

Water is one of Colorado's most valuable assets. Its use provides for the economic benefits from recreation, tourism, a top agricultural industry, and sustains important ecosystems and great communities in which to live, work and play.

However, water is a limited resource that requires responsible management and planning to ensure availability for all aspects of the statewide economy. Because the population in the South Platte Basin alone is expected to almost double by 2050, the demand for water to meet these many needs will increase proportionately. With demand outpacing supply a potential problem exists.

Cities continue to look to purchase water from irrigated lands as an economical and fast approach to ensure certainty in water supply. If this trend continues, it's predicted that up to 40% of the irrigated acres in this basin will be dried up by 2050. Currently, the South Platte River benefits from Denver Metro's water treatment effluent. Many Denver area water providers have plans to reuse much of this water, which will reduce the flows in the river currently relied upon by downstream users and the environment.

The good news is that by working together and taking action now, we can appropriately plan and manage water use in the South Platte Basin.

Moving forward quickly on planned water projects and developing other

new supplies and storage is one way to assure our future water supplies. Implementing these and other alternatives to permanent agriculture dry up will secure both food security and a healthy economy. Increased water conservation strategies can be achieved through education, willing participation, and changes in how we each use water. However, water conservation by itself is not enough to solve the problem.

There will have to be compromise and tradeoffs. Municipal and Industrial, Agricultural, Environmental and Recreational users can thrive, as long as each stakeholder group is willing to participate in open discussion and is prepared to work towards productive solutions that involve both benefits, and trade-offs to all.

The nine Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee were created with these ideals in mind. The Roundtables provide a neutral environment for discussion and work towards solutions for each basin's unique concerns. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the meetings and participate in the process of finding the most effective ways to preserve and protect one of our most valuable assets.

SOUTH PLATTE ROUNDTABLE



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COLORADO WATER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

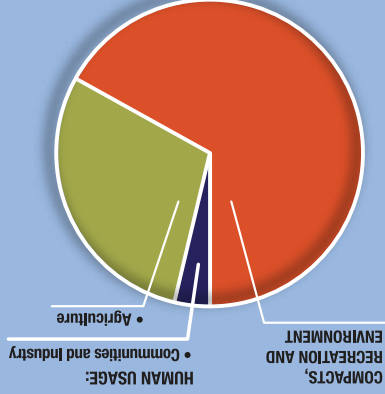
WHICH RIVER BASIN ARE YOU IN?

BASIN: an area of land where snowmelt and rainfall collect and drain into a common body of water, such as a river. There are 8 major river basins in Colorado, plus the Metro area.

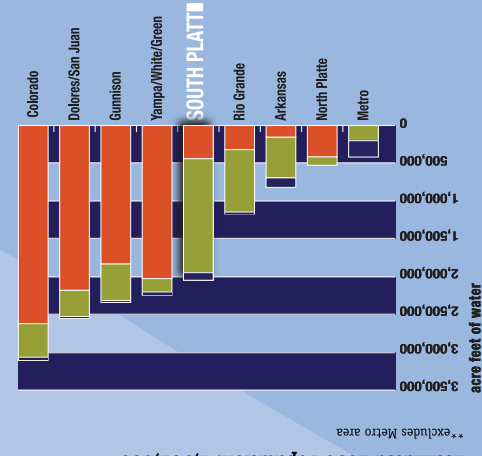


Water use in Colorado

THE TOTAL VOLUME OF ANNUAL WATER USAGE IN COLORADO IS 15 MILLION ACRE FEET.*
1/3 OF THAT WATER is available for human use in Colorado. Of that, 10% is used for communities and industry while nearly 90% supports our food supplies (agriculture). **THE REMAINING 2/3** stays in the rivers, which benefits recreation and the environment and meets compact obligations with downstream states.



Water use by river basin



How much water is needed for our communities and industries?

Projected use in the year 2050: 825,000 acre feet*

Future water use WITHOUT a planned solution

Current use: 530,000 acre feet*

ACRE FEET IS A MEASUREMENT OF WATER.
 *One acre foot = 325,851 gallons of water, or enough for 2-3 households per year.



Water is everybody's business!

Your perspective is important. Join other stakeholders interested in locally driven water solutions by attending the next South Platte Basin Roundtable meeting, held on the 2nd Tuesday every other month in Longmont. To learn more, go to: <http://cweb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/main.aspx>

Stakeholders work together—this means you!

Filling **THE GAP** in water supply and demand will require a variety of solutions including:

- Water conservation and reuse
 - Transferring water between communities and agriculture
 - Development of new supplies and storage
 - Moving currently planned projects forward
- All the solutions will need to balance the risks to the environment, agriculture and recreation.

Tradeoffs need to balance all water uses.

As our population increases and communities grow, the demand for water also goes up. Some

look to Colorado's farms and ranches as a future water supply. However, taking water off agricultural lands and out of

rivers may have adverse impacts related to our food supply, economic health, quality of life and the environment. Balancing water use so sufficient water supply will determine our future.

