

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

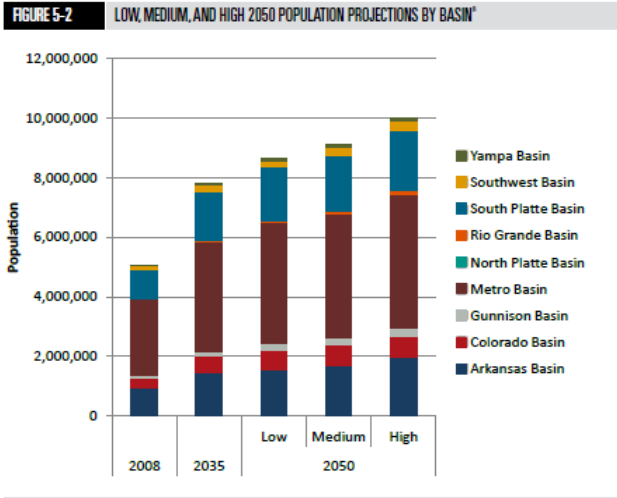
ColoradoWaterPlan.com

Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan

colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/gunnison-river-basin

Colorado completed a statewide water plan in 2015 because:

- Our population is increasing, but there's no new water.
- Many uses compete for a limited amount of water.



Source: Colorado Water Plan

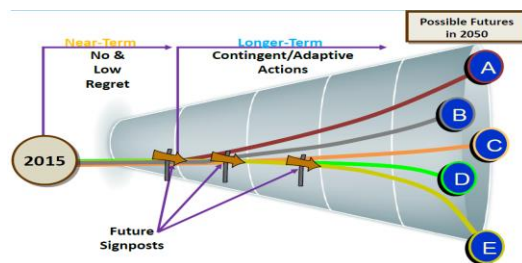


Graphic source: Colorado Foundation for Water Education; Data: Colorado Water Plan

The Water Plan seeks to guide the development and protection of water resources support:

- Vibrant and sustainable **cities**.
- Viable and productive **agriculture**.
- Robust skiing, **recreation** and **tourism** industries.
- Efficient and effective **water infrastructure** promoting **smart land use**.
- A strong environment that includes **healthy watersheds**, rivers and streams, and wildlife.

Preparing for uncertainty in the climate, economy, population, and public values is a major challenge.



No & Low Regret Actions:

- Minimize permanent "buy & dry" of ag lands by supporting alternatives.
- Preserve options for developing unallocated water on the West Slope.
- Establish low to medium conservation strategies.
- Implement projects to support environmental and recreational uses.
- Support projects that are already planned.
- Implement storage and other infrastructure projects.
- Implement water re-use strategies.

Summarized from Colorado's Water Plan

Measurable Objectives in the Plan:

- Eliminate projected urban **supply-demand gap**.
- Achieve 400,000 acre feet/ yr of **urban water conservation**.
- 75% of Coloradans will live in communities with **land-use plans** that include water-saving actions by 2025.
- **Agricultural productivity** will keep pace with growing needs.
- Develop 400,000 acre feet of additional **storage** by 2050.
- Raise **\$100 million annually** for water projects, starting in 2020.
- Improve **public awareness & engagement** on water.

Local priorities and projects were determined in Basin Implementation Plans by basin roundtables.

Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan

colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/gunnison-river-basin

This plan was developed as part of the statewide water planning process by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, a group of water managers and stakeholders charged by Colorado’s legislature with identifying and addressing local water needs. In addition to developing in-basin goals, objectives and project priorities, the plan also sets out statewide principals that articulate the roundtable’s goals for statewide water policy. The Gunnison Basin plan reflects the fact that agriculture is the biggest use of water in the basin, and that many agricultural water users currently experience shortages on a regular basis.

Primary goal: Protect existing water uses in the Gunnison Basin.

Complementary Goals (summarized):

- Discourage the conversion of productive agricultural land to all other uses.
- Improve agricultural water supplies to reduce shortages.
- Identify and address municipal and industrial water shortages.
- Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses.
- Maintain or, where necessary, improve water quality.
- Describe and encourage the beneficial relationship between agricultural, environmental and recreational water uses.
- Restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure.
- Create and maintain public education, outreach and stewardship activities.



Territories of CO’s basin roundtables

Statewide Principles (summarized):

- Future supply of Colorado River water is highly variable and uncertain; any proponent of a new project from the Colorado River System must accept the risk of a shortage, adhere to the prior appropriation doctrine, and protect existing water uses and communities from adverse impacts resulting from the new project.
- A new supply development from any location in the Colorado River System affects the entire System.
- Any new supply project from the Colorado River System must have identified sponsors and beneficiaries, and meet certain minimum criteria.
- Local solutions must be used to meet future water needs without a major state water project or placeholder water right.
- Water conservation, demand management, and land use planning that incorporates water supply factors should be equitably employed statewide.
- Statewide discussion and education concerning the Gunnison Basin Roundtable’s vision for water development in Colorado should be continued.

Average Annual Agricultural Needs by Tributary (1975-2006)

| Tributary (Water District) | Crop Irrigation Requiremen | Irrigation CU (AFY) | Shortage (AFY) | Percent Shortage |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Tomichi Creek (28) | 62,400 | 49,800 | 12,600 | 20% |
| North Fork & Tributaries (40) | 224,600 | 156,200 | 68,400 | 30% |
| Lower Uncompaghre River (41) | 172,800 | 169,700 | 3,100 | 2% |
| Lower Gunnison River (42) | 15,600 | 10,600 | 5,000 | 32% |
| East River Basin (59) | 73,200 | 56,500 | 16,700 | 23% |
| Upper Gunnison River (62) | 34,800 | 32,300 | 2,500 | 7% |
| Upper Uncompaghre River (68) | 30,400 | 27,300 | 3,100 | 10% |
| Total Gunnison River basin | 613,800 | 502,400 | 111,400 | 18% |

Engage with your Basin Roundtable

Basin Roundtable meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose on the 1st Monday of every 2nd month. Details can be found at cwc.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/GunnisonBasinRoundtable.aspx