

Initial Draft Basin Implementation Plan Goals

The Basin Roundtables worked diligently to develop their goals and measurable outcomes in preparation for each of their Basin Implementation Plan. Most of the goals are still in draft, or even initial draft stages.* In nearly every case, the measurable outcomes are still too much in draft form to share outside the basin at this time.

Putting all the goals together into categories is a helpful exercise, so that commonalities and differences between the goals of the basins can be explored. In addition, as these goals are still in draft form, seeing what other basins did could be helpful for goal refinement. .

It should be stressed that while a basin may not have an explicit goal for a particular item, it does not mean that the items lacks priority in the basin. For instance, the Arkansas is explicitly addressing conservation, but does not have a goal associated with it.

Two tables are included below. The first is an initial review similar goals across basins. Where there were two basins with similar goals, a check mark has been made.

The second table includes all of the draft goals, organized by category.

Lastly, there is a summary for where each roundtable is at in its BIP planning process.

* The South Platte and Metro BIP goals were not ready for this table, however their overarching themes were included.

	Ark	Co	Gu	NP	RG	SP/Mt*	SW	Y/W/G
A. Maintain Agriculture Water Needs								
• Focus on agricultural economy	✓	✓			✓		✓	
• Focus on reducing shortages		✓	✓					✓
• Improve agricultural efficiencies	✓	✓					✓	
• Increase irrigated acres				✓				✓
• Conduct the goals while protecting private property rights			✓					✓
B. Meet Municipal and Industrial Water Needs								
• Focus on M&I Gaps	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
• Focus on Conservation / Demand Management		✓				✓	✓	
C. Meet Environmental and Recreational Water Needs								
• Focus on recovering imperiled and/or endangered species	✓	✓					✓	
• Protect wetlands and riparian areas	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
• Protect recreation	✓	✓			✓		✓	
• Quantify nonconsumptive needs			✓					✓
• Be "strategic"		✓		✓				✓
D. Protect and Resotre Watershed Health								
• Includes one or more goals associated with this				✓	✓		✓	
E. Balance All Needs and Reduce Conflict / Multi Purpose Storage								
• Protect Priavate Property Rights / Water Rights		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Multi-purpose Focus	✓				✓		✓	
• Modernizewater infrastructure	✓		✓	✓				✓
• Determine how agriculture supports nonconsumptive needs	✓	✓		✓				
• Increase storage	✓				✓			
F. Interstate Compacts, Agreements, and Management of Risk Associated with These								
• Includes one or more goals associated with this		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
G. Participation, Education, Outreach, and Communications								
• Includes one or more goals associated with this		✓	✓		✓			
H. Other Basin Issues								
• Includes a goal on water quality		✓			✓			

Initial DRAFT Goals from the BIPs

	Arkansas	Colorado	Gunnison	North Platte	Rio Grande	South Platte/Metro*	Southwest	Yampa/White Green
A. Maintain Agriculture Water Needs	Sustain an annual \$1.5 Billion agricultural economy in the Basin	Reduce agricultural water shortages	Improve agricultural water supplies to reduce shortages	(See E)	Water use and management sustains optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin's communities. Ag, M&I, Env&Rec, WAdm		Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production.	Improve agricultural water supplies to increase irrigated land and reduce shortages.
	Provide increasing quantities of augmentation water for increased farm efficiencies	Develop land use policy improvements to reduce agricultural water to municipal (ATM) transfers	Discourage the conversion of productive agricultural land to all other uses within the context of private property rights.					Protect and encourage agriculture uses of water in the Y/W basin within the context of private property rights.
		Identify agricultural production incentives						
		Improve agricultural efficiency, preservation, and conservation						
B. Meet Municipal and Industrial Water Needs	Meet municipal supply gap in each county within the basin	Develop land use policy improvements addressing conservation and awareness of limited available water supply	Identify and address municipal and industrial water shortages.	Support the equitable statewide application of municipal water conservation.		The South Platte River Basin will continue its Leadership Role in Efficient Use and Management of Water - No person, company or institution operates without risk/perils of change. The State's future, and the future of each of its river basins, depend on efficient, sustainable and collaborative solutions.	Pursue a high success rate for identified specific and unique projects and processes to meet municipal gap and to address all water needs and values.	Identify and address municipal and industrial water shortages.
	Support regional infrastructure development for cost-effective solutions to local water supply gaps	Raise awareness of current obstacles and efforts facing water providers	Water supply factors must be incorporated into land use planning and development.				Provide safe drinking water to Colorado's citizens and visitors.	
	Reduce or eliminate Denver Basin groundwater dependence for municipal users	Define potential natural impacts to domestic water supply and mitigation methods					Promote and incentivize wise and efficient water use through implementation of municipal conservation strategies to reduce overall future water needs.	
		Develop water court process recommendations to encourage efficiency, conservation, and reuse					Support and implement water reuse strategies.	
		Improve raw water storage supply and new reservoir project processes						

Initial DRAFT Goals from the BIPs

	Arkansas	Colorado	Gunnison	North Platte	Rio Grande	South Platte/Metro*	Southwest	Yampa/White Green
C. Meet Environmental and Recreational Water Needs	Preclude federal endangered listing of native fish	Identify reaches prioritized by State and Federal agencies and basin stakeholders that are at risk or will be in the future	Quantify and protect nonconsumptive water uses.	Maintain healthy rivers and wetlands through the strategic implementation of projects that meet prioritized nonconsumptive needs.	Maintain and enhance water dependent recreational activities. Env&Rec		Implement projects that promote restoration, recovery, and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities. <i>(See attached list of such species in the Southwest Basins)</i> .	Quantify and protect non-consumptive water uses.
	Restore state imperiled fish species populations	Protect rivers, streams, lakes, and riparian areas					Implement projects that maintain, protect and enhance recreational values and the economic values to local and statewide economies derived from recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.	Develop an integrated system of water use, storage, administration and delivery to reduce risks of water shortages and meet non-consumptive needs.
	Maintain, improve and increase recreational fishing opportunities	Preserve recreational flows				Protect, preserve and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats throughout the Basin. Env&Rec	Implement projects that protect, maintain, & improve the condition of streams, lakes, wetlands, & riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries & support functional riparian and wetland habitat in the long term.	
	Maintain and restore riparian habitats					Conserve, restore, and maintain wetlands and riparian areas for the benefit of a healthy watershed. Ag , Env&Rec		
	Maintain important avian areas associated with water					Work to establish active river flows throughout the year in cooperation with water users and administrators to restore and sustain ecological function of the rivers and floodplain habitats within the context of existing water rights and compact obligations. Env&Rec		
	Maintain and restore wetlands							
	Maintain, improve, and increase flat water recreation							
D. Protect and Restore Watershed Health	<i>The Arkansas basin is leading watershed health efforts, but no goal was identified</i>			Enhance forest health and management efforts for wildfire protection and beetle kill impacts.	Protect, preserve and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on the watershed health and ecosystem function. Ag , M&I , Env&Rec , WAdm		Maintain watershed health by protecting and/or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas.	

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E. Balance all needs and Reduce Conflict / Multi-Purpose Storage	Increase surface storage available within the basin by 70,000 AF by the year 2020	Protect important mainstem water rights	Protect existing water uses in the Gunnison Basin.	Increase economic development and diversification through strategic water use and development.	Operate, maintain, rehabilitate and create necessary infrastructure to meet the Basin's long-term water needs, including storage. Ag, M&I, Env&Rec, WAdm	A Good SP Solution = A Good CO Solution - The economies of the State's river basins are closely intertwined. A comprehensive SP basin plan will need to be consistent with the values represented in Governor Hickenlooper's executive order. A comprehensive and reliable solution to meeting the SP basin's consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply gaps benefits all of CO and all Coloradan's share the need for a viable SP plan. The "default" plan of continued and possibly extensive loss of agricultural production is not in CO's overall interest.	Identify specific and unique new projects and processes important to maintaining the quality of life in this region, and to address multiple purposes including municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, agricultural, risk management, and compact compliance needs.	Restore, maintain, and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure
	Develop alluvial and designated basin storage in gap areas within the basin		Describe and quantify how agricultural water uses benefit nonconsumptive uses.	Continue to restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure to preserve current uses and increase efficiencies.	Support the development of projects and processes that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs. Ag, M&I, Env&Rec, WAdm	Solutions must be Pragmatic, Balanced & Consistent with CO Law & Property Rights – A useful basin implementation plan must deal w/ the realities of obtaining regulatory approvals	Pursue a high success rate for identified specific and unique projects and processes to meet identified gaps and to address all water needs and values.	
	Support multiple uses at existing and new storage facilities		Restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure, including hydropower	Describe and quantify the nonconsumptive benefits of agricultural use.	Meet new demands for water, to the extent practicable, without impacting existing water rights and compact obligations. Ag, M&I, Env&Rec, WAdm		Plan and preserve water supply options for all existing and new uses and values.	Protect existing decreed and anticipated future water uses in the Yampa-White-Green Basin.
	Identify storage facilities that can be renovated, restored, or enhanced for additional storage.			Promote water rights protection and management through improved streamflow gaging data.	Promote water management and administration practices that are adaptive, flexible and responsive to optimize multiple benefits. Ag, M&I, Env&Rec, WAdm		Implement multi-purpose infrastructure projects (including creative management of existing facilities and development of new storage as needed).	
	Develop collaborative solutions between municipal and agricultural users of water , particularly in drought conditions						Monitor, protect and improve water quality for all classified uses.	
	Develop a viable rotating fallow and/or leasing program between agriculture and municipal interests to address drought and provide risk management for agriculture						Promote dialogue, foster cooperation & resolve conflict among water interests in every basin & between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to SW Colorado's & Colorado's water supply challenges (<i>SWSI 2010</i>).	
	Sustain recreation and environmental activities that depend on habitat and open space associated with farm and ranch land						Minimize statewide & basin-wide acres transferred and implement ag-sharing projects in order to help preserve agriculture and open space values, and to address municipal, environmental, recreational, and industrial needs, while respecting private property rights.	

