
11. Updating Colorado's Water Plan

Colorado's Water Plan is a dynamic document that incorporates Colorado's changing economy, water supplies, water needs, and stakeholder efforts.

Background

Colorado's Water Plan is dynamic by design. Colorado's Water Plan addresses today's challenges with the understanding that our water landscape may change quickly. Colorado's Water Plan will be agile in the face of future uncertainty regarding both water supply and demand and will include advancements in water resource management to meet these changing conditions.

Therefore, Colorado's Water Plan will be updated periodically to ensure that water is a focus of Colorado's ongoing policy development and is responsive to ongoing technical and stakeholder work.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 14-115, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will present the draft plan to the Water Resource Review Committee in the summer of 2015 and will consider the feedback from public hearings planned in 2015, held by the Water Resource Review Committee.

It is important that Colorado's Water Plan facilitates ongoing implementation of the projects and methods identified in the BIPs and the actions identified in Colorado's Water Plan at the statewide, basin, and local level. As part of this ongoing effort, the CWCB will encourage the basin roundtables to be caretakers of the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and to be catalysts for implementation at the local and basin levels. The CWCB will also continue to rely on the Interbasin Compact Committee to deliberate and find consensus around difficult issues that warrant interbasin communication and debate.

Ongoing updates of the BIPs, the Statewide Water Supply Initiative, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and other studies and stakeholder work will be coordinated with and incorporated into future drafts of Colorado's Water Plan. Just as important for incorporation will be measurable success demonstrated by the implementation of actions identified in the plan and the BIPs, as discussed in Chapter 10.

Actions

1. The CWCB will work with other state agencies, the basin roundtables, and the people of Colorado to update Colorado's Water plan as values, conditions, or data warrant. The CWCB will determine when the next version of Colorado's Water Plan will be completed within the next five to ten years, based on progress of the BIPs and Statewide Water Supply Initiative.
2. The CWCB will develop guidelines for Basin Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Account grants to help facilitate the implementation of the BIPs.