

THE COLORADO WATER PLAN

"Building a Resilient Water Future"

Russ Sands – Section Chief for Water Supply Planning
2022 CML Mayor's Summit



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

2002

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signature of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.

An Act

HOUSE BILL 05-1177

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Penry, Buescher, Decker, Liston, Massey, White, Berens, Clapp, Crane, Gallegos, Hall, Hoppe, Jahn, Kerr, Knoedler, Paccione, Rose, Stafford, Stengel, Sullivan, Romanoff, Boyd, Brophy, Coleman, Frangas, Harvey, King, Madden, May M., McCluskey, Merrifield, and Todd; also SENATOR(S) Isgar, Tapia, Taylor, Entz, Grossman, Kester, Fitz-Gerald, Groff, Teck, and Tupa.

2004

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF INTERBASIN COMPACTS REGARDING THE DIVISION OF THE STATE'S WATERS, AND MAKING AN AMENDMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

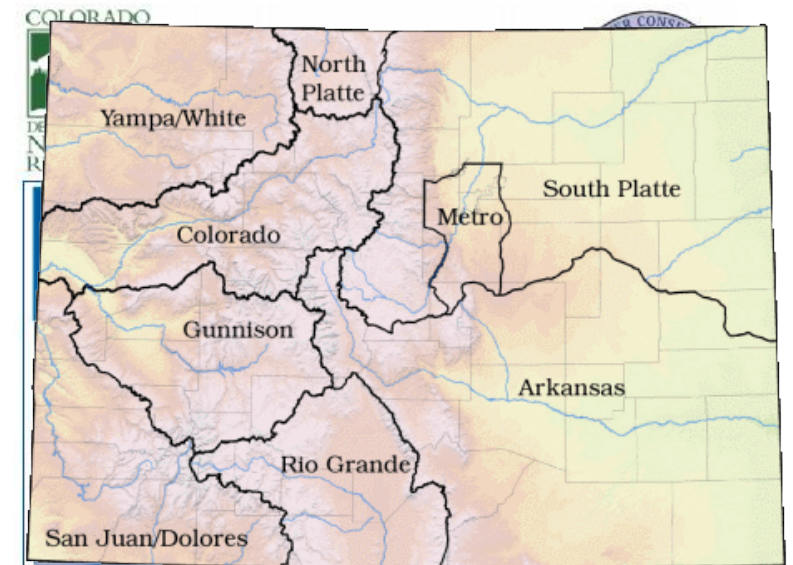
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Title 37, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

ARTICLE 75 Interbasin Compacts

37-75-101. Short title. THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "COLORADO WATER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT".

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.



November 2004

2005

-Gov. Bill Owens

2002 quote on the Hayman Fire

Statewide Water Supply Initiative

2012

2014

2015

2014

2020

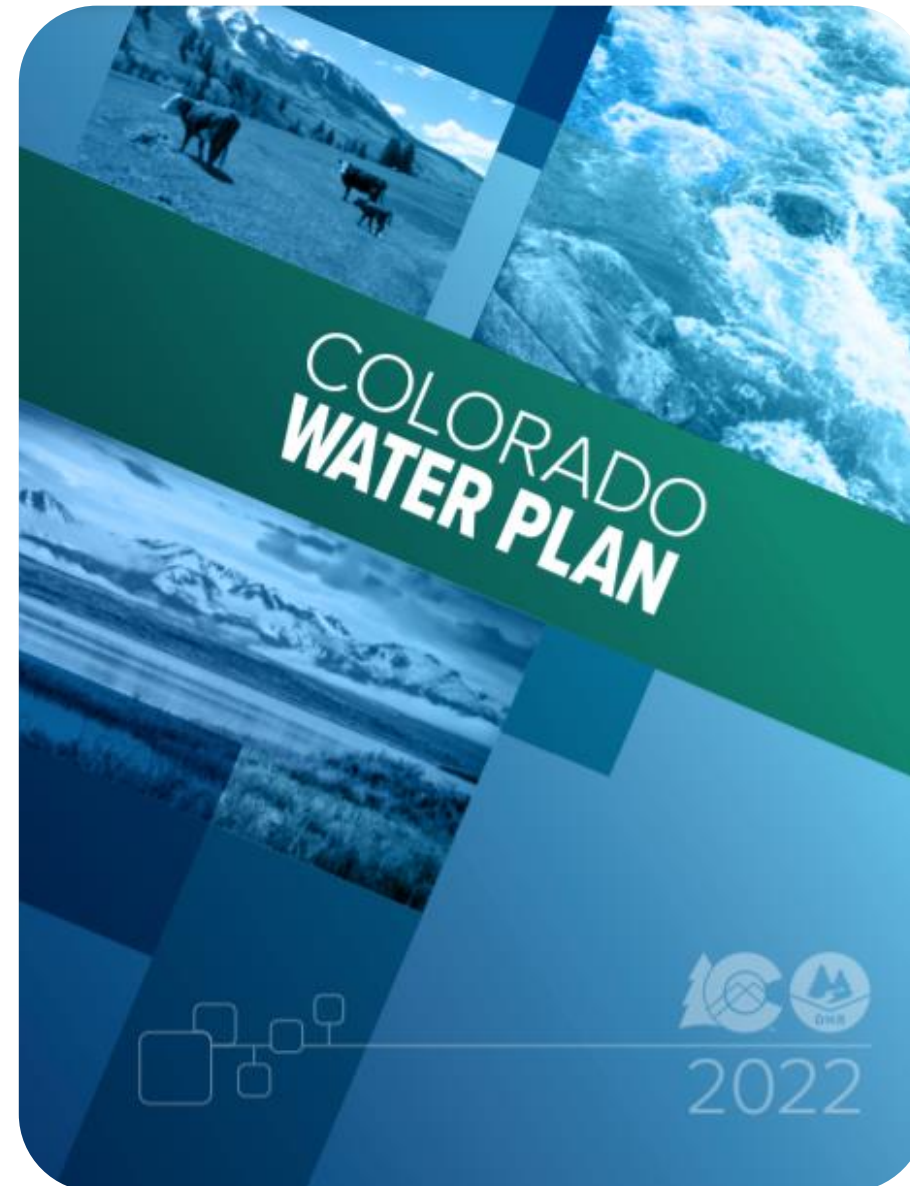
2021

**2nd DRIEST YEAR
IN MODERN HISTORY**

- **GLENWOOD MUDSLIDE**
- **MARSHALL FIRE**
- **RECORD LOW FLOWS**
- **SUPPLY CHALLENGES**
- **WARMEST 6 MONTHS**

-Former Governor John Hickenlooper

TODAY.



**OUR CHALLENGES
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES
WE MEET THE MOMENT
TOGETHER**

THE BOARD, THE MISSION, THE PLAN

- The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) provides policy direction on water.
- There are many agencies and groups we work with on policy and projects – we do not build projects.
- The Colorado Water Plan was first published in 2015 as a living document to highlight key challenges.

MISSION:

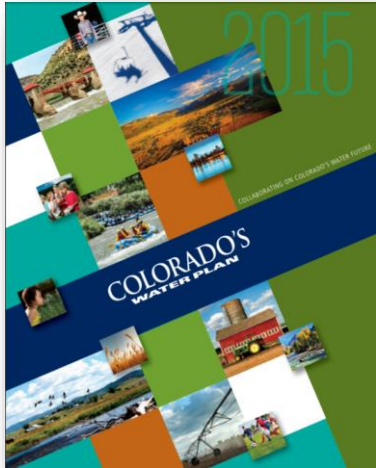
*“To conserve,
develop, protect
and manage
Colorado’s water
for present and
future generations.”*



