PUBLIC INPUT ITEM 1

10721 Longs Way
Parker, Co 80138

April 29, 2015

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

I am Tacie Chadwick a freshmen at Legend High School in Parker, Colorado. Unfortunately, I am informing you about a threat to the ecosystem here in Colorado. Currently and previously, Colorado has been experiencing a lack of water. This threat of water scarcity affects humans, animals, and plants living in the ecosystem. In a Global Issues In Context article called "How will it go?" it states "Colorado contained approximately 5.7 trillion gallons of water.Today the river averages about 4.8 trillion gallons." This had been stated in September of 2013.Therefore, in 2015 after about a year and a half, the water supply has continued to decrease. In order to solve this issue, bold actions need to be taken. Although humans are negatively affected by a lack of water, they are one of the reasons for the problem. Climate change acts as one of the instigators, but is caused due to humans producing carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases into the surrounding air. Overall, human pollution from man made products and industries like factories and vehicles cause climate change, which in return causes lack of water. Humans, whether they realize it or not, are a big part of causing this threat.

Water scarcity acts as a cause and effect relationship. If humans cause climate change which causes lack of water, eventually a consequence will occur. Therefore, if nothing is done to address this problem, then humans will face extremely negative impacts without any water. Water serves as an essential part of survival needed for drinking, proper sanitation, for food, etc. Without this substance, not only humans, but other species can't survive either. Animals and plants found in Colorado's ecosystems are also at risk because without water, life in Colorado can't continue to grow and develop. Along with a lack of water acting as a threat of survival, humans depend on other plants and animals as well. Within the environment plants produce oxygen and animals act as food for humans. Humans rely on both oxygen and food to survive. A lack of water leads to a lack of plants and animals, which eventually affects humans negatively. Humans can be negatively affected in this case because they depend on water and other species like plants and animals to survive. Overall, without water the entire ecosystem is disturbed and each species can and will be negatively affected.

Although Colorado is at risk due to the fact that we as a state are currently running out of water, actions can take place in order to help and further solve this problem. Even though humans are helping cause water scarcity, we as a society can make the biggest difference to better ourselves. An abundance of simple strategies for humans to save water on a day to day bases exist. Some consist of turning off the sink when brushing your teeth or using a

dishwasher instead of leaving the water running by hand washing dishes. Also, not over watering plants or even placing a bucket in the shower while the water heats up for later use on plants, saves a lot of water in the long run. These are simple and logical steps producing water efficiency to potentially restore the balance of the ecosystem. By not using as much water, there will be more available to the ecosystem. If humans are using less water, in the long run the Colorado River and other Colorado water bodies won't be running out of water so quickly. Therefore, the balance of water consumption and availability will become more equal, rather than the balance consisting of lack of water and overuse. As it states in the article "If you think the water crisis can't get worse" from Global Issues In Context the "Colorado River basin lost 15.6 cubic miles of water from 2004 to 2013." This large amount doesn't completely express the lack of water because Colorado still currently lacks water. By using less water as a state, plants and animals will benefit too because there will be more access of water available to them. This shows hope for Colorado in which the balance of the ecosystem can be restored.

In order to determine whether or not the actions of saving water are actually taking effect, a study of water measure could take place. As stated before, there are statistics showing water loss in the past years of Colorado. Therefore, after each year, as the saving of water actions continue to take place, water will need to be measured and compared to previous years. If the amount of water loss decreases, this will prove that the simplest of actions made a huge impact. The comparison will express the difference between lack of water in years without taking action, and lack of water in the years of acting as responsible citizens.

Overall, water scarcity in Colorado does exist and continues to exist. Even though human pollution leads to climate change resulting in lack of water, solutions can take place. By coming together as a state to understand the issue and how taking charge can occur, over time water can be saved. Therefore, I am asking you to take charge too. In order to save water, people need to become aware about the issue. By producing advertisement online, on television, at schools, or on billboards, people can realize what is happening and how it can affect them. With your power as being a part of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, problems can be solved. I would love to hear your thoughts on the issue and if you'd be willing to take action of creating awareness to produce water efficiency. I greatly appreciate you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tacie Chadwick

Tacie Chadwick

PUBLIC INPUT ITEM 2

FRONT RANGE WATER COUNCIL

1600 West 12th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204-3412

April 30, 2015

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Comments on Colorado's Water Plan

Dear Board Members:

Introduction

In correspondence dated August 8, 2014, the members of the Front Range Water Council (Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company), hereinafter "FRWC", submitted an initial set of comments on a preliminary draft of Colorado's Water Plan. A copy of that correspondence is attached hereto (Attachment 1). The FRWC continues to believe that the five "themes" it identified at that time continue to be areas warranting significant consideration. These included:

1. The need to further advance conservation and reuse efforts, while recognizing all that has been accomplished to date.
2. The need to lower existing barriers to the implementation of alternative transfer methods and other water sharing opportunities.
3. The advancement of concrete, identifiable refinements to the water project permitting process so as to reduce unnecessary costs and delays.
4. The future role of the state in the financing and construction of water projects, both consumptive and non-consumptive.
5. Support for the package of principles contained in the IBCC Conceptual Agreement.

While the most recent draft of the Plan represents a very commendable effort, and does address each of the above concepts to some extent, additional work remains. Thus, in addition to requesting that CWCB staff review, once again, the August 8, 2014 comments, the FRWC offer the following additional observations.

General Comments

- While CWCB staff has assembled a great deal of information from each of the Basin Roundtables, it is unclear as to how the state intends to "integrate" the various basin plans into a workable "statewide" vision. For example, there are notable differences regarding the future role of new TMDs. If the forums recently identified in an effort to advance the discussion of the "7 principles" that make up the Conceptual Agreement are to be the mechanism, or one mechanism, for achieving this integration goal, that should be clearly stated. In any event, a specific process for achieving this task should be outlined in the Plan.

- Based on the recent statewide Basin Roundtables Summit, the FRWC assumes that staff has recognized the importance of identifying "specifics" regarding solutions to problems surrounding project financing and project permitting. The FRWC supports the creation of appropriately sized committees of individuals with in-depth experience in these two areas who are charged with identifying alternative approaches, describing the pros and cons of those approaches, and developing concrete recommendations for consideration.

- The current draft of the Plan does identify some preliminary steps that can be taken by the state in helping to close the water supply gap. However, it appears that the state will assume a more direct project specific role at a point in time where it may be too late in terms of advancing the construction of projects in a timely manner. Though the state cannot take "pre-decisional" positions in areas or on topics where it has a regulatory role, it can adopt some "keystone principles" which can guide its decision-making. This would at least provide a modicum of guidance and encourage constructive efforts by individual parties to close the supply gap. Examples of such principles include:

    a. The full development and use of state compact entitlements
    b. Maximum beneficial use of existing water resources
    c. Flexibility in the application of regulatory requirements to promote water supply projects while protecting competing values
    d. Protection of historic water uses
    e. Adoption and promotion of a "state-wide" perspective in matters of state-wide concern
    f. Promotion of an integrated "watershed" approach to water supply development and water quality protection.

- On a similar note, state agencies do not appear to be well coordinated in achieving what one would think would be common objectives. Certainly some state agencies are not consistently in sync with either water supply stakeholders or other state entities in the promotion of the type of creative and flexible solutions being touted in the Plan. FRWC members would like to find

ways to work with state agencies to identify and overcome impediments to the implementation of constructive solutions. The FRWC suggests that a committee of state agency personnel including DNR and its agencies, CDHPE and the Attorney General's office and water users (consumptive and non-consumptive) be established for purposes of identifying: (i) points of friction; (ii) any statutory or regulatory impediments to flexibility; and (iii) potential solutions.

- Though the draft Plan recognizes the need for additional storage in order to firm supplies, facilitate exchange opportunities, etc., it is short on detail regarding how storage projects will be identified and built. Is this considered a Basin Roundtable or individual provider task, even for multi-purpose projects, or can the state assume a larger role as referenced in the FRWC August 8, 2014 correspondence? Further, the draft fails to address the need for storage in conjunction with future TMDs. Though this may be a controversial topic, it cannot be ignored. Likewise, preservation of existing storage capacity is critical over the long term; however, there does not appear to be any type of action plan to preserve or expand existing storage facilities where that is physically and financially feasible. Such a plan would assist in reducing the need for new storage that is often times subject to significant permitting and regulatory hurdles.

Specific Comments

- **Water use efficiency**

  Colorado should move toward the goal of achieving water use efficiency across all water uses in the state. Rather than trying to apply statewide volumetric or per capita limits on all, or some, water uses, it should identify a reasonable range of efficiency for each such use based on fact specific situations, including maintaining the value of the particular use in question. This should be done for all types of water uses (municipal, recreational, industrial, environmental, etc).

  Too often, the discussion about water conservation in Colorado asks people simply to use less water than is currently the case, regardless of past practices and irrespective of whether further curtailment can be accomplished while still maintaining the underlying value of their use. This tends to create an unproductive competition between the various water uses and regions of the state. Setting a goal of efficiency in all water use, without losing the value that comes from the water use, will help to maximize our water resources and advance many objectives in the Colorado Water Plan.

  Recommended Actions:

  1. Develop a working definition of water use efficiency by water use sector (municipal and industrial, agricultural, recreation).

a. Create a workgroup of the IBCC to engage diverse stakeholders in defining efficiency, including criteria that can be applied on a fact or case specific basis.
b. Use the Basin Roundtables to ensure that the community values in each of the basins can be supported by the defined level of efficiency.

2. Identify measures that help achieve water use efficiency and realize permanent savings for all beneficial uses and define metrics to measure progress.

3. Encourage implementation of water use efficiency for all beneficial uses through the use of incentives and local regulation.

4. Identify, in a quantitative manner, how conservation and reuse, including gray-water use, intersect so as to better understand the true nature of the supply benefits to be realized.

- **Integration of water use efficiency and land use practices**

As the population increases in the State, the way we develop and re-develop to accommodate growth can have a major impact on water use. Land use decisions can commit water for decades and can involve everything from the type or amount of landscape to the efficiency of water-using fixtures we choose to install. Opportunities to achieve water use efficiency may be achieved more easily and cheaply while land is being developed or re-developed.

Higher density developments can reduce water use. Multifamily housing, on average, uses significantly less water than single family housing. The state should be an advocate for the advantages of higher density development where appropriate, and remove barriers to high density development where demand exists for such housing.

Recommended Actions:

1. Continue CWCB financial support and involvement in the Water and Growth Dialogue and the Land Use Leadership Alliance projects which are working with stakeholder groups of land use planners, water users, and developers to define best practices for water use efficiency in land use decisions in the Denver Metro area.

2. As needed, create additional stakeholder group efforts to define best practices for water use efficiency in land use decisions in other areas of the state.

3. Use the results for the stakeholder groups to provide guidance for community master plans, codes, regulations, and zoning that would increase water use efficiency while being consistent with community values and goals.

- **Water loss (Non-revenue water)**

  Our state's infrastructure is aging and presents a growing risk of widespread failures. Any failure could translate into unacceptable loss of service and loss of water supply. Colorado's statewide average of "non-revenue" water is reported to be 8 percent. This number may be too low and should be subjected to more rigorous analysis. In any event, the volume of loss could increase over time with further aging of the infrastructure.

  Recommended Actions:

  1. Develop technical training for leak detection, distribution system maintenance and water audits for water providers throughout the state.

     a. Create a workgroup managed by the CDPHE to develop training and best management practices.
     b. Require training during the Operators Certification process.

  2. Increase the availability of state funding for loans or grants to maintain and replace current infrastructure.

- **Increasing use of local supplies**

  Colorado's water laws and compacts often create incentives that are contrary to the need for more sustainable practices. The Prior Appropriation Doctrine has adapted in the past to allow for protection of the environment and recreation, and will need to adapt further to accommodate more efficient water use and green infrastructure. It's key that this adaption be accomplished in ways that do not harm water rights and other uses of water.
  The State should, in coordination with water providers, wastewater system operators and storm water managers examine the adoption of a more holistic program of water management across the entire urban water use cycle in its state programs, regulations and policies. This "One Water" approach would apply to the state's regulation and management of all urban water sources - storm water, waste water, water supply and water reuse. The adoption of "One Water" approach would have to occur without injuring water rights.

  Recommended Actions:

  1. The state should assist in the ongoing efforts of the Water Quality Forum CWA/SDWA Nexus Workgroup in the identification of integration opportunities.

2. The state plan should estimate the amount of the supply gaps and water quality goals that could practically be met through green infrastructure and One Water management while not injuring water rights.
3. Expand the uses for recycled wastewater eligible for reuse to include toilet flushing and growing food, and modify other water quality regulations, as necessary, in order to remove regulatory barriers to the expanded use of reclaimed wastewater effluent eligible for reuse through a new rulemaking effort at CDPHE.

4. Create a diverse stakeholder group to determine methods for expanding rainwater harvesting while avoiding harm to water rights and other uses of water. A water rights accounting method, which would be administered by the State Engineer's Office, for making the required replacements of stream depletions should be explored.

- **Preserving the future**

Preserving important supply options is not only prudent, it is necessary. It is also necessary to meet the state's environmental and recreational needs for water. The state has not yet evaluated how to preserve important supply options for the future, while meeting environmental and recreational needs.

Recommended Actions:

1. The IBCC should be charged with exploring means for meeting environmental and recreational water needs now and in the future while also preserving the opportunity to develop additional Colorado River water for East Slope and West Slope uses in the future.

2. The IBCC should examine how to provide water for recreational in-channel diversions and other environmental/recreational values, while also preserving the opportunity to develop additional Colorado River water for East Slope and West Slope uses.

3. The CWCB should support alternatives to Wild and Scenic River designation that protect identified values.

4. The CWCB should use the outcome of these IBCC efforts to enhance its ability to meet all the components of its mission "to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations."

- **Streamlining the regulatory process**

Current efforts to permit new water supply projects have experienced unnecessary delays and a lack of coordination among state agencies, especially in the analysis of impacts and

alternatives and in the negotiation of mitigation and environmental enhancement agreements. Improved coordination across state agencies and with involved federal agencies can minimize redundant reviews and increase efficiency in the permitting process.

Recommended Actions:

We support the recommendations concerning permitting that are contained the final South Platte BIP. The recommendations were adopted by both the South Platte and Metro Roundtable after discussion with a diverse group of interests:

1. The Colorado Department of Natural Resources should act as the lead agency for water projects that trigger federal permitting requirements, thus minimizing overlapping reviews or redundant or conflicting comments to federal, other state, or local regulatory agencies. In this role, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources would have to recognize other State Agency statutory requirements for permitting.
2. The State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources should become a Cooperating Agency for every major water project in Colorado requiring federal permitting. This would assure early, timely and coordinated input into the NEPA process so the appropriate NEPA studies could be conducted in a coordinated manner, eliminating duplication or redundancy, while satisfying the many and varied information and permitting needs of multiple State agencies.

3. Changes should be made to applicable Colorado statutes and regulations in an effort to bring efficiency to the permitting process. Regulations or guidance should specify that State input into any NEPA compliance actions associated with a water project should begin early in the process and continue throughout the process to conclusion.

4. For projects that require NEPA analysis, State agencies should rely on NEPA studies and analyses to make their decisions. This coordination and involvement would eliminate the requirement for additional technical analyses by project proponents to meet independent but overlapping State requirements.

5. State input on the NEPA documentation should be made between the Draft and the Final Environmental Impact Statement. This would then afford the State the opportunity, as appropriate, to voice support for all or portions of the proposed project that meet State requirements at an earlier point in the process. It would also hopefully help to expedite the federal review, approval and permitting process.

6. Consideration should be given to tailoring state statutes and regulations to specifically meet the needs for permitting water supply projects. As an example, current CDPHE 401

certification regulations as applied to water projects require an anti-degradation review as a part of the analysis. Such reviews are designed for, and are applicable to, the permitting of point source discharges, such as wastewater treatment plants. This unduly complicates the review without any concomitant environmental benefit. If such regulations are to be applied to water projects, the regulations should be modified so as to appropriately address potential project impacts.

