



Colorado's Water Plan is our state's framework for solutions to our water challenges. It guides future decision-making and sets forth the measurable objectives, goals, and critical actions needed to ensure the state's most valuable resource is protected and available for generations to come. Implementation at the state and local level is critical to Colorado moving forward.

Colorado's Water Plan Story Map

In two months, Colorado will reach an important milestone - the two-year "birthday" of Colorado's Water Plan. Some birthdays and milestones may seem more important than others, but each offers a chance to celebrate, reflect, focus, and look forward to the years to come.

Coloradans from every corner, every crest, and every valley of our state have been working hard - collaborating, partnering, and persevering to implement Colorado's Water Plan for nearly two years. This journey started many years ago, far before Governor Hickenlooper issued an executive order in May of 2013 calling for a strategic plan for our state's water resources. However, it was at that time that Coloradans were re-energized to rise up to the challenge in a new way. It was time to put many years of conversations, plans, and ideas into words - words that would catalyze action and unite our collective efforts toward a better future for not only Colorado, but the entire western region.

The CWCB is honored to help lead this effort as a facilitator, advocate, and administrator. We at the CWCB want to take the next two months - to work with all of you - to both celebrate how far we've come and to measure how far we have to go to achieve the measurable objectives and goals set out in Colorado's Water Plan.

We all have a responsibility to periodically pause for reflection, assessment, and reorientation on our journey toward those goals. The collective "we" - as communities, organizations, and individuals - owe it to ourselves, and to the future of this great state, to acknowledge how far we've come. When we reflect on our successes and challenges, we engage the power of adaptive management. We learn where we need to refocus, prioritize, and mobilize to get where we need to be.

The CWCB created an immersive and publicly available Story Map that highlights CWP implementation and tracks progress on some of the measurable objectives. Check it out: [Implementing Colorado's Water Plan Story Map](#) (on the homepage of the CWP website)



Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)

The ongoing SWSI update will serve two primary purposes:

- Provide a consistent statewide framework for examining future water supply and demand under different scenarios; and
- Provide tools and data for Basin Roundtables to use in updating their Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and developing detailed local solutions to identified gaps.

This SWSI update will be different than previous versions because it is the first time it has been completed in the context of Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) and the BIPs. In addition to complementing CWP and the BIPs, it will include a number of new approaches and additions, such as quantifying a scenario planning approach, providing a more detailed and scientifically rigorous hydrologic modeling approach, and better assessing agricultural, environmental, and recreational gaps. As a result, the first step involves reviewing and refining the methodologies for each step of the analysis.

The methodology development process started with a review of previous SWSI methods along with other pertinent studies and approaches. This review is being documented in a draft technical memo that recommends the most appropriate approaches.

The draft documentation was reviewed by the CWCB at the July Board meeting, prior to distribution to the Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) in August. TAG meetings are scheduled for late September. The CWCB is using the TAG process to get stakeholder feedback and ensure that the new methodologies are scientifically sound and effective. TAG participants are encouraged to compile feedback from other roundtable members and local constituents. The TAG review will focus on technical issues, including key concepts and assumptions, data sources, and fatal flaws. All documentation can be found on the [CWCB website](#).

Funding

Colorado's Water Plan Grant Fund

For the first round of grants from the August 1 deadline, the CWCB received 32 grant applications requesting a total of \$8.9 million from the Water Plan Grant fund. The total project costs for the 32 applications are approximately \$59.2 million. The CWCB also received 28 "Intent to Apply" notices for future grant cycles requesting over \$7.6 million. Note that not all of the "Intent to Apply" applications had project costs identified as of August 1, 2017, so the grant requests will likely exceed the \$7.6 million estimate.

The CWCB staff will present the grant applications to the Board at the September Board meeting for their first review. No action will be taken, and the Board's final approval will occur at the November Board meeting.

Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation

Instream Flow Program

The CWCB's Instream Flow (ISF) Program helps meet one of the primary values in Colorado's Water Plan: ensuring a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Ongoing efforts to manage existing ISFs and implement new permanent and temporary ISFs directly assist with meeting a number of critical goals in the plan including:

- recovering imperiled species;
- enhancing environmental and recreational economic values;
- protecting healthy environments; and
- protecting and restoring critical watersheds.

In 2017, the CWCB appropriated 15 new ISF water rights and two natural lake level (NLL) water rights in Water Divisions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. These ISF and NLL rights provide permanent protection for imperiled native species, including boreal toads and various lineages of cutthroat trout. CWCB staff continues to move forward on temporary leases and permanent acquisitions for ISF use to assist with stream flows in critical reaches during critical periods. This work includes a temporary lease of water released from Stagecoach Reservoir for ISF use on the Yampa River (in partnership with the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and Colorado Water Trust), and a short term lease from the Ute Water Conservancy District of water stored in Ruedi Reservoir and released for ISF use in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River to support the endangered fish species in that reach.

Innovation

TAP-IN

TAP-IN hosted its second reverse pitch event, [TAP-IN: Cultivate & Produce](#), on August 24 at Innosphere in Fort Collins. There were over 100 attendees. In contrast to traditional pitch competitions where entrepreneurs pitch ideas to potential investors and customers, a reverse pitch event puts water users and their specific challenges (problem pitches) in front of entrepreneurs, innovators, and business and community members. In doing so, TAP-IN looks to connect on-the-ground challenges with people, insight, and resources that could lead to solutions.

At TAP-IN: Cultivate & Produce, Nate Allen, Executive Director of WaterStart in Las Vegas gave the keynote address, then six water users from the agriculture, food, beverage, and brewing industries pitched their real-world problems. The event culminated in a constructive dialogue between the audience and pitch-ers.

The next reverse pitch event is on October 4 in Grand Junction, called TAP-IN: Play & Produce. It will showcase water users from the outdoor industry and watershed health field. Join the conversation: <http://tapinco.org/colorado-play-protect/>



pictures from Cultivate & Produce

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