

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

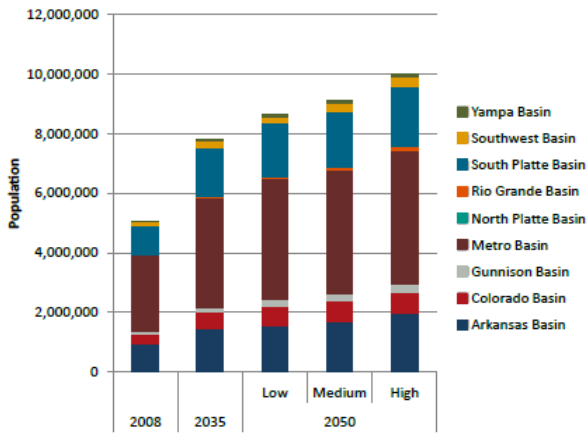
ColoradoWaterPlan.com

Colorado Basin Implementation Plan

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

Colorado completed a statewide water plan in 2015 because:

FIGURE 5-2 LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH 2050 POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY BASIN*



Source: Colorado Water Plan

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

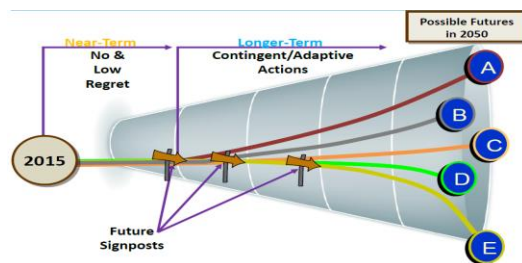


Graphic source: Colorado Foundation for Water Education; Data source: Colorado Water Plan

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.

Summarized from Colorado's Water Plan

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

Colorado Basin Implementation Plan

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

This plan was developed as part of the statewide water planning process by the Colorado Basin Roundtable, a group of water managers and stakeholders charged by Colorado’s legislature with identifying and addressing local water needs.

The plan states that the Colorado River Basin Roundtable “envisions a Colorado River basin that is home to thriving communities benefiting from vibrant, healthy rivers and outstanding water quality that provides for all of the Colorado Basin’s needs...”

“This document’s strongest finding is that another major transmountain diversion of water from the Colorado mainstem to Eastern Colorado should be prevented as damaging to our recreational economy, environment and agriculture. Within Colorado, 15 major TMDs already move water from Western Colorado to the Front Range and Eastern Colorado. 450,000 to 600,000 acre-feet of water annually leaves the Colorado River system to support municipalities and farms east of the Divide.”

Colorado Basin Implementation Plan Themes:

- Protect & Restore **Healthy Streams**, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas
- Sustain **Agriculture**
- Secure Safe **Drinking water**
- Develop Local Water Conscious **Land Use Strategies**
- Assure Dependable Basin **Administration** (Protect Shoshone call)
- Encourage High Level of Basinwide **Conservation**



Territories of CO’s basin roundtables

Basinwide Top Projects

Protect Existing and Future West Slope Uses
Colorado River Cooperative Agreement
Grand Valley Roller Dam Rehabilitation

Colorado Basin Stream Management Plan
Protect Shoshone Hydroelectric Plant Call

Regions within the Colorado River Basin



Work groups in each region developed their own details, methods and identified projects for each of the basinwide themes listed above.

Engage with your Basin Roundtable

The process of refining and implementing the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan is ongoing. Basin Roundtable meetings are held in the Glenwood Springs Community Center on the 4th Monday of every 2nd month. The public is welcome to attend and comment. You can find details on the next meeting, background information and minutes from past meetings, at <http://cwc.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/pages/coloradobasinroundtable.aspx>