



Colorado's Water Plan: In-state planning efforts in a Colorado River context

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COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources

Overview

- 1) Colorado's representation on interstate issues
- 2) States of the Upper Basin and Colorado's role
- 3) Colorado River water use
- 4) Colorado stakeholder efforts
- 5) Colorado's Water Plan goals and actions
- 6) Moving forward

Interstate Water Issues

Colorado Water Conservation Board:

“authority to cooperate with the federal government and other states for bringing about the greater utilization of water, and protecting and asserting the rights, interests and authorities of the State of Colorado regarding interstate streams in the state.



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Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Upper Colorado River Commissioner

- James Eklund
- Appointed by the Governor with approval by the CWCB
- Also serves as Colorado’s “principal” on Colorado River issues, consistent with governor’s authority to direct administration of interstate water compacts



Colorado's water users and stakeholders

- Governor's Office
- Attorney General's Office (Federal and Interstate Water)
- Division of Water Resources (interstate compact administration)
- Water users and stakeholders from conservation and conservancy districts, municipalities, and the General Assembly serve on work groups, committees, and task forces associated with water issues across the West.

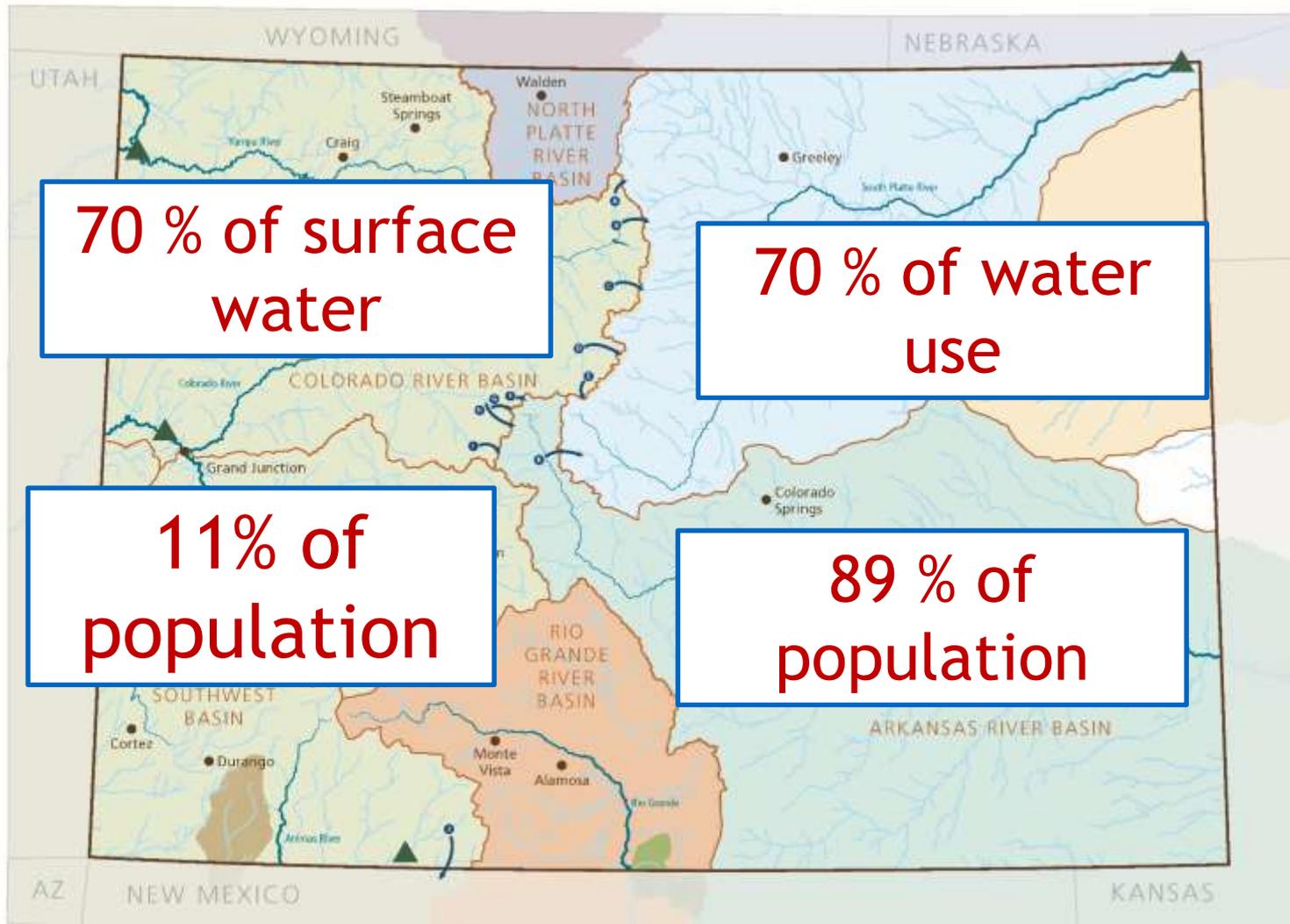


Colorado River Basin
**SALINITY
CONTROL FORUM**



Upper Colorado
River Commission

Colorado River water use



Major Interstate and Intrastate Agreements and Diversions

- ### Interstate Compacts
- South Platte River Compact (1923)
 - Republican River Compact (1942)
 - Arkansas Compact (1948)
 - Rio Grande Compact (1938)
 - Costilla Creek Compact (1944, Revised 1963)
 - La Plata River Compact (1922) & Animas-La Plata Project Compact (1948)
 - Colorado River Compact (1922) & Upper Colorado River Compact (1948)
 - North Platte (1945) & Laramie River (1957) U.S. Supreme Court Equitable Apportionments

