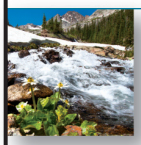
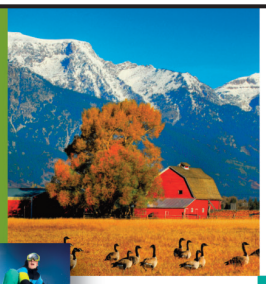
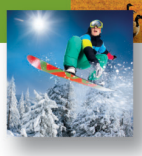
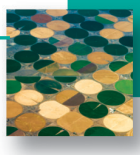
Number Five / March 2015





COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

NEWS & UPDATES

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN 2015 TIMELINE

2014

- **Draft CWP Delivered to Governor December 10, 2014**

2015

- Public Comment Deadline for Draft BIPs February 27
- Statewide Basin Roundtable Summit March 12 ◀
- Final BIPs submitted to CWCB April 17
- Public Comment Deadline for 1st Draft CWP May 1
- Final BIP Presentations to CWCB Board May 20/21
- 2nd Draft CWP Released for Public Review July 15
- Public Comment Deadline for 2nd Draft CWP September 17

- **Final 2015 CWP Submitted to Governor by December 10, 2015**

◀ = Where We Are | **CWP** = Colorado's Water Plan | **CWCB** = Colorado Water Conservation Board | **BIP** = Basin Implementation Plan | ▭ = Public Involvement Opportunities

Finalizing the Draft Plan

On December 10, 2014, **Gov. John Hickenlooper** and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) presented the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan, praising the work of hundreds of participants across the state. Colorado's Water Plan currently reflects agreement from water interests statewide on broad, near-term actions needed to secure our water future. These include continued efforts to conserve water; additional reuse and recycling of water; more options to agriculture to avoid the permanent dry-up of our rich farmland; and an efficient and effective path forward for water projects where interests can agree and create benefits for basins that provide water.

Colorado's Water Plan doesn't prescribe specific projects, but outlines how various interests across basins can attain locally driven, collaborative solutions, and how balanced approaches can garner the broad support needed to accelerate environmentally sound projects and shorten the federal regulatory process often associated with water-related actions in Colorado. The plan does not do anything to change the status of water rights as a property right, nor prevent the buying and selling of those rights. Colorado's Water Plan seeks to strengthen the Prior Appropriation Doctrine.

Work on Colorado's Water Plan will continue in 2015 as the public and stakeholders are encouraged to comment upon the draft plan (comments can be submitted at **www.coloradowaterplan.com**) as revisions continue ahead of a finalized version to be submitted to the governor next year. Review the detailed 2015 public comment schedule and timeline on the left. The plan, even when finalized, will be a dynamic document that will be periodically updated as necessary moving forward.

Get Involved

Communicating with interested stakeholders and keeping them informed throughout the development of Colorado's Water Plan is our priority. Review the draft plan online at www.coloradowaterplan.com and then send us your comments through our interactive webform. Engage with members of your basin roundtable as the Basin Implementation Plans are finalized—find more information and a meeting calendar online at **www.coloradowaterplan.com**.

NEWS & UPDATES

What's in the draft plan? How will it change?

Developing the water plan is an iterative process and we need stakeholder involvement now more than ever as we finalize the draft. This diagram provides an outline of what's in the draft plan now, and what updates are already planned for 2015, based on stakeholder feedback.

Introduction
Find out why we need a water plan and how our state's water values are driving development of the plan.

2 **Our legal & institutional setting**
Colorado water law, administration, interstate compacts, and how local, state and federal governance, planning and permitting interact.

3 **Overview of each basin**
Learn about each of Colorado's 8 river basins.

4 **Water supply**
Understanding our water supply is critical for planning for the future. Groundwater, weather modification, water quality, water storage, and climate change are covered. Concise language and an approach for addressing tributary and non-tributary groundwater sustainability will be developed based on stakeholder input. This includes the high groundwater table in areas of the South Platte.

5 **Water demands**
Projected water supply demand for municipal, industrial, environmental and recreational water used to 2050.

6 **Water supply management for the future**
Scenario planning and alternatives for meeting the gap, incorporated with content from the Basin Implementation Plans. Includes conservation & reuse, land use, ATMs, and projects and methods. Conservation will be further developed within the plan by working with stakeholders.

7 **Water resource management & protection**
Watershed health, water quality and quantity connection, and planning for natural disasters.

8 **Interbasin projects & agreements**
Goals for cooperative projects and interstate agreements. The Draft Conceptual Agreement will be finalized collaboratively by the CWCB, IBCC and roundtables.

9 **Alignment of state resources & policies**
From planning to action – funding, permitting, cooperative water rights management, and education. Funding options and permitting efficiencies will be further developed by working with sister agencies and stakeholders.

10 **Legislative recommendations**
Legislative concepts will be reviewed and developed within Chapter10, focusing on conservation and alternative transfer methods for agricultural water sharing.

11 **Updating Colorado's Water Plan**
The plan will continue to be a dynamic document that is updated in the future.

Questions?

Contact us at cowaterplan@state.co.us and visit us online at www.coloradowaterplan.com.

Find Colorado's Water Plan on Facebook and follow us on Twitter — @COWaterPlan

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

COLLABORATING ON COLORADO'S WATER FUTURE

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources