



Sustaining Colorado Watersheds

10.9.2013



*A plan by Coloradans
for Colorado*
Colorado's Water Plan





Water for Tomorrow



in some cities along the South Platte River, especially near the Front Range, the municipal and industrial water supply is becoming critical and in the absence of other

1974

Colorado State Water Plan

Phase I, appraisal report on water and related land resources and their present utilization

alternatives, agricultural water rights have been purchased. There is a danger there that the basic agricultural economy will be destroyed."

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with The State of Colorado.





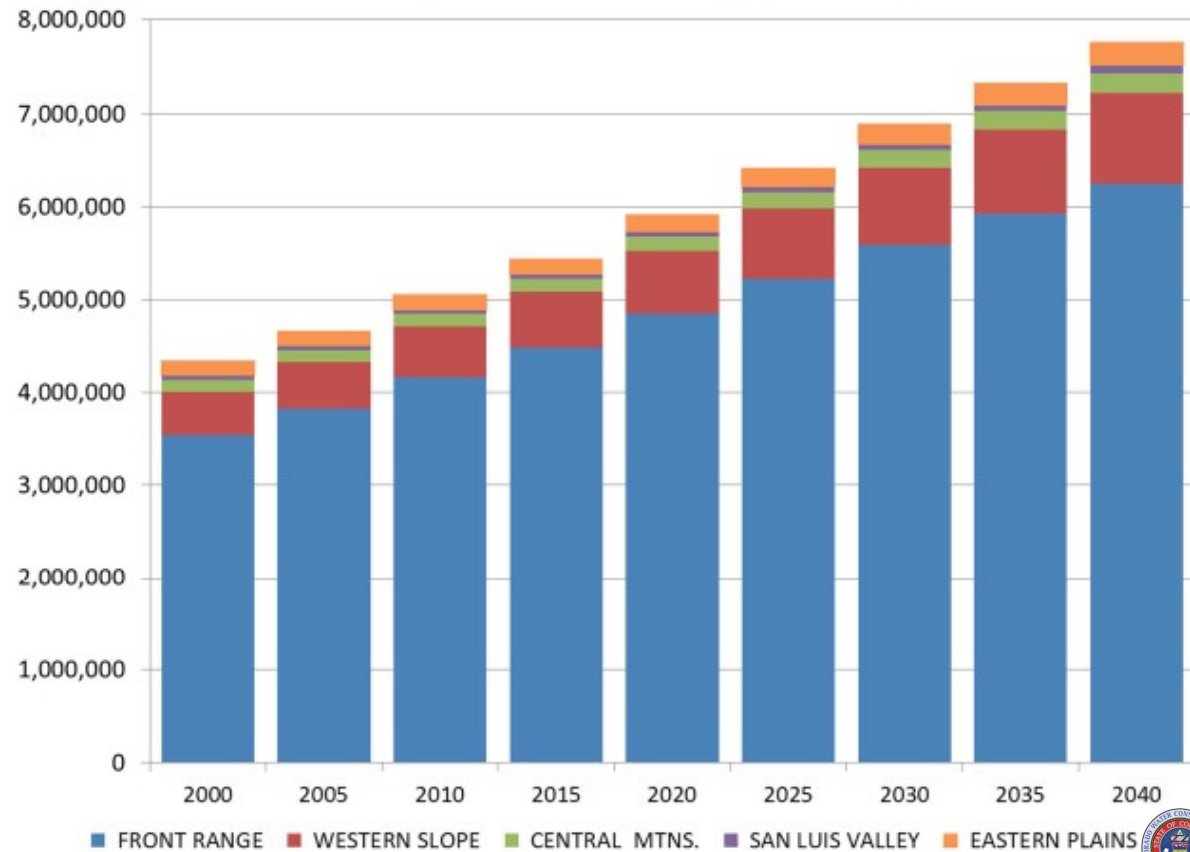
“IBCC agrees that the status quo solution for meeting future water needs is the ‘buy-and-dry’ of irrigated agricultural water and that the status quo is not acceptable.”

