

COLORADO

Colorado is one of the best places to live, work, and play. The mountains, rivers, minerals, plains, forests, snow, wildlife, wilderness, and of course our citizens and communities have drawn people by the millions to the Centennial State. To support a thriving economy, vibrant and sustainable cities, productive agriculture, and a robust recreation industry, you need water.



Colorado's average precipitation yields 14 million acre-feet of water annually in our streams and rivers. More than 60% of this water exits the state and supplies water to 18 downstream states and Mexico.

Managing water resources in Colorado is challenging due to variable climatic conditions, aging infrastructure, and increasing funding needs.



Our population has ballooned from 1 million in 1930 to over 5 million today, and could nearly double by 2050.

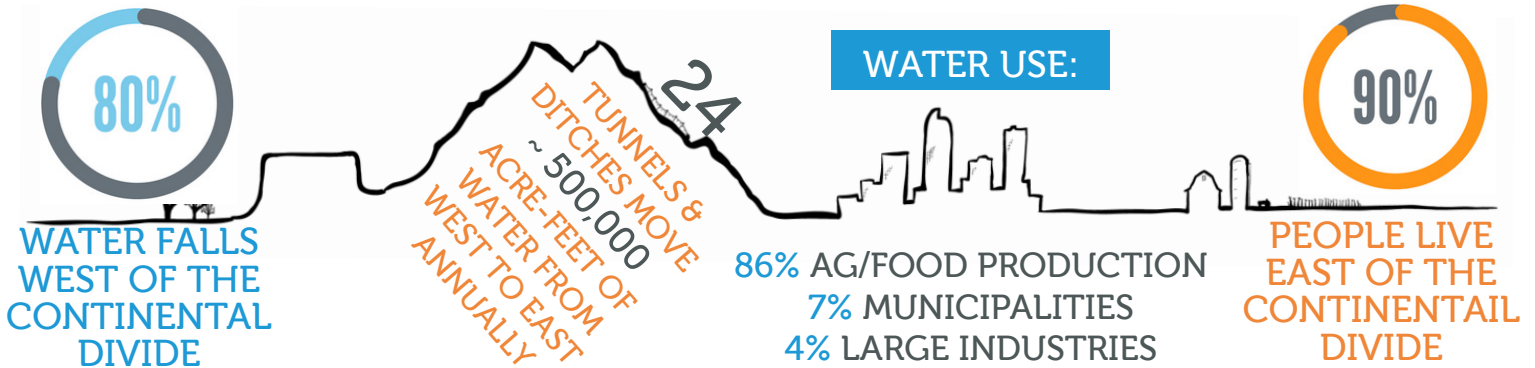
This growth will increase the demand for water, the state's most valuable resource that sustains all sectors and regions, and greatly affects Coloradans' livelihoods.



With an unpredictable water supply and growing demand, Colorado could experience a water supply gap of up to 560,000 acre-feet by 2050 - the amount of water needed to support 2.5 million Coloradans.

Meeting that gap in a balanced manner that protects the water that we drink, that grows our food, and that sustains the environment we enjoy is an issue that affects every Coloradan.

1 ACRE-FOOT = 326,000 gallons = water supply for 4 people for 1 year = covers a football field in a foot of water



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN IS THE ROADMAP

WHAT'S IN THE PLAN?

Colorado's Water Plan is our state's framework for solutions to our water challenges. It guides future decision-making to address water challenges with a collaborative, balanced, and solutions-oriented approach. It sets forth the measurable goals needed to ensure the state's most valuable resource is protected and available for generations to come.

- CONSERVATION
- LAND USE
- AGRICULTURE
- STORAGE
- WATERSHED HEALTH
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- RECREATION
- FUNDING
- EDUCATION & OUTREACH

"Colorado is one of the fastest growing states in the nation and we recognize that growing the next 5.4 million Coloradans will take innovative water management, law, policy, and data."

- Governor's Proclamation, Colorado's Water Plan Implementation Day