

THE FUTURE OF COLORADO WATER

# COLORADO

## WATER PLAN

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**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources



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*To Conserve, Develop, Protect  
and Manage Colorado's Water  
for Present and Future Generations.*

Water Project Loan Program

Water Conservation & Drought Planning

Interstate Compact Protection

Stream & Lake Protection

Decision Support Systems

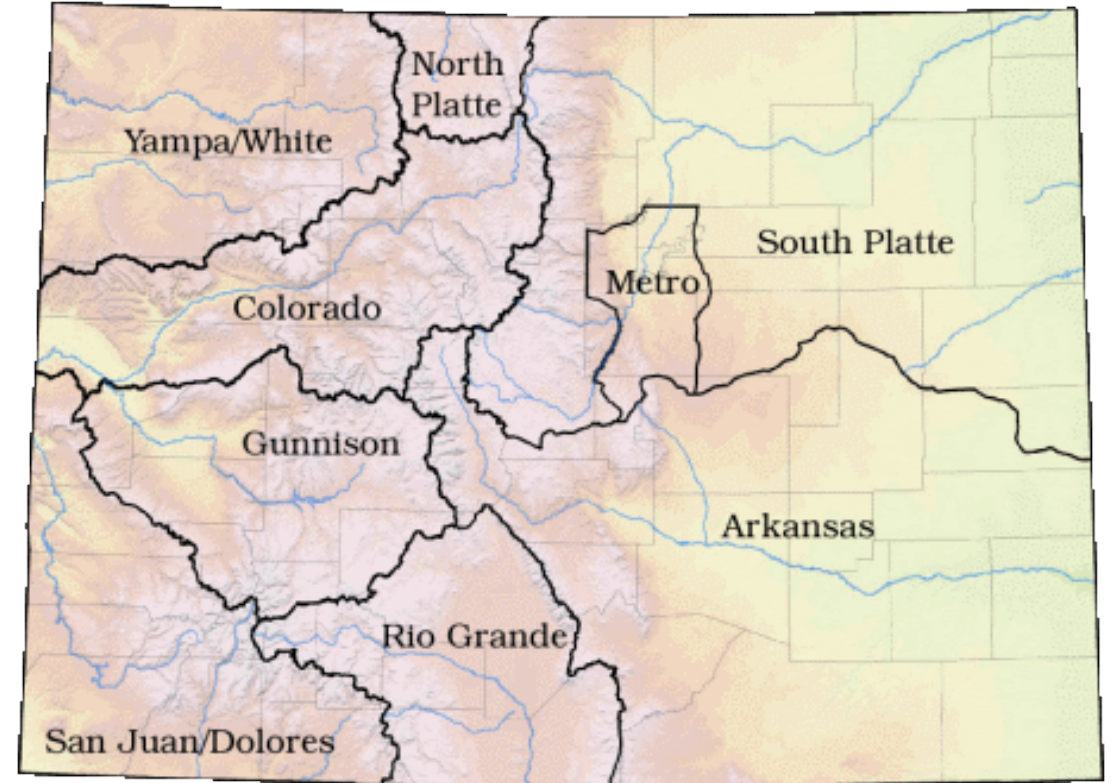
Water Supply Planning

# LOOKING BACK



# WATER FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY ACT

- Creates the 9 Basin Roundtables from the 8 major River Basins.
- Establishes the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC)
- CWCB coordinates with both groups





OF THE WATER FALLS WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE



OF THE PEOPLE LIVE EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE



**24**  
TUNNELS & DITCHES MOVE  
500,000 ACRE-FEET  
OF WATER FROM WEST  
TO EAST EACH YEAR

**8** **BASINS**  
where major  
rivers flow

88% **AG/FOOD PRODUCTION**  
8% **MUNICIPALITIES**  
4% **LARGE INDUSTRIES**

**5.6** **MILLION PEOPLE**  
use water to live, work  
and play in Colorado

9 COMPACTS LEGALLY  
REQUIRE WATER TO BE  
DELIVERED BEYOND  
COLORADO'S BOARDERS

**9** **ROUNDTABLES**  
collaborate on  
local needs

**15** **MAJOR INDUSTRIES**  
depend on water for  
growth and success

UP TO 33% OF IRRIGATED  
LAND COULD BE DRIED UP  
BY 2050 TO MEET NEW  
MUNICIPAL DEMANDS

# THE PLAN

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

2 **Efficient** and effective water infrastructure.