-IBCC Letter to the Governor-Elect, December 15, 2010



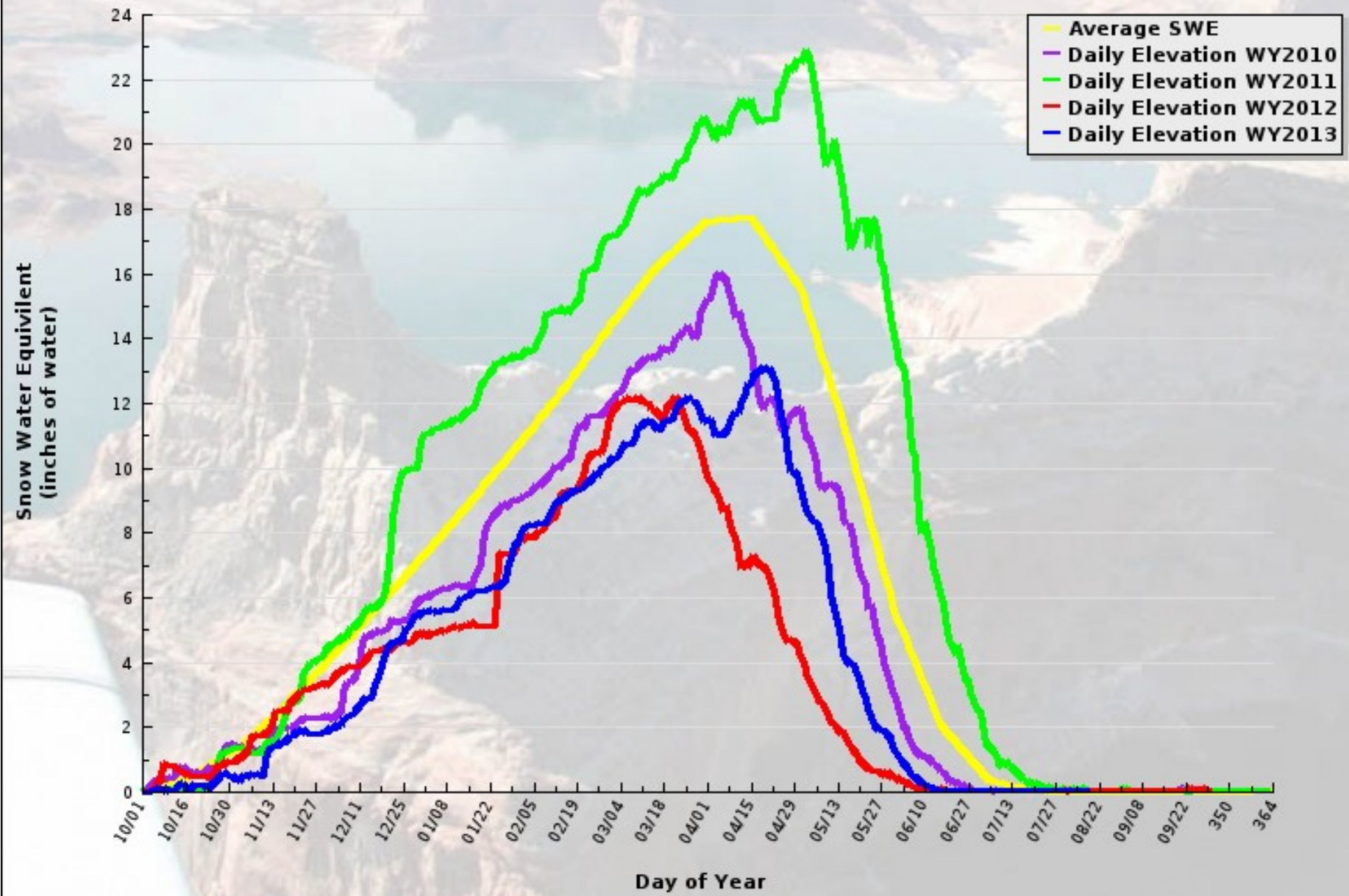
Our Gap is real and looming.

Colorado Population by Region



Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack



Current Year & Last 3 Water Years & Averages





Critical to our *interstate* positions and responsibility that our *intrastate* house is in order.

Explanation

-  State water plan
-  Planning program but no comprehensive state plan



Quality & quantity
sides of the equation
converging.



General Assembly willing to act.



