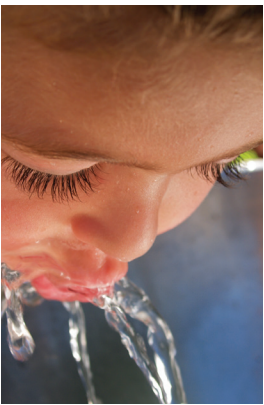


# Conservation Essentials

## *for Colorado's Water Plan*



74% of Colorado voters support using our current water supply more wisely (through conservation and recycling) whereas only 16% support diverting more water away from rivers in the less populated areas of the state.



By 2020 we can reduce per person water use by 10% statewide.

**Water is the lifeblood of Colorado** but it is under pressure like never before. Demands for water to support population growth, agriculture, and businesses are increasing while available supplies are not. A Colorado Water Plan is being drafted that will provide a secure water future for our state only if it makes conservation its cornerstone. This plan is crucial for protecting the future of our rivers – and the wildlife, communities, agriculture and businesses that depend on them.

**The draft Colorado Water Plan needs more work** to ensure that our water and way of life are preserved for future generations. While the initial draft plan suggests that we must protect healthy rivers for wildlife and recreation, and make more efficient use of our existing water, a final version of the plan needs meaningful goals and real, actionable steps.

**We urge Governor Hickenlooper and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to commit that we are all in this together**, and the plan, which is being finalized over the next few months, must include these essentials:

### ➤ *Keep Colorado's rivers healthy and flowing*

Colorado's rivers are an integral part of our heritage and way of life. We need to provide consistent and significant funding to assess, protect and restore the health of our rivers, including thorough streamflow management plans all across the state. Strong, flowing rivers are vital for fish and wildlife, and support recreational opportunities like kayaking and fishing.

### ➤ *Avoid new large trans-mountain diversions*

We need to change the status quo. Looking across the state to secure our water needs is no longer the answer. Trans-mountain diversions that drain water from West Slope rivers to supply growing Front Range demands are controversial, costly, and harm our rivers. Conservation and efficiency are less expensive, less contentious and more effective.

### ➤ *Increase water efficiency and recycling in our cities and towns*

Colorado's population is projected to double in the next 35 years to 10 million. Providing water for growing communities while protecting our rivers and way of life requires improved efficiency and conservation. The plan needs to include a statewide municipal water conservation goal of 10% by 2020. Let's expand conservation incentives, increase indoor and outdoor efficiency, and develop and support water-recycling programs.

### ➤ *Modernize agricultural and water sharing practices*

Let's provide incentives and funding to modernize irrigation infrastructure and support voluntary, flexible, compensated water-sharing agreements.

# Conservation Essentials

## *for Colorado's Water Plan*



Rivers in Colorado provide over \$9 billion in economic revenue each year and support nearly 80,000 jobs.



82% of western voters said "low levels of water in rivers," ranked as a significant issue, on par with concerns about unemployment.

In addition, the plan should propose standards that could streamline water project permitting without sacrificing important protections for our rivers. Projects that meet the standards and are consistent with the essentials above would qualify for state support.

### *The Path Forward*

From urban residents to business owners to farmers, we all have a role to play in using our water resources more efficiently. When it comes to water, we all need to live within our means. Greater cooperation, innovative technologies and best practices will enable Colorado to build prosperous communities, support thriving agricultural and tourism industries, and keep our rivers healthy and flowing. We're all in this together.

### *Take Action*

The draft Colorado Water Plan needs more work to ensure the protection of flowing rivers, abundant fish and wildlife, strong tourism and recreation. Let's tell Gov. Hickenlooper and the Colorado Water Conservation Board that Colorado's Water Plan needs to:

- Allocate resources to assess and protect our rivers
- Set a statewide municipal water conservation goal of 10% by 2020
- Modernize agricultural water use and water-sharing agreements
- Commit that large new diversions are NOT the answer



[www.waterforcolorado.org](http://www.waterforcolorado.org)