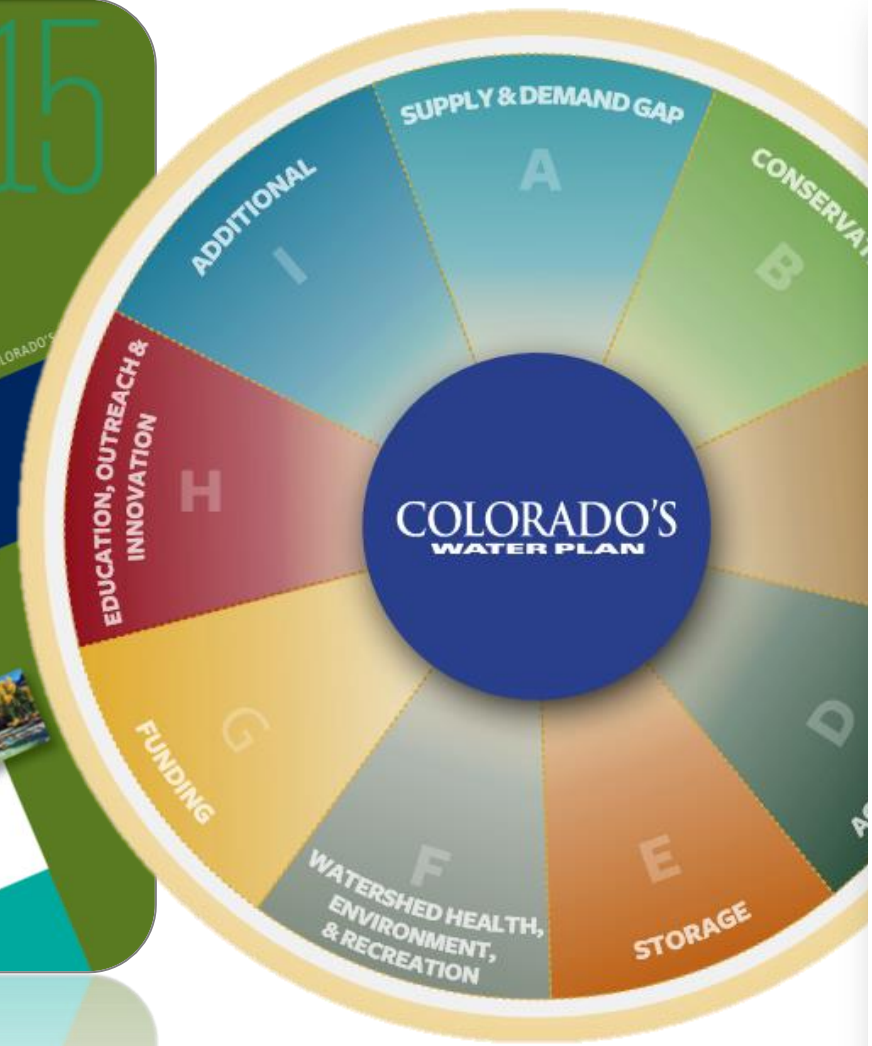
3 A **strong environment** with healthy watersheds, rivers, streams and wildlife.



2015

COLLABORATING ON COLORADO'S

# COLORADO'S WATER PLAN



## C. Land Use

❖ **Integrate Land Use and Water Planning:** Initiate the use of local land use tools, where appropriate, to reduce water demands for municipalities, and the need to urbanize agricultural lands.

CRITICAL LAND USE ACTION	SECTION	PARTNERS	TYPE
1 Through voluntary trainings for local governments, encourage the incorporation of best management practices in land use for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation.	6.3.3	CWCB, DOLA, stakeholders	Programmatic

## D. Agriculture

❖ **Maintain Agricultural Viability:** Maintain Colorado's agricultural productivity, support of rural economies, and food security (through meaningful incentives and grassroots efforts).

❖ **Facilitate Alternative Transfer Methods:** Respect property rights and contributions of the agricultural industry by establishing alternative options that compete with, if not out-perform, traditional "buy-and-dry" transactions in the water market.

❖ **Support Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency:** Support Colorado's agricultural industry to make it more efficient, resilient, and able to reduce water consumption without impacting agricultural productivity.

CRITICAL AGRICULTURE ACTIONS	SECTION	PARTNERS	TYPE
1 Establish an education and assistance program for farmers and ranchers to help realize more market-competitive transactions that promote implementation of ATMs, and enable Coloradans to enter the agriculture industry.	6.5, 6.4, 6.3.4	CWCB, CDA	Programmatic
2 Encourage ditch-wide and regional planning to explore system-wide conservation and efficiency opportunities and tradeoffs, the potential for water sharing, and long-term infrastructure maintenance needs.	6.5, 6.3.4	CWCB, agricultural partners, BRTs	Programmatic
3 Provide grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits.	6.5, 6.3.4	CWCB, BRTs, agricultural partners, other stakeholders	Programmatic
4 Develop model voluntary flow agreement language, facilitation, and technical support to encourage the use of these agreements when paired with irrigation efficiency practices.	6.3.4	CWCB, DWR, agricultural partners, environmental groups, BRTs	Programmatic, state agency policies
5 Explore the development of administrative means to track and administer agricultural conserved water for the purposes of marketing these waters.	6.3.4, 6.4	DWR, CWCB	Process
6 Explore expanded grant funding that supports implementation of ATM projects, related infrastructure, or entities that would help facilitate alternative transfer methods.	6.4	CWCB, BRTs, DWR, stakeholders	Process

# MAKING PROGRESS

Since 2015, significant **progress has been made on over 65%** of Water Plan critical actions even though many of the goals extend through 2050.



## SUPPLY

Reduce the projected 2050 municipal and industrial gap from 560,000 acre-feet to zero by 2030.



## AGRICULTURE

Support agricultural economic productivity and share 50,000 acre-feet using alternative transfer methods by 2030.



## FUNDING

Sustainably fund the water plan by raising \$100 million in revenue annually starting in 2020 (\$3 billion by 2050).



## CONSERVATION

Achieve 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial conservation of water by 2050.



## LAND USE

Ensure 75 percent of Coloradoans live in water-saving communities by 2025.



## STORAGE

Attain 400,000 acre-feet of water storage to manage and share conserved water by 2050.



## EDUCATION

Improve the level of public awareness by 2020 and engage Coloradoans on key water challenges by 2030.



## WATERSHED

Cover 80 percent of all prioritized watersheds and rivers with a Management plan by 2030.



## ADDITIONAL

Respond to and prepare for natural disasters, climate change and energy needs while protecting interstate matters.



# Colorado Water Loss Initiative

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- ✓ Lost water = lost money
- ✓ 2+ years of statewide training
- ✓ [Coloradowaterloss.org](http://Coloradowaterloss.org)



# Available Funding



- Water Project Loan Program
- Water Plan Grants
- Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants
- Water Efficiency Grants
- Colorado Healthy Rivers Grants
- Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants
- Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program
- Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grant Program
- Fish and Wildlife Resources Grants
- Weather Modification Grants
- Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants
- Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Project Investment Grants

# Get Involved

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## Colorado Water Plan grant categories:

- Agriculture
- Conservation and Land Use
- Engagement & Innovation
- Environment & Recreation
- Water Storage & Supply

**\$50 MILLION  
available  
annually for  
water project  
loans**

# Proposition DD

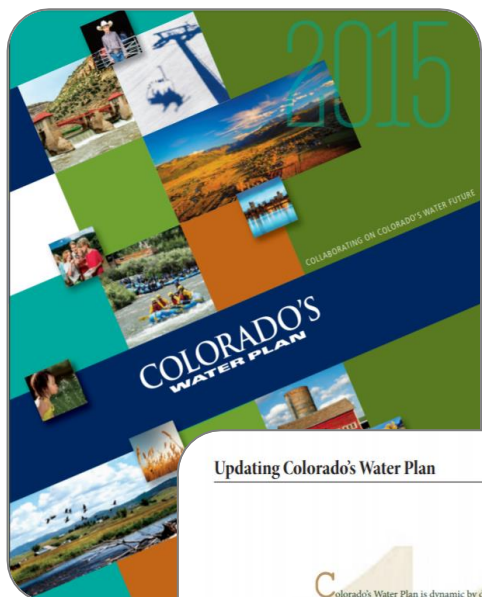
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**PASSED**