7. In addition to the above, the State of Colorado should form a task force to study and implement ways to further improve the State's involvement in the permitting processes. Members of the task force should include all State agencies that have any involvement in the project permitting process. The goal of the task force should be to formulate guidelines and regulations that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State involvement in the various state and federal permitting processes. As part of the Water Plan, a date certain for formation of the task force should be set, along with membership, specific goals and a timeline for achievement of the goals.

8. A task force should also be formed to look at how the 1041 permitting process can be made more transparent and how it can be more closely coordinated with the federal and State permitting requirements, while not reducing the authority of 1041 permitting local governments.

- **Alternative Transfer Methods**

While Colorado is anxious to develop "alternative transfer methods" to help avoid the "buy and dry" of agricultural lands and has funded research, successful ATM programs have been limited to Aurora's Continued Farming Program and its Rocky Ford Highline Canal lease, and we are not aware of any other long-term ATM programs in practice, other than among shareholders within a ditch. Several efforts have been aimed at streamlining the water court and water administration process to get more projects in practice, with little practical effect thus far. By taking a more interconnected and collaborative approach, we can create a new interface between municipal and agricultural interests that would protect significantly more agricultural land than would our current trajectory.

Recommended Actions:

1. The CWCB should identify methods for streamlining water court and administration processes to provide incentives to ATM programs when compared to traditional buy and dry water transfers.

a. A taskforce made up of technical experts, legal experts, key stakeholders and a mediator should meet to identify methods for streamlining water court and administration processes for ATM programs.
b. As needed, policy and legislative changes should be made so as to allow the water court and State Engineers Office to implement the recommendations.

2. The CWCB should continue to support the exploration of a voluntary, compensated water banking program that helps to maintain the viability of West Slope agriculture while helping to protect critical water uses from drought curtailment under the Colorado River compact.

3. The CWCB should identify potential water resource sharing arrangements between agricultural users and municipal water providers that would provide water for municipal growth while sharing periodic excess municipal supplies with agricultural users. This could be combined with financial payments to increase the financial stability of irrigated agriculture.

- **Safeguarding Colorado River Supplies**

Colorado River Compact compliance requirements and Colorado River operational challenges resulting from prolonged drought conditions within the River Basin can threaten the certainty of the state's Colorado River water supplies. To help East Slope cities make the most use of their existing Colorado River supplies including reuse, an insurance/demand management program needs to be developed for the Upper Basin of the Colorado River to avoid involuntary curtailment of water uses. Avoiding curtailment will help protect west slope agriculture, whose junior rights would be curtailed, from buy and dry by municipalities on both slopes.

Recommended actions:

1. Empower the state to act aggressively and proactively to avoid curtailment, using the IBCC conceptual framework as a guideline for how Colorado River water would be developed in the future.

2. Create a state run ATM program complementary to the System Conservation Agreement program to test methods for voluntary, compensated short-term reductions in consumptive water use as part of a drought contingency plan for the Upper Basin of the Colorado River.

3. Colorado should commit in the Water Plan to developing, in the next several years, an administrative protocol designed to achieve required curtailment levels should conservation programs or other voluntary curtailment programs fail to achieve necessary results. Stakeholder input thereon should be sought. Definition of this administrative protocol is

needed so that potentially affected entities can plan alternative courses of action in response to such an eventuality.

4. The state should go no further in Colorado River Compact planning without working out regional solutions involving the other states.

- **Climate Adaptation**

Climate change is potentially an equal or greater contributor than population growth to the state's looming future water gap. It raises the risk of shrinking supplies and increasing demand. A warmer climate could change both the available supply and the rate of water use.
Climate change will affect more than just supply and demand – it will alter water quality, timing of snowmelt, ecological systems and watersheds, and the frequency of extreme weather events.
Climate change and population growth are, for the most part, beyond our ability to control. Since these forces cannot be prevented or avoided, we must develop strategies to adapt to this future and mitigate the impacts in order to create a more secure water future.

Recommended Actions:

1. The State needs to identify potential impacts from climate change in the municipal and agricultural supply and demand projections in the state water plan under reasonable future climate scenarios.

2. The State needs to better evaluate the impacts to water rights under reasonable future climate scenarios under the current system of administration and include the information in the state water plan.

3. Recommendations for legislative, regulatory and administrative reform need to be developed to encourage "climate ready" regulation for adapting to changes in climate.

    a. The state should create a taskforce to identify recommendations.
    b. The taskforce should engage the legislature and state regulatory agencies to implement recommendations.

4. The state should develop a program to assist smaller water providers to develop climate adaptation plans.

    a. The state should provide guidance and expertise to help smaller utilities to prepare for climate change

b. The state should encourage utilities to address the effects of climate change in their conservation and drought plans

5. The state should address the potential need for the construction of additional storage projects to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Conclusion

The FRWC applauds the CWCB staff for the extensive and quality work performed to date in the preparation of the Plan. That said, as all involved parties are aware, the job is not done. Rather, the state is entering that stage where more concrete work products will need to be crafted, statewide understandings forged, and projects designed to fill the identified gap implemented. The members of the FRWC are prepared to assist in that effort.

Sincerely,

FRONT RANGE WATER COUNCIL
Aurora Water
Colorado Springs Utilities
Denver Water
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Pueblo Board of Water Works
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company

Cc: James Eklund, CWCB
Becky Mitchell, CWCB

ATTACHMENT 1

FRONT RANGE WATER COUNCIL

1600 West 12th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204-3412

August 8, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Comments on Colorado's Water Plan

Dear Board Members:

Introduction

The members of the Front Range Water Council (FRWC) include Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (SCWCD), and the Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company. Together, the FRWC members are responsible for providing a reliable water supply to over eighty percent of the State's population, while the communities they serve generate over eighty percent of the state's total economic output, including from both the agricultural and commercial sectors. (See: Water and the Colorado Economy, December, 2009). The FRWC members have been active participants in the South Platte, Metro and Arkansas Basin Roundtables, and have closely monitored the activities of the Colorado River Basin Roundtable. In addition, a number of the FRWC organizations employ staff who currently serve, or have served, on the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and the CWCB.

Let us state up front that the members of the FRWC embrace conservation and reuse, and will continue to support additional efforts in these arenas. However, conservation and reuse alone will not solve all future water supply shortfalls; maximizing the success of existing and yet to be identified IPPs, the judicious development of additional available Colorado River Compact entitlements, together with agricultural transfers of some type, will also be required. In that regard, the FRWC has been a consistent supporter of the "4 legs of the stool" concept, focused on meeting Colorado's future water supply needs while minimizing the dry-up of productive irrigated agriculture. It is within this context that the following comments are offered.

As the members of the FRWC have reviewed the draft chapters of the Colorado Water Plan (Plan) and the individual Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs), a number of themes have emerged which we would like to bring to your attention. It is our hope that the following observations will assist in producing a comprehensive and actionable Plan that advances, in a productive manner, the effort to close the state water supply gap, both consumptive and non-consumptive, while meeting the values described in the Governor's Executive Order.

The FRWC has divided its comments into five distinct sections reflective of these themes:

1. The need to further advance conservation and reuse efforts, while recognizing all that has been accomplished to date.
2. The need to lower existing barriers to the implementation of alternative transfer methods and other water sharing opportunities.
3. The advancement of concrete, identifiable refinements to the water project permitting process so as to reduce unnecessary costs and delays.
4. The future role of the state in the financing and construction of water projects, both consumptive and non-consumptive.
5. Support for the package of principles contained in the IBCC Conceptual Agreement.

Additional detail concerning each of these five concepts is found below.

Conservation and Reuse

The members of the FRWC are state, and even national, leaders in water conservation and reuse efforts, and intend to continue to advance such initiatives in the future. The state has recognized this fact in the draft Plan. In point of fact, the FRWC members are eager to share their advances in the use of technology and their other successful conservation program approaches as part of a state-wide cooperative effort.

Based on past experience, the FRWC believes that all parties must recognize the unique circumstances faced by each community or water supplier, including differences in weather and climate conditions, geology, geography, hydrology, land use patterns, economic vitality, social values, recreational opportunities, and a number of other factors. Encouraging efficiency for all water uses should be the focus of the Plan. Each water use provides value to the user, and all water users should share the common value of using water efficiently.

It is not appropriate to adopt a prescriptive one-size-fits-all formula to determine the achievement of conservation goals. For example, a mandate on the percentage of allowed outdoor water use relative to indoor consumption can have unforeseen, negative consequences depending on the community. A more detailed explanation of potential concerns and a recommendation on an alternative approach can be found in the attached memorandum to the Southwestern Colorado Water Conservancy District dated August 7, 2014. A state commitment to maximize the efficient use of water and minimize the waste of water, regardless of where or for what purpose the water is used, is essential.

With reference to reuse, the Plan should recognize the practical barriers to full implementation, including brine disposal concerns, energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and water loss in the treatment process. These barriers are in addition to those impacts, as noted in drafts of the Plan to date, to downstream entities which have become reliant on the return flows from municipal use, including certain non-consumptive interests. In addition, even current reuse

efforts face obstacles in the form of water quality regulations that treat reclaimed water used for nonpotable purposes in the same manner as pollution, creating disincentives for potential irrigators.

Further, the nexus between conservation and reuse must be clearly recognized. On a basin scale, reuse does not reduce water demand, nor does it create supply; it simply alters the path water takes from supply to demand. Using Aurora's Prairie Waters Project as an example, as more water is conserved at the point of use, fewer return flows are available for diversion downstream as part of a "reuse" system. It is also important for the plan to discuss the additional risk of relying on the reuse of water derived from the Colorado River as long as workable programs are not in place to protect against a potential future Colorado River shortage condition. Colorado cannot attain the desired level of reuse without honest acknowledgement of these challenges in the state Plan and a workable approach to addressing the challenges.

Finally, as noted in the attached correspondence, while enhanced efficiency and conservation practices will be pursued, one should not lose sight of the relationship between municipal use, with specific reference to outdoor household use, and total consumptive use. That is to say, a myopic focus on savings to be gained from further reductions in what amounts to less than 4% of the total use pie, without shining a corresponding (or even brighter) light on the remaining 96% of all use, is ill-advised.

Barriers to "Shared" Water Use

The FRWC supports alternative agriculture to urban transfer methods (ATMs), such as leasing/fallowing, deficit irrigation, or interruptible supply agreements that supplement water supplies realized through conservation, reuse and new supply development. In fact, Aurora Water has been a leader in this area and is submitting additional specific comments on the ATM section of the Plan. That said, the FRWC would like to see the Plan contain a more detailed discussion and proposed actions to resolve: (1) the barriers historically encountered, at both state and federal levels, in attempts to effectuate such transfers; (2) the actual results and lessons learned from the ATM grant initiatives funded by the CWCB to date; (3) the costs associated with such programs, e.g., water court expenses, engineering expenses, infrastructure costs, etc.; and (4) the risks and uncertainties of ATMs to both the provider and the recipient in lease arrangements. Finally, a more thorough discussion of the types of legislation necessary to remove identified administrative and legal barriers is warranted, if only to squarely place the issues on the table.

On a related note, though regional water sharing opportunities are not addressed in a separate section of the draft Plan, some additional detail on potential opportunities, and impediments to exploiting these opportunities, may be beneficial. Though mentioned under a discussion of reuse, the WISE Partnership is a good starting point for such a discussion. An integration of neighboring water systems may often times hold the promise of added water use efficiency and lower capital and operational costs. This approach can also lead to the consolidation of small

wastewater systems, an initiative that has been advocated by the state for many years as a means to improve water quality.

Improved Permitting Processes

The FRWC recognizes the need to examine the potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of water projects and to mitigate, as necessary, identified adverse impacts to environmental and land use values. Nevertheless, decade-long permitting processes are unnecessary, a poor use of resources, and of limited or no environmental value. While the draft Plan acknowledges a need to improve the federal, state, and local permitting processes so as to gain efficiencies and reduce unnecessary time delays and costs, it is short on specific recommendations relative to a path forward. Modifications should be made to the level of analysis required, and the nature of protection and/or mitigation expected of applicants, in order to effectuate real efficiencies in this area, while maintaining adequate environmental protections.

Examples of potentially beneficial reforms can be found in the work plans adopted by federal agencies in an effort to implement Executive Order 13604 ("Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects-2012"). The involved federal agencies have reportedly applied an expedited review process to fifty pilot projects, each project having an accelerated schedule with clear project review milestones and a designated lead coordinating agency, with project progress being tracked on a "Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard." The Dashboard contains an IT platform pursuant to which involved agencies can develop a cooperative schedule, share project documents and quickly communicate with one another as concerns arise. The state should promote a sharing of the Dashboard (or a similar concept) between involved federal, state and local agencies. A memorandum on processes employed by federal agencies in the implementation of E.O. 13604 is attached for use by CWCB staff.

The South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) has also submitted some fairly detailed recommendations on improvements to the permitting process, including suggestions related to the use of programmatic EISs, sequencing, the joint review process, scoping MOAs, and earlier and integrated state processes. These concepts warrant further exploration. The state should also be supportive of federal initiatives designed to expedite the NEPA review process, such as those found in the recent Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), PL 113-121, Section 105; PL 113-24, Section 2 (hydropower); and PL 112-141 (highway transit).

Project proponents currently face significant permitting and regulatory requirements that very much complicate, and in some cases prevent, the success of water supply projects. These requirements pose a real challenge to Colorado's ability to effectively and efficiently meet its future water supply needs. The state should facilitate continuing dialogue between potential project sponsors and federal, state, and local regulatory agencies. The purpose of the continuing dialogue would to examine and address existing and future permitting and regulatory processes and issues with the goal of finding mutually acceptable solutions that would address these challenges and improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of all permitting and regulatory processes.

Finally, under the "permitting" umbrella, the state should further explore how it integrates, or fails to integrate, the water quality and water quantity programs. For example, are decisions relative to the adoption and implementation of water quality standards being made in isolation without regard to the impacts on water supply opportunities? Conversely, are water supply projects failing to adequately account for water quality impacts at the early planning stages? Can the implementation of stormwater controls be successfully integrated with water supply decision making, or are State Engineer and Attorney General decisions and legal interpretations making this overly difficult? To what extent would the utilization of a watershed approach, including a balancing of Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, assist in meeting overall water supply and water quality goals? The FRWC does not have definitive answers to these questions, but believes it is incumbent upon the state to flag these concerns for future discussion and resolution as the Plan evolves.

State's Future Role

As evidenced by statements in various portions of the Plan, the state and stakeholders accept the fact that the state has an ongoing role with respect to certain aspects of water project planning and implementation, such as the enforcement of water quality regulations, the administration of water rights, and the issuance of permits or approvals. State government can also play a role, albeit limited, in fashioning identified legislative reforms designed to facilitate water sharing opportunities and to maximize the use of existing supplies.

The FRWC believes that the state may have a much larger future role in the actual financing and construction of needed multi-purpose/multi-party water projects designed to meet both consumptive and non-consumptive needs. This is so for a number of reasons. First, the costs associated with such projects, including the legal analysis, design, land acquisition, permitting, construction and operation can be great, possibly reaching billions of dollars. Many of the supply gaps are found to exist in smaller communities, or clusters of communities, where rate base is limited and bonding capacity is constrained. Second, the positive impacts may be greater, and the negative consequences less, if one or two larger projects are implemented, as compared to a host of smaller undertakings. This has certainly proven to be the case in the wastewater arena, where central, regional treatment facilities are oftentimes the preferred solution. Finally, with state involvement in project planning, design, financing and implementation, a significant portion of the yield of such projects may be dedicated to non-consumptive uses, such as recreation and aquatic life, including fisheries. Such identified and incorporated "public benefits" justify public investment. A choice by the state not to take a leadership role means a much higher likelihood of the use of an agricultural based "buy and dry" solution.

In fact, when one examines the "Plans" being assembled by other Western states with significant looming water shortages, such as Texas and California, one finds a significant state role in advancing new water supply projects. That is not to say that the model employed by others needs to be adopted in Colorado. Certainly the manner in which Colorado chooses to raise project capital and how it proceeds with the approval and construction of projects can, and

should, be molded to meet its unique requirements, while studiously avoiding any additional approval process constraints. The point is simply that Colorado may have reached a point in its water development history where without greater state involvement, or at least public/private or public/public partnerships, the state will be unable to efficiently and effectively do more than just nibble around the edges of a much greater problem.

At the very least, the Colorado Water Plan should identify a greater state role in project financing, design and construction as a significant question which requires an immediate public dialogue.

IBCC Conceptual Agreement on New Supplies

As noted in the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) staff's memorandum of July 16, 2014, the IBCC has submitted for consideration by the Roundtables and others a Conceptual Agreement. The Agreement reflects seven overarching principles. The FRWC is supportive of these principles, assuming that they constitute, and are treated, as an integrated package of concepts which facilitate the future development of additional Colorado River water or, as some have referenced it, "new supplies". In other words, parties cannot be allowed to pick and choose among the principles, inequitably weight the principles, or sequence the principles, so as to support a parochial position. These principles reflect a series of compromises on the part of many parties, including FRWC members, in an effort to advance what is considered to be a proposal that would benefit the state as a whole.

That said, the details surrounding the nature of the triggers governing a new trans-mountain diversion (TMD); the nature of, and process associated with, the use of East Slope back-up water supplies; the defined steps needed to insure against an involuntary curtailment; the exact size of an "increment for future development" on the West Slope; the determination of "benefits to the West Slope" to be accommodated as part of a new TMD; the nature and extent of future conservation and reuse improvements; and the nature and cost of non-consumptive use projects paid for by TMD proponents, must be fully vetted before agreement on the new supply issues can be reached. This fact should be noted in the initial draft of the Plan, with the Plan providing a framework for the identification and resolution of these concepts.

In addition, it will be up to the CWCB and its staff to ensure that: (1) if the principles become the foundation for future new supply development, the individual BIPs must accommodate their implementation; and (2) the principles must not be incorporated into the Plan process in such a manner as to become yet another costly and time consuming permitting hurdle. Finally, it should be noted that the principles must be interpreted in a flexible manner so as to allow project development to proceed in the near future, incorporating the concepts of contingency planning and adaptive management to adequately accommodate the myriad of scenarios that will be encountered.

Conclusion

The FRWC hopes that the above set of comments will prove of value in finalizing the initial draft of the Plan. As indicated previously, individual members of the Coalition will be supplementing these comments. The FRWC members stand ready to meet with CWCB staff and the Board should they have any questions or desire to further pursue the issues raised in this correspondence.

Sincerely,

FRONT RANGE WATER COUNCIL
Aurora Water
Colorado Springs Utilities
Denver Water
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Pueblo Board of Water Works
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company

cc: James Eklund, CWCB
Becky Mitchell, CWCB

PUBLIC INPUT ITEM 3

THE CITY OF ASPEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 4, 2015

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Comments Concerning the First Draft of the Colorado Water Plan

Dear Members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board:

On behalf of Aspen City Council and the City of Aspen, please accept this letter which adopts and endorses the opinions expressed in the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioner's position and support letter dated April 28, 2015 regarding the First Draft of the Colorado Water Plan, a copy of which is enclosed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Skadron, Mayor

Enclosure: April 28, 2015 BOCC comment letter

Cc Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners

RECEIVED
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Colorado Water
Conservation Board

130 SOUTH GALENA STREET · ASPEN, COLORADO 81611-1975 · PHONE 970.920.5199 · FAX 970.920.5119

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PITKIN COUNTY

530 E. Main Street, 3rd Floor
Aspen, Colorado 81611
phone (970) 920-5200
fax (970) 920-5198

April 28, 2015

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Comments Concerning the First Draft of the Colorado Water Plan

Dear Members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board:

The Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County is writing to express its concerns and recommendations regarding the First Draft of the Colorado Water Plan. Comments are centered on four fundamental matters related to the statewide planning for water resources: (1) Drought Planning Based on Adequate Hydrologic Modeling; (2) Adoption of a High Level of Conservation Statewide; (3) Recognition of the Lack of Water Available for new Transmountain Diversions ("TMD") and implementation of Identified Projects & Processes ("IPP"); and (4) Local Land Use Planning.

River flows in Colorado primarily originate from snowmelt and changes in precipitation and temperature patterns have the potential to greatly impact long-term water availability. Drought planning must be well-grounded in measured climatic and hydrologic data over an extended timeframe. Model-based forecasts grounded upon studies of precipitation and temperature futures across the state are essential as modest temperature increases could result in marked reductions in water availability. Modeling must consider anticipated reductions in snowpack, an earlier peak in spring snowmelt, higher rates of evapotranspiration, reduced late spring and summer flows, and reductions in annual runoff and stream-flow. Accurately assessing the future hydrological reality of the state is essential to the success of the Colorado Water Plan.

Adoption of a high level of conservation by the state for all basins should be a guiding precept of the Colorado Water Plan. Water efficiency, conservation, & reuse programs and the promotion of agricultural conservation while maintaining viable rural agricultural economies are essential components of a statewide high level of conservation. Examination of future and existing land uses will ensure a reduction in any shortfall of water availability. Adequate funding for nonconsumptive use must not be lost and is essential to environmental resiliency and recreational needs statewide.

The assumption that all IPP's will be completed and produce the projected yields is an imprecise assumption. The IPPs, or at least those "principal" IPPs, must be vetted as to viability, realistic yield and potential detrimental impacts to existing consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Only with a careful analysis of the disclosed IPPs can the water supply gap be accurately assessed and the feasibility of any new TMD evaluated.

Further, there must be recognition that a Colorado River Compact ("Compact") call would impose a statewide obligation to provide water to the Lower Basin states and appears to be an increasingly

reality. As an obligation of the entire state, there must be recognition of the disparate impact a transbasin diversion, has on Colorado's ability to meet that statewide obligation. Simply put, there is not enough water available for any additional transbasin diversions from the Western Slope to the Front Range. The Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study demonstrates an average shortfall of 3.2 million acre-feet ("MAF") by 2060. A transbasin diversion is an inherently greater hit to the Colorado River system than diversions by users in the Roaring Fork basin, as basin return flows contribute to the water to satisfy our state's compact. An effective statewide water plan will recognize and account for this reality.

Successful management of future water demand is directly tied to local land use planning. Local land use planning provides the opportunity to develop practical solutions to anticipated water supply shortfall and should be elevated as a subsection of the Water Plan. Local water sensitive land use planning is an essential tool to: (1) decrease the water supply gap; (2) provide low cost alternatives in addressing the gap; (3) be reflective and protective of Colorado values; (4) increase predictability and reliability in water supply planning, reducing risk; and (5) encourage adoption of best management practices and practical land use models to maximize water efficiency or minimize water use.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We encourage you to support the inclusion of these concerns and recommendations in any legislation concerning the state water plan.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

Respectfully submitted,

Steven F. Child

Steven F. Child
Chair

cc: Aspen City Council

PUBLIC INPUT
ITEM 4

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region

740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401
303-275-5350
FAX: 303-275-5366

File Code: 2500
Date: MAY 04 2015

Rebecca Mitchell
Chief, Water Supply and Planning Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman, 7th Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the December 2014 Draft of the Colorado Water Plan.

The draft plan is an outstanding effort, and sets an important vision for Colorado's water future. The plan does an impressive job of integrating the state's water challenges and opportunities into a comprehensive document. As an agency, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is fully supportive of the water values articulated in the draft plan, and stands ready to work in partnership with the state toward implementation of existing, and development of new policies and programs that will reinforce those values.

National Forest System lands play an important role in water in Colorado, and there is a strong alignment of the values articulated in the plan with the Forest Service mission. As a multiple use agency, USDA Forest Service programs and projects support a wide variety of activities that contribute to opportunities to sustain Colorado's water needs in all sectors: Environmental, Recreational, Agricultural, Municipal, and Industrial. We look forward to working together to ensure that National Forest System lands continue to contribute to collaborative solutions for Colorado's water future.

As the state moves forward with revisions to this plan, there may be opportunities to further articulate and strengthen the many roles that the USDA Forest Service plays in supporting Colorado's water values. In particular, the role National Forests play in watershed health and restoration, could be better integrated into Chapters 2, 6, and 7.

In addition, to further the plan's goal of moving forward with addressing Colorado's water future in a collaborative fashion, there may be opportunities in Chapter 9 to address the balance of federal and state roles in a manner that places emphasis on communication and constructive problem solving.

I encourage you to work directly with my staff on specifics for integration of these ideas. Please contact the Director of Renewable Resources Jacque Buchanan at 303-275-5014 or jabuchanan@fs.fed.us, for further discussion.

Again, congratulations on this impressive effort. The USDA Forest Service looks forward to continuing to work with you through successive revisions, as well as plan implementation.

Sincerely,

for Brian Ferebee
DANIEL J. JIRÓN
Regional Forester

cc: Polly Hays, Cheri Ford, Cherie Hamilton, Jacque Buchanan

PUBLIC INPUT
ITEM 5

Colorado Basin Roundtable Comments on Colorado's Water Plan: First Draft of CWP

May 1, 2015

Dear CWCB Staff and Board Members:

The first draft of Colorado's Water Plan does an excellent job of setting the stage for important water supply solutions yet to come that we at the Colorado Basin Roundtable hope truly fit within the "Colorado's Water Values" framework. These values are worth repeating:

- A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture and a robust skiing, recreation and tourism industry;
- Efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land uses; and
- A strong environment that includes health watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife.

Chapter 1 sets out these values and the challenges facing it: a growing water supply gap, ag dry-up, critical environmental concerns, variable climatic conditions, inefficient regulatory process and increasing funding needs. All true.

The Colorado Basin Roundtable (CBRT) suggests that overarching Colorado Basin issues be added to the list: that in the last river basin in the state not to be governed by compact administration, operational issues concerning the Colorado River and Lakes Powell and Mead could result in a regionwide reduction of uses. This would come before a legal compact curtailment crisis. Both stand as equal concerns worth mentioning in the first chapter.

Chapter 2 is an excellent primer for anybody who wants to understand how water law and policy works in Colorado. It is a must read for those seeking to engage in this important work. Great job.

Chapter 3 is a good overview of the Roundtables and benefitted greatly from earlier commenting.

Chapter 4 introduces the many water supply variabilities the state faces and has good discussion of climate change, dust on snow, the role of storage and the immediate opportunities to fix or enlarge existing storage. It also introduces water quality as a factor linked to quantity. The CBRT would appreciate more language to address water quality issues that can be caused by water development and must be recognized going forward. Flow and temperature issues in the heavily diverted upper Colorado River system are witness to this concern.

Chapter 5 on water demands contains an excellent discussion about climatic threats to water supply that are sure to conflict with population growth. This is a good prelude to the subsequent discussion about conservation, reuse and land use. The CWCB staff over the years has done significant work on how to achieve conservation. With this information before us, the CBRT re-states its principle that the state should commit to a high conservation level. The plan currently calls out the "no and low regrets" strategy of medium conservation levels to produce about 170,000 af -- but it does mention efforts underway to boost that goal. In fact, the latest IBCC draft work address a "stretch goal" of 400kaf. This is laudable and the CBRT hopes the next draft of the CWP embraces this work and develops recommendations to implement it. The Roundtable also advocates for a most robust discussion of how land use can become a better tool to conserve water (i.e. outdoor residential irrigation) and recommendations to advance that issue, as tricky as it is in a local control state.

Chapter 6 addresses water supply management. One comment is that the M&I water supply gap determined by the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) process can hopefully be better defined by SWSI 2016. This chapter also talks about how new Colorado River development is seen by some as a way to stymie buy and dry of agriculture on the Front Range. This is taken as an article of faith but there is no clear work done to prove that this would be so. Colorado River overdevelopment, as well, would lead to the reduction of ag, most especially in Western Colorado.

Section 6.3.3 addresses land use planning and its connection to water supply planning and management. This is of central importance to the Colorado BIP, and we appreciate it being called out in a separate section of the Plan. This section of the Water Plan should serve as an educational opportunity to describe available local land use planning tools that can affect water demands, how water-sensitive land use planning can reduce water demands, and how land use planning can also protect stream health and water quality. We also encourage that the plan recognize that water planning IS land use planning because of decisions of where water will come from and be taken to all dictate where growth will occur in the state.

Section 6.3.4 also addresses agriculture, its own gaps and its position as a water supply source through interruptible supply agreements – namely fallowing. Section 6.4 sets up the discussion about agriculture. It is a great primer for some difficult work ahead. The Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance has produced eight pages of studied comment on the ag issue. We commend reviewers of the water plan to embrace insight provided by the letter, especially comments 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 13.

Section 6.6.7 addresses actions to support a strong environment, following good discussion of nonconsumptive issues across the state. No. 20 is perhaps the most important piece: funding. Certainly, funding lies as a core issue for much of the water plan, but environmental projects are often the orphans or have to be tied to water development.

There should also be a section here where environmental resilience and "strong environments," healthy rivers and stream ecosystems are defined in detail. This is done for Watershed Health/ Forest management as well as Water Quality. Currently "resilience" and "healthy" are vaguely defined at the beginning of Section 7 with hydrology and flow regime as the key component. This should be separated out in a deeper definition of stream health and resilience, including such things as the need for occasional high and flooding flows, connections between dynamic channel geomorphology, riparian and alluvial aquifers. A good, concise explanation of healthy stream ecosystems is important if we are to realistically propose and develop environmental "projects" and stream management plans.

Chapter 7 addresses watershed health.
Part of its focus is on the development of "watershed master plans," or later in the chapter, "watershed plans." The Colorado Basin Roundtable has advocated for regional "stream management plans." Other BIPs similarly advocate for a more holistic understanding of flow and water quality needs within a specific basin along with an identification of challenges and opportunities to restore or improve conditions for environmental and recreational uses. It's unclear whether the terms "watershed plans" and "stream management plans" are used interchangeably or are distinctly different. Other parts of this chapter focus heavily on forest health and forest fire mitigation as "watershed management." We are unclear if "watershed management" is meant to address forest fires, floods, and other extreme events, or if the terminology is meant to refer to holistic stream and river health. This chapter should provide

clarifying language to be clear on what is meant under this chapter heading. The Colorado Basin Implementation Plan's detailed explanation of a stream management plan may be useful.

This is a conversation spurred on in recent years by catastrophic fires. Clearly, water supply is linked to watershed health and this chapter calls for the laudable initiative of establishing a goal related to quantity and quality integration between now and 2050. 2050 might be too late and the next iteration of the CWP should explore ways to speed this up.

Chapter 8 addresses Interbasin Projects and Agreements. In many ways, it is the heart of the document because of the desire by many to reach into the Colorado River System to solve their supply issues. The CBRT stands by its assertion that the Seven Points are not ready for inclusion of the CWP. We appreciate recent efforts to recast the Seven Points as not an agreement but a framework for future discussions. Clearly, much more discussion and specificity is required on the Seven Points. The Roundtable appreciates that its principles regarding any new transmountain diversion are included in the chapter, as are the other Roundtable viewpoints.

Chapter 9: The CBRT supports the state's interest in reducing the burden and expense associated with permitting water development projects. However, we do not support the proposed framework outlined in Section 9.4 of the draft Water Plan which was intended to make the permitting process most effective and efficient. We believe this framework in fact does the opposite by creating more hurdles for project applicants and potentially puts the State in the position of taking sides in controversial water development projects. In particular, we are opposed to the notion of "endorsing" water projects as described in that section.

Instead, we suggest that the role of the State should be facilitating meetings with local, state, and federal permitting entities prior to initiating NEPA or other permit activities. The purpose of this front loaded process would be to identify and agree on significant issues, local concerns, permit information requirements, level of detail required in analysis, and opportunities for information and data sharing among the various permit applications. Not only would this provide real assistance for the applicant and streamline permitting, it is an example of good governance.

Elsewhere, Chapter 9 addresses funding challenges. This might be the most important element of the CWP because money is a challenge for everybody's pet cause or project. The next draft of the CWP might consider raising this challenge earlier in the water plan, perhaps in a beefed up Executive Summary.

Chapter 9, as well, address **Outreach, Education and Public Engagement.** This work comes before all else if we expect citizens to rally around water plan actions and funding initiatives. Much more thought should be given to development of a program commensurate with the need to address the many consumptive and nonconsumptive crises facing the State. Action 1 in this subsection, a funding mechanism, should kick start that discussion.

Overall, as stated, the CWP is a good first step to lay out Colorado's many challenges. The next Executive Summary should better capture the hard issues and recommendations yet to come. That is all many people will read. Currently, the CWP contains many recommendations and good ideas, many to be achieved by alignment of CWCB resources and activities. That will not be enough. The next phase of the CWP obviously needs to build on this to produce solid ways inside the CWCB and across the state to move forward. The California drought crisis instructs us to do so.

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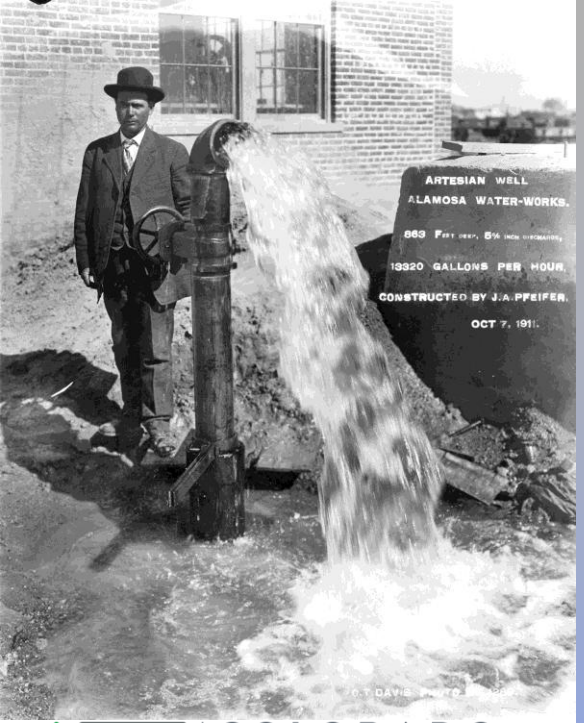
ITEM 8



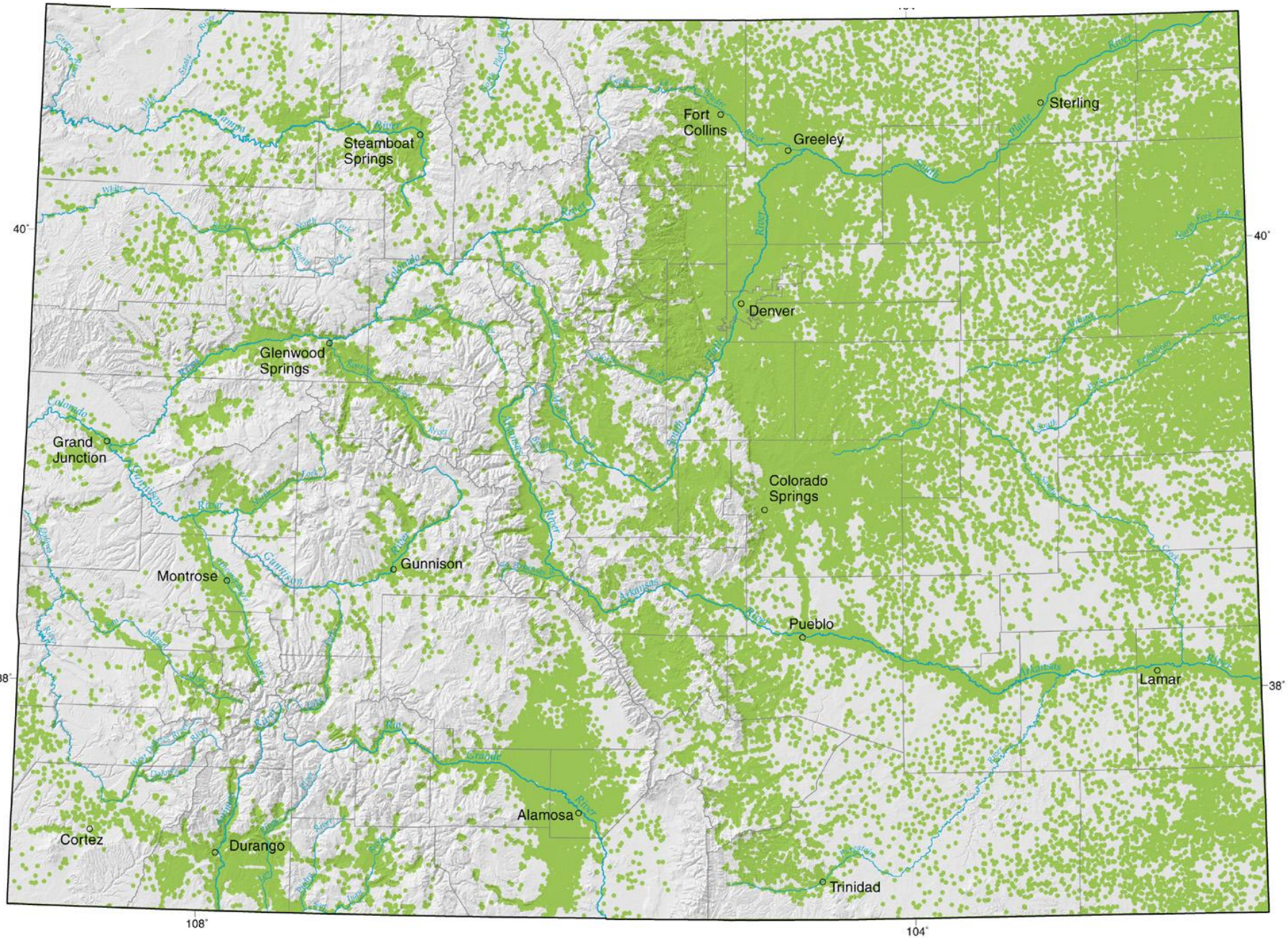
COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

GROUNDWATER – COLORADO'S UNSEEN AND UNDERUTILIZED WATER RESOURCE

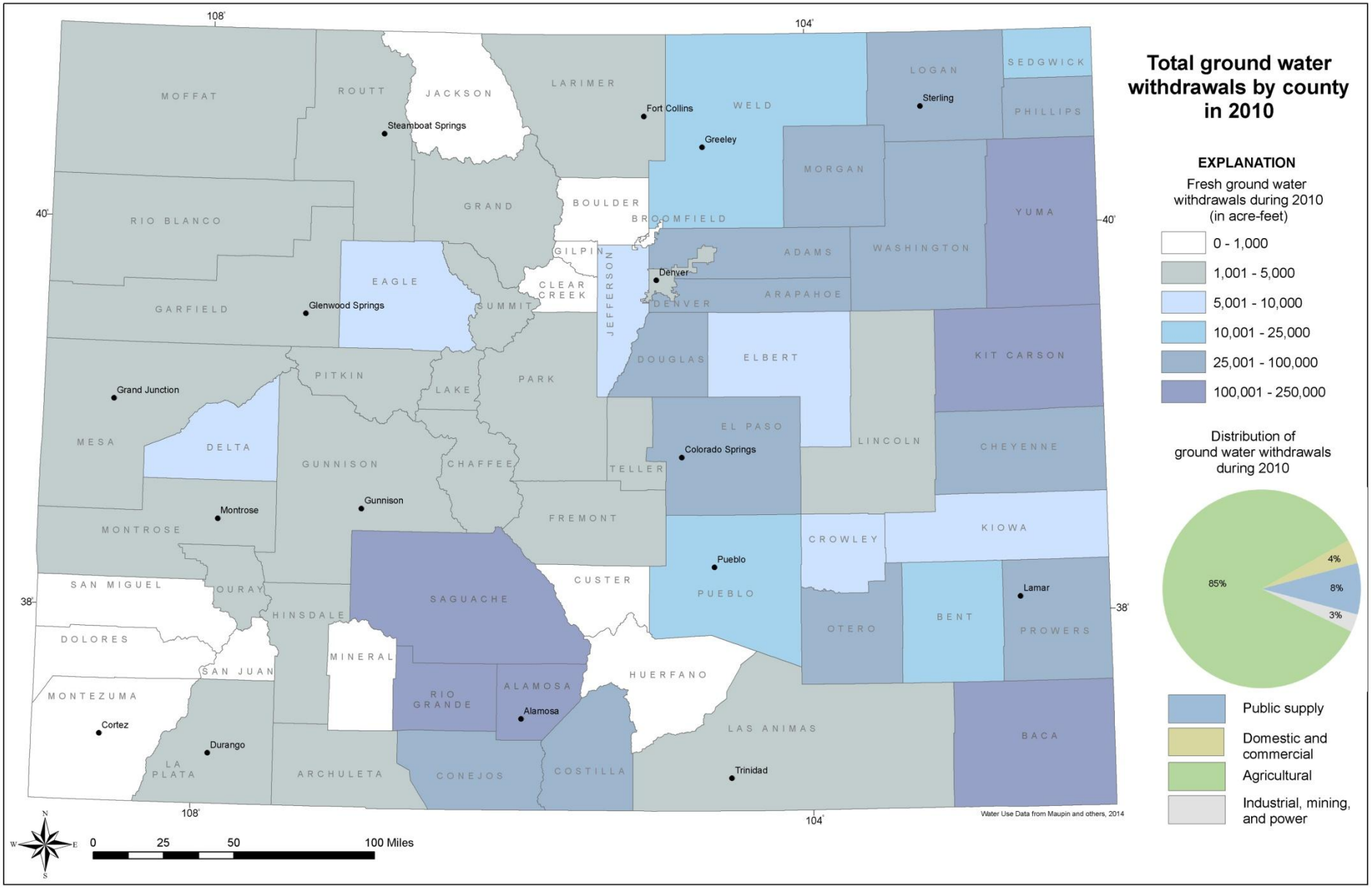
Ralf Topper, CPG
Colorado Division of Water Resources
Denver, Colorado

AWRA –Colorado 2015 Symposium
May 1, 2015

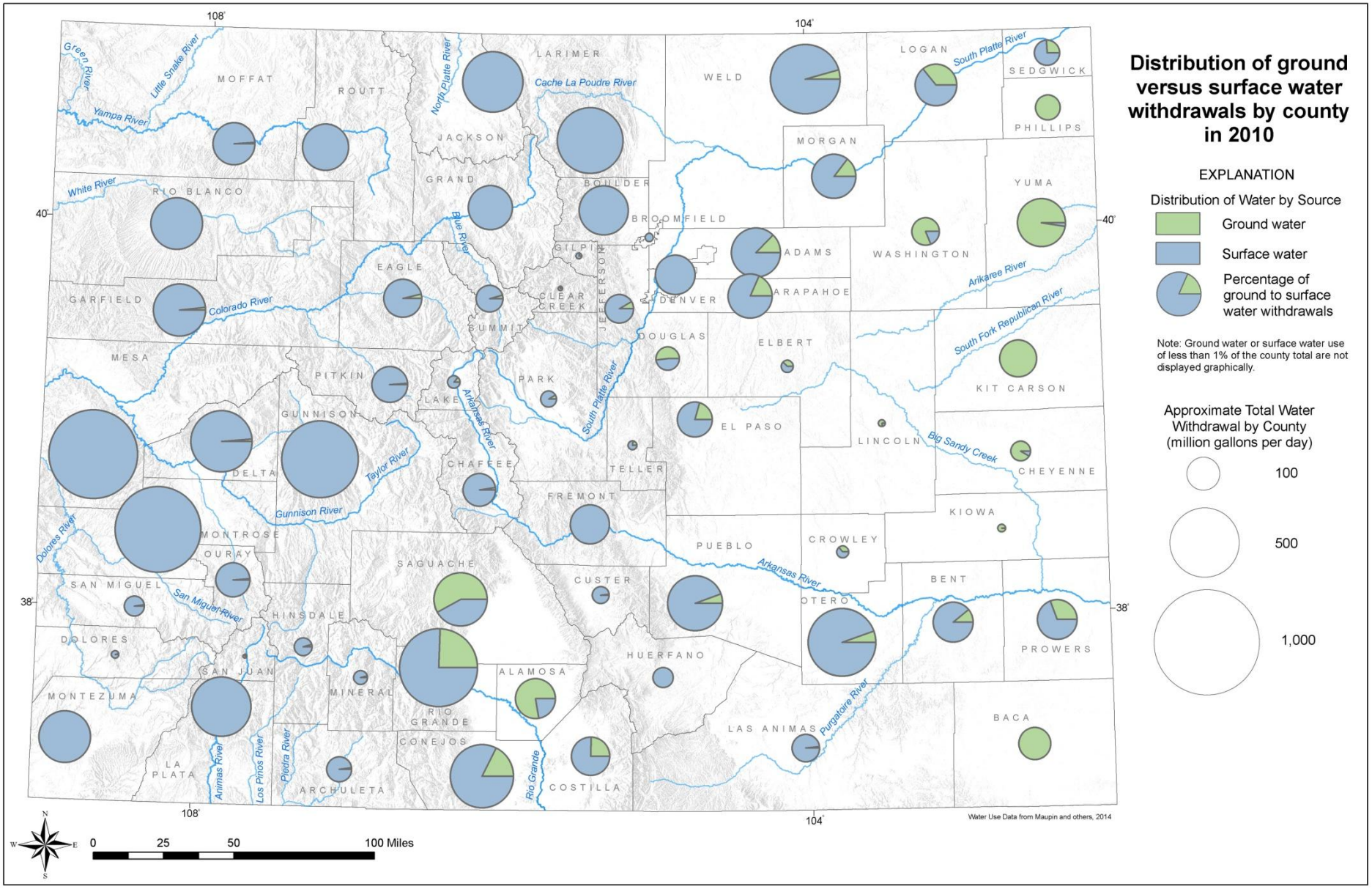
Over 250,000 wells have been drilled in Colorado



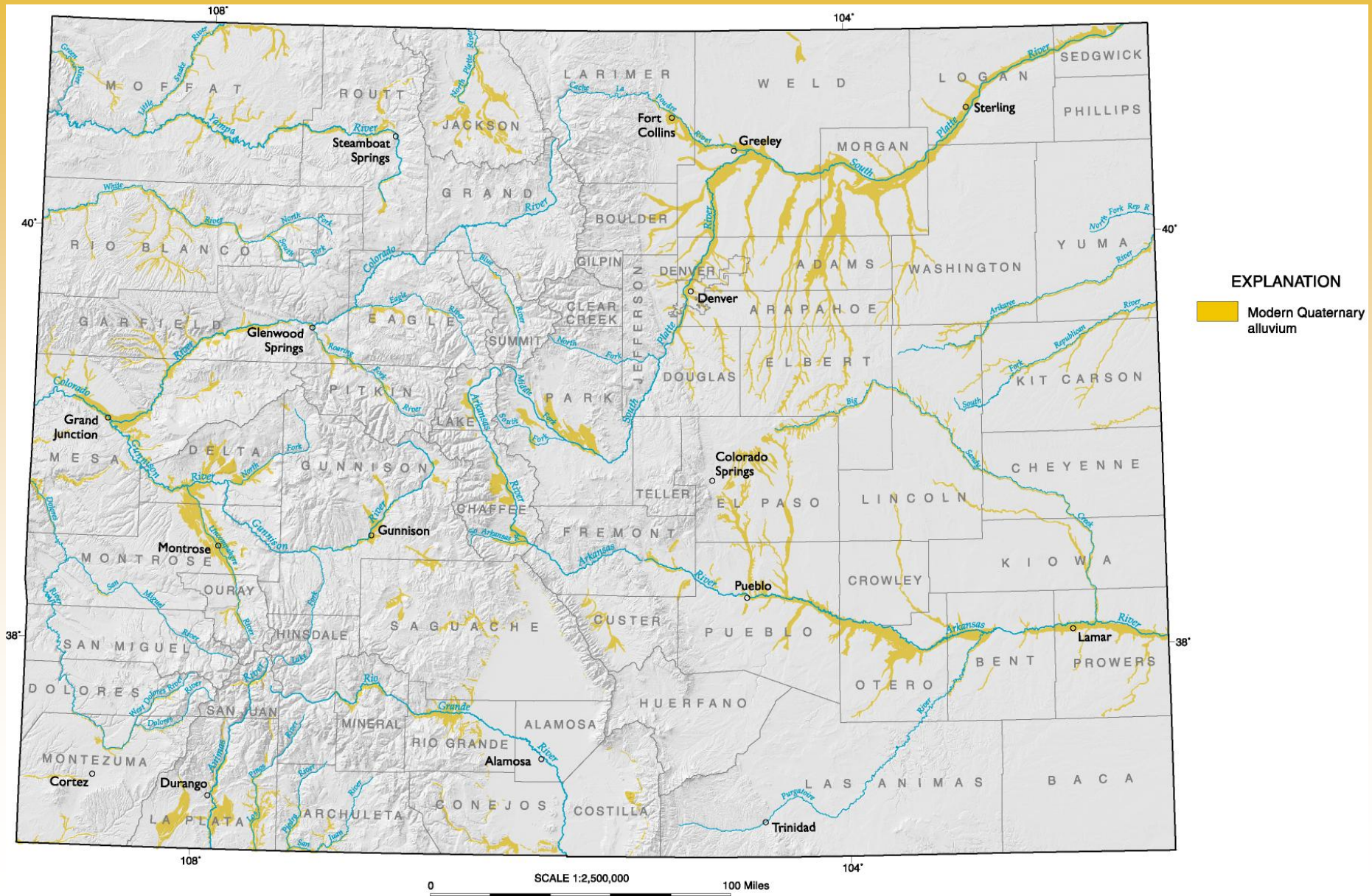
GROUND WATER WITHDRAWALS BY COUNTY



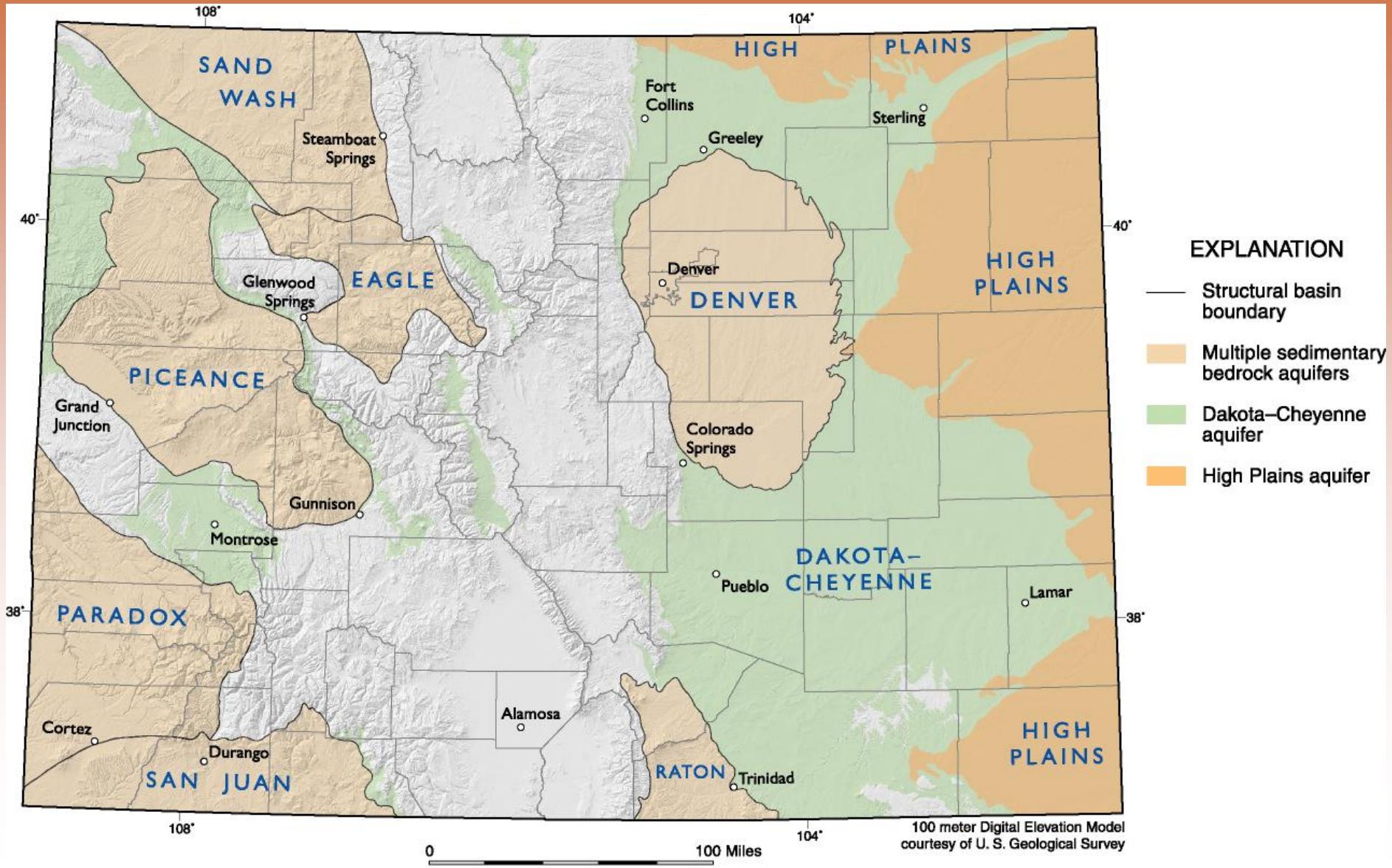
GROUND VERSUS SURFACE WATER USE



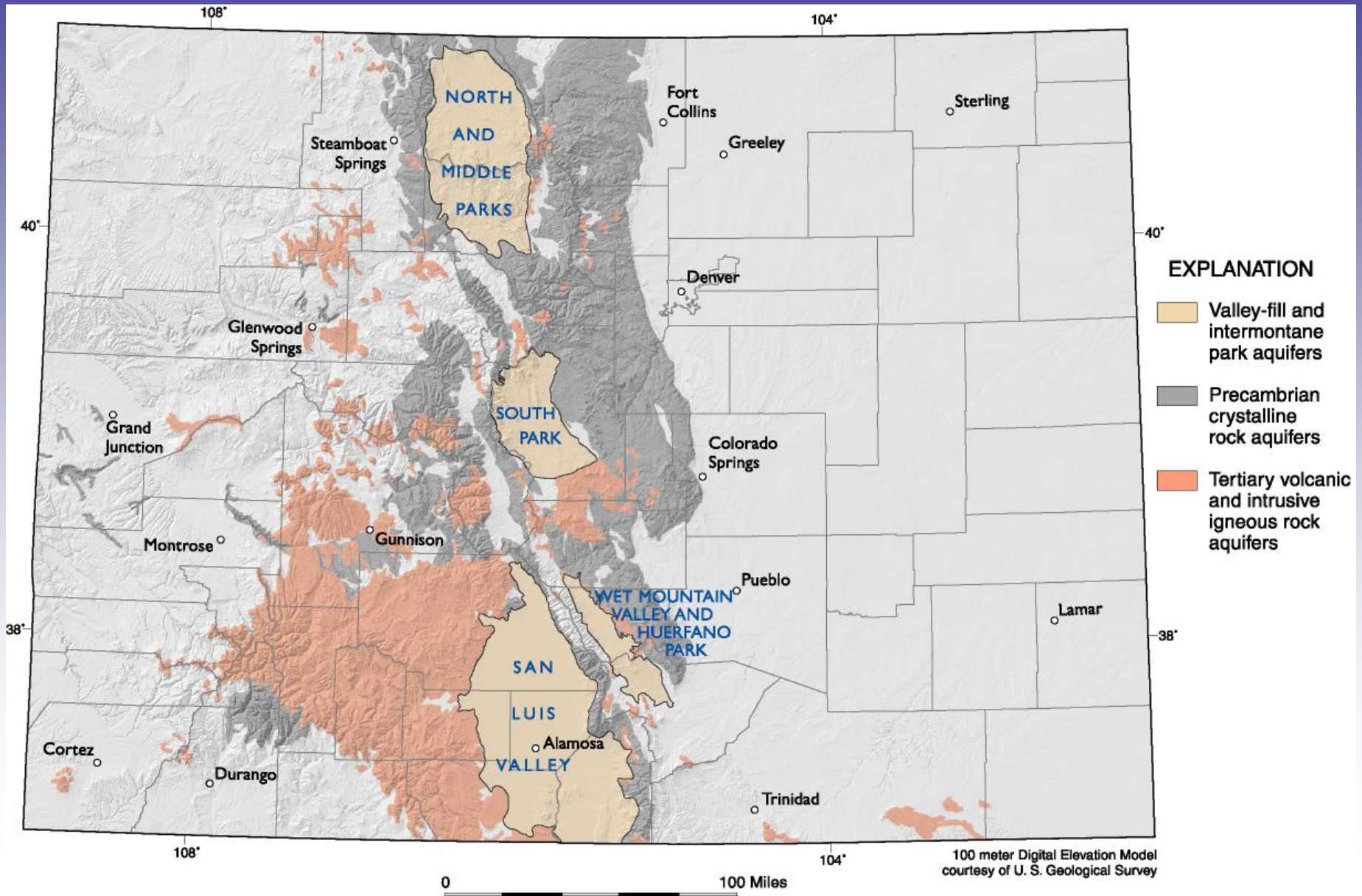
RIVER ALLUVIAL AQUIFERS



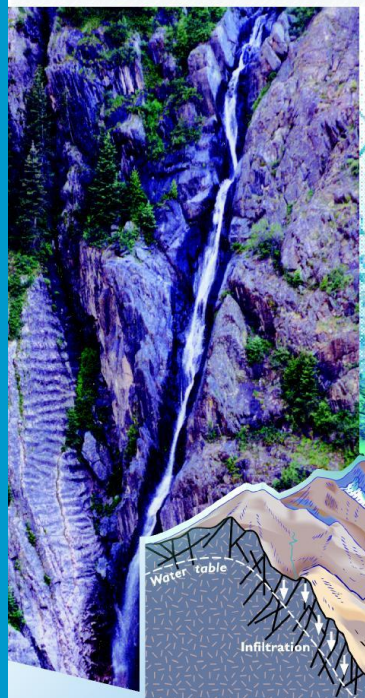
SEDIMENTARY ROCK AQUIFERS

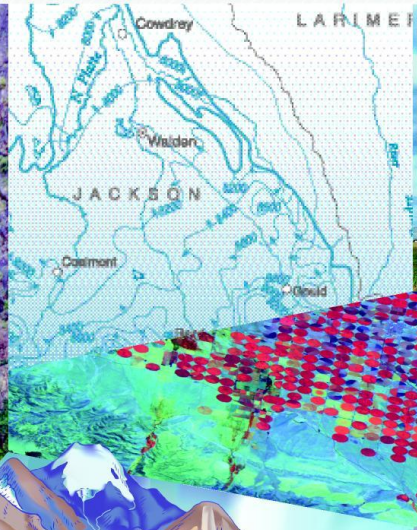


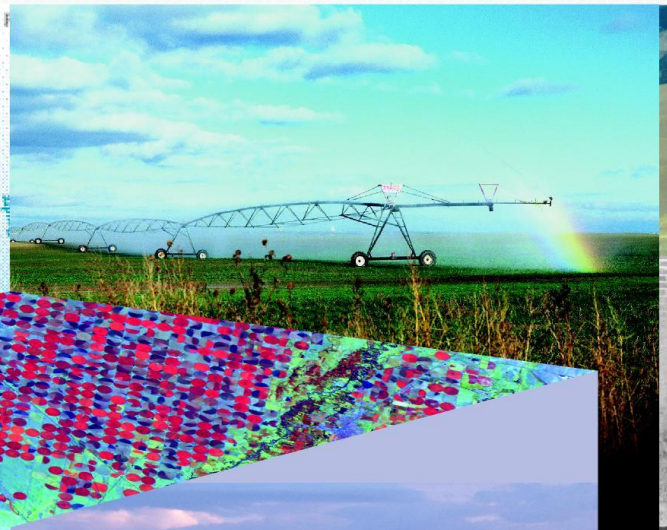
MOUNTAINOUS REGION AQUIFERS

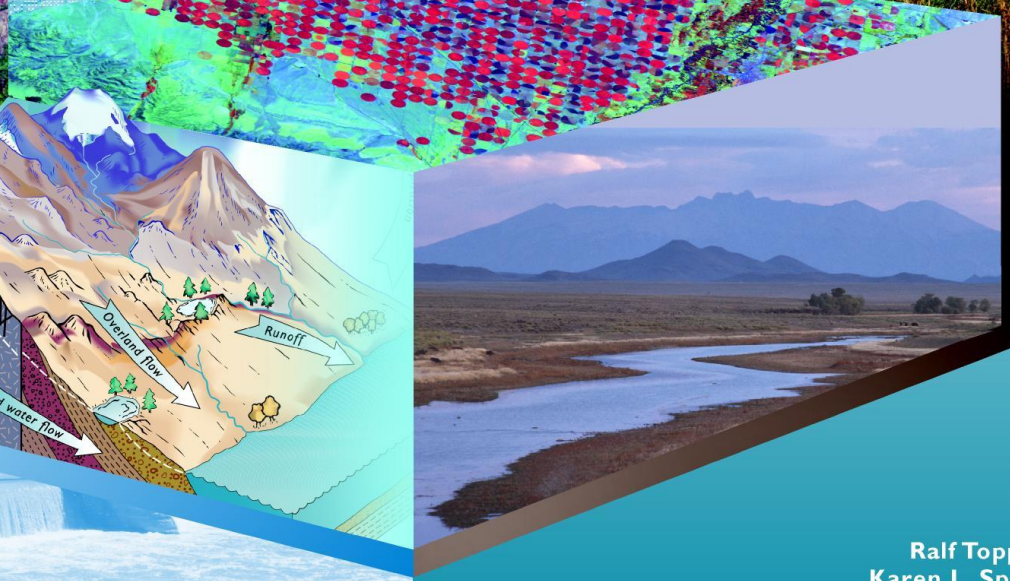


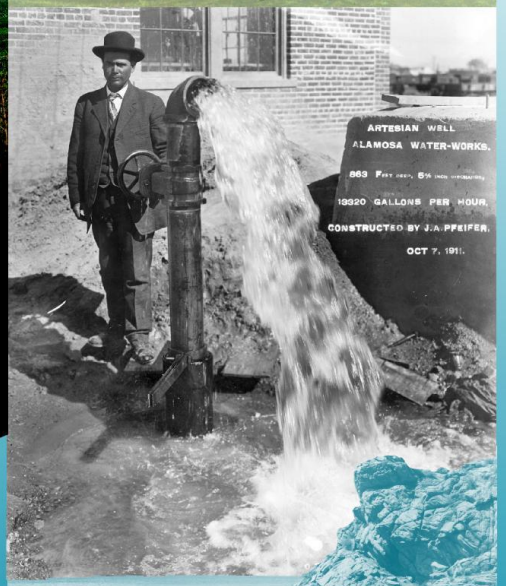
GROUND-WATER ATLAS OF COLORADO











Ralf Topper
Karen L. Spray
William H. Bellis
Judith L. Hamilton
Peter E. Barkmann

Colorado Geological Survey
Division of Minerals and Geology
Department of Natural Resources
Denver, Colorado / 2003

SPECIAL PUBLICATION 53

PUBLIC INPUT
ITEM 10

ARKANSAS GROUNDWATER USERS ASSOCIATION

President-Scott Brazil Vice-President-Keith Beattie Secretary/Treasurer-John Sliman
Director- David Kitch Director-Dr. Charles Durbin
MAGUA Rep.-Terry Shaw Booth Orchard Rep. – Bill Lamorris
212 36th Lane – P.O. Box 11446- Pueblo, CO 81001
Office 719-948-2150 Fax 719-948-2167

Dear Colorado Springs Utilities,

The Arkansas Groundwater Users' Association (AGUA) is a Colorado non-profit association established in 1995 by well users in the Arkansas River Valley, including many wells on the mainstem of the Arkansas River and in the Fountain Creek drainage. AGUA currently has over 270 members who use one or more wells used for irrigation, commercial, industrial, and municipal purposes. These wells are vital not only to the members, but also to the local and regional economies. AGUA assists its members by operating a "Rule 14 Plan" and by providing the replacement water, which protect senior water rights in the Arkansas Valley and help meet Colorado's obligations to Kansas under the Arkansas River Compact. AGUA's members' would not be able to operate their wells without replacement water, including the water provided by a number of water providers, including but not limited to St. Charles Mesa Water District, Pueblo West Water and Sanitation, the Pueblo Board of Water Works, the City of Aurora, Donala Water and Sanitation, Triview Metropolitan District, and Colorado Springs Utilities.

In light of recent events in the Valley, and comments that Colorado Springs Utilities does not support agriculture in the Arkansas Basin, AGUA believes it is important to publicly recognize Colorado Springs Utilities for its demonstrated commitment to maintaining agriculture and supporting local communities in the Arkansas Valley. Over the past decade, Colorado Springs Utilities has:

1. Leased an average of 16,000 acre feet of excess water annually to irrigators in the Valley
2. Maintained a reasonable and fair market rate for leased water to irrigators in the Valley
3. Worked with AGUA to establish trade agreements to keep Fountain Creek irrigators wells operating
4. Provided funding for measurement gages along Fountain Creek
5. Sponsored entities like AGUA to participate in the Fountain Creek Transit Loss Model
6. Developed representation in the Valley through multiple Boards and Field Office

Colorado Springs Utilities has been very important to AGUA's success in providing water, which has allowed AGUA's members to pump their wells and maintain their farms, businesses, homes and communities. AGUA commends and supports Colorado Springs Utilities for continuing to work with AGUA and other well groups in the Arkansas Valley.

Sincerely,

Scott Brazil (President)

Dr. Charles Durbin (Director)

Keith Beattie (Director)

David Kitch (Director)

Kevin Niles (General Manager)

Cc: Pueblo County Commissioners
Colorado Springs City Council
Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph

PUBLIC INPUT
ITEM 14

Colorado Ground Water Association
P.O. Box 150036
Lakewood, CO 80215

www.coloradogroundwater.org

May 26, 2015

Director James Eklund
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Draft Colorado Water Plan

Dear Mr. Eklund,

The Colorado Ground Water Association (CGWA) is a professional society of scientists, engineers, contractors, water lawyers, students and water administrators founded in 1981. The CGWA's goal is to advance the understanding of groundwater hydrology among its membership and the residents of Colorado.

After reviewing the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan I was surprised to find little substantive discussion on development of groundwater resources. In fact, Chapter 4 (Water Supply) provides only two paragraphs that address groundwater. Groundwater resources are present throughout the state of Colorado in alluvial, sedimentary and crystalline-rock aquifers, including multi-aquifer systems that exist in numerous structural basins. Groundwater resources are a critical component of Colorado's water resources that supplies 18-20 % of the state's water supply needs and exceed 20% of total water supplies in 23 of Colorado's 64 counties (http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1405/), yet groundwater resources on the western slope remain under-developed. Non-tributary groundwater offers an opportunity for resource development within the constraints of Colorado water law that should be incorporated into the Colorado Water Plan.

I was also disappointed to find that aquifer storage and recharge is not treated as a key component of the draft Colorado Water Plan. Thoughtful management of overdeveloped eastern-slope aquifers is needed to assure that this over-exploited resource is available to future generations. Colorado's eastern-slope aquifers should not be simply written-off as an expended resource, but rather must be treated as available water storage capacity to be utilized and managed. The two paragraph description of groundwater as a portion of water supply (p. 55) includes an erroneous statement indicating that groundwater storage in Colorado is limited because "the Denver Basin and Ogallala aquifers – are non-rechargeable." I believe this statement to be factually incorrect. Both of these aquifers receive natural recharge from infiltration of precipitation and the Denver Basin contains active recharge projects.

With the possible exceptions of the Arkansas and South Platte Basins, Chapter 6.5 (Infrastructure projects & methods) contains few identified opportunities for Aquifer Storage and Recharge projects. This may not be surprising since the basin roundtables, IBCC, and major water providers in Colorado are focused on their traditional surface water storage and distribution systems. The coming shortage of available water in Colorado calls for consideration of options that are outside of traditional comfort zones. Utilization existing storage capacity in Colorado aquifers to store excess runoff during wet periods (such as May 2015) to support enhanced groundwater production during dry periods should be an integral component of the water plan. I believe that the Colorado Water Plan should treat development, protection and enhancement of groundwater resources for the benefit of future generations as integral components of the overall Colorado Water Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Mark Hutson, PG
President
Colorado Ground Water Association

Cc; Ralf Topper
cowaterplan@state.co.us

PUBLIC INPUT
ITEM 19

100 N. 6th Street
P.O. Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
February 23, 2014
katherine.kelly@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
1313 Sherman St.
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

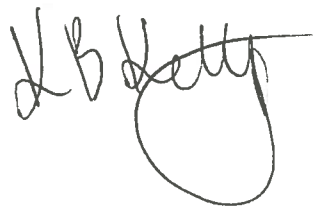
Dear Mr. James Eklund:

My name is Katherine Kelly and I am a 11th grader at Dolores High School in Dolores, Colorado. In my civics class, we recently started to discuss something I had always known to be a major issue in Colorado and the surrounding states; water. As I learned about this vital resource being stretched between seven states and four major uses (agriculture, municipal use, recreation, and energy development), I became worried about how the Western slope will fare during this time of conservation. Being a Colorado native on the Western slope, I've seen this side of the divide ignores, cast away, and not well represented leaving us with a new bill or law that hurts us but benefits the Front range, and this needs to stop happening, especially with this huge issue of water.

I understand that the Front range has a bigger population which means that they would need more water, however I feel that some of the municipal uses are unnecessary. I just got back from spending a weekend in Loveland, and was shocked to see people watering their lawns while rain was pouring down and the sheer amount of green golf courses, meanwhile back on the West slope we are worrying about whether or not we will have enough irrigation to get my family's apple orchard through the summer. This biggest part of this problem seems to be municipal use by large cities on the Front range, and so I think that certain practices such as xeriscaping should be widely encouraged to cut back on this type of water use.

Aside from municipal use, farmers on the West and East sides of the divide are suffering from this water shortage. I think that practices such as ditch lining, center pivot irrigation, and drip irrigation should be encouraged and more widely available, because frankly these small farmers cannot afford these alternatives because it means new equipment and sometimes new crops. If we can make such alternatives more affordable and available, and cut back municipal use, I think that we will be able to help save a very important resource in Colorado and not leave part of the state hanging. I would really enjoy to hear some of your own solutions for this issue, and would like to thank you for taking time to read this letter and listen to my concerns on this issue.

Sincerly,



Autumn Seeber
Dolores Secondary Schools
1301 central ave.
Dolores, CO, 81323
autumn_falls97@yahoo.co.uk
(303) 501-3883
25 February, 2015

James Eklund
Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Dept. of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman St, Rm 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund

My name is Autumn Seeber, I am a Junior at Dolores High School in a small four corners Colorado town, and I am writing to you regarding the state water plan. As the Governor of Colorado, you must understand the importance of water usage in the state and the importance it has in the agricultural industry. I am asking you to assist in making the Colorado Water Plan favor Colorado Agriculturalists.

As the Dolores High School FFA president, I personally see the effects of water shortage in my community. Many junior water calls rights have been curtailed due to water shortage and drought, and many people in my county fear for their water shares. Even senior water rights are in danger of being curtailed to Colorado's front range and the lower basin states in the next couple of years. Because Colorado gets 50% of the upper basin water, we will be the first state to have water called when lower basin states run low. And with 80% of the water in our state being in the western slope, and only 20% of the people, we will be the first to suffer. Montezuma county has a $46.4 million dollar agriculture industry. Colorado's $16 billion agriculture industry only has 3% of its agricultural value in the western slope, where 80% of the water is. Through transmountain diversions, we are sending a great amount of our water to the front range. I think Colorado should shift an agricultural focus to the west slope where we don't have to move mountains to get water and where agriculture is prominent. Farmers and agriculturalists in the west slope need incentives and capital investments to efficiently and profitably generate their product. The front range is a growing area, but the importance and dependence on water on the west slope is extremely prominent. Trans Mountain diversions take water from the west slope to the front range in an inefficient and unproductive way.

This topic is important to me because I live in a community that is dependent on agriculture. Montezuma County gets most of its economic commerce from the oil and gas industry, but when those resources run out, we will need to depend on agriculture. It will be difficult to depend on agriculture when we have no water to produce crops or meat. Mr. Eklund, I am asking that you keep the water we need in agriculture in the western slope and keep our economy growing. Please help to make the Colorado Water Plan an agriculturally friendly one. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Autumn M. Seeber

Dolores High School
100 N. 6th Street
P.O. Box 727
Dolores CO 81323
May 20, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

I am a junior at Dolores High School and my Civics class has been discussing the importance and use of water in Colorado. The issue we focused primarily on was the Colorado State Water Plan. I am contacting you in order to express my views regarding the importance of maintaining 85- 90% of Colorado's water in agriculture.

To begin, agriculture is one of the biggest industries in Colorado. It is currently a 16 billion dollar industry and has played an important role in the history of Colorado. In order to maintain this industry, 85- 90% of the water in Colorado must continue to go towards agriculture. Secondly, water that is used for agriculture helps grow large amounts of food for both human and animal consumption. Crops grown in Colorado include: wheat, corn, apples, peaches, potatoes, beans, and grain. These crops provide us with food and also feed cattle and other animals that we eat. Lastly, providing ample amounts of water for agriculture also helps Colorado's wildlife. Fields that grow crops provide fertile habitats and extra water for many species.

After considering the benefits listed above, I would like to respectfully request that you would continue to support providing agriculture with 85- 90% of Colorado's water supply. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

Teegan Hite

Teegan Hite

Dolores High School
1301 Central Avenue
Dolores, CO 81323
Cayce.lockhart@dolores.k12.co.us
Katie.williams@dolores.k12.co.us
5/20/15

James Eklund
Dept. of Natural Resources
1313Sherman St, Rm 721
Denver, Co 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund,

We are two student from Dolores High School with a concern about our Colorado State Water Plan. We fear that agriculture's water in the state of Colorado is going to be curtailed due to lack of water in the Colorado River as well as rising populations on the front range.

Three reasons why we believe that the majority of Colorado's water should remain in agriculture include, cultural reasons, economic reasons, and environmental reasons. First off Colorado has historically always used 89% - 90% of their water for agriculture. Without this water being used for agriculture people wouldn't survive. Many jobs would be lost, as well as huge decreases in cattle and hay production. Along with cattle and hay production, water helps to create a $16 billion dollar empire. Of which runs colorado's economic system. Lastly, water plays a huge role in the environment and recreation aspect of Colorado. Water supplies food and land for big and small game. Without these animals bringing in money through hunting Colorado would lose billions of dollars. In 2011 hunting and fishing brought in $470,637,986 just to colorado. Another example of water bringing money to the state of colorado is through whitewater recreation which in that same year brought in $6,364,292,781. If Colorado's water stays in agriculture then all these aspects of Colorado will continue to bring in billions of dollars to the state.

We ask you to please support keeping the majority of Colorado's water in agriculture.
We would also greatly appreciate a response to our letter.

Thank You.

Sincerely yours,

Cayce Lockhart

Cayce Lockhart

Katie Williams

Katie Williams

Rachelle Tulio
P.O Box 67
Dolores, CO 81323
rachelle.tulio@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

May 20, 2015

Dear Mr. Eklund,

My name is Rachelle Tulio. I am currently a junior at Dolores High School and in my Government class we are learning about water and the current problems in Colorado with water use. As a student and a citizen living in an area dependant on agriculture, I have some concerns about what might happen to the western slope of Colorado.

One of my main concerns is what will happen to the area I live in if Denver, and the front range, diverts more of the water for their municipal uses with additional transmountain diversions. The front range claims to have conservative uses for water, but it seems that most of the water is wasted, about 50 percent of residential use, for cosmetic uses like lawns. I do agree that a water deprived area, such as the front range, does need water to be sent, but the demand for water is not one that should be so high.

My other main concern is that there is a 33 percent chance for a Colorado Compact call in 2016, and a 75 percent chance in 2017. Water is in a high demand, which is reasonable in an area surrounded by drought, but Colorado is a huge agricultural state, $16 billion industry. Water is needed in almost all areas in Colorado for crops and livestock. If a water call from the Colorado River were to happen, a plan for the remainder of water for Colorado would have to be enacted. A fair deal would have to be made between the front range and the western slope.

By this, I ask that a lot of effort be put into creating an equitable, efficient, and effective plan be made to limit the negative impact of a call on the western slope, and also so that, in the event of a call, both the eastern and western slopes carry the burden equally by both giving up a little to help each other thrive.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope to hear your idea's and your response to this continuing issue.

Thank you,
Rachelle Tulio

Brianna Milligin and Aeiden Violette
1301 Central Avenue
Dolores CO 81323
May 21, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver CO
80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund,

We are juniors enrolled at Dolores High School, and we would like to bring our opinions on the Colorado Water Plan to your attention. We have been studying water in our Civics class and we [redacted] understand that some people think that agriculture uses water inefficiently and how much water is used on people's lawns.

It has come to our attention that some people think that agriculture is using water inefficiently and that farmers grow crops that use too much water. Some people also feel that more water should be used for municipal uses instead. Coming from agricultural backgrounds, we understand that producing alfalfa and hay consumes a lot of water, but cows wouldn't remain healthy and profitable if they weren't fed these crops. Agriculture is what made people move to this area long ago and agriculture alone also brings in 13.9 billion dollars into the Colorado economy, so why wouldn't we want to keep that money coming in and that tradition alive? So we would like to ask that the Colorado Water Plan continues to give water to farmers so we don't lose a part of our culture and a large part of the Colorado economy.

Here in rural part of Southwest Colorado, it's not often that you find people watering their lawns. Given the climate that we live in, we find it ridiculous that people in other cities use lots of water just to keep their grass greener than their neighbors; in fact, the average Colorado household uses 96 gallons a day for outdoor usage, especially their lawns. We would like to suggest that the Colorado Water Plan place alternatives to big green lawns. For example, xeriscaping saves 60 percent of water used on lawns.

We would ask that you take our opinions into consideration. Thank you for reading our letter and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerly,

Brianna Milligin

Aeiden Violette

District Office
100 N. 6th Street
P.O. Box 727
Dolores, Colorado 81323
5/21/15

Dept. of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman St, Rm 721
Denver, CO 80203
Office: EDO's Office
James.Eklund@state.co.us

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

Hello, our names are Micah Martinez and Olivia Benson-Hibbs. We are both juniors going to Dolores High School and have been learning in our civics class about the current droughts of water around the western area. We are writing to you to talk about our concerns about water conservation and it is the solution. More people are being born every day as well as the increase of people moving to the state of Colorado. Also the agriculture industry is massively growing with the growing demand of more people to be fed. Our growing water demands are; Recreation, municipal use, agriculture, and energy. Personally we think focus should be more on the municipal and agriculture needs, then the energy and recreation last as importance goes. The concern and reality of the occurance droughts in the western area are obviously real because of the appearance of tree ring patterns showing wider gaps showing lack of water. In reservoirs such as Lake Powel, Lake Mead, have shown signs of a lack of water or less than before by the lines left by the lack of water.

Out of the four water demands we believe that population growth is one of the first issues that needs to be dealt with. 35 million people rely on the Colorado River also every day the population of Colorado is growing every day in both rural and municipal areas. Colorado overall should find a plan B in case the Colorado river doesn't work out, we can't rely on one source for water even if that means making contracts with other states for support. With our growing population, Agriculture is becoming a much more needed economic business, Colorado should help farms be more efficient and provide funding to improve irrigation. The solutions to this are Ditch lining, Pressurized sprinklers, drip irrigation, and re-use + recirculation. This method also helps stabilize channel bed and banks, decrease hydraulic roughnesss, control weed growth, decrease maintenance cost and excavation costs. The third demand for water is energy because the population demands energy and we want you to support new technology that recycles any water back to rivers and creates energy such as hydroelectric power generation.
Re-use technologies are another alternative to the conservation of water

Other than your part on conserving water we ask you to reach out to the public by educating them about saving water by telling them to use things such as Xeriscaping and low-flow fixtures.

We would like to hear back on your thoughts and how you're trying to resolve the growing issue.

Thank you for your time

Micah Martinez

Micah Martinez

Olivia Benson-Hibbs

Olivia Benson-Hibbs

Kody Gregory
1301 Central Ave
Dolores, Co 81323
kody.gregory@dolores/k12.co.us

James Eklund
Director of Colorado
Water conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver, Colorado 80203

May 21, 2015

Dear Mr. Eklund,

My name is Kody Gregory. I am currently a junior at Dolores High School and in my government class we are studying water in Colorado. I am also a third generation cattleman who knows the stakes of losing water. I have some concerns about the Colorado Water Plan.

My main concern is losing water to the big cities of Colorado. I do understand that the city has eighty percent of Colorado's population and only twenty percent of our water and will always need water, but agriculture on the western slope will suffer horribly if the water is diverted to the front range.

Another concern of mine is that there is a thirty three percent chance that the lower basin states of the Colorado river basin could have a Colorado River Compact call in the next few years. If the lower states call for water our agriculture success will drop significantly on the front range by up to 50%. If our grass and hay production goes down me and my family will not have a source of income or a freezer full of meat. We as a family make a living off of raising and selling beef cattle to all facets of customers. If we lose our water we will be unable to grow and sell our cattle the way we do.

By reading this I ask that there is a lot of effort put into creating an efficient, and effective water plan to help our state not fight over the water and all have a part of what we want, but being able to still have agriculture for Colorado and my family.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I hope to hear your idea's and your response to this continuing issue.
Thank you

Kody Gregory

Kody Gregory

Leslie Umberger
1301 central AVE-
Dolores, Co 81323
leslie.umberger@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
Director of Colorado water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St
RM 721 Denver, Co 80203

Dear Mr. Eklund,

I am from a small school in Dolores Colorado. I am really concerned about our water supply. In our isolated area we are facing water shortages and it makes me think what it is like in the upper states and lower Colorado River basin states because our Colorado River supplies other states beyond Colorado.

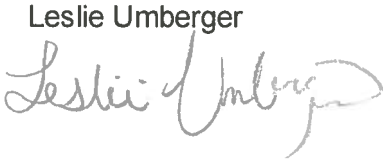
The first thing that is concerning me is the population growth. Estimated in 2050, the population of Colorado will be 9.5 million. That is a lot of people to supply water for. The second reason is for the concern of agriculture. Colorado's winter food products come from California. Agriculture needs water to grow winter crops for the continuing years. The last and main problem is watering lawns and landscaping. In order for people to keep their properties looking nice, they take 50% of the municipal water supply to do it. Water is a limited resource, saving it would be essential.

Many people agree that we need to conserve water and I have some solutions to suggest. One solution is that we need to limit our personal use. Another objective is to keep water flowing to the lower basin. California has most of the water usage in the lower basin and it's not all just agriculture. Watering lawns is a big problem. Most areas that are being watered don't even get much watering because it's pointed towards the sidewalk. I suggest a limited time on watering lawns. Xeriscaping is also a great way to conserve water. That saves up to 60% of normal watering usage.

I wish to hear back from you about the subject when you're open and free and thanks for taking the time to read my letter. Enjoy your day Mr. Eklund.

Sincerely,

Leslie Umberger



Brianna Nuss
1301 Central Ave
Dolores, Co 81323
Brianna.nuss@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver, Co 80203

To whomever this may concern,

My name is Brianna Nuss. I am a junior in high school and I have some concerns regarding the agricultural portion of the Colorado Water Plan. I understand that it crucial for agriculture to use water in the production of products but I think that the amount of water being used is way too much. There have been solutions mentioned to conserve this water but from what I understand those solutions are just "talk."

In order to actually conserve water I believe that we need to act upon these solutions. The first step I think we need to take is to increase productivity and water conservation. We as a state should start investing money toward irrigation systems in Colorado such as ditch lining, pressurized sprinklers, and drip irrigation so we can begin the conservation process.. If we don't start this process right now, the longer we wait our goal of conserving water will slowly be more difficult to fulfil.

I would thoroughly enjoy a respond back letting me know your feedback or even letting me know where we are at in this process to conserve water. Thank you for taking to time to read this and understanding where I stand in the issue.

Sincerly,

Brianna Nuss

P.O. Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
joshua.bratton@dolores.k12.co.us
May 21, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St.
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund:
My name is Joshua Bratton, and I am a junior at Dolores High School. I have recently grown alarmed about the use of water in Colorado and the Colorado River Basin. When I heard that you were working on a water plan for our state, I was encouraged. I feel that the water in Colorado should be used for agriculture, oil and gas, and other industry. Despite this, I am still concerned.

Water in Colorado is a major backbone for our economy. The Colorado River brings in $188.95 billion dollars and 2,147,141 jobs to the state. Agriculture is a major industry in Colorado. $16 billion is made from farming and ranching. This industry also provides 105,000 jobs to the inhabitants of Colorado. Finally, oil and gas is one of the largest industries in the state. In 2012, $23 billion was made from this portion of our economy. In the same year, 3,190 people were employed for oil and gas. All told, these people made $3.2 billion in wages.

Mr. Eklund, I ask that you push for the Colorado State Water Plan to provide more water for Colorado agriculture and oil and gas. I believe that water should be conserved as much as possible, especially by municipal landscaping. However, I believe that the state will benefit more from a steady economy than from beautiful vistas and green lawns. If you want to contact me, my e-mail is joshua.bratton@dolores.k12.co.us. I would be grateful if you would reply to this letter. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Bratton

J. Bratton

Larissa Umberger
100 N. 6th Street
P.O. Box 727
Dolores CO 81323
May 21, 2015

James Eklund
Dept. of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman St, Rm 721
Denver, CO 80203
Office: EDO's Office

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

I am a junior at Dolores High School and my civics class has been discussing the Colorado State Water Plan. I am concerned that too much water will be moved away from agricultural uses. I believe that the water in agriculture today should stay where it is.

Agriculture has been an extremely important part of Colorado citizens' lives since the state was founded on August 1, 1876. One reason agriculture is important is that it is the source of our food. Not only are crops, such as corn, grown for our immediate consumption, but also, agriculture raises the crops that livestock feed off of. The livestock then also feeds our population by providing meat, milk, eggs, and many other food products that we depend on for our nourishment. Less water in agriculture could potentially mean less food. The second reason agriculture is important is that it has an extreme impact on Colorado's economy. Agriculture is a $16 billion industry in Colorado. It also provides for over 105,000 jobs. Moving water out of agriculture could harm our economy and cause people to lose their jobs. The third reason agriculture is important is that it defines the culture of much of our state. Farmers' lifestyles depend on ranching and raising crops. Agriculture to me, is what makes Colorado the incredible, beautiful state it is today.

I have grown up in the midst of farmers and ranchers, who commit their lives to raising crops and protecting agriculture. I can't remember a day when my grandma was not in her huge garden tending to the vegetables growing there. Everything she eats either comes out of her garden, or comes from my uncle who butchers cows. My uncle makes his living off of raising cattle, and raising crops that cattle can eat. In his work he must have enough water to irrigate the land and keep the cows healthy. Without enough water, my grandma would not be able to raise a successful garden, and my uncle's life would greatly change.

I respectfully request that you please craft the water plan to keep water in agriculture in Colorado. I do believe conservation techniques such as ditch lining, pressurized sprinklers, and drip irrigation are needed to help agriculture use water more efficiently, but I believe that the water in farmers' hands now should remain where it is.

I look forward to hearing your reply. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Larissa Umberger
Dolores High School

Sarah Vass
sarah.vass@dolores.k12.co.us
1301 Central Ave, Dolores, CO 81323
(970) 882 7288

James Eklund
Director of Colorado
Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St. Room 271
Denver CO, 80203

Dear James Eklund,

I am writing to inform you today of my opinion about the Colorado State Water Plan. I am concerned about agriculture's future in Colorado with the expected water shortages in the state. With the Front Range and the Western Slope in a water war, it is important that all needs are met with this draft of Colorado's first ever state water plan.

There are a lot of different operations that use water from the Colorado River System such as; agriculture, recreation, energy development and municipal uses. Although they all need some water in the plan, I believe that agriculture's water should have top priority to water. Agriculture has to have water preference because not only does agribusiness produce food, but it also contributes over $7 billion to Colorado's economy, and over 105,000 jobs to citizens all over the state, according to EDF's article, "Colorado farmers have a lot to say about the state's first-ever water plan."

Agriculture water use rights have to be met in order to sustain the supply and demand ratio in order to produce food for citizens and livestock in Colorado. Farmers and ranchers use water to grow various crops that include alfalfa, hay, and vegetables. The water that is not used directly for watering crops often seeps into the ground to go into underground wells that people drink out of. Irrigation water keeps the grass green around the ditches, providing habitat and food for Colorado's wild animals. Farming is an important part of Colorado, and if water is cut down for agribusiness, not only will the economy suffer, but the environment will as well.

My third recommendation is that agriculture should be supported by the state government in order to make the farmers and ranchers farms more water efficient. With the help of state funding,. farmers can replace old technology with more efficient tools and techniques that don't waste as much water. Because there is a high capital cost to replace such old equipment, the farmers and ranchers need the help in order to stay on their land.

As Colorado's elected governor, I want you to consider all sides of the water argument. It takes deep consideration to decide the water shares and where they go. I ask you to pay close attention to the agricultural uses of water and its benefit to colorado's economy and environment.

Although I understand that you are very busy, please consider responding to one of Colorado's concerned rural student.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and examine my opinion.

Sincerely,

Sarah R. Vass

Sarah Vass
Dolores High School Junior

Dolores High School
1301 Central Avenue
Dolores, CO 81323
May 21, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado
Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

We are writing to you because we, as students of Dolores High School, are concerned about the "water situation". In recent years, it has been made known to us that our state is suffering from severe lack of snowfall and other precipitation. Due to the statewide population growth and drought, we have come up with some solutions that we think you, as the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, would like to hear. The Colorado Water Plan

In agriculture, often times farmers and ranchers use inefficient methods to water their crops and livestock. We believe that there should be action taken towards changing this. Such as providing possible funding so to change the way the water is administered to crops. We all know that flood irrigation is not as efficient as other forms of irrigation, such as using pressurized irrigation or drip irrigation. Both are more expensive to use, but if it could be made available to them farmers might consider changing their methods.

Eighty-five to ninety percent of the water in Colorado is used for agriculture, with more efficient ways of watering more of this water could go to other uses. Studies show that drip irrigation systems use thirty to fifty percent less water, but other studies show that a properly installed drip irrigation system can save up to eighty percent more water than other watering methods. Drip irrigation systems also improve plant growth and help control fungal diseases.

Michael Sawyer
Garrett Leavell
1301 Central Ave.
Dolores, CO 81323
May 21, 2015
michael.sawyer@dolores.k12.co.us
garrett.leavell@dolores.k12.co.us

Director of Colorado Conservation Board, James Eklund
1313 Sherman Street Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear James Eklund:

Since 2002 the Colorado River Basin has been suffocated, the decrease in runoff and the increase of demand has haunted the 35 million people that rely on the water in the basin. We are from a very agriculturally dependent community and we have worries that this drought may hurt our very needed ag infrastructure. The upcoming State water plan needs to make sure that we keep our ag community.

There are three main ideas that I think you should consider when looking at the State Water Plan. The first being that we need to make sure that the Ag Infrastructure stays strong. Ag alone brings in seven billion dollars to our economy. Ag employs 105,000 people. Ag is also a huge part of Colorado's culture. I also think that if there are going to be any cuts in water that cities should be cut before ag. The front range uses 50% of their water for lawns and landscaping. This water is not a necessity, I would much rather have food than a nice lawn. Lastly, we need to help innovate ag so we can save more water. California only uses 41% of there water on ag while we use 85-90% of our water on ag. California produces way more crop than Colorado yet uses half the water. We need to supply farmers with financial assistance so they can make ag more efficient.

While you are thinking about what is going to best for our state I hope you keep all of this in mind, by placing ag first, innovate ag, and offer financial assistance. I look forward to your reply and get some of your ideas on this issue. Thank you for your time.

Thank you again,

MIchael Sawyer

Garrett Leavell

Director of Colorado
Water Conservation District
1313 Sherman St. Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Eklund,

We have some ideas and solutions to incorporate in the Colorado Water Plan. Our concern is that there are too many people that rely on the Colorado river, and not enough water to meet the demands. According to a Colorado River District video we recently watched in class, within the next two years there's a 75% chance of there being a water call to the lower basin states. In order to prevent this, we have come up with some solutions.

Agriculture is the biggest consumer of water in Colorado, it uses 85-90 percent of the water. More water is used than what is produced. Although agriculture produces $16 billion to our state's economy and creates over 105,000 jobs, the population requires changes in water conservation. Alfalfa and hay, used to feed livestock, requires large amounts of water and also wastes a lot of water, through evaporation. Plants such as rice and cotton use less water than plants such as alfalfa. Irrigation methods used to water said plants, can also be more efficient. These more efficient types of irrigation methods can be more expensive and would be hard for farmers to pay for out of pocket. Therefor, we suggest that the government assist in making the state more efficient and conservative in its water uses.

Landscaping is another large consumer of water in Colorado. In the front range over 50% of the water is used for lawns and landscaping. Lawns are the biggest waste of water in Denver. A more efficient landscaping option is xeriscaping. Xeriscaping uses plants that are native to the area and rely mostly on natural rainfall. These plants can save over 60% of the water. Xeriscaping would contribute greatly to water conservation in Colorado.

The western slope in Colorado contains 80 percent of the water and 20 percent of the population, versus the front range which has 20 percent of the water and 80 percent of the population. This is an issue because the front range uses the water for municipal uses and produces more gross domestic product for the amount of water it gets. Meanwhile, the western slope, which is where most of the agricultural regions lie, has to contribute 25% of our state's water supply to the front range. Water is needed for agriculture, but with population growing to an estimated 7.5 million by 2030, water needs to be conserved and used wisely for agriculture AND population.

A list of solutions we offer are as follows:

- Water conservation
- Innovative Sharing
- Additional Storage of Water

- Smart Use
- Low Flow Fixtures
- Ditch Lining
- Drip Irrigation
- Pressurized Sprinklers
- Re-use and Recirculate Water

What do you plan to do to conserve water in the state of Colorado? Thank you for your time.

Julia Sellers and Sydney Giddings

Elizabeth Loschert
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P.O. Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
elizabeth.loschert@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
CWCB Director
1313 Sherman Street, Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Eklund,

My name is Liz Loschert and I live in Dolores, Colorado. I am writing to you on the topic of the Colorado Water Plan. The formation of this plan is going to be extremely beneficial for our state, if it is initiated in a sustainable and smart way. Allocating water to the different areas and groups of people in Colorado needs to be done with the intention of conserving water. I believe that two main things need to happen: we need to fund more sustainable agriculture, and the plan needs to somehow find a way to reduce the impact that municipalities have on our water supply.

Agriculture, as you know, is a huge industry in our state. Valued at $16 billion, the farmers and ranchers in our state are crucial to the survival of the economy and the production of jobs. Agriculture is often targeted as the "bad guy" when water shortage comes up as an issue. Although agriculture uses around 86% of the water in Colorado, I do not believe the course of action should include taking water away from farmers without first making sure that farmers can continue to produce goods. Sustainable agriculture reformations would have to occur before we can start reducing the amount of water farmers and ranchers have access to. Unfortunately, ditch lining and the installation of more sustainable irrigation systems is often too expensive for farmers to initiate on their own. I believe that the state should work towards making it easier and less expensive for farmers to reduce the amount of water they use before lowering the amount of water they have access to.

The other main issue that I think should be addressed in the Colorado Water Plan is municipal waste of water. Water is one of the most crucial resources that we have access to, especially in times of drought, and wasting this water on green lawns, pools, and golf courses is one of the main causes of water shortage. I think the municipal use of water should be revised so that it meets the needs of the people and industries in Colorado before it is wasted on green grass. Landscaping and lawn maintenance takes up to 50% of front range water. In an area that holds 80% of the people and only 20% of the water, the amount of water that is used on lawns is scary.

Dolores High School
1301 Central Avenue
Dolores, CO 81323
May 21, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado
Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

I am writing to you, in regards to The Colorado Water Plan, and because I, as a student of Dolores High School, am concerned about the "water situation". In recent years, it has been made known to me that our state is suffering from severe lack of snowfall and other precipitation. Due to the statewide population growth and drought, I have come up with some solutions that I think you, as the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, would like to hear.

In agriculture, often times farmers and ranchers use inefficient methods to water their crops and livestock. We believe that there should be action taken towards changing this. Such as providing possible funding so to change the way the water is administered to crops. We all know that flood irrigation is not as efficient as other forms of irrigation, such as using pressurized irrigation or drip irrigation. Both are more expensive to use, but if it could be made available to them farmers might consider changing their methods.

Eighty-five to ninety percent of the water in Colorado is used for agriculture, with more efficient ways of watering more of this water could go to other uses. Studies show that drip irrigation systems use thirty to fifty percent less water, but other studies show that a properly installed drip irrigation system can save up to eighty percent more water than other watering methods. Drip irrigation systems also improve plant growth and help control fungal diseases.

Thank you for taking the time to hear what I have to say. I would love to hear back from you with your thoughts.

Sincerely

Angelica G. Heman

Branden Donaldson
27720 road P.
Dolores, Colorado 81323
Brandenbears26@gmail.com

Nichole Kibel
19270 Rd. 25.4
Dolores, Colorado 81323
nichole.kibel@dolores.k12.co.us

James Ekland
Director of Colorado Water Conservation
1313 Sherman St. Room 271
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Ekland,

We are writing to you to hopefully suggest a solution to some problems that Colorado is having with the shortage of water. Since 2002, the Colorado River Basin has been in an extreme drought. It has been argued that agriculture is using the most water with the least amount of production, but we believe that with a funding put towards helping farmers become more efficient with water will help the situation.

One thing to consider with this, is the irrigation systems. There are two main forms on the western slope which are flood irrigation and pivot irrigation. Flood irrigation is the cheapest irrigation system, but does not conserve water very well. When asking farmers around the western slope, they would much rather have pivot irrigation systems, but they are expensive. If funding was put towards helping them conserve water through better irrigation systems, water would not be so scarce.

Another point we would like to make is that if water is given to municipal use more than agriculture use, this could affect our recreation. Farmers play a huge role in our recreation today. The crops that they grow help feed the wildlife in the outdoors. They also are pretty good about sharing their water with recreational use on the rivers.

We would like the Colorado Water Plan to help fund proper irrigation systems to help keep water in agriculture to provide for recreational and municipal use. A simple reply would be greatly appreciated. Thank you again for taking your time to read our letter.

Thank you again,

Nichole Kibel

Nichole R. Kibel

Branden Donaldson

Branden Donaldson

101 N. 6th Street
PO Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
molly.cumpton@dolores.k12.co.us
May 21, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St.
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

My name is Molly Cumpton and I am a junior at Dolores High School, located in the southwest region of Colorado. Having been born and raised here, I have a great appreciation and pride for our town and the river that flows through it. Water is a very valuable resource for our area and I would hate to see it compromised. As climate change reduces the amount of snowfall our receive, our water levels are dwindling which is having a negative impact on not only our states, but the states involved in the Colorado River Basin Compact. Population on the front range is growing which is causing a higher demand for water in municipal use but unfortunately our water supply is decreasing, making it a challenge to meet our state's needs. Not only is water needed for municipal use, agriculture has always been a large part of our state's revenue by supplying a $16 billion industry and history and should therefore remain a priority for water use. It comes down to finding a delicate balance between the major uses for water which are agriculture, municipal, recreation, hunting/fishing, and energy development. While all of them are important, agriculture and municipal use should be at the forefront since both require the highest demand for water.

I believe that in order to supply our state's water needs, we need to focus saving water by cutting back on wasteful usage. Currently, about 50% of water on the front range for municipal use is used for landscaping alone on the front range. A good solution to this problem would be to convert grass lawns to xeriscaping which saves 60% of the municipal use per year. The problem with this change occurring is that it most people can't and don't want to finance changing their lawns to xeriscaping. It would also require a change in what is perceived as "normal" since so many people are used to green grass lawns. I imagine that most people would be more willing to convert to xeriscaping if the state would help provide the money for it and for the change of mentality, it only takes a small portion of people to make up a critical mass before others are likely to follow. For the western slope, agriculture consumes a majority of the water which means that is where water needs to be saved. In order to save water in agriculture swtiches can be made to pressureized water system, ditch lining, and using a drip irrigation system.One more, the major problem with this solution is the expense of it. Many of the farmer's here can't afford to buy all new, water efficient equipment. State funding would

aid in fixing this problem which may be hard at first since finances tend to be tight but in the future it would be well worth every cent.

I hope that I have made an impact on the issue, no matter how small. I would love to hear back from you with any information on this issue. Please send a reply to my email at molly.cumpton@dolores.k12.co.us, or to my school's address at P.O. Box 727 Dolores, CO 81323.

Sincerely yours,

Molly Cumpton

Molly Cumpton

Kayla & Krystal Davis
1301 Central Avenue
Dolores, Co, 81323
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James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St. Room 271
Denver, Co, 80203

Dear James Eklund,

We're writing about the Colorado State Water Plan. Our concern is that Agriculture is going to get less water and end up not having enough water to produce crops to feed us and our animals.

Agriculture currently get 80-95 percent of water to produce our crops that provide food for both us and our animals. We believe that this percentage should continue to remain the same because if it didn't, agriculture wouldn't get enough water for the crops. That would then cause less food for our people and less food for our animals. If urban municipal use of water gets more than agriculture gets, then they will have tons of extra water that they do not necessarily need and it will go to waste. It's wasted because lawns and landscaping on the front range uses 50 percent of water during the summer. It's unnecessary that simple lawns and landscaping gets to use this much water. A green grass is not as important as some people believe. We believe it's important that agriculture continues to have 80-95 percent of water for our crops. If agriculture were to get less water, than there will be less water for hunting, fishing, etc. which is also a big money-maker. Mel Rettig and Carlyle Currier said, "agriculture is very important for the habitat of animals."

Some solutions are urban conservation xeriscaping which saves up to 60 percent of water usage and agriculture efficiency will help out a lot. The only problem with our efficiency is farmers cannot afford more efficient tools for producing their crops. We would like to have the Colorado State Water Plan to continue to have agriculture receiving 80-95 percent of water for many important reasons. We would also highly appreciate it if you took some time to reply to our letter.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter Mr. James Eklund.

Kayla Davis Krystal Davis

Kayla & Krystal Davis

James Cochrane
18005 Road 27.9
Dolores, CO 81323
970-739-3117
james.cochrane@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
Dept. of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman St, Rm 721
Denver, CO 80203
EDO's Office

Dear Mr. Eklund,

My Government class at Dolores High School has been learning about water in Colorado; namely, its ownership and distribution. During our studies, I learned that the majority of our water goes towards agriculture. I also learned that you are helping to draft the Colorado State Water Plan, which will dictate the distribution of water across the state for years to come. I believe that while it is necessary for agriculture to receive most of our water, the new water plan should incentivize farmers to conserve water and optimize their use of it.

Colorado uses 86% of its water on agriculture, while the global average is 70%. One might try to justify this by saying that Colorado is mainly an agricultural state, and that it makes sense for most of our water to go towards agriculture. However, according to the USDA, Colorado is not ranked in the Top 10 highest producing agricultural states. California, at the top of this list, uses "roughly 80%" of its water on agriculture. Colorado, despite using more water on agriculture than the top producing agricultural state, is not a top producer of produce. This shows that we have serious problems with farm efficiency.

Why aren't Colorado farmers curtailing their water use? The answer is simple; they cannot afford it. Farmers with senior water rights cannot afford to conserve water, and as a result, those with junior rights can barely get enough, resulting in requests to increase the amount of water diverted to agriculture. This is what I would suggest for the CSWP: provide monetary rewards to farmers willing to implement water-efficient tools in their farming. As a result, farmers with senior rights waste much less water, and farmers with junior rights would get all the water they need, leaving more water for diversion to other industries in Colorado, such as energy development and recreation.

Please respond with your opinions on the matter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Cochrane

James Cochrane

Selah Kabakoro
P.O Box 1551 Dolores
Colorado 81323
selah.kabakoro@dolores.k12.co.us

James Eklund
DIrector of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

May 22, 2015

Dear Mr. Eklund,

My name is Selah Kabakoro and I am a junior from Dolores High School writing to you about my thoughts on the Colorado state water plan. A concern that I have is that if Agriculture continues to get less water than what they are suppose to then they will not be able to grow the crops necessary for feeding not only people but our livestock.

Another main concern that I have is that while the front range claims to conserve water and to be careful with it that is the opposite of what I have read and studied. They waste about 50% on residential uses such as watering your lawn. I definitely think that instead of diverting water away from Agriculture the state of Colorado should take a closer look on how responsibly the front range is making use of the water provided to them.

My last concern is that if the Colorado water compact allows cities and such to call for more water this means that Agriculture would lose a lot of water. Without a decent efficient amount of water ranchers and farmers will most likely not succeed in growing the necessary crops such as alfalfa, corn and fruit trees that we need.

A request that I would like to make is that you make a plan that allows recreation, municipal, and energy to be content while not taking water meant for agriculture.
I would enjoy hearing back from you, I also appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Selah Kehaulani Kabakoro

Erin Ryan
17390 Cr 23
Dolores, Co. 81323
(970) 882-7522
erin.ryan@dolores.k12.co.us
May 26, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Room 271
Denver, Co. 80203

Dear Mr. James Eklund:

My name is Erin Ryan, and I live in Dolores, Colorado. I am a member of the FFA and 4-H, and have an interest and history with horses. I am writing to you about the Colorado State Water Plan, and I am concerned that the Colorado River is over allocated and I don't want agriculture to suffer.

I would not like to see more water diverted to the front range. Even with more water efficient practices on the western slope, the western slope still needs as much water as possible. Most of Colorado's agriculture is produced on the western slope. If there was less available water on the western slope, the cost of many crops would increase because of a smaller crop yields. The increase of prices would in turn cause many animals to go hungry as the price of hay rose. All dairy and beef prices would raise as a result. The western slope really needs to keep the water it has and not divert any more water to the front range.

Historically, anywhere from 85 to 90 percent of all the water used has gone to agriculture, and most of that water hasn't been used in an efficient way. I beleive that could be changed with the help of the government. The $16 billion dollar agriculture industry supplies jobs to over 105,000 people in Colorado. With financial assistance, these farmers could increase production of goods while also conserving water. The farmers could instal ditch lining, pressurized sprinklers, or drip irrigation, depending on what works best for their crops. All these options are more efficient that what many farmers are using now, such as flood irrigation, non-lined ditches, and side role sprinklers. An incentive to farmers from the government for more water efficient irrigation equipment would be a great relief to farmers and the Colorado River.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. I would really appreciate a reply, you can email me at erin.ryan@dolores.k12.co.us.

Sincerely yours,

Erin Ryan

Erin Ryan

Thomas Nelligan and Daniel Jimenez
P.O. Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
thomas.nelligan@dolores.k12.co.us
daniel.jimenez@dolores.k12.co.us
May 26, 2015

James Eklund
Director of Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St.
Room 271
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. James Ecklund:
Our names are Thomas Nelligan and Daniel Jimenez, and we are juniors at Dolores High School. We are worried about the use of water in not only Western Colorado, but in the entire state. A primary concern of ours if water's role in economic growth and development. We believe that the water plan that is being reviewed for our state should have economic growth and development at the forefront of its concern.

Agriculture in Colorado uses about 80% of our share of water, while only generating $7,200 in economic growth per acre foot of water. Although most people view the front range as the water wasters, with green, manicured lawns, it generates $132,000 per acre foot of water used. While the agricultural business in Colorado has been around for a long time, we believe that the future of Colorado is in the more urban areas.

Although the front range uses a lot of water wastefully, there are ways to reduce the amount of water used. Xeriscaping is one big way to help in reducing water consumption. Las Vegas has started something where for every square foot of grass replaced with desert landscaping, homeowners receive $1.50. People will do a lot for money, so we believe this is a good first step. Another way to help save water is to campaign more so people can see just how much water we actually waste. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter, we hope to hear from you as soon as you are able.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jimenez and Thomas Nelligan

Kyerstin McNutt
1301 Central Avenue
Dolores Co 81323
karebearmcnutt@gmail.com

May 28th, 2015

James Eklund
Director of CO water conservation board
11313 Sherman St Room 271
Denver Co 80203

Dear Mr. Eklund:

Hello I am Kyerstin McNutt and I am a junior fixing to be a senior at Dolores High .The reason why i'm writing to the State Water Plan is because I am concerned about Lake Powell the reason why is because I lived out there for six years. I am concerned that the water is going to keep dropping which isn't good for many reasons.

For my first reason it's so much fun. People can do so much at Lake Powell We can go rafting, rent houseboats, camp, swim, and hike the canyons. Over 2 million people visit it yearly if the lake gets any lower what will they do.For my second reason think of all the boats. Lower water equals a harder time to launch boats. Over 100 boats on the lake alone. The recreation here at Powell is the largest recreation man made. It took 17 years to fill it up why should we let it drain any more than what it is. The lake is 558 feet deep it's lower than it has been in years which isn't very good on boats.Finally the Hydroelectric dam. The dam is 710 feet tall the water needs to be at least. May 14th 2014 Lake powell has dropped 42% capacity. This up and down is not good on the dam. Do you know what happens when a motor stays still and water goes up and down around it what it can do it can burn it out and potentially blow it up over time. If we don't keep the Lake at a stable level than we could cost the state over thousands of dollars and we would put debris in the water if this happened. The hydroelectric dam recycles water and prevents burning 22 billion gallons of oil. The dam leaves no waste which is all bonuses to keeping the lake full.

I personally have lived at Powell for 6 years and have seen it pretty full and i have seen it dropping recently and I would hate to see it drop anymore. I would like the colorado water plan to send more water down to Lake Powell to assist a fill up. Please reply as soon as possible and thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Kyerstin McNutt

Kyerstin McNutt