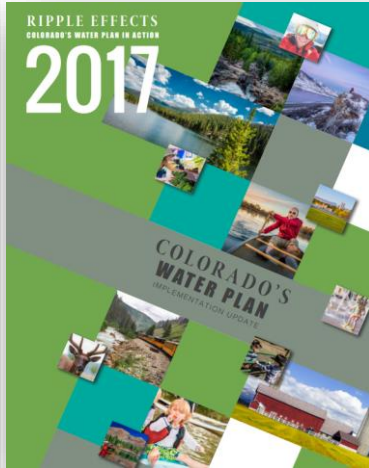
COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

ITERATIVE PLANNING AND INPUT

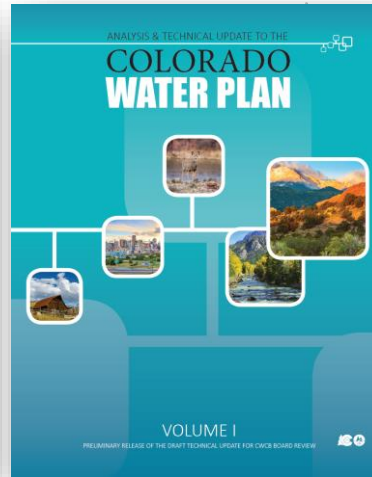
2015



2017



