to the topics that emerged during the 2024 C9 Summit. It also explored progress made on the actions, how topics have evolved, and offered a proposed work plan for the IBCC membership. The subcommittee used this work to generate consensus from the IBCC to advance this update to NLR through a workplan that includes a schedule of topics for discussion at future IBCC meetings through 2027. The committee has focused on creating a structure so IBCC members can generate input from their basin roundtables to inform the discussion at the IBCC. The IBCC also helped CWCB staff with content ideas and day-of support at the October C9 Summit in Lakewood. The feedback generated from IBCC helped create this year's C9 Summit agenda including more interactive activities, time for networking, and a focus on cross-basin collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Chair Mitchell and the NLR Subcommittee have inspired renewed enthusiasm in IBCC, and the effort to update the No & Low Regrets Action Plan has charted a path for IBCC's work for the coming years. This work can inform the Basin Implementation Plans and ultimately the Colorado Water Plan.

- **No & Low Regrets Update** - In June 2025, the IBCC reached consensus to begin creating a long-term vision for Colorado's water future—one that focuses on the most pressing challenges and the greatest opportunities in the next 10–15 years. We are at a critical juncture, where increased population growth and current and future climate conditions will create new challenges and new hard conversations. Colorado's water leaders, planners, agriculture producers, and non-governmental organizations must come together with local and state governments to set a vision that addresses Colorado's water challenges. That is the fundamental goal of this multi-year effort.

This effort will help the IBCC, basin roundtables, and CWCB Board shape a consensus-driven vision—one that identifies critical gaps, seizes emerging opportunities, creates shared understanding, and strengthens the state's water security over the next 10-15 years. The updated strategy will build on past work and set a trajectory for incorporating actions into the 2033 Colorado Water Plan; strategies, visions; and projects for the 2031 Basin Implementation Plans, and other key policy documents planned for in the future, ensuring today's decisions set the stage for a more resilient tomorrow.

- **Proposed No & Low Regrets Schedule** - included in the [Executive Summary](#) from the NLR Subcommittee
  - **October 2025** – Create a process for generating ideas at Basin Roundtables and iterating with the IBCC
  - **February 2026** – Storage & Climate Scenarios
  - **June 2026** – Protecting Colorado Agriculture
  - **October 2026** – Water Conservation & Efficiency, Urban & Land Use Planning
  - **February 2027** – Fire Management & Post Fire Recovery
  - **June 2027** – Nature-Based Solutions and Natural Infrastructure

- **October 2027** – Climate adaptation & Cross sector innovation
- **February 2028** – Education & Collaboration
- **June 2028** – Additional topics identified in the process
- **October 2028** – Review Draft NLR Action Plan
- **February 2029** – Finalize NLR Action Plan and Present at C9 Summit

In keeping with their rich history of being a diverse and balanced forum, the IBCC welcomed new members from across the state and created opportunities for cross-basin collaboration at IBCC and roundtable meetings. IBCC's work in 2025 has driven a renewed interest in the committee, statewide water planning, and the willingness to collaborate across basins, sectors, and divides.



## HIGHLIGHT OF IBCC DISCUSSIONS & INTERESTS

While much of the IBCC discussion in 2025 focused on No & Low Regrets and reinvigorating the committee, the IBCC continues to host expert seminars on a wide array of topics and helping CWCB staff plan the C9 Summit. In 2025, the committee welcomed new members and heard presentations from areas of interest identified in past years. Examples include:

- **No & Low Regrets Subcommittee (NLR)** – The IBCC's NLR subcommittee led discussions on topics identified through past IBCC and Basin Roundtable surveys and in the 2013 No & Low Regrets effort. The subcommittee helped generate consensus on the work plan, create a timeline for the effort, and led discussions at the IBCC and C9 Summit.
- **Interstate Updates** – IBCC discussed interstate water issues and heard updates from CWCB's Interstate and Federal Water Information Section Chief, Amy Ostdiek, Chair Mitchell in her role as Colorado's Upper Colorado River Commissioner, and from State Engineer, Jason Ullmann.
- **Legislative Session** – Noting the IBCC's interest in the legislative session, the committee received two separate updates on the 2025 Legislative Session. The first during the session from Anna Mauss, Deputy Director of the CWCB. The second came from IBCC Member, Senator Dylan Roberts after the legislative session complete with a 2025 Session wrap-up and a look ahead to the 2026 Legislative Session.
- **Current Rule-making Efforts** – Mark Shea, Arkansas Basin Roundtable Chair, provided an update on the ongoing rulemaking process for new Dredge and Fill regulations led by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Mark's update focused on the permitting process for projects outlined in the rulemaking documents, and the potential impacts of these requirements for water rights and water development projects
- **Basin Project Highlights** – At the February IBCC meeting the committee discussed a desire to hear more in-depth presentations on projects around the state and CWCB staff created a recurring agenda item as a response. The IBCC also heard project highlights from the Yampa-White-Green Basin, the Rio Grande Basin, and Metro area. IBCC members will continue to highlight projects around their basins at future meetings to inspire new ideas, partnerships, and highlight the good work the basin roundtables and IBCC are doing locally.



## RESOURCE QUICK REFERENCE

- [No & Low Regrets Action Plan Executive Summary](#)
- [CWCB Guide](#)
- [Engage CWCB](#)
- [CWCB Website](#)
- [CWCB webpage for IBCC](#)
- [CO Water Funding Opportunity Navigator](#)



## CONTACT INFORMATION

The IBCC is funded through the CWCB and supported by CWCB staff. To learn more, explore the CWCB Guide. If you have questions please email [waterplan.info@state.co.us](mailto:waterplan.info@state.co.us), call 303-866-3441, visit the CWCB website at [www.cwcb.state.co.us](http://www.cwcb.state.co.us) or at [engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org).