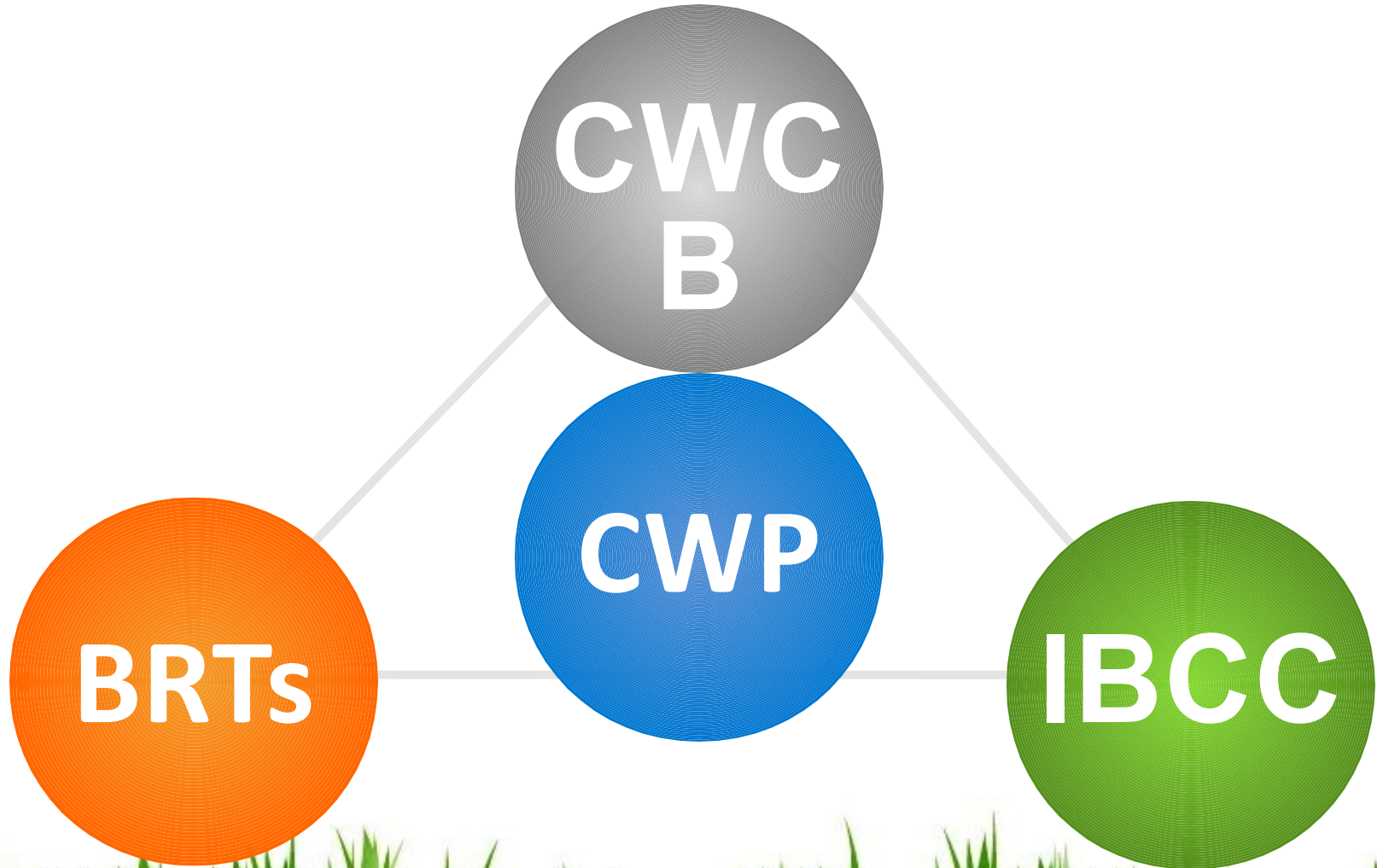
Colorado's WATER PLAN will...

Establish Colorado's values around water and a process for sustaining them.



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN WILL...

Draw from the recent work of the Basin Roundtables, Interbasin Compact Committee, and Colorado Water Conservation Board.



Colorado's WATER PLAN WILL...

Address the Gap – which will likely require:

- protecting existing yield of M&I;
- encouraging suitable new projects to address the Gap;
- demand-side conservation & innovation;
- mitigation/enhancement of environmental impacts.



COLORADO's WATER PLAN WILL...

Provide regulatory incentives for the projects that meet certain factors



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN could...

Include the following factors (could confirm by preliminary audit):

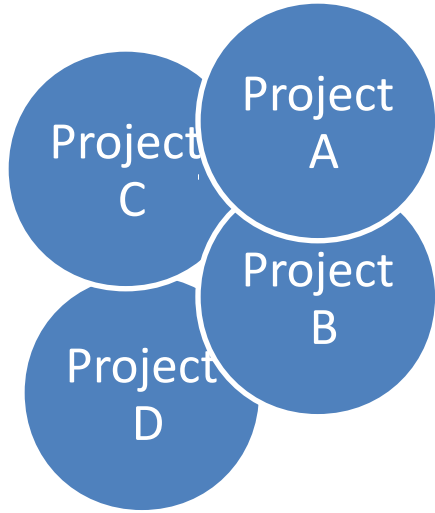
- ✓ Address the Gap
- ✓ Sustainable (ag impact, conservation plan, project density, environmental mitigation/enhancement)
- ✓ Sufficient quality
- ✓ Stakeholder/public input process
- ✓ Fiscally viable
- ✓ Local government consultation



Colorado's WATER PLAN will...

