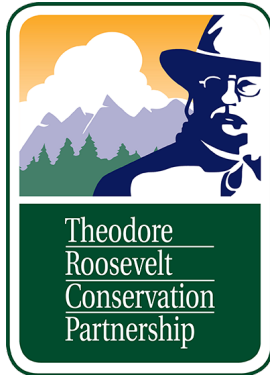
An aerial photograph of a vast, flat landscape, likely a wetland or marsh, with a sunburst effect in the center. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and lens flare. The landscape is green and brown, with some water visible in the foreground. The sky is blue with some clouds. A thin brown line forms a partial frame around the title text.

Colorado Water Plan 101

Better Understanding the
Roadmap to a Secure Water Future

The Colorado Water Plan is a roadmap that leads to a productive economy, vibrant and sustainable cities, productive agriculture, a strong environment, and a robust recreation industry. It sets forth the measurable objectives, goals, and actions by which Colorado will address its projected future water needs and measure its progress—all built on our shared values.



CONSERVATION
COLORADO



Audubon | ROCKIES



American Rivers
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Technical Support

- If your connection is lost:
 - Log-in again using your unique web link and passcode provided when you registered with Go To Webinar
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available on 11/25 at <http://waterforcolorado.org/>
- Any issues or questions after the webinar please email Fay Hartman, fhartman@americanrivers.org

To Ask a Question

- We encourage you to ask questions throughout the webinar in the question box
- We will leave 15 minutes at the end of the webinar to answer as many questions as we can. Those that are not answered will be answered in the transcript after the webinar
- The transcript of all questions and answers will be available by 11/25 on <http://waterforcolorado.org/>

Water For Colorado Webinar Series

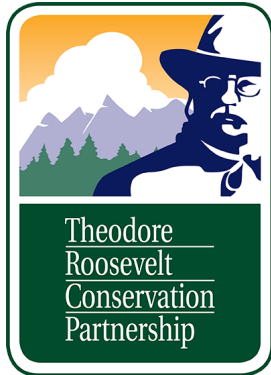
- Local communities helped shape the Water Plan and benefit from its implementation
- Local projects help achieve state –wide goals and address local needs
- This webinar series will provide information and a framework for communities to engage with and implement the CWP



Photo Credit: City of Steamboat Springs, CO

Colorado Water Plan 101 Webinar

- Background on the Colorado Water Plan
- The Colorado Water Plan - what is it?
- Engaging in the implementation of Colorado's Water Plan
- Participating in the update of Colorado's Water Plan
- Questions



CONSERVATION
COLORADO



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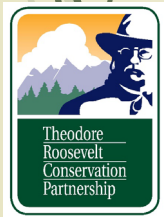


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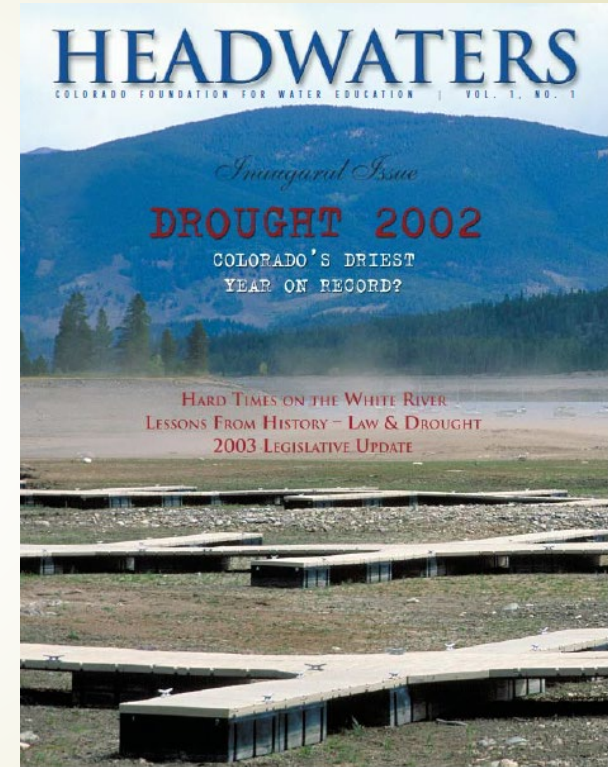
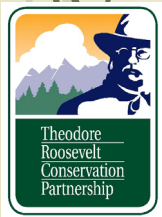
Colorado Water Plan - Perspective on Creation process & Important Firsts