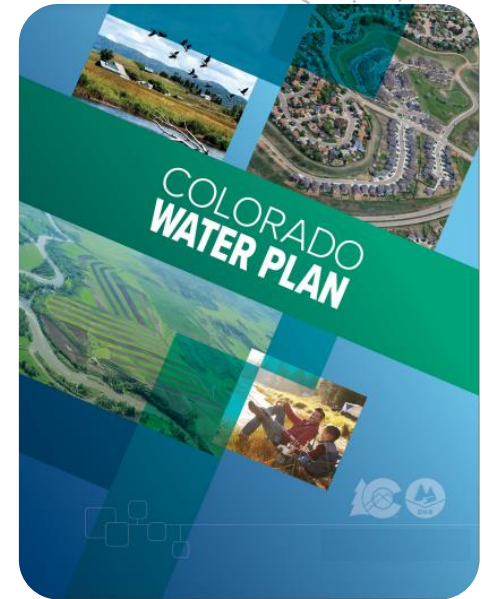
2019

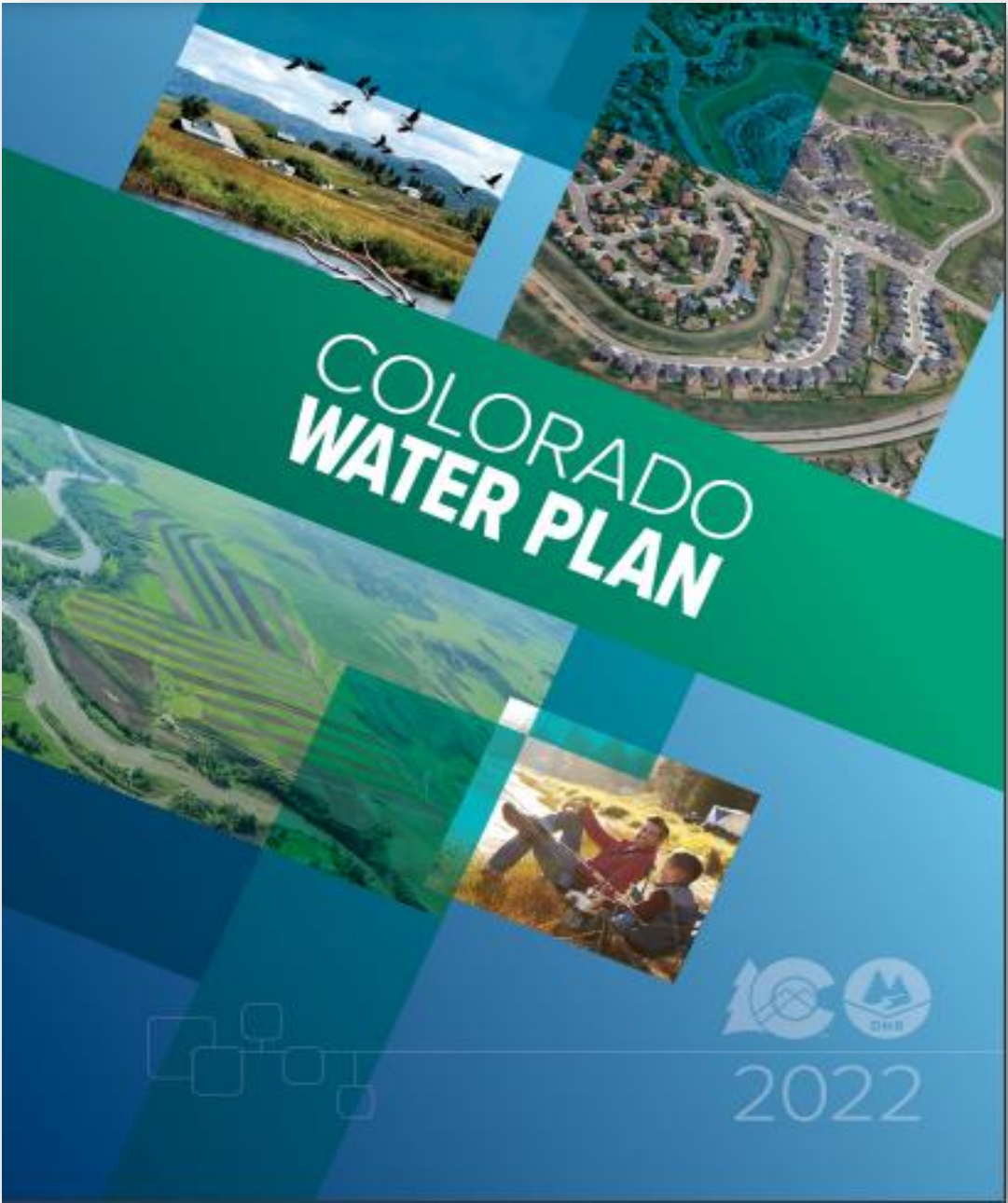
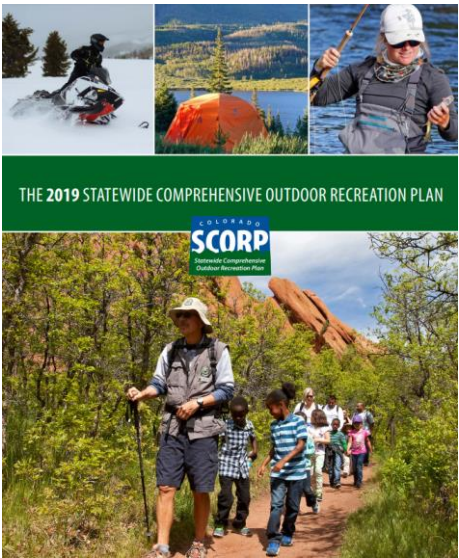
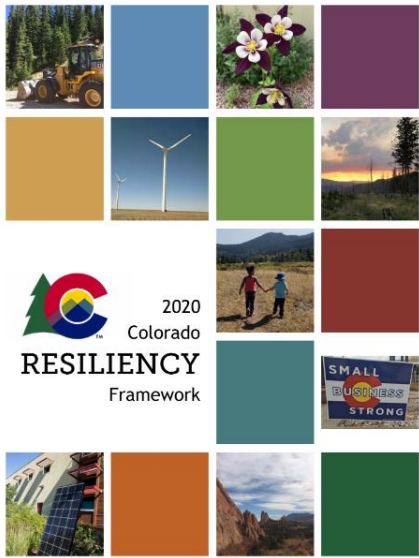
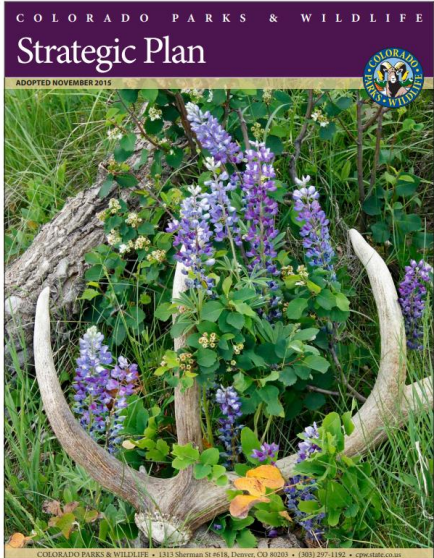


2020-2022



2020-2023





10-Year Water Quality Roadmap

Overview

Excess nutrients can degrade the quality of our drinking water, impair recreational boating and fishing experiences, and harm fish and aquatic species. Colorado has been directed by the EPA and the commission to adopt nutrient criteria to protect our streams and lakes. In October 2017, we established a water quality roadmap that outlines our strategy for developing nutrient criteria and other water quality priorities over 10 years from 2017 to 2027.

Focus areas

Criteria Development:

The Water Quality Control Commission plans to adopt water quality criteria for nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a*), cadmium, temperature, arsenic, ammonia, and selenium during rulemaking hearings through 2027.

Evidence Development:

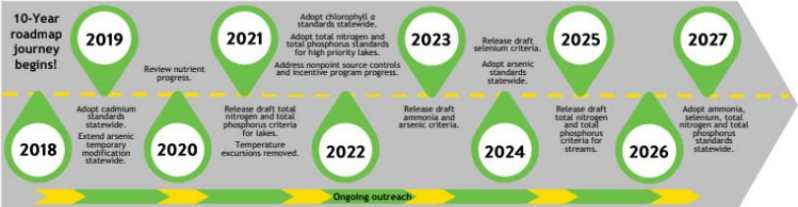
The Water Quality Control Division and stakeholders will undertake technical work and develop scientific evidence needed to support adoption of water quality criteria by the commission.

Criteria Implementation:

The water quality criteria adopted by the commission are implemented as water quality standards in the river basins statewide (Regulations 32-38). The standards are translated into permits that allow the discharge of acceptable levels of pollutants. Sometimes permit limits result in water treatment being needed to address permit requirements. Nonpoint sources, like agricultural runoff, can also release nutrients, so we will consider how to decrease nutrients in waterways from nonpoint sources as well.

Outreach:

There are several ways stakeholders can participate in shaping the efforts that will happen over 10 years from 2017 to 2027.

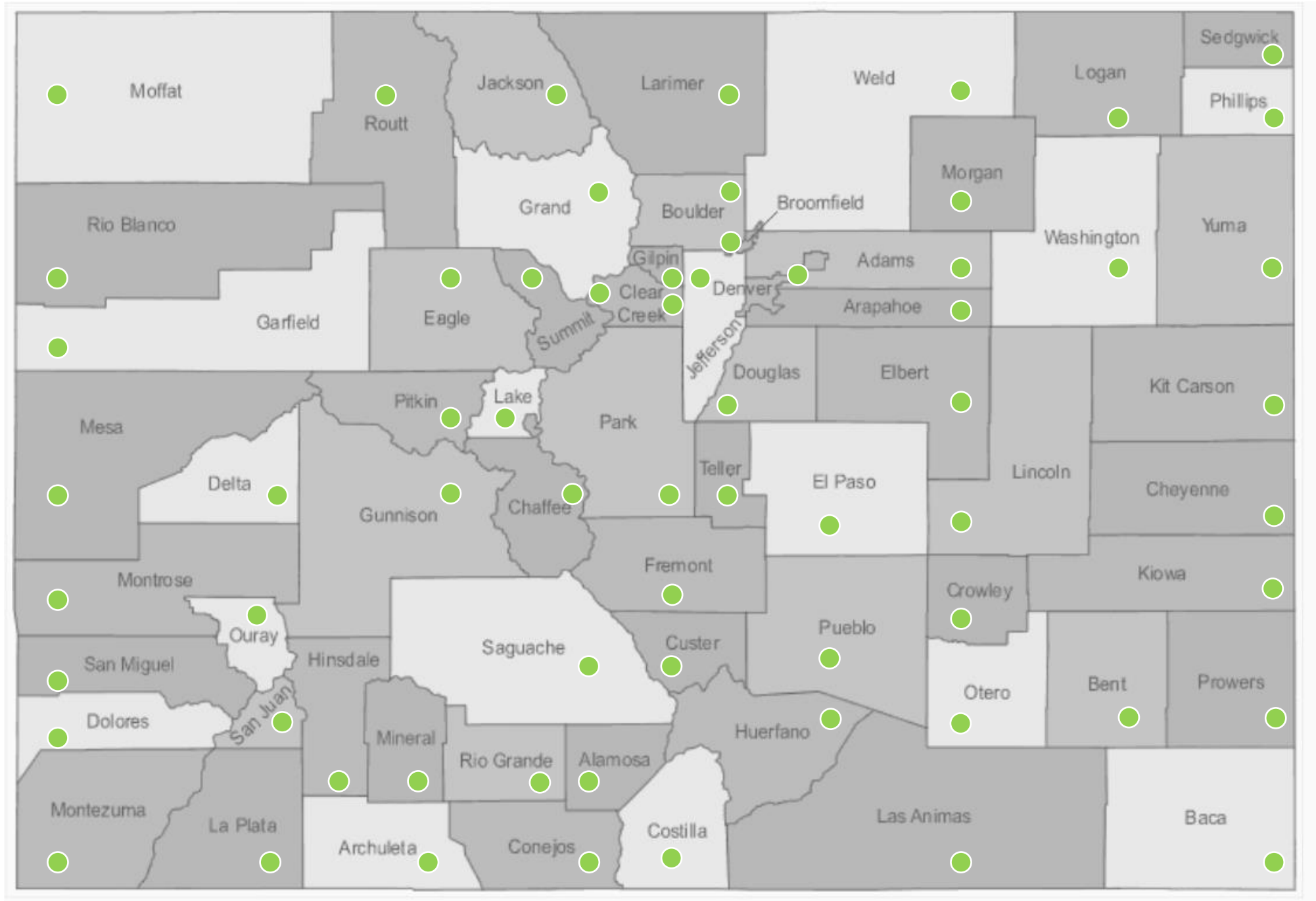


COLORADO
Department of Agriculture
FY 2022-2023 PERFORMANCE PLAN

“The Magic
Happens
at the
Local
Level.”

