

Interstate Water Compacts

CCI Summer Conference

June 2, 2025

Jason Ullmann, P.E.
State Engineer/Director

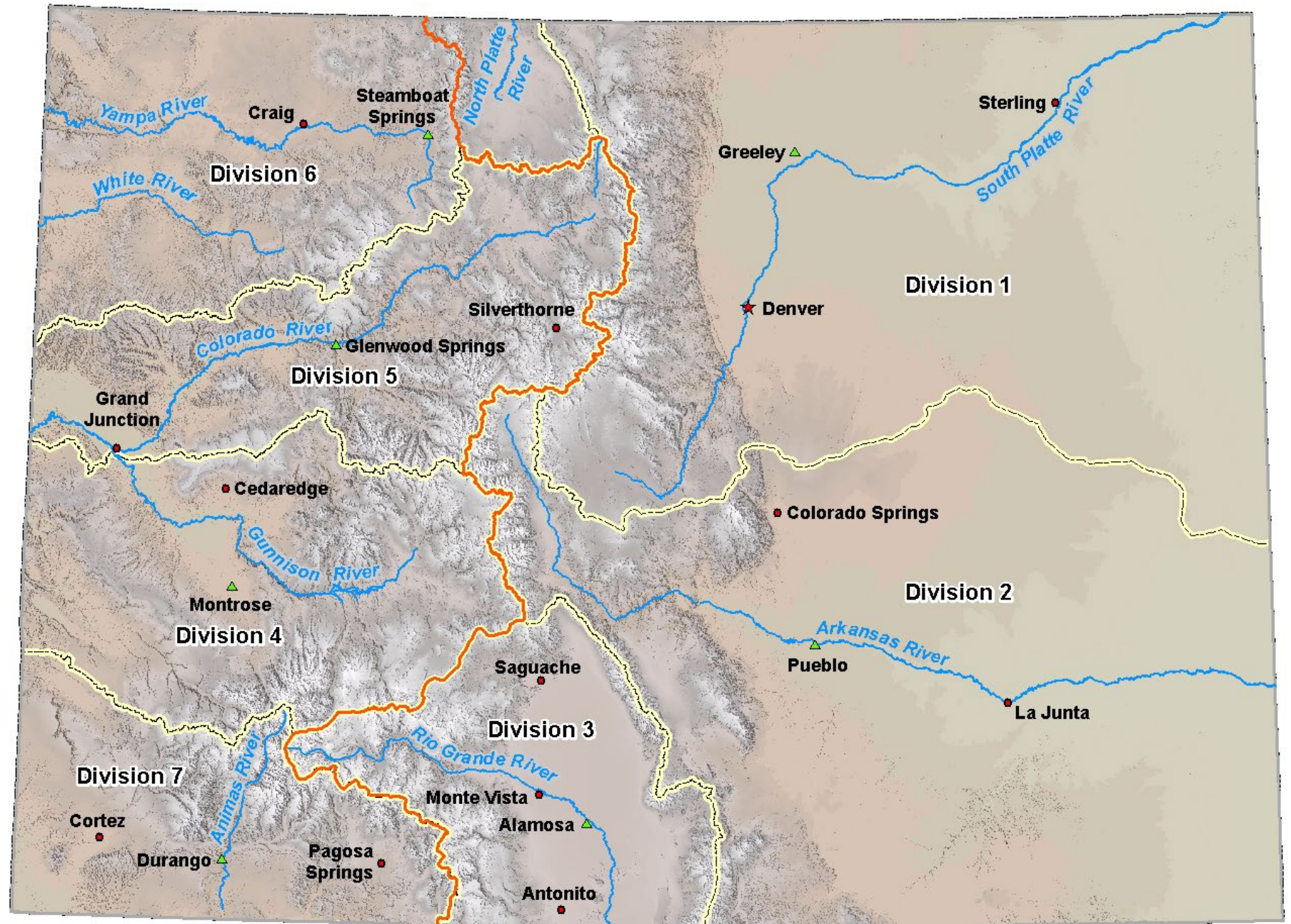


COLORADO

Division of Water Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado's Water Divisions





Article XVI, Section 5 and Section 6

- “The water of every natural stream...is hereby declared to be the property of the public...subject to appropriation as hereinafter provided.”
- “Priority of appropriation shall give the better right as between those using the water for the same purpose...”



Section 37-92-501(1), C.R.S.

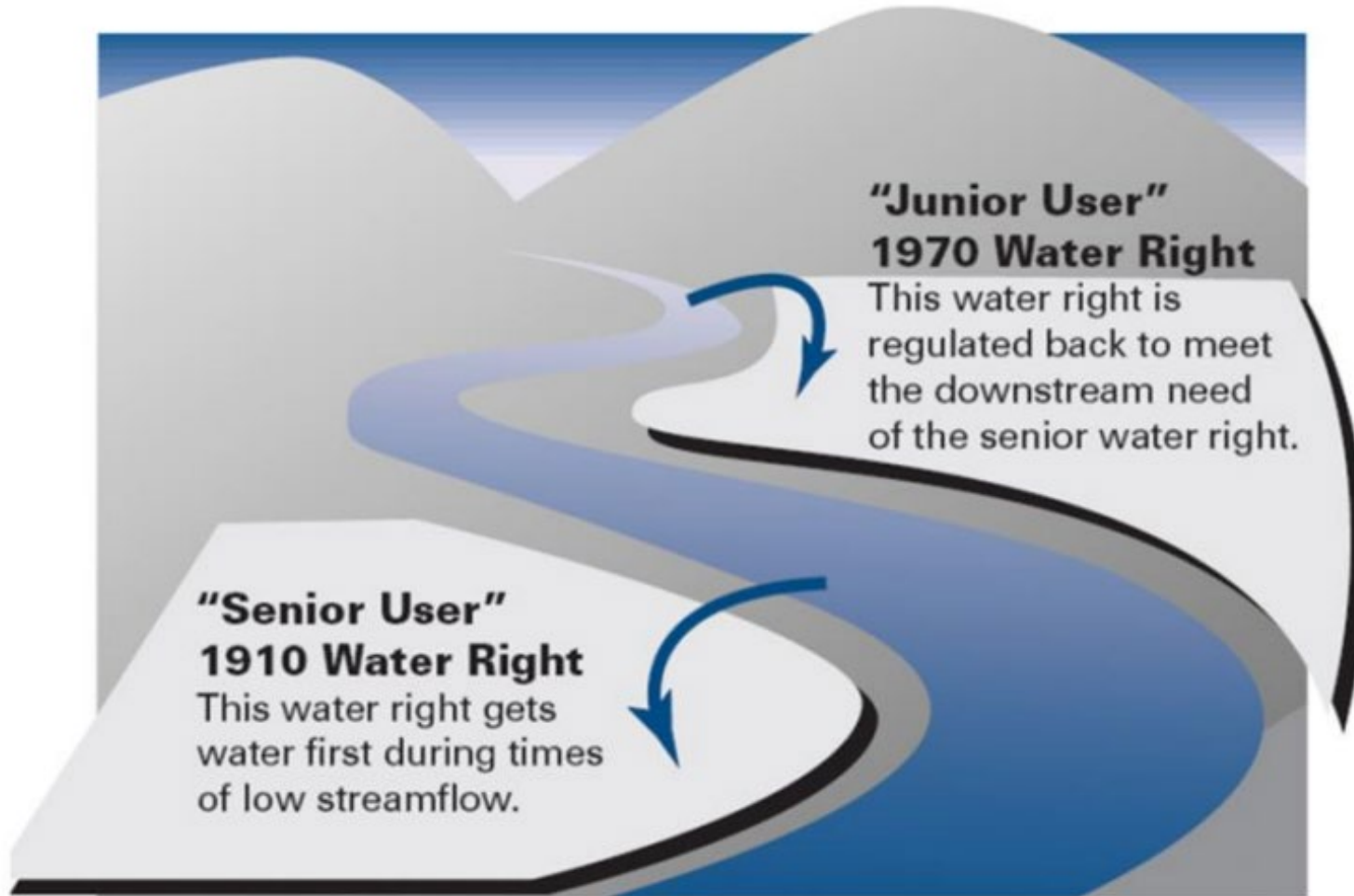
- “The state engineer and the division engineers shall administer, distribute, and regulate the waters of the state in accordance with the constitution of the state of Colorado, the provisions of this article”...
- “no other official, board, commission, department or agency...has jurisdiction...”



DWR Mission

- The Division of Water Resources will administer the waters of the State to maximize lawful beneficial use *(while ensuring Colorado complies with its responsibilities under our interstate compacts)*, ensure that dams and water wells are properly constructed and safe, and provide information about water resources to the public.

Prior Appropriation & Curtailing Junior Rights



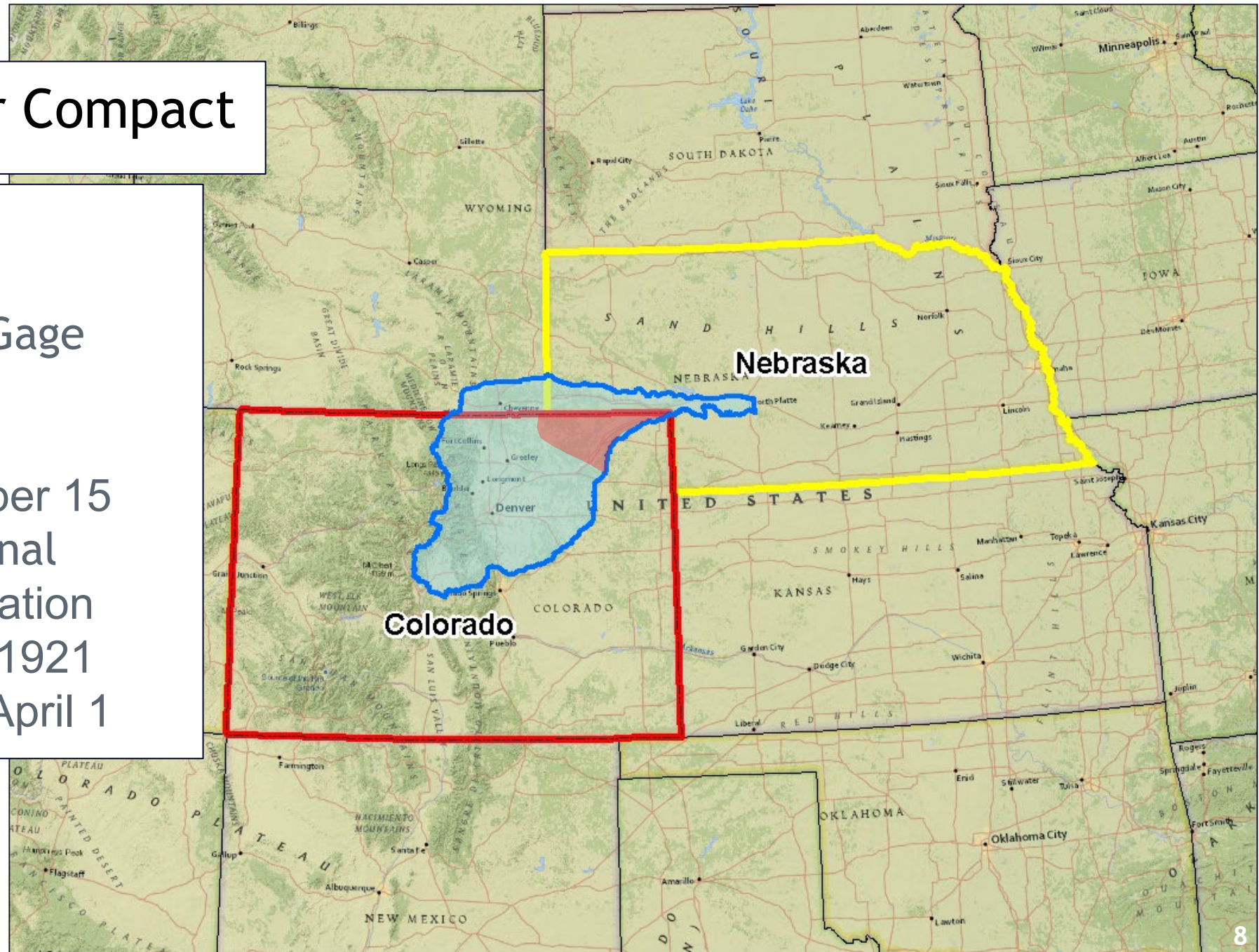
Interstate Obligations

- ♦ 1 Treaty with Mexico
 - Rio Grande and Colorado
- ♦ 9 Interstate compacts
 - Colorado River
 - La Plata River
 - South Platte River
 - Rio Grande
 - Republican River
 - Costilla Creek
 - Upper Colorado River
 - Arkansas River
 - Animas-La Plata Project
- ♦ 2 Supreme Court Decrees
 - North Platte River
 - Laramie River
- ♦ 2 Agreements
 - Pot Creek MOU
 - Sand Creek MOA



South Platte River Compact

- Signed in 1923
- No Commission
- Call at Julesburg Gage
 - 120 cfs
 - June 14, 1897
 - April 1 to October 15
- Perkins County Canal
 - 500 cfs for irrigation
 - December 17, 1921
 - October 15 to April 1





W.H. Jackson

South Platte Compact

- Split River into Upper Section & Lower Section
- Return flows and supplies in the Lower Section are available to Nebraska
- Administration is limited to Water District 64

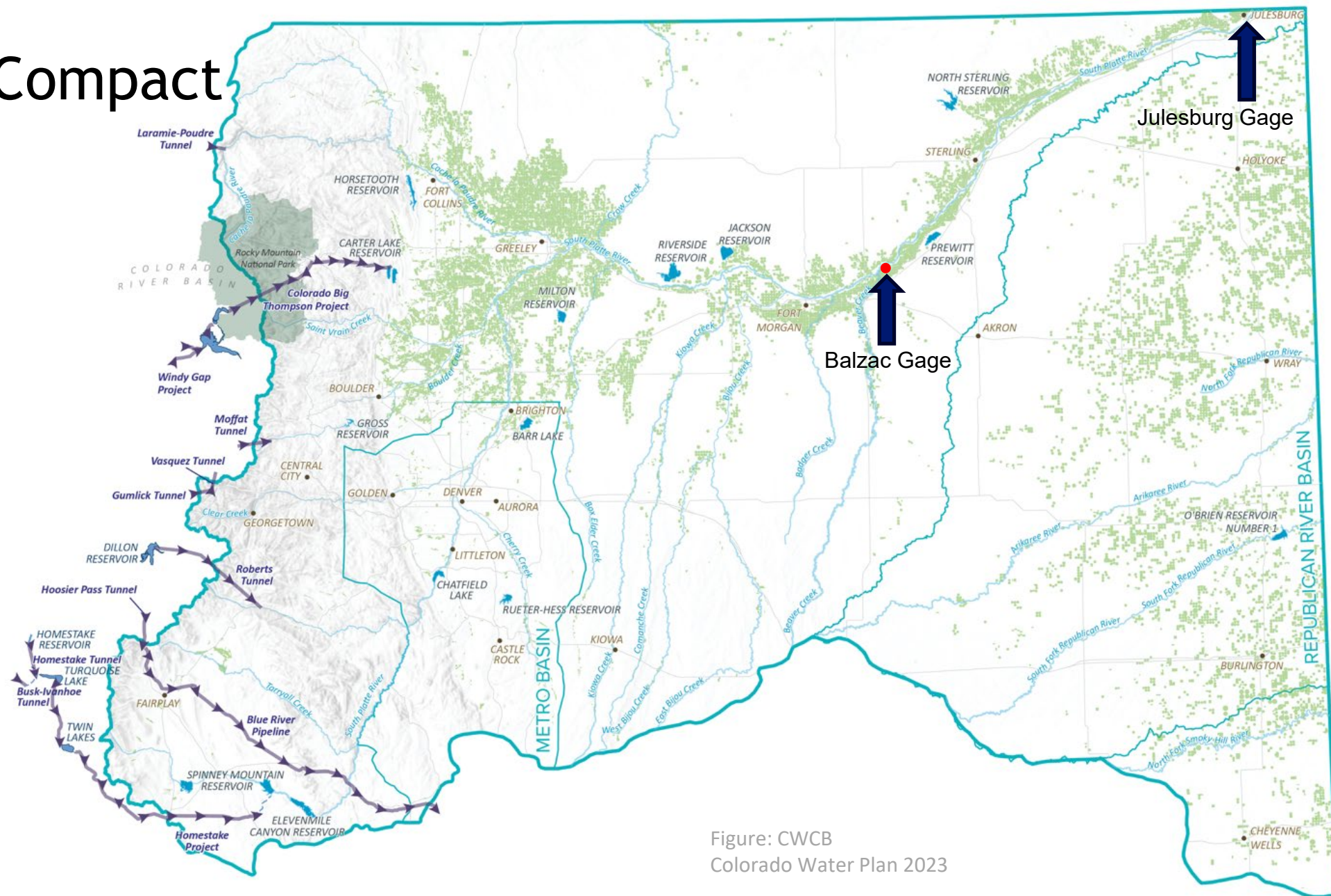
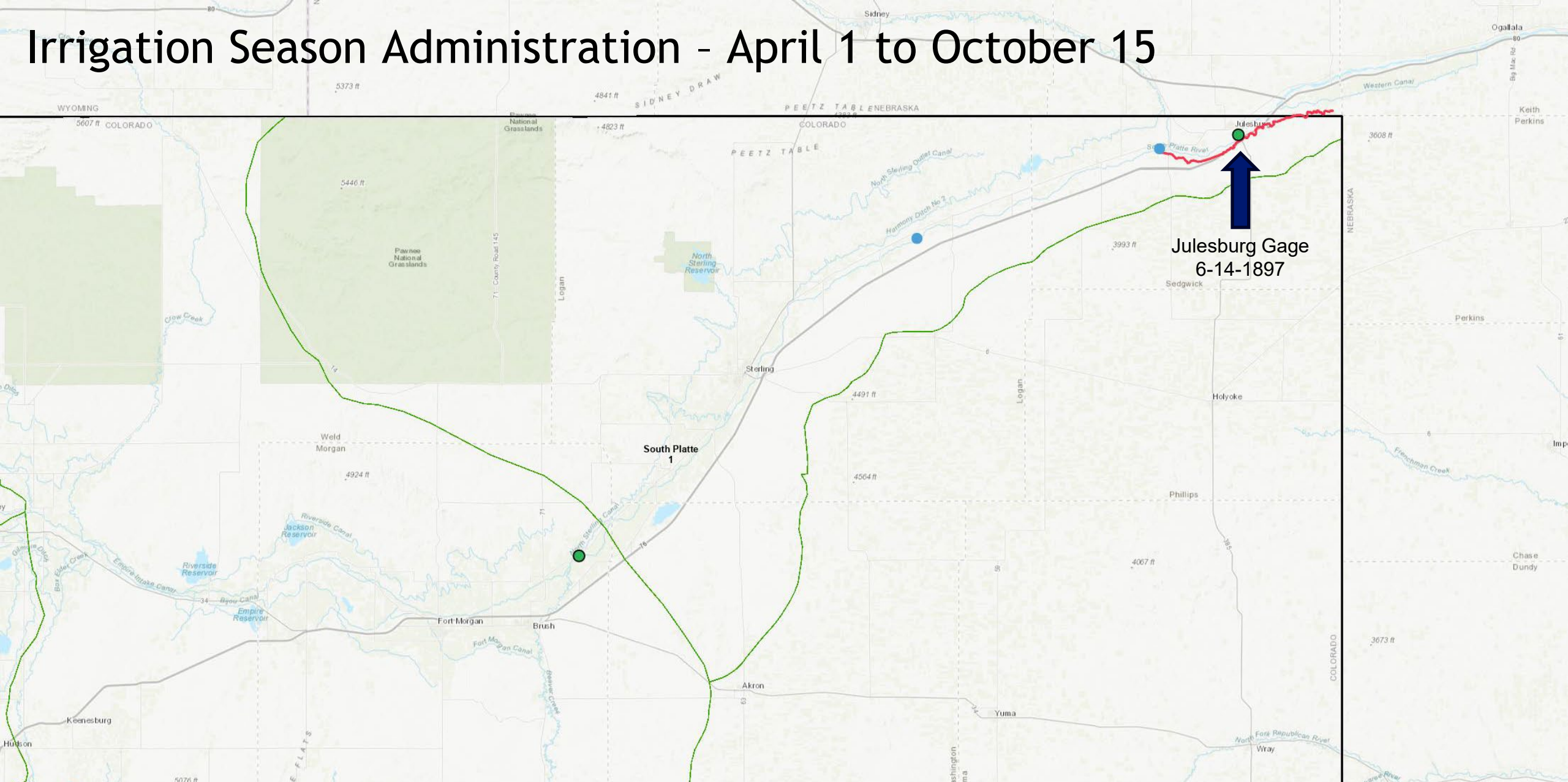


Figure: CWCB
Colorado Water Plan 2023

Irrigation Season Administration - April 1 to October 15



Search Fields

Hide

Geographic Location

Water Division

1 - South Platte

More Options

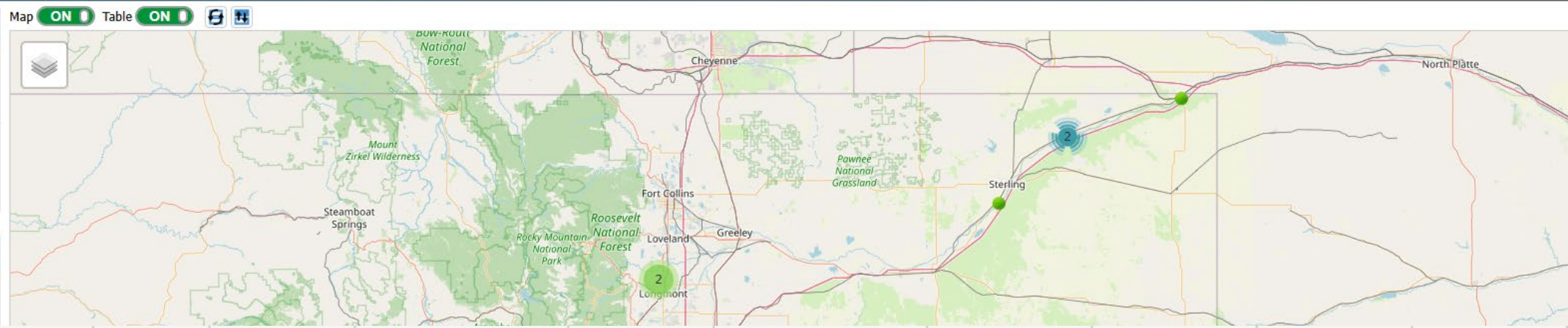
Select

Search

Additional Resources

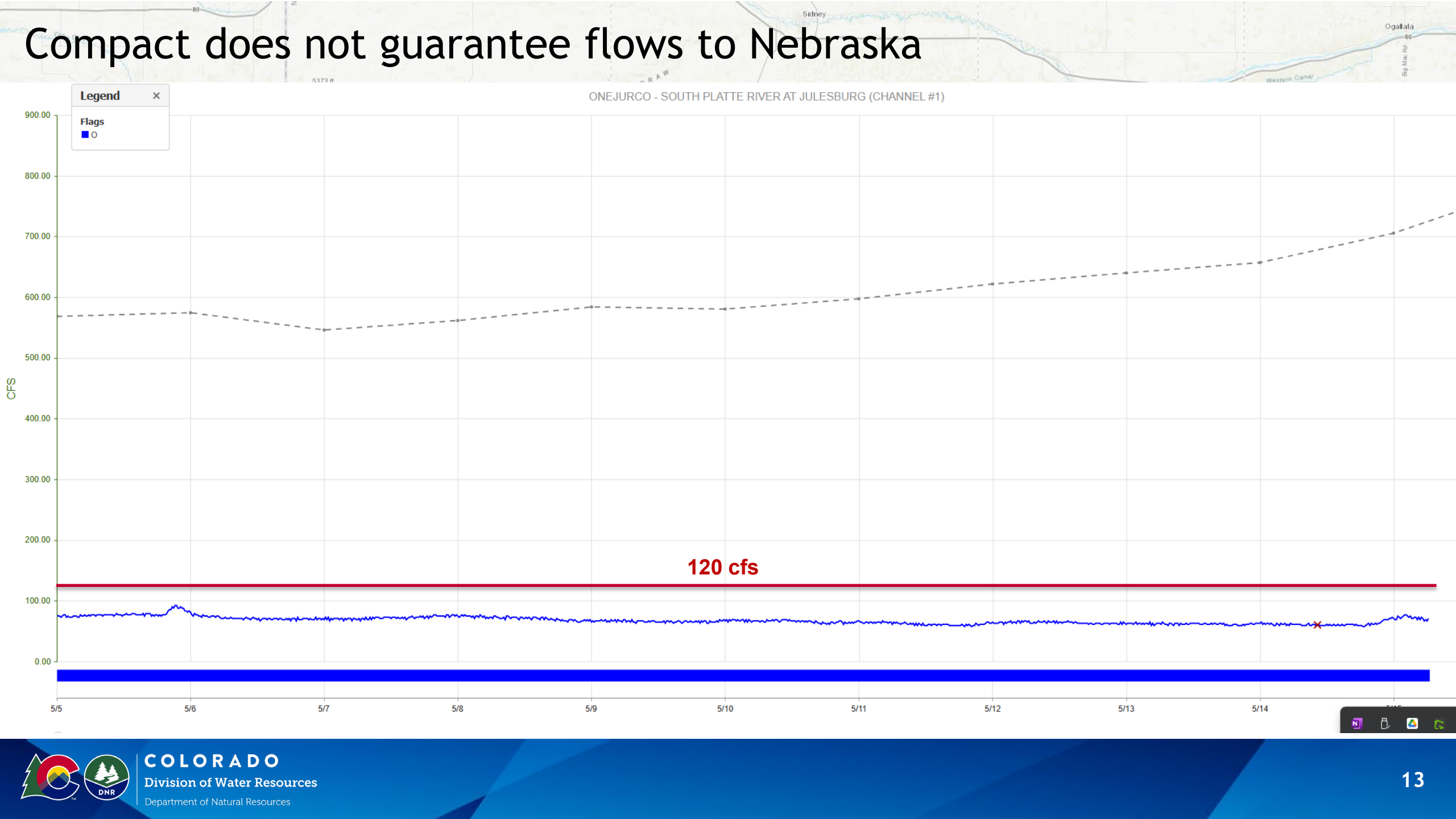
About Colorado Water Administration

Historical Calls

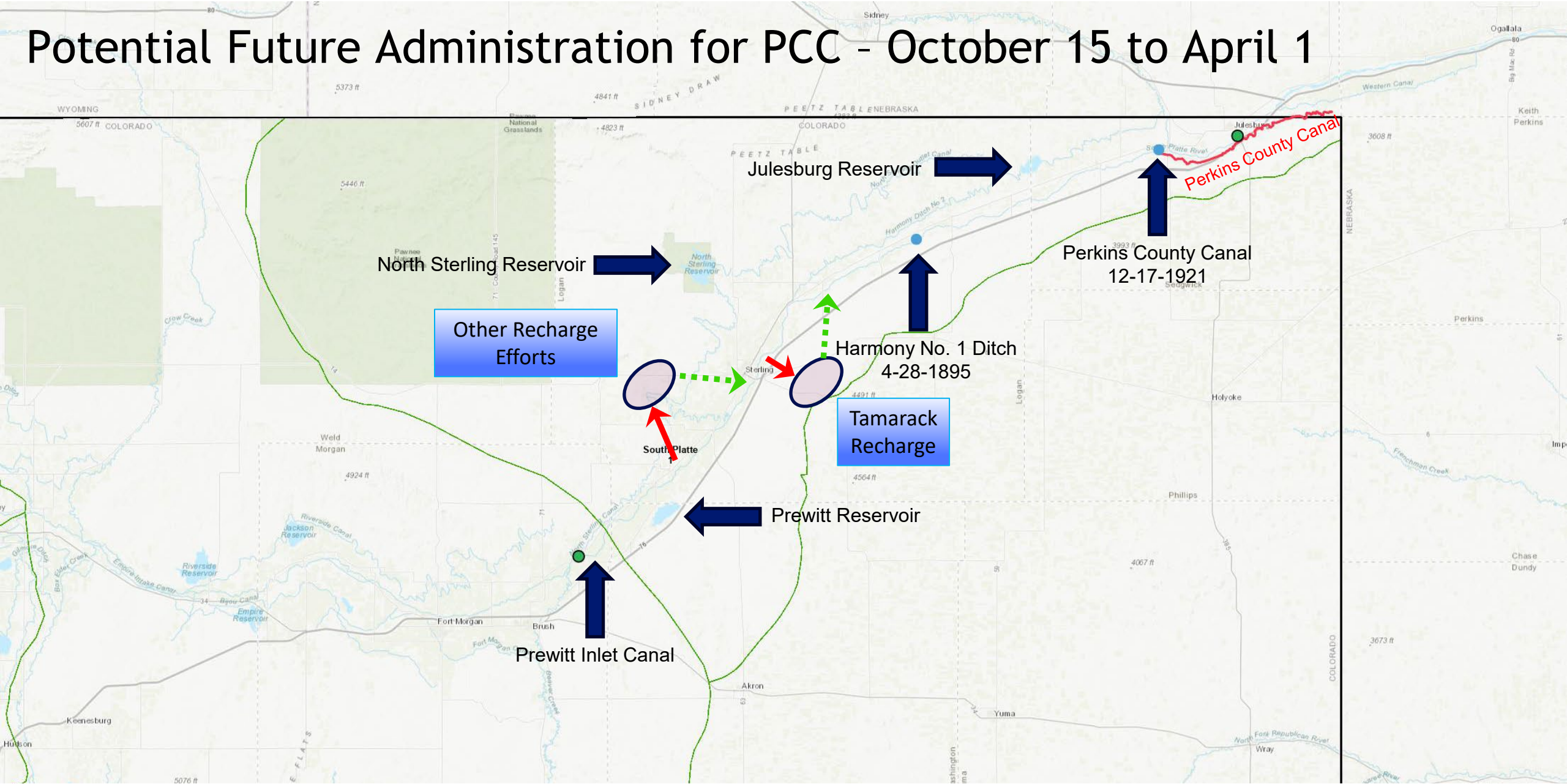


Date Time Set	Water Source	Stream Mile	Location WDID	Location Structure Name	Call Priority WDID	Priority Structure Name	Priority Admin No	Priority Date	Priority No	Bounding WDID
5/15/2025 8:00 AM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	42.79	6400511	HARMONY DITCH 1	6400515	HARMONY DITCH 2	17290.00000	5/3/1897		
5/13/2025 4:00 PM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	75.55	6400528	STERLING IRR CO ...	0100507	BIJOU CANAL	14154.00000	10/1/1888		
5/12/2025 4:00 PM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	42.79	6400511	HARMONY DITCH 1	6400515	HARMONY DITCH 2	17290.00000	5/3/1897		
5/12/2025 8:00 AM	LITTLE THOMPSON...	20.24	0400600	OSBORNE CAYWOO...	0400602	SUPPLY LATERAL DI...	6314.00000	4/15/1867		
5/9/2025 8:00 AM	CLEAR CREEK	15.2	0700652	ROCKY MOUNTAIN ...	0700569	FARMERS HIGHLIN...	8127.00000	4/1/1872		
5/6/2025 8:00 AM	SAINT VRAIN CREEK	25.49	0500553	HAGERS MEADOW ...	0504037	NICK SEKICH JR RE...	10911.00000	11/15/1879		
5/1/2025 8:00 AM	CLIFFORD GULCH S...	0.04	8000812	CLIFFORD GULCH ...	8000812	CLIFFORD GULCH ...	11475.00000	6/1/1881		
4/15/2025 12:00 PM	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	2.61	6499999	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	6499999	SOUTH PLATTE RIV...	17332.00000	6/14/1897		6499998

Compact does not guarantee flows to Nebraska



Potential Future Administration for PCC - October 15 to April 1



Arkansas River Compact Timeline

1901

Kansas v. Colorado
1st interstate water matter taken up by U.S. Supreme Court

1921-1923

Compact Negotiations
Carpenter & Knapp compact rejected in 1925

1948

Compact negotiations & John Martin Reservoir completed

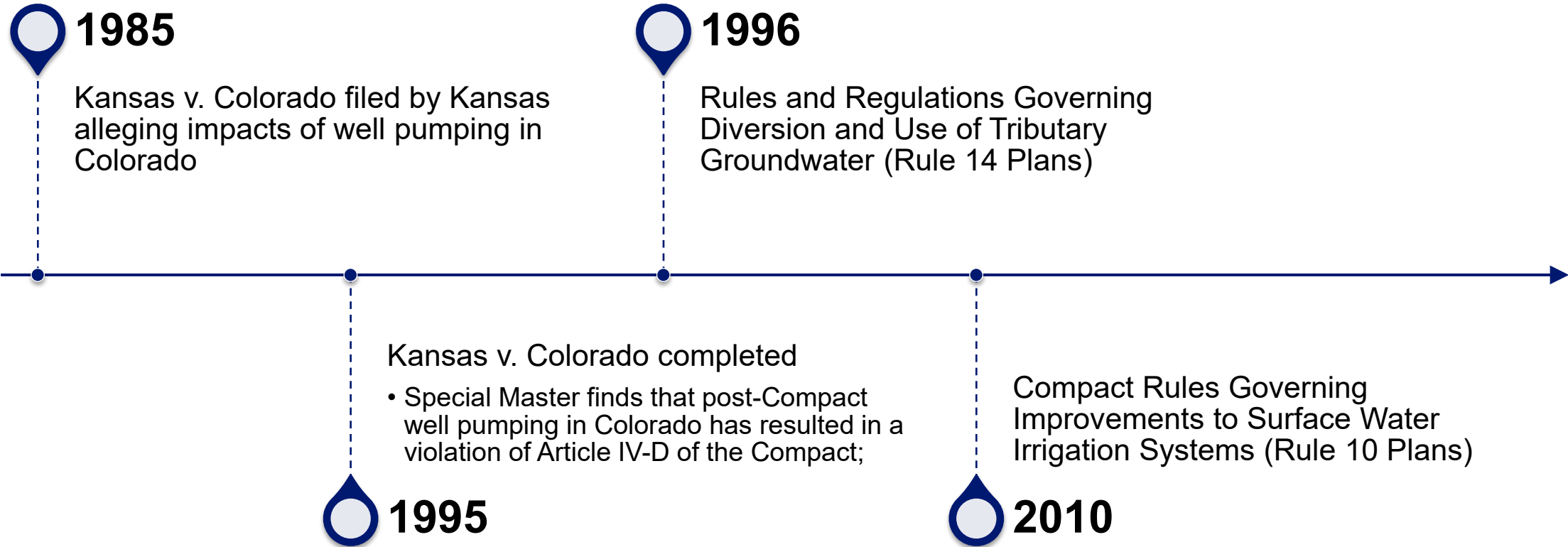
1907

KS v. CO
Supreme Court doctrine of “equitable apportionment”, but declines to apportion because Colorado use has not caused detriment to Kansas

1928

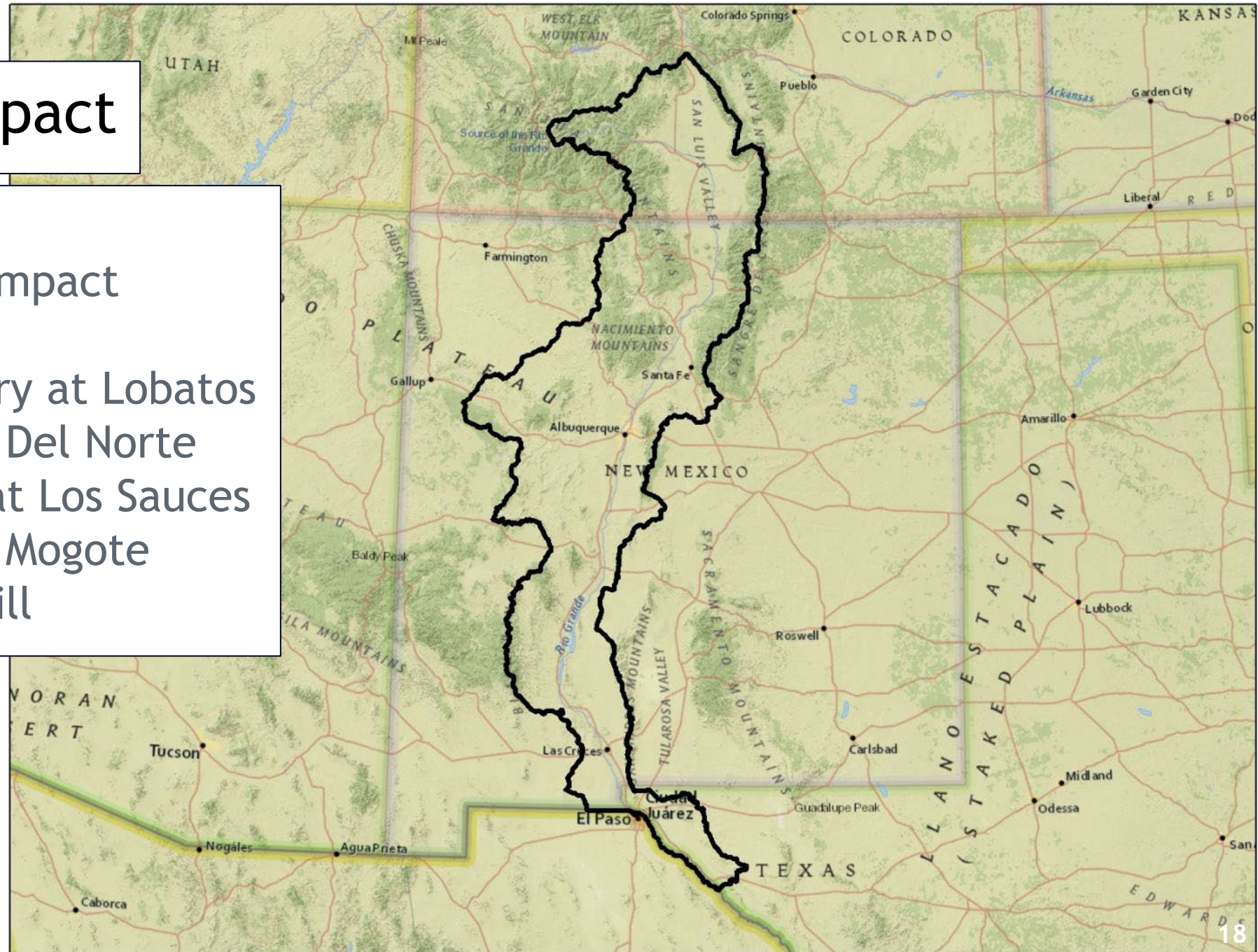
CO v. KS & Caddoa Res. (John Martin)
CO files to enjoin continued suits by KS ditches & CO State Engineer surveys reservoir to solve flood and allocation issues

Arkansas River Compact Rules

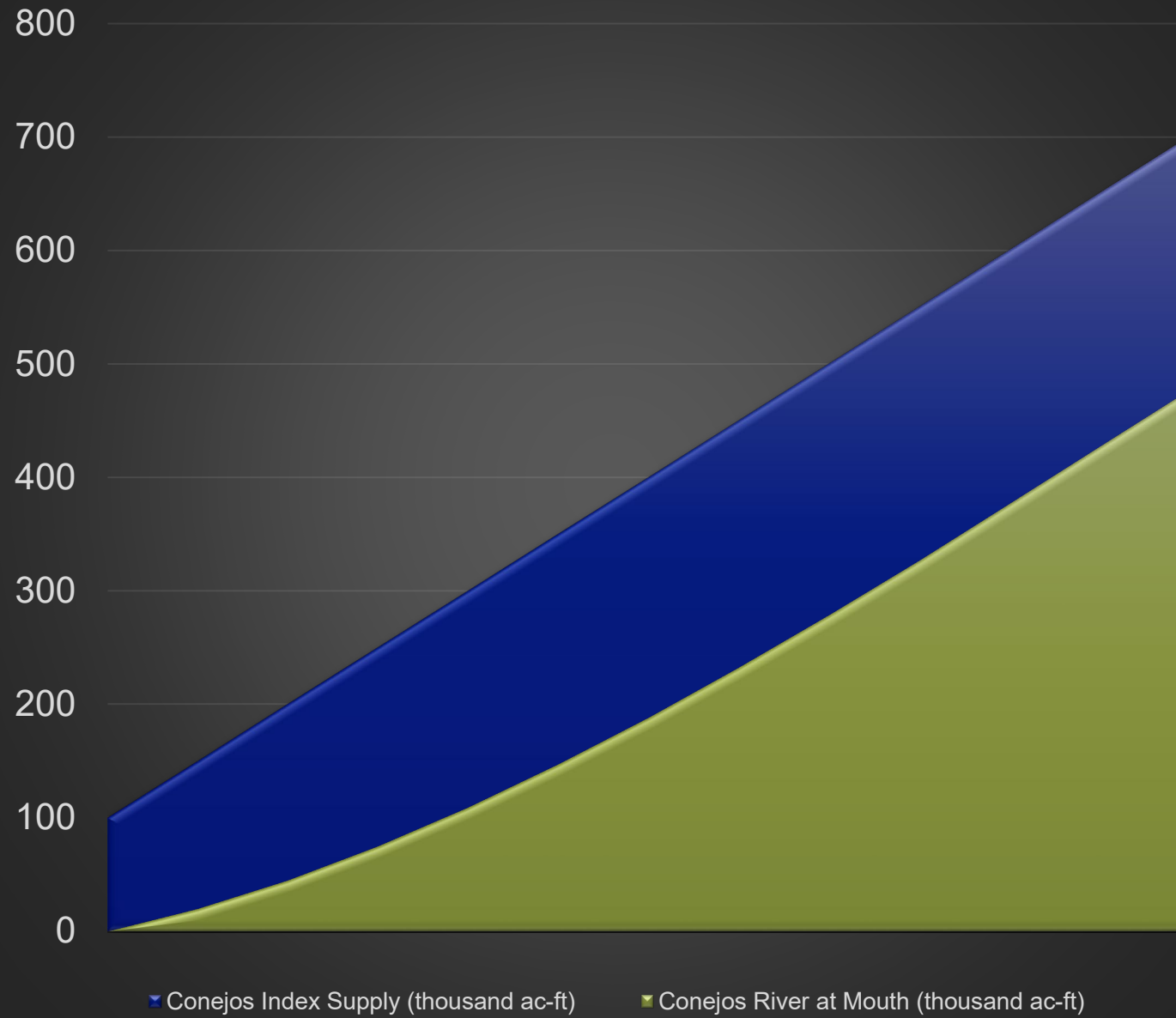


Rio Grande Compact

- Signed in 1938
- State Engineer Compact Commissioner
- Rio Grande delivery at Lobatos based on index at Del Norte
- Conejos delivery at Los Sauces based on index at Mogote
- Elephant Butte spill



Conejos Delivery Schedule



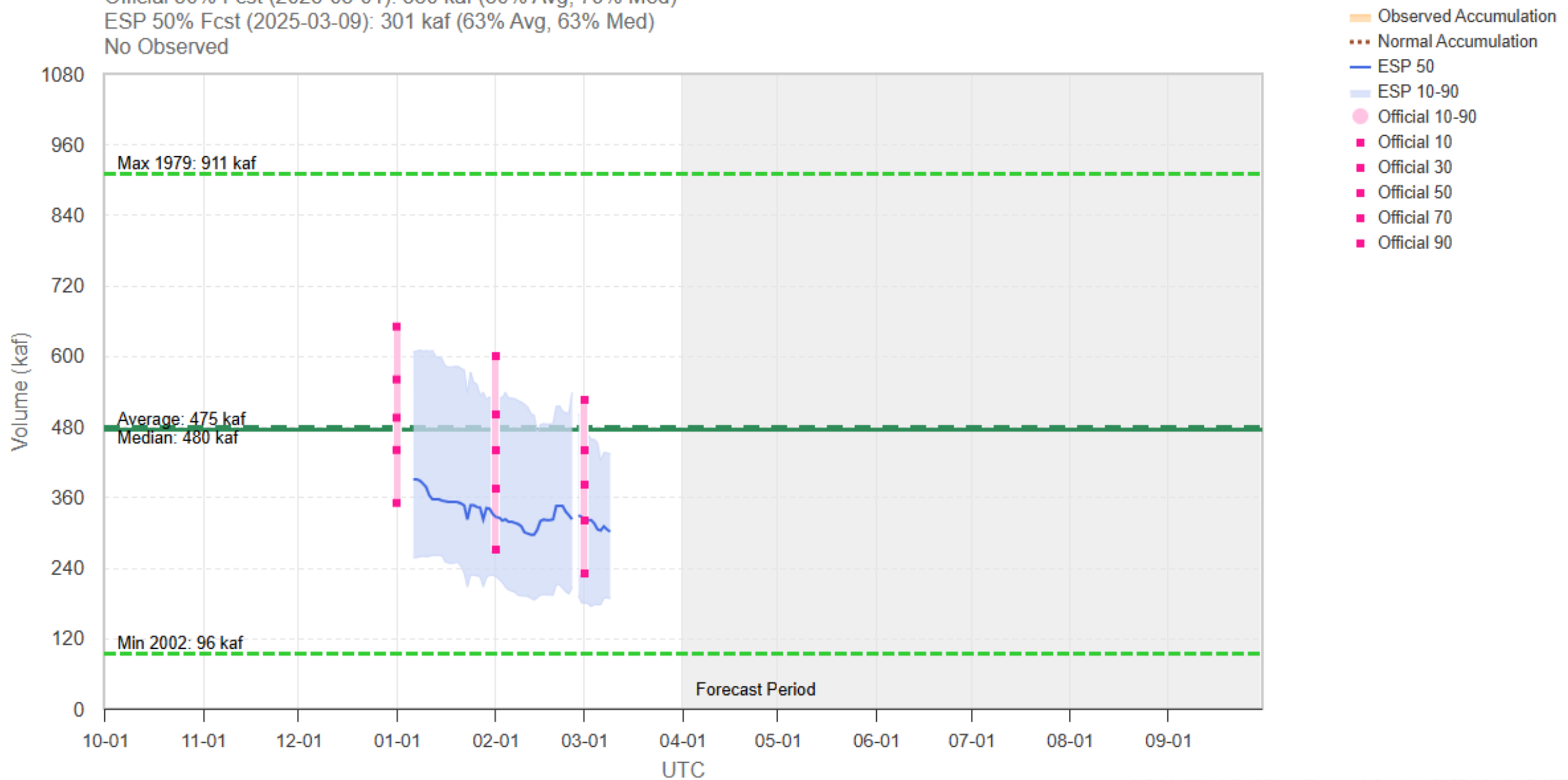
2025 Water Supply Forecast - Rio Grande River Near Del Norte (DNRC2)

ESP is Unregulated and No Precipitation Forecast Included