- Colorado voters approved Prop DD this November
- Creates a 10% tax on legal sports betting proceeds for the Water Plan
- Projections of \$15 million annually for Water Plan Grant Program



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#### Updating Colorado's Water Plan

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

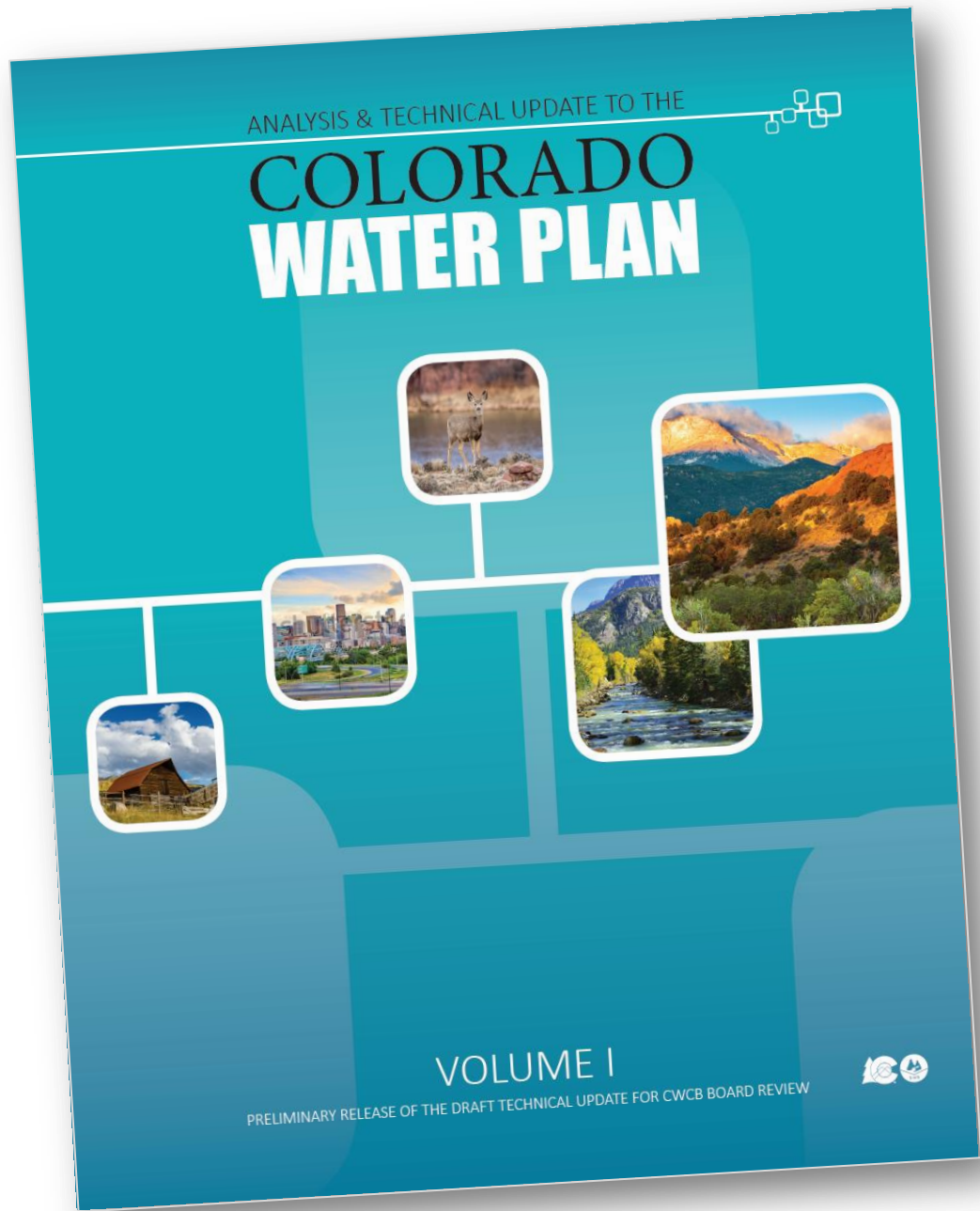


# Future of the Water Plan

**TABLE 11-1**

## CYCLICAL PLANNING PROCESS PROPOSED BY THE CWCB

Product	Year Initiated
Basin Implementation Plans	2013
Colorado's Water Plan	2013
Statewide Water Supply Initiative	2016
Basin Implementation Plans	2018
Colorado's Water Plan	2020
Statewide Water Supply Initiative	2022



ANALYSIS AND  
TECHNICAL  
UPDATE

BASIN  
IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN UPDATES

COMPREHENSIVE  
WATER PLAN  
UPDATE

A

B

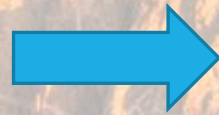
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# Water Plan Technical Update

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- Municipal & Industrial
- Agricultural
- Environmental & Recreational

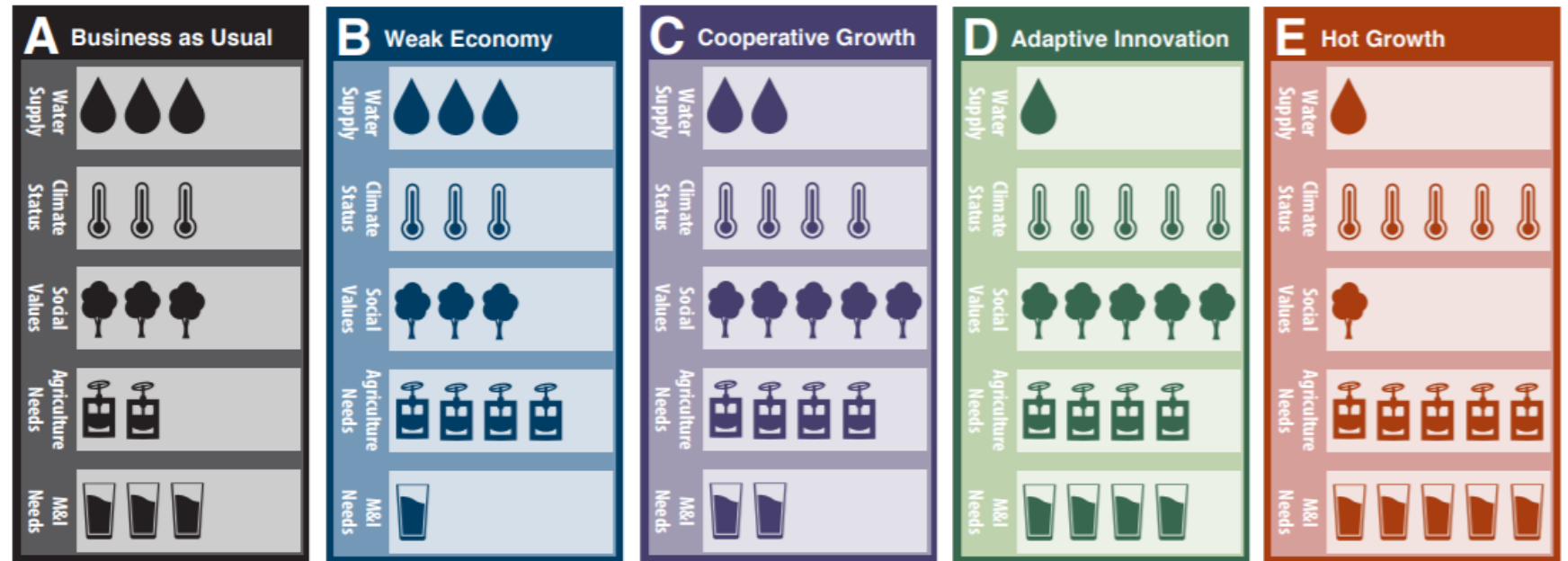
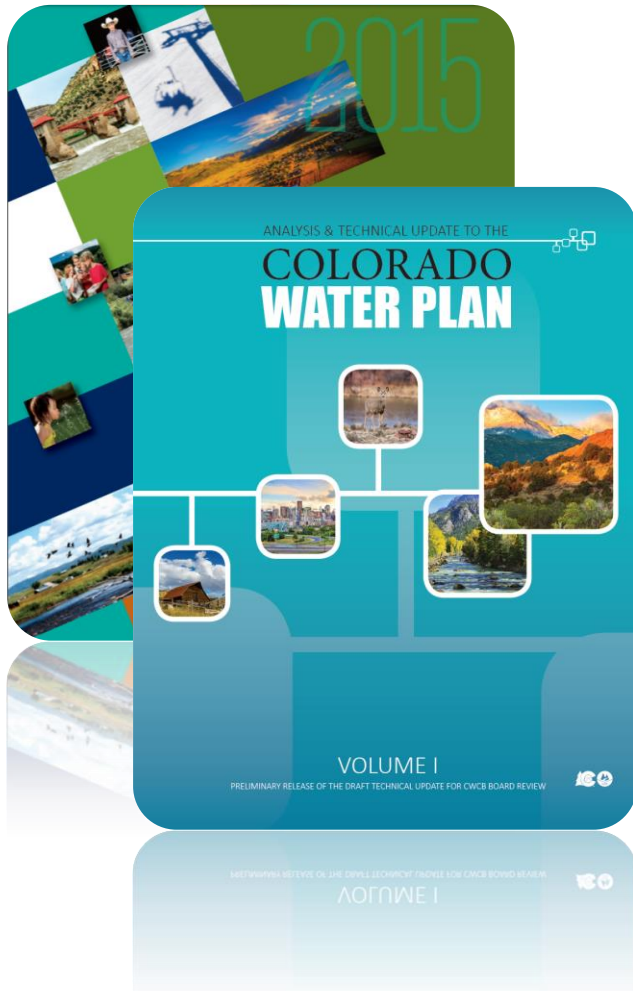


**Climate  
Change**



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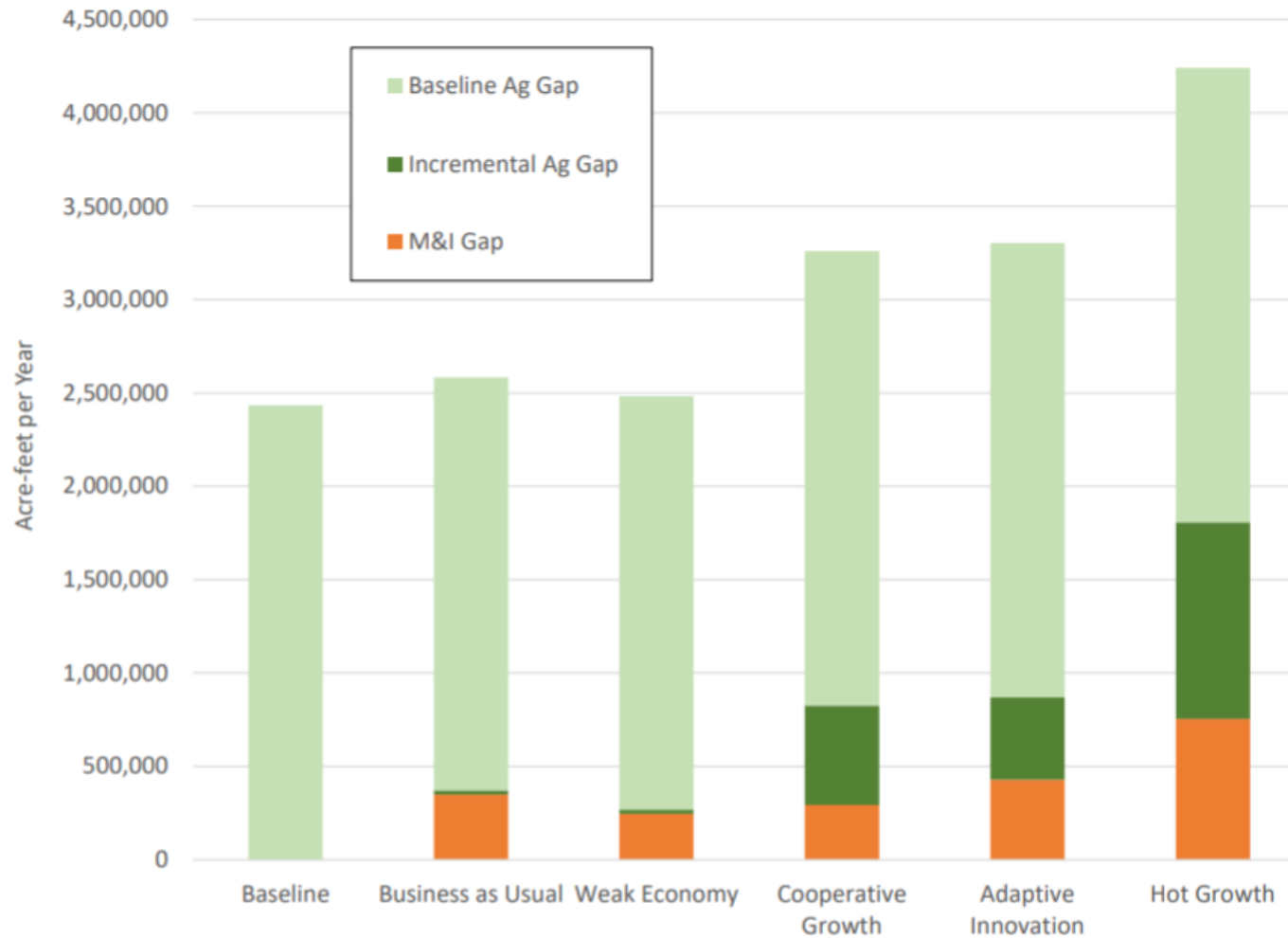
# PLANNING SCENARIOS



- Scenarios in the Water Plan were developed with the IBCC and BRTs
- These scenarios represent equally plausible futures

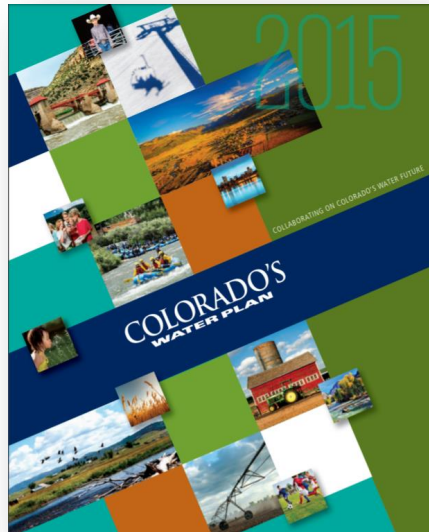


Figure ES.2 Summary of Statewide Gap Estimates by Planning Scenario

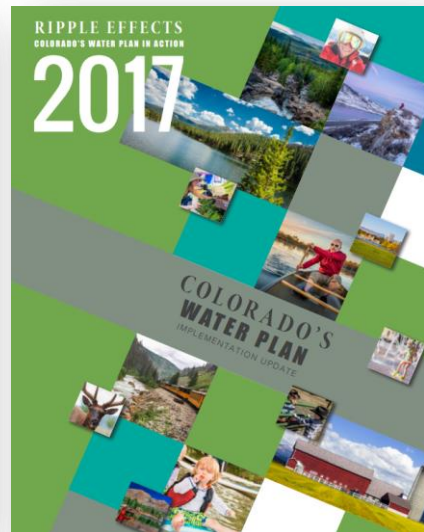


Much more available at [www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan](http://www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan)

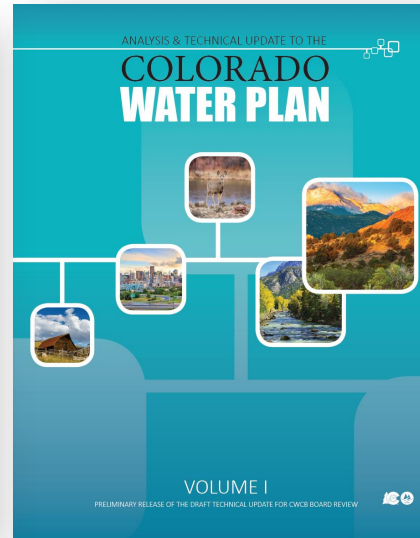
# COLLABORATIVE. ITERATIVE. INTERCONNECTED.



2015



2017



2019



2018-2021

2019-2022

# Take **aways...**

- ✓ We need you!
- ✓ Grants and loans are available
- ✓ Get involved with your local Basin Roundtable

Find out more at [cwcb.state.co.us](http://cwcb.state.co.us)

# THANK YOU!

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