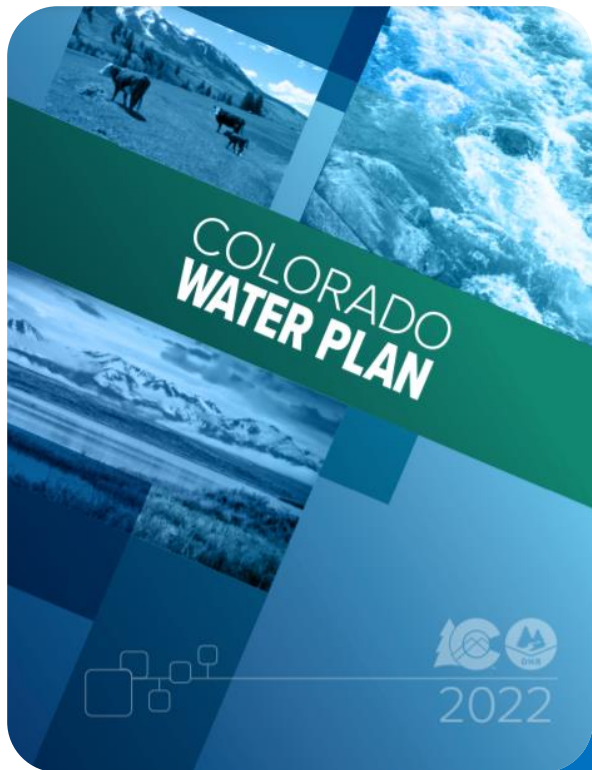
-Greg Felt

Chaffee County Commissioner,
CWCB Board Director
& Fly Fishing Guide



50 PARTNER ACTIONS

EXAMPLES OF LOCAL WATER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

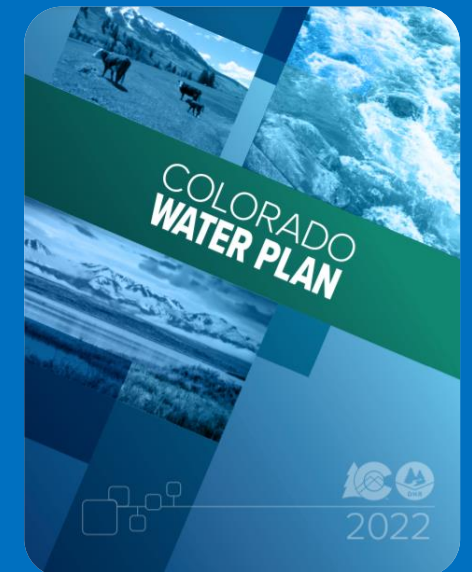


50 AGENCY ACTIONS

AGENCY ACTIONS CWCB + SUPPORTING AGENCIES WILL TAKE

AGENCY ACTIONS OF INTEREST

- Transformative Landscape Change & Water Conservation Metrics
- Embracing a One Water Ethic in Comprehensive Plans
- Climate Change in Colorado & Vulnerabilities Report Updates
- Future Avoided Cost Explorer Tool
- Development Drought Resilience Toolkit



PROMOTING OUR SHARED VALUES

1 A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, agriculture, recreation and tourism.

2 An efficient and effective water infrastructure system.

3 A strong environment with healthy watersheds, rivers, streams and wildlife.

4 An informed public with creative, forward-thinking solutions that are sustainable and resilient to changing conditions and result in strong, equitable communities that can adapt to and thrive in the face of adversity.

INTEGRATED AREAS CATALYZE ACTION



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
municipalities, utilities, industry, cities, towns, and
small urban and rural communities



THRIVING WATERSHEDS
environment and recreation, river health,
watershed health, forest health, aquatic species



ROBUST AGRICULTURE
established cash crop farms, local food, orchards,
ranching, Acequias, ditch companies



RESILIENT PLANNING
climate adaptation, climate extremes, equity,
inclusivity, supportive government, education

COLLABORATION AND SHARED ACTION

- We need local communities, individuals and organizations to implement.
- We can help with grants, loans, tools, studies and other support.



CONSERVATION
& LAND USE



WATER STORAGE
& SUPPLY



ENGAGEMENT
& INNOVATION



AGRICULTURE



WATERSHED HEALTH
& RECREATION

FUTURE RISK

1,000,000
500,000
0

SCENARIO A

SCENARIO B

SCENARIO C

CONSERVATION

4.2°F

SCENARIO D

4.2°F

SCENARIO E

There is up to a 740,000 AF gap per year by 2050.

“Climate Change is water change ...and there’s hope.”

– Brad Udall

The background of the entire graphic is a scenic landscape photograph. It shows a deep mountain valley with steep, rocky slopes covered in dense evergreen forests. In the center, a range of jagged, snow-dusted mountain peaks rises above the treeline. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding greenery and the distant mountains. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with a few wispy clouds.

THE COLORADO WATER PLAN

COMMENT. COMMIT. SHARE.

COMMIT

TO ADVANCING PROJECTS
TO WATER CONSERVATION
TO MORE COLLABORATION

THE COLORADO WATER PLAN



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