Melinda Kassen, TRCP



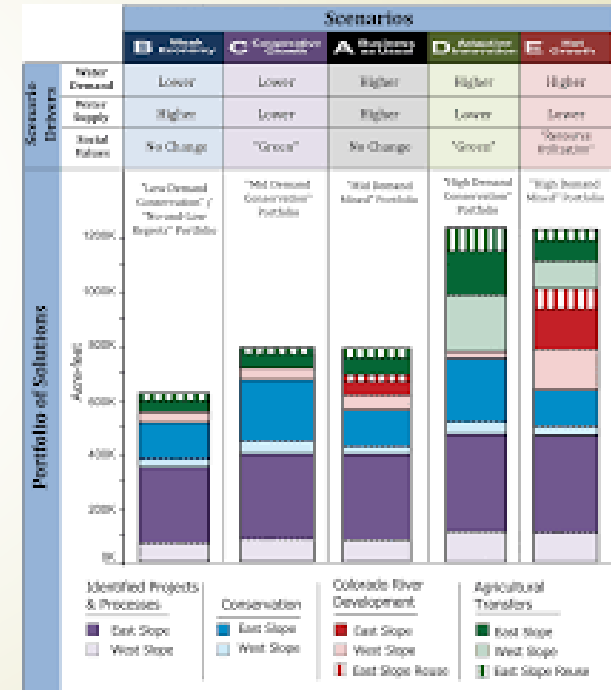
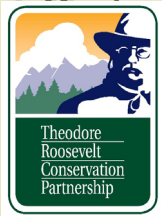
Some History

- ▶ CO didn't have – or want – a water plan.
 - ▶ Our Prior Appropriations system is the plan!
- ▶ Water for the 21st Century Act in 2005 (BRTs & IBCC); then WSRF in 2006 (\$\$)
- ▶ 2010 SWSI, updated in 2015 & 2019
- ▶ 2013 Exec Order. laid out CO values
 - ▶ Productive economy supporting vibrant & sustainable cities, viable & productive ag & a robust skiing, rec & tourism industry
 - ▶ Efficient & effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; &
 - ▶ A strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers & streams & wildlife



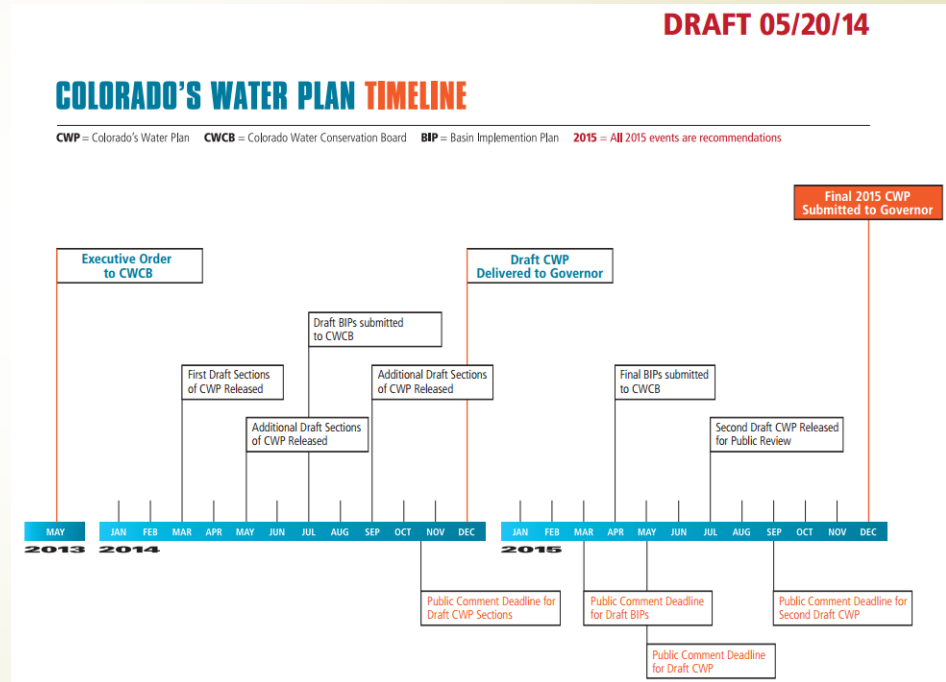
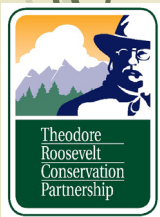
18 month Race to the Plan

