

## Table of Contents

Section 5.0	Strategies for the Projects and Methods .....	5-2
5.1	Facilitation of Public Participation and Consensus Building .....	5-2
5.2	Funding Mechanisms and Partnerships/Sponsors.....	5-2
5.3	Additional Studies, Recommendations and Next Steps.....	5-3



## **SECTION 5.0 STRATEGIES FOR THE PROJECTS AND METHODS**

This chapter provides an overview of the YWG Basin’s strategies related to the projects and methods. The information presented in this chapter includes:

- The approach for engaging the public and building consensus among the project sponsors, residents, and other stakeholders in the YWG Basin as projects and methods are developed and implemented;
- Identification of funding mechanisms and partnerships/sponsors; and
- Identification of additional studies, recommendations and next steps that will help facilitate the BIP goals moving forward.

Highly specific timelines and deadlines are not included to allow the YWG BRT the flexibility needed to successfully build consensus among stakeholders, encourage public participation, and assist in implementing projects and methods. It is important to note again that development of the BIP is an ongoing process. It is a document representing a snapshot in time with no true finalization date. With the ongoing process of water supply planning, the YWG BRT will continue to strive to balance the future needs of the region while integrating important considerations such as addressing certainty of existing uses, enabling modest future growth and retaining important recreational and environmental values. These core ideas will be considered throughout the process as projects and methods are developed and implemented to ensure reliable water supplies for the region now and in the future. An additional consideration is that parties on the east slope have expressed interest in diversions from the YWG Basin. Downstream states have delivery needs that are partially met from the YWG Basin. This interest, coupled with the river basin’s desire for a negotiated equitable apportionment of its native flow for in-basin use and future development, forms an extremely important consideration for the YWG BRT as it moves forward with long-term water supply planning. The YWG BRT will continue its willingness to discuss the preservation of environmental and recreational flows that also deliver needed water to downstream obligations, but also stresses the importance of assuring non-curtailment of its existing water use and protecting water for future uses in state-wide discussions.

### **5.1 FACILITATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING**

The ultimate responsibility for completing the IPPs falls with the project sponsors and will therefore be a locally-driven process. However, the YWG BRT will serve as a facilitator of the IPPs to assist in moving projects and methods forward, but it will not be a decision-making body. The YWG BRT recognizes the importance of including constituents and stakeholders in the YWG Basin in the process of developing and implementing IPPs and will therefore serve as a forum for this process and a source for information exchange. Participation in the public process will be encouraged at the YWG BRT level to provide transparent information and open dialogue amongst all involved parties.

The Basin Roundtable can also facilitate public awareness of the projects and help to build consensus among all parties considering that some IPPs can present water management challenges as well as opportunities. For example, IPPs can impact stream flows both upstream and downstream of the project location. The YWG BRT can address these types of challenges and how impacts may be felt outside of the immediate project location by educating stakeholders and bringing all affected parties together.

### **5.2 FUNDING MECHANISMS AND PARTNERSHIPS/SPONSORS**

While development of IPPs and identification of funding is up to the project proponent, the YWG BRT will facilitate funding discussions at the Roundtable level where it is feasible and appropriate. Additionally, identification of partnerships and sponsors will also be the project proponents’ responsibility but the YWG BRT can assist by providing a forum for open discussions related to developing these interactions.



### 5.3 ADDITIONAL STUDIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This BIP is breaking new ground by systematically quantifying shortages to both consumptive demands and instream flow water rights, assessing other flow alteration risks, and conceptualizing a new suite of consumptive and non-consumptive projects. A follow-up effort is now needed in which these in-basin shortages are more closely examined and the projects to relieve these shortages are better specified, firmed up, and integrated. This follow-up effort will include greater attention to river flow management and will connect this BIP to the next SWSI scheduled for 2016. This follow-up effort will aim to turn project concepts into projects on the ground.

After deliberations by its technical sub-committee and some clarification of the underlying modeling,<sup>1</sup> the YWG BRT is proposing Next Steps for the Yampa sub-basin that include:

- a) Indicators of shortages for meeting current and future in-basin consumptive and non-consumptive demands, and the basis for specific shortages;
- b) Further specification and development of the projects which will relieve those shortages, including quantification of the storage releases and new or re-allocated supplies;
- c) Indicators of impacts on consumptive and non-consumptive demands resulting from the implementation of projects to meet both needs; and,
- d) Collaboration on flow management and integrated projects to protect and augment base flows, supporting the long-term health and substantial economic values therein.

These steps have been reviewed and approved by the YWG BRT. The YWG BRT is also proposing a thorough phase II of the Agriculture Water Needs Study specific to return-flow impacts from increasing irrigation efficiencies through various means (i.e. automated diversion structures, lining or piping of delivery canals, and installation of sprinklers). This cumulative assessment of consumptive and non-consumptive needs, return-flows, river flow regimes and flow protection and management will go hand-in-hand with increased public engagement and education. It will also increase recognition of the significant role that the Yampa and White Rivers plays in providing water to meet Colorado's downstream compact obligations.

A great amount of additional effort and continued dedication will be required to add to and refine this work. This BIP lays the foundation for understanding and articulating the policies, processes and projects that can occur in the future to maintain and enhance the region's water supplies. These next steps will facilitate a greater understanding related to the future water supply planning needs of the YWG Basin.

---

<sup>1</sup> Although extensive, the modeling to date for this BIP is still being developed so that all results remain preliminary and do not constitute official findings by the YWG BRT.