Link state loan \$ to the Plan for strategic water spending.

CWP



Colorado's WATER PLAN CAN...

Integrate water products and services.



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN CAN...

property right owner control



Glossy Report



**Meaningful
action**

Centralized control



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN WILL...

Build on existing efforts to protect, preserve, and restore our watersheds & rivers:

- Recovery programs
- Wild & Scenic alternatives
- Denver/USFS Healthy Watershed Agreement
- Watershed restoration efforts
- Instream flow and natural lake level protection



Non-consumptive uses

- Nonconsumptive grants (\$7 million)
- Technical work for the BRT identification of environmental and recreational attributes
- Identified planned and existing protections for those stream reaches
- Gathering input from YOU!



WE WANT YOU!





Colorado's Water Plan Framework

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Overview of Each Basin**
- 3. Water Demand by Sector**
- 4. Current & Projected Water Supply**
- 5. Water Management**
 - 5.1 Scenario Planning, Adaptive Management, & No /Low regrets
 - 5.2 Meeting the Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Gaps
 - 5.3 Watershed Health/Management
 - 5.4 Conservation
 - 5.5 Alternative Ag-to-Urban Transfers
 - 5.6 Municipal, Industrial, Agricultural, & Infrastructure Projects /Methods
 - 5.7 Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods
 - 5.8 Framework on Streamlined Water Project Permitting Processes
- 6. Alignment of State Resources and Policies**
- 7. Legislative Recommendations to Assist Implementing the CWP**
- 8. Process for Plan Update**





5.2 Meeting Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Gaps

- The nonconsumptive gaps are the difference between what we are trying to achieve for the environment and recreation and where we are at in meeting this goal.
- Work with your Basin Roundtable to help define goals and measurable outcomes or send your thoughts to cowaterplan@state.co.us and we'll share them with the roundtable.



5.3 Watershed Health/Management

- CWP will draw from Basin Implementation Plans.
- Tremendous opportunity for multi-purpose projects that protect critical infrastructure, water quality, human health and safety, and the environment.
- Inform us of existing watershed management plans that identify critical watersheds and management actions by sharing this information with your Basin Roundtable reps, or emailing cowaterplan@state.co.us.



5.7 Environmental & Recreational Projects and Methods

- In 2010 we identified thousands of existing and planned environmental and recreational projects and methods.
- About half of the nonconsumptive focus area streams have planned or existing protections.
- While the CWP will not list any specific projects and methods, the Basin Implementation Plans will.
- Please send planned nonconsumptive projects and methods to your Roundtable reps or the CWCB via cowaterplan@state.co.us.



5.8 Framework on Streamlined Water Project Permitting Processes

- Currently it can take decades and tens of millions of dollars to get through the permitting process. State agencies don't always talk to each other, and communication with federal agencies can be even worse.
- The CWP will help to fine tune the water project permitting process so that decisions are made more quickly, while not determining whether a water project will be successful or not.
- Tell us your thoughts on how we can do this without undermining environmental protections, email cowaterplan@state.co.us.







*“Everyone has a plan until they
get punched in the face.”*

-Mike Tyson



CWCB Flood Response



1) Stream Restoration

2) Fish-friendly infrastructure

3) FEMA assistance

www.coloradowaterplan.com
Events Calendar, Comment Forms,
Updated CWP Documents

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Facebook



“About 95 percent of Colorado is under severe or worse drought conditions. Our snowpack is well below average. This affects far more than the outdoor recreation industry; it impacts all of Colorado.”

“That's why we set a goal of crafting a state water plan by 2015 and much work has already been done. While expanding reservoir capacity makes sense, and rotational fallowing of agricultural land shows great promise, every discussion about water should start with conservation.”

“We know that a plan is not a silver bullet, but it is an essential next step if we are to shape how Colorado will look in the future.”

Colorado Water Plan

“The Interbasin Compact Committee and Basin Roundtable process affords stakeholders in each basin a forum for discussion. Our water plan will stand on the shoulders of their work.”