- A 2-track process: BIPs & the state-wide plan
- Run by CWCB staff (Becky & Jacob) & contractors
- WQ chapter contributed by WQCD
- IBCC contributed scenario planning & Conceptual Framework



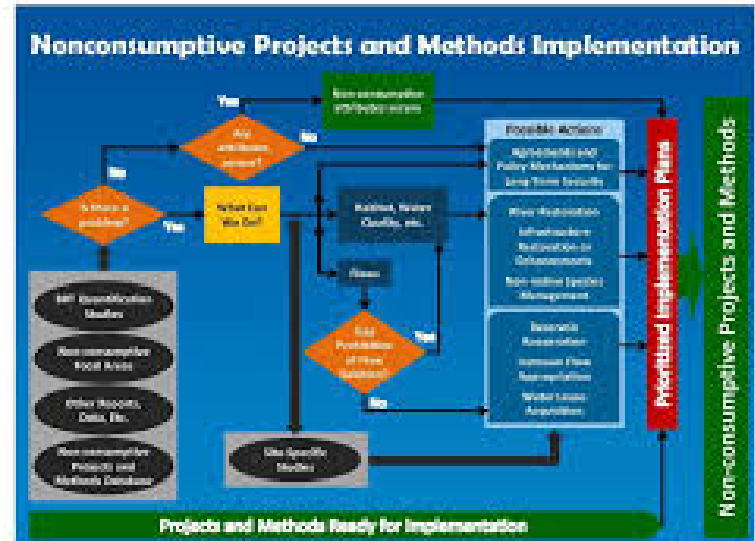
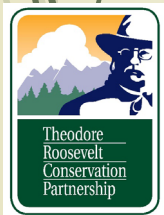
Race to the Plan – Process Elements

- Two drafts + final
- \$ 115 Leg hearings & input
- CWCB board meetings
 - tense Qs for E&R & local gov't witnesses
 - Form ltrs dismissed
- 28,000 comments later, CWCB embraces public involvement as badge of honor



Plan Firsts

- E&R as equal of 3 state-wide values
- ecological resiliency (Audubon, TNC)
- Boating analysis (AW)
- E&R gap
- SMPs – 80% of critical reaches by '30
- Urban conservation – 400KAF
- Criteria for state support of projects
- Conceptual Framework
- Link to land use planning
- Link to water quality



THE FUTURE OF COLORADO WATER

COLORADO

WATER PLAN

Lauren Ris

Deputy Director, CWCB
Lauren.Ris@state.co.us



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**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources



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Department of Natural Resources

*To Conserve, Develop, Protect
and Manage Colorado's Water
for Present and Future Generations.*

Water Project Loan Program

Water Conservation & Drought Planning

Interstate Compact Protection

Stream & Lake Protection

Decision Support Systems

Water Supply Planning



OF THE WATER FALLS WEST
OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE



OF THE PEOPLE LIVE EAST
OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE



24
TUNNELS & DITCHES MOVE
500,000 ACRE-FEET
OF WATER FROM WEST
TO EAST EACH YEAR

8 BASINS

where major
rivers flow

88% AG/FOOD PRODUCTION
8% MUNICIPALITIES
4% LARGE INDUSTRIES

5.6 MILLION PEOPLE

use water to live, work
and play in Colorado

9 COMPACTS LEGALLY
REQUIRE WATER TO BE
DELIVERED BEYOND
COLORADO'S BOARDERS

9 ROUNDTABLES

collaborate on
local needs

15 MAJOR INDUSTRIES

depend on water for
growth and success

UP TO 33% OF IRRIGATED
LAND COULD BE DRIED UP
BY 2050 TO MEET NEW
MUNICIPAL DEMANDS



C. Land Use

- ❖ **Integrate Land Use and Water Planning:** Initiate the use of local land use tools, where appropriate, to reduce water demands for municipalities, and the need to urbanize agricultural lands.

CRITICAL LAND USE ACTION	SECTION	PARTNERS	TYPE
1 Through voluntary trainings for local governments, encourage the incorporation of best management practices in land use for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation.	6.3.3	CWCB, DOLA, stakeholders	Programmatic

D. Agriculture

- ❖ **Maintain Agricultural Viability:** Maintain Colorado's agricultural productivity, support of rural economies, and food security (through meaningful incentives and grassroots efforts).
- ❖ **Facilitate Alternative Transfer Methods:** Respect property rights and contributions of the agricultural industry by establishing alternative options that compete with, if not out-perform, traditional "buy-and-dry" transactions in the water market.
- ❖ **Support Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency:** Support Colorado's agricultural industry to make it more efficient, resilient, and able to reduce water consumption without impacting agricultural productivity.

CRITICAL AGRICULTURE ACTIONS	SECTION	PARTNERS	TYPE
1 Establish an education and assistance program for farmers and ranchers to help realize more market-competitive transactions that promote implementation of ATMs, and enable Coloradans to enter the agriculture industry.	6.5, 6.4, 6.3.4	CWCB, CDA	Programmatic
2 Encourage ditch-wide and regional planning to explore system-wide conservation and efficiency opportunities and tradeoffs, the potential for water sharing, and long-term infrastructure maintenance needs.	6.5, 6.3.4	CWCB, agricultural partners, BRIs	Programmatic
3 Provide grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits.	6.5, 6.3.4	CWCB, BRIs, agricultural partners, other stakeholders	Programmatic
4 Develop model voluntary flow agreement language, facilitation, and technical support to encourage the use of these agreements when paired with irrigation efficiency practices.	6.3.4	CWCB, DWR, agricultural partners, environmental groups, BRIs	Programmatic, state agency policies
5 Explore the development of administrative means to track and administer agricultural conserved water for the purposes of marketing these waters.	6.3.4, 6.4	DWR, CWCB	Process
6 Explore expanded grant funding that supports implementation of ATM projects, related infrastructure, or entities that would help facilitate alternative transfer methods.	6.4	CWCB, BRIs, DWR, stakeholders	Process

Since 2015, significant **progress** has been made on over 65% of Water Plan critical actions even though many of the goals extend through 2050.



SUPPLY

Reduce the projected 2050 municipal and industrial gap from 560,000 acre-feet to zero by 2030.



AGRICULTURE

Support agricultural economic productivity and share 50,000 acre-feet using alternative transfer methods by 2030.



FUNDING

Sustainably fund the water plan by raising \$100 million in revenue annually starting in 2020 (\$3 billion by 2050).



CONSERVATION

Achieve 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial conservation of water by 2050.



LAND USE

Ensure 75 percent of Coloradoans live in water-saving communities by 2025.



STORAGE

Attain 400,000 acre-feet of water storage to manage and share conserved water by 2050.



EDUCATION

Improve the level of public awareness by 2020 and engage Coloradoans on key water challenges by 2030.



WATERSHED

Cover 80 percent of all prioritized watersheds and rivers with a Management plan by 2030.



ADDITIONAL

Respond to and prepare for natural disasters, climate change and energy needs while protecting interstate matters.

Colorado Water Loss Initiative

- ✓ Lost water = lost money
- ✓ 2+ years of statewide training
- ✓ Coloradowaterloss.org



Available **Funding**



- Water Project Loan Program
- Water Plan Grants
- Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants
- Water Efficiency Grants
- Colorado Healthy Rivers Grants
- Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants
- Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program
- Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grant Program
- Fish and Wildlife Resources Grants
- Weather Modification Grants
- Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants
- Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Project Investment Grants

FUNDING

Water Plan Grant Category	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20
WSRF Supplemental Funding	\$10M	\$2M	\$2.5M
CO Watershed Restoration Program	\$5M	\$2M	\$4M
Agricultural Transfer Methods (ATM) Grants	\$1M*		\$1M
Agricultural Projects Water Plan Grants	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M
Conservation & Land Use Planning Water Plan Grants	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M
Environment/Recreation Water Plan Grants	\$1M	\$1.5M	\$1.5M
Innovation/Outreach Water Plan Grants	\$5M	\$0.5M	\$0.5M
Storage & Supply Gap Water Plan Grants	\$1M	\$3M	\$3M
Water Plan Updating Efforts	\$1M		\$5.5M
TOTAL	\$25M	\$11M	\$20M

OVER
= \$56 M

*ATM grants were not calculated into the original \$25M package in FY 17/18.