Major Trans-Basin Diversions

- A: Grand River Ditch 18,000 AFY
- B: Adams Tunnel 226,000 AFY
- C: Moffat Tunnel 55,000 AFY
- D: Roberts Tunnel 62,000 AFY
- E: Blue Mountain Project 9,000 AFY
- F: Homestake Tunnel 25,000 AFY
- G: Busk Ivanhoe Tunnel 5,100 AFY
- H: Bousted Tunnel 56,000 AFY
- I: Twin Lakes Tunnel 47,000 AFY
- J: San Juan-Chama Project 83,000 AFY
- K: Aurora Homestake Pipeline 76,000 AFY

▲ Endangered Species Flow Programs

— Basin Boundaries

Colorado River water use



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18,000 AFY
- B: Adams Tunnel
226,000 AFY
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- F: Homestake Tunnel
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- G: Busk Ivanhoe Tunnel
5,100 AFY
- H: Boustead Tunnel
56,000 AFY
- I: Twin Lakes Tunnel
41,000 AFY
- J: San Juan-Chama Project
83,000 AFY
- K: Aurora Homestake Pipeline
16,000 AFY

Colorado River Compact

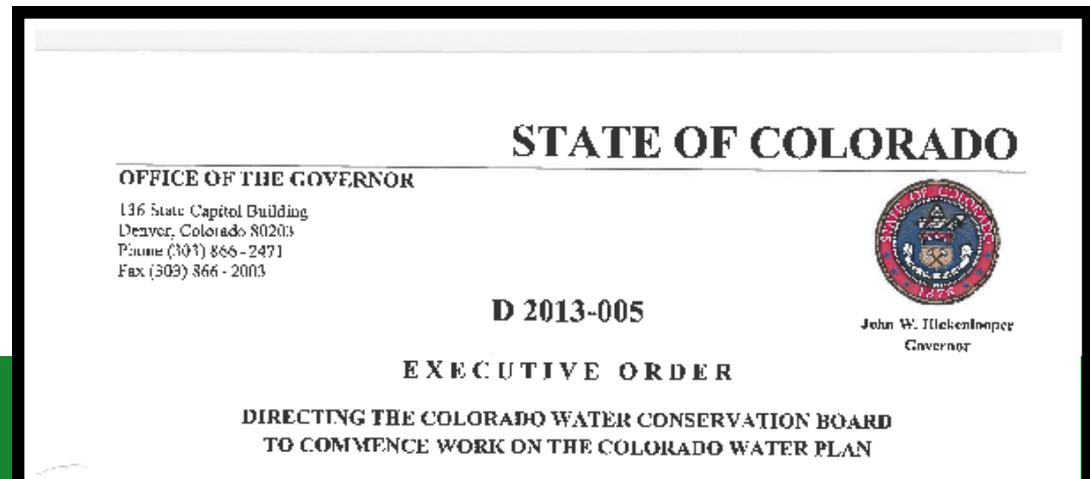
- The States of the Upper Division will not cause the flow of the river at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of 10 consecutive years...
- The States of the Upper Division shall not withhold water, and the States of the Lower Division shall not require the delivery of water, which cannot be reasonably applied to domestic and agricultural use.

Upper Colorado River Commission

- Responsibilities outlined in 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact
- Has played a role in recent cooperative efforts on the River:
 - Endangered species efforts
 - Grand Canyon issues
 - Salinity control measures
 - 2007 Interim Guidelines
 - Ongoing drought contingency planning efforts

Colorado Planning Efforts

- The “Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act”
 - Nine Basin Roundtables
 - Interbasin Compact Committee
- Executive Order 2013-005
 - Basin Implementation Plans
 - Colorado’s Water Plan



Basin Implementation Plans

Arkansas: “The future of the State’s Colorado River Compact Entitlement directly affects all water uses in the Arkansas Basin.”

Gunnison: “New development planning should be focused on avoiding hydroelectric power disruption, a Colorado River compact deficit, or development in excess of Colorado’s allocation...”

Colorado's Conceptual Framework

“Generally, eastern slope roundtables identify the need for a balanced program to preserve the option of future development of Colorado River System water.

Western slope roundtables express concern regarding the impact on future development on the western slope, as well as the potential for overdevelopment related to both a Colorado River Compact deficit and critical levels for system reservoir storage, such as the minimum storage level necessary to reliably produce hydroelectric power at Glen Canyon Dam (“minimum power pool”).”

- *Colorado's Water Plan, Chapter 8*

Colorado's Conceptual Framework

“The IBCC acknowledges that overdevelopment of Colorado River System water is a serious risk that could result in a Colorado River Compact deficit. All of Colorado’s water planning efforts must recognize that risk.”



Protecting Colorado's Compacts and Upholding Colorado Water Law

“The State of Colorado will support strategies to maximize the use of compact water while actively avoiding a Colorado River Compact deficit”

“The State of Colorado will continue to uphold Colorado's water entitlements under Colorado's compacts, equitable apportionment decrees, and other interstate agreements.”



Questions? Comments?



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