

## IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

COLLABORATING ON COLORADO'S WATER FUTURE

Colorado's Water Plan is our state's framework for solutions to our water challenges. It guides future decision-making and sets forth the measurable objectives, goals, and critical actions needed to ensure the state's most valuable resource is protected and available for generations to come. Implementation is critical to Colorado moving forward.

### Supply and Demand Gap

#### Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)

Work is underway to update the Statewide Water Supply Initiative with a focus on data and analysis to serve as the technical foundation for future refinements to the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan. The CWCB Project Management Team and Consultant Team are in the process of developing methodologies that build upon previous efforts and expand to include scenario planning, climate change, conservation impacts, and agricultural and nonconsumptive gaps. Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) are being formed to assist the CWCB and Consultant Teams in this process. Once the refined methodologies are finalized, data collection, analysis, and documentation will take place throughout the remainder of the year. The update is scheduled to be finalized by December 2017.

### Conservation & Land Use

#### Breaking Down Silos: Integrating Water into Land Use Planning

As Colorado grows, land-use planning and water planning will become more closely connected. The manner in which Colorado develops into the future will have a strong influence on Colorado's future water supply gap, and vice versa. The Breaking Down Silos webinar series is targeted at Colorado local government planners/leaders and water providers to help integrate land use and water planning. The two upcoming webinar trainings focus on integrating water efficiency into landscape requirements and Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). These free webinars are presented by the CWCB and the Pace University Land Use Law Center in collaboration with the Department of Local Affairs' Community Development Office, as well as partner organizations - APA-CO, Colorado Counties, and Colorado Municipal League.

- April 11: Addressing Water Efficiency in Planned Unit Developments (PUDs)
- Date TBD: Integrating Outdoor Water Use and Landscape Requirements into Codes & Plans

[REGISTER](#) or get more information on Colorado's Water Plan website.

### Water Rate Workshops

The CWCB and [Alliance for Water Efficiency](#) developed and implemented two [Financing Sustainable Water Workshops](#). The February 28 workshop took place in Glenwood Springs and drew over 20 participants. The March 2 workshop took place in Lakewood with approximately 55 participants. The main goal of the workshops was to work with participants to develop rate structures that successfully balance revenue management, resource efficiency, and fiscal sustainability in light of decreased supply, volatile weather, and declining demand. Initial feedback from participants is positive and participants were enthusiastic about the topics that were covered, as well as the peer to peer sharing and access to new resources.

### Agriculture

#### Ag Water Summit

The [final report](#) from the November 29th Ag Water Summit hosted by the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) is published on [Colorado's Water Plan](#) website under the Implementation tab. The summit brought 175 participants from across the state together to identify concrete ways to achieve the measurable objective in Colorado's Water Plan to share at least 50,000 acre-feet of agricultural water using voluntary alternative transfer methods (ATMs) by 2030.

#### Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) Workshops

During the past year, the [Colorado Ag Water Alliance \(CAWA\)](#) has hosted a series of workshops throughout the state for agricultural producers and those interested in agricultural water issues. The goal of these workshops is discuss the possibilities and issues regarding alternative transfer mechanisms (ATM's) and other programs that involve producers leasing water for a variety of purposes. In the course of five meetings in the South Platte, Colorado, Yampa, Rio Grande, and Gunnison Basins, nearly 500 attendees participated. CAWA's goal is to provide the necessary information to producers to increase awareness and help them make informed decisions about whether ATM's or leasing water can be a positive addition to their agricultural operations. CAWA has also been soliciting feedback from producers on ATM's, which helps Colorado better understand the impact of these arrangements on agricultural producers.

## Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation

### Recreation

The CWCB awarded the City of Durango a grant in February 2017 for the Durango Whitewater Park to help with adjustments and improve safety and the ability to navigate the play features. The park utilizes a recreational in-channel diversion (RICD) water right that was awarded by the water court in 2007. The Durango Whitewater Park was completed in 2014 and is located near Santa Rita Park on the Animas River. Durango is a highly active community with significant outdoor recreation occurring within the Animas River Greenway. The park serves this community and the entire southwest region of Colorado. The maintenance project is underway and expected to be complete this spring.

### Instream Flow Program

The CWCB's [Instream Flow Program \(ISF\)](#) helps meet one of the primary values in Colorado's Water Plan: ensuring a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Ongoing efforts to manage existing ISFs and implement new permanent and temporary ISFs directly assist with meeting a number of critical goals in the plan including:

- recovering imperiled species;
- enhancing environmental and recreational economic values;
- protecting healthy environments; and
- protecting and restoring critical watersheds.

In 2016, the CWCB obtained decrees for 11 new instream flow and 4 natural lake level water rights in Water Divisions 1, 4, 5, and 6. Many of these instream flow and natural lake level water rights will provide permanent protection of habitat for imperiled native species, including brassy minnow, Iowa darters, northern leopard frogs, bluehead suckers, and the Colorado butterfly plant. In January 2017, the CWCB initiated the appropriation of 13 new ISF water rights and two natural lake level water rights in Water Divisions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. These ISF rights also provided permanent protection for imperiled native species including various lineages of cutthroat trout and boreal toads. CWCB staff continues to move forward on temporary leases and permanent acquisitions to assist with stream flows in critical reaches during critical periods.

## Education & Outreach

### Fact Sheet

The CWCB created a general Colorado water and Colorado's Water Plan fact sheet that anyone can use in their education and outreach efforts. Check it out on [Colorado's Water Plan homepage](#).

## Additional Information

### Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC)

The next IBCC meeting will take place on Thursday, April 20 in Summit County. Check the [CWCB homepage](#) for more information.

## Colorado's Water Plan Measurable Objectives

Colorado's Water Plan is a living document and implementation is critical to protecting our state's values into the future. We need your help to implement this plan and achieve these objectives to meet our state's projected water needs. [Learn more!](#)



## Connect!

Sign up for the CWCB Confluence Newsletter at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/confluencenewsletter](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/confluencenewsletter)

Visit us online at [www.coloradowaterplan.com](http://www.coloradowaterplan.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/cowaterplan](https://facebook.com/cowaterplan)

Twitter: [@COWaterPlan](https://twitter.com/COWaterPlan)



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources