

# Updating Colorado's Water Plan

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**C**olorado's Water Plan is dynamic by design. The plan addresses today's water challenges with the understanding that our water landscape may change quickly. Colorado's Water Plan will be agile in the face of future uncertainty regarding both water supply and demand, and will include advancements in water resource management to meet these changing conditions.





The children of several of the authors of Colorado's Water Plan, standing together at Clear Creek in Golden. They represent the importance of planning for a sustainable water future. Pictured are: Gizachew Mitchell, Taye Mitchell holding Emma Bornstein, Saba Mitchell holding Wrenna McIntire, Forest Eklund, Aidan Reidy, Maeve Reidy, Sierra Mitchell holding Clay McIntire, and Rowan Eklund. Photo: M. Nager.



## GOAL

**Colorado's Water Plan is a dynamic document that incorporates Colorado's changing economy, water supplies, water needs, and stakeholder efforts.**

The CWCB will initiate the next iteration of Colorado's Water Plan by 2020, following updates to the BIPs and SWSI. Periodically updating Colorado's Water Plan in the future will ensure that water remains a focus of Colorado's ongoing policy development and that state policies continue to be responsive to ongoing technical and stakeholder work. The following chart demonstrates the cyclical planning process proposed by the CWCB. The year indicated represents the calendar year in which work will begin on each product, with delivery of the first iteration of Colorado's Water Plan at the end of 2015.

It is important that Colorado's Water Plan facilitates ongoing implementation of the projects and methods the BIPs identified, and of the actions the plan identified at the statewide, basin, and local level. As part of these ongoing efforts, the CWCB will encourage the basin roundtables to be caretakers of the BIPs and to be catalysts for implementation at the local and basin levels. The CWCB will also continue to rely on the IBCC to deliberate and find consensus around difficult issues that warrant interbasin communication and debate.

CWCB will coordinate ongoing updates regarding the BIPs, the SWSI, the work of the IBCC, and other studies and stakeholder work, and will incorporate those updates into future drafts of Colorado's Water Plan. As Chapter 10 discusses, the CWCB will monitor statewide progress on the goals and measurable objectives.

**TABLE 11-1**

### **CYCLICAL PLANNING PROCESS PROPOSED BY THE CWCB**

| <b>Product</b>                    | <b>Year Initiated</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Basin Implementation Plans        | 2013                  |
| Colorado's Water Plan             | 2013                  |
| Statewide Water Supply Initiative | 2016                  |
| Basin Implementation Plans        | 2018                  |
| Colorado's Water Plan             | 2020                  |
| Statewide Water Supply Initiative | 2022                  |

### **ACTIONS**

1. The CWCB will work with other state agencies, the basin roundtables, and the people of Colorado to update Colorado's Water Plan, beginning no later than 2020.
2. The CWCB will develop guidelines for Basin Roundtable WSRA grants to help facilitate the implementation of the BIPs.





The General Assembly's Water Resources Review Committee conducting hearings on Colorado's Water Plan, which they did twice in each basin across the state during development of the plan. Courtesy of the Water Resources Review Committee.