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F. Interstate Compacts, agreements, and management of risk associated with these		Reduce potential for transmountain diversions (by supporting ag.)	Future supply of Colorado River water is highly variable and uncertain; therefore any proponent of a new supply project from the Colorado River System must accept the risk of a shortage of supply however the shortage occurs, strictly adhere to the prior appropriation doctrine, and protect existing water uses and communities from adverse impacts resulting from the new supply project.	Maintain and maximize the consumptive use of water permitted in the Equitable Apportionment Decree and the baseline depletion allowance of the Three State Agreement.	Protect and preserve the doctrine of prior appropriation and vested water rights and fully utilize Colorado's compact entitlements as specified under the Rio Grande and Costilla Compacts. Ag , M&I , Env&Rec , WAdm	A Balanced Program is needed to Plan and Preserve Colorado River Options - A balanced program to plan and preserve options to responsibly develop Colorado River water to benefit both east slope and west slope consumptive and nonconsumptive water uses is needed to assure that the State's plan has equal focus on the previously identified strategies including: 1) developing IPPs; 2) municipal conservation and reuse; 3) agricultural transfers and 4) new supply.	Recognize and address the downstream challenges faced by water users in southwest Colorado due to continued development and pressures from users in the State of New Mexico; protect interests in southwest Colorado, while complying with existing Compact obligations. The entitlement to Colorado River flows for New Mexico will be based on deliveries from southwest Colorado (SW CO Statement of Importance January 2014).	
			Explicitly recognize that a new supply development from any location in the Colorado River System affects the entire West Slope, as well as the Front Range diverters.				Preserve Southwest Basin's ability to develop CO River compact entitlement to meet our water supply gaps.	
			Any new supply project from the Colorado River System must have specifically identified sponsors and beneficiaries, and meet certain minimum criteria.				Recognize and uphold the unique settlement of tribal reserved water rights claims in the 1988 Tribal Water Rights Settlement and the 1991 Consent Decree. <i>(SW CO Statement of Importance January 2014).</i>	
			Appropriate demand management and water conservation techniques must be employed prior to any new supply development from the Colorado River System.					
			Local solutions must be utilized to meet Colorado's future water needs without a major state water project or related placeholder water right.					

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G. Other Basin Issues		Protect and improve water quality	Scenario planning should be used as the principle tool for water planning.		Make progress toward meeting applicable water quality standards throughout the Basin. Ag , M&I , Env&Rec			
					Sustain the confined and unconfined aquifer in accordance with SB-222 and operate within the State Engineers new Rules and Regulations for the San Luis Valley. Ag , M&I , Env&Rec , WAdm			
H. Participation, Education, Outreach, Communications		Increase education among the agricultural community about Colorado River Bvasin Water Issues	Maintain an active and comprehensive public education process about water resources in the Gunnison Basin.		Establish a long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in SLV/Rio Grande Basin. Ag , M&I , Env&Rec , WAdm			
			Continue statewide discussion, outreach, and education concerning the Gunnison Basin Roundtable's vision for water development in Colorado.					

* The four overarching themes of the South Platte/Metro are not the goals. These are still being further developed and are not ready for Board review.