Proposition DD

PASSED

- Colorado voters approved Prop DD this November
- Creates a 10% tax on legal sports betting proceeds for the Water Plan
- Projections of \$15 million annually for Water Plan Grant Program

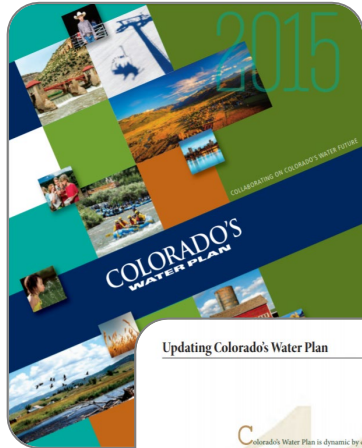


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Department of Natural Resources

Future of the Water Plan



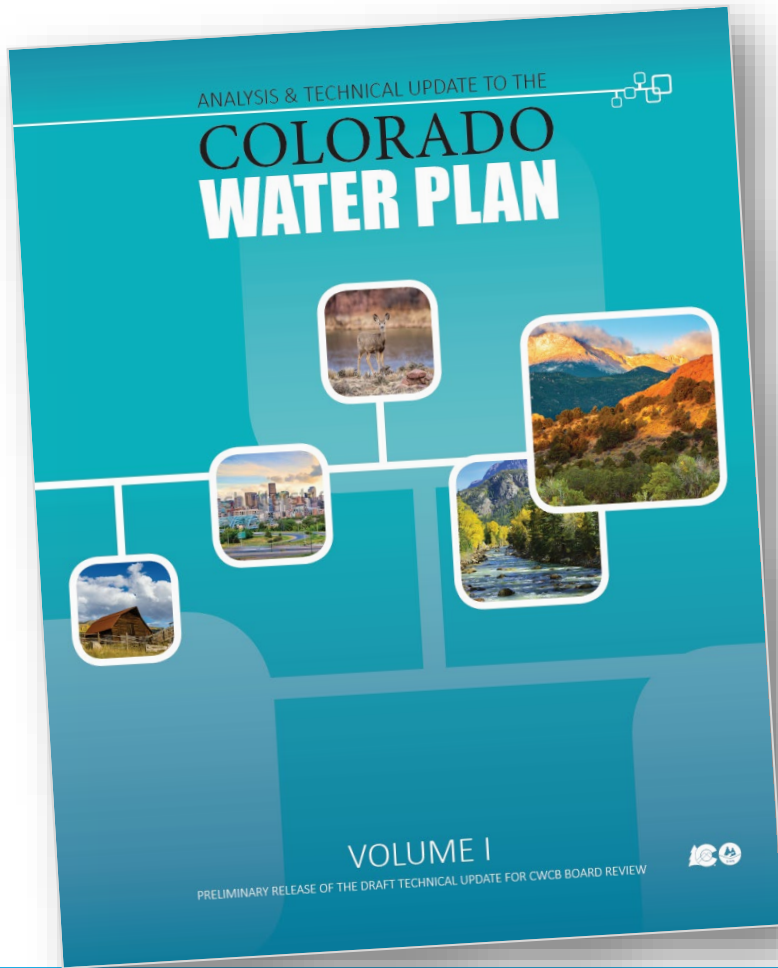
Updating Colorado's Water Plan

Colorado'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.

TABLE 11-1

CYCLICAL PLANNING PROCESS PROPOSED BY THE CWCB

Product	Year Initiated
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



ANALYSIS AND
TECHNICAL
UPDATE

BASIN
IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN UPDATES

COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN
UPDATE

A

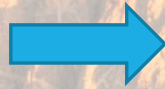
B

C



Water Plan Technical Update

- Municipal & Industrial
- Agricultural
- Environmental & Recreational



**Climate
Change**

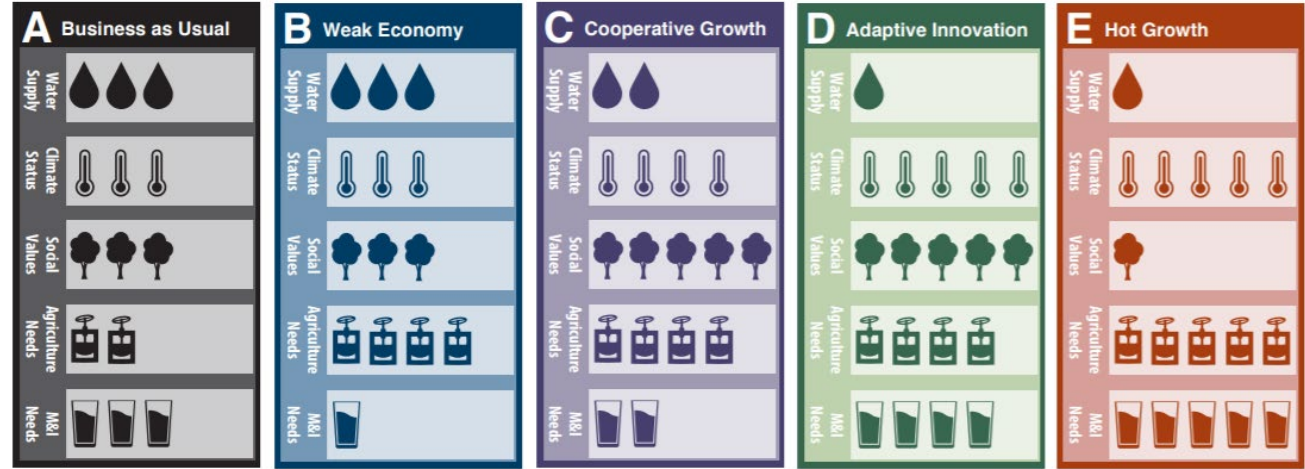
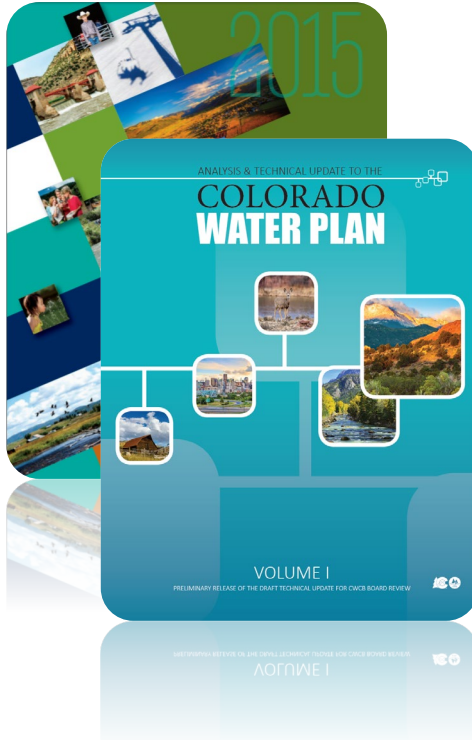


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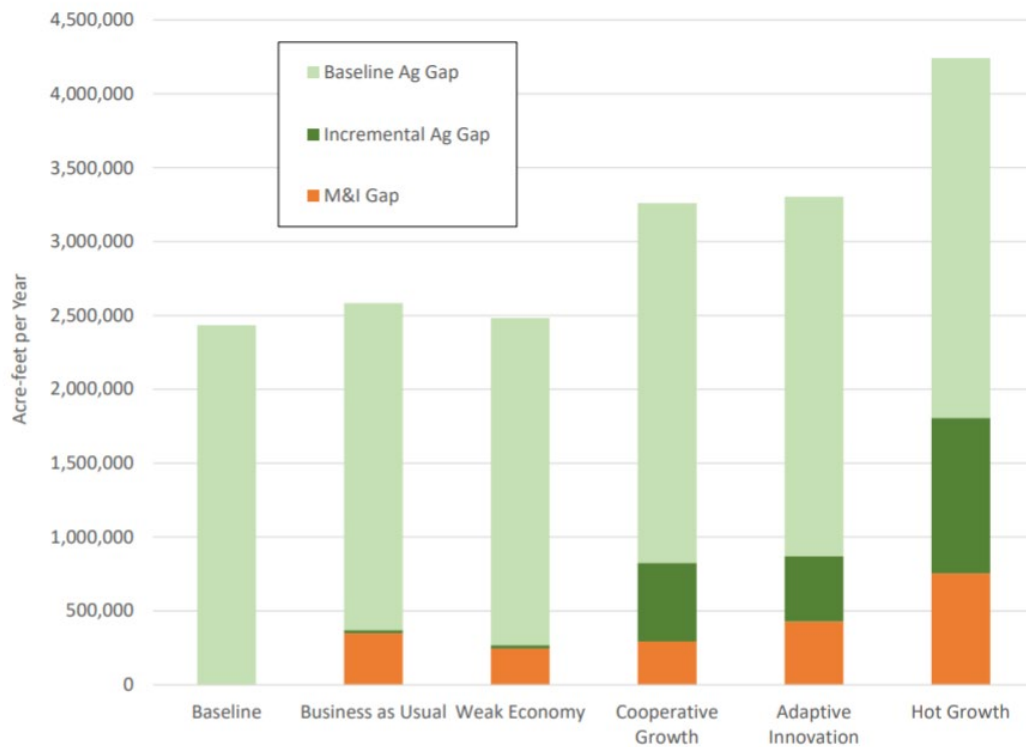
Department of Natural Resources

PLANNING SCENARIOS



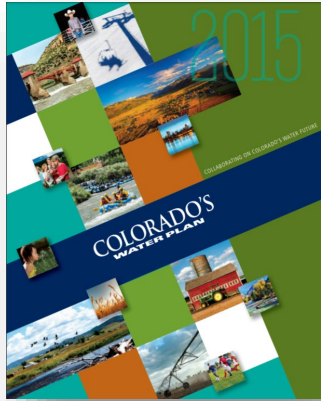
- Scenarios in the Water Plan were developed with the IBCC and BRTs
- These scenarios represent equally plausible futures

Figure ES.2 Summary of Statewide Gap Estimates by Planning Scenario

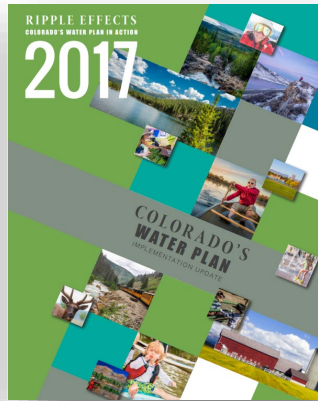


Much more available at www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan

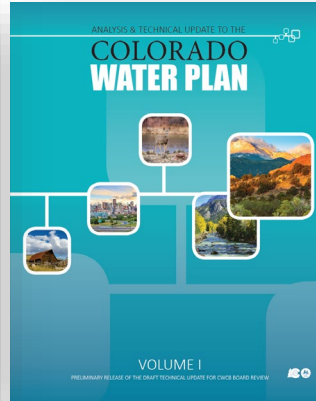
COLLABORATIVE. ITERATIVE. INTERCONNECTED.



2015



2017



2019



2018-2021

2019-2022

Take **aways...**

- ✓ We need you!
- ✓ Grants and loans are available
- ✓ Get involved with your local Basin Roundtable

Find out more at cwcb.state.co.us

THANK YOU!



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**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Lauren Ris

Deputy Director, CWCB

Lauren.Ris@state.co.us

What's Next: Colorado Water Plan

- Communities have implemented number of different types of water projects that meet the objectives outlined in the CWP
- These projects have benefited counties through increased tourism, recreation dollars, improved agriculture etc.
- More needs to be done to achieve the CWP and counties have the ability to make the CWP their own
- The CWP will be updated in 2020. Colorado needs to participate in the update: get involved with your local basin roundtable and let them know the types of projects that are important to your community

Questions?

- We encourage you to ask any questions or ideas you have in the question box at this time.
- A transcript of all questions and answers will be available by 11/25 on <http://waterforcolorado.org/>

Thank You!

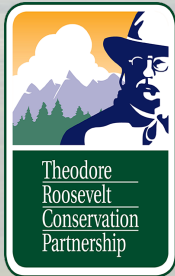
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Melinda Kassen, TRCP, mKassen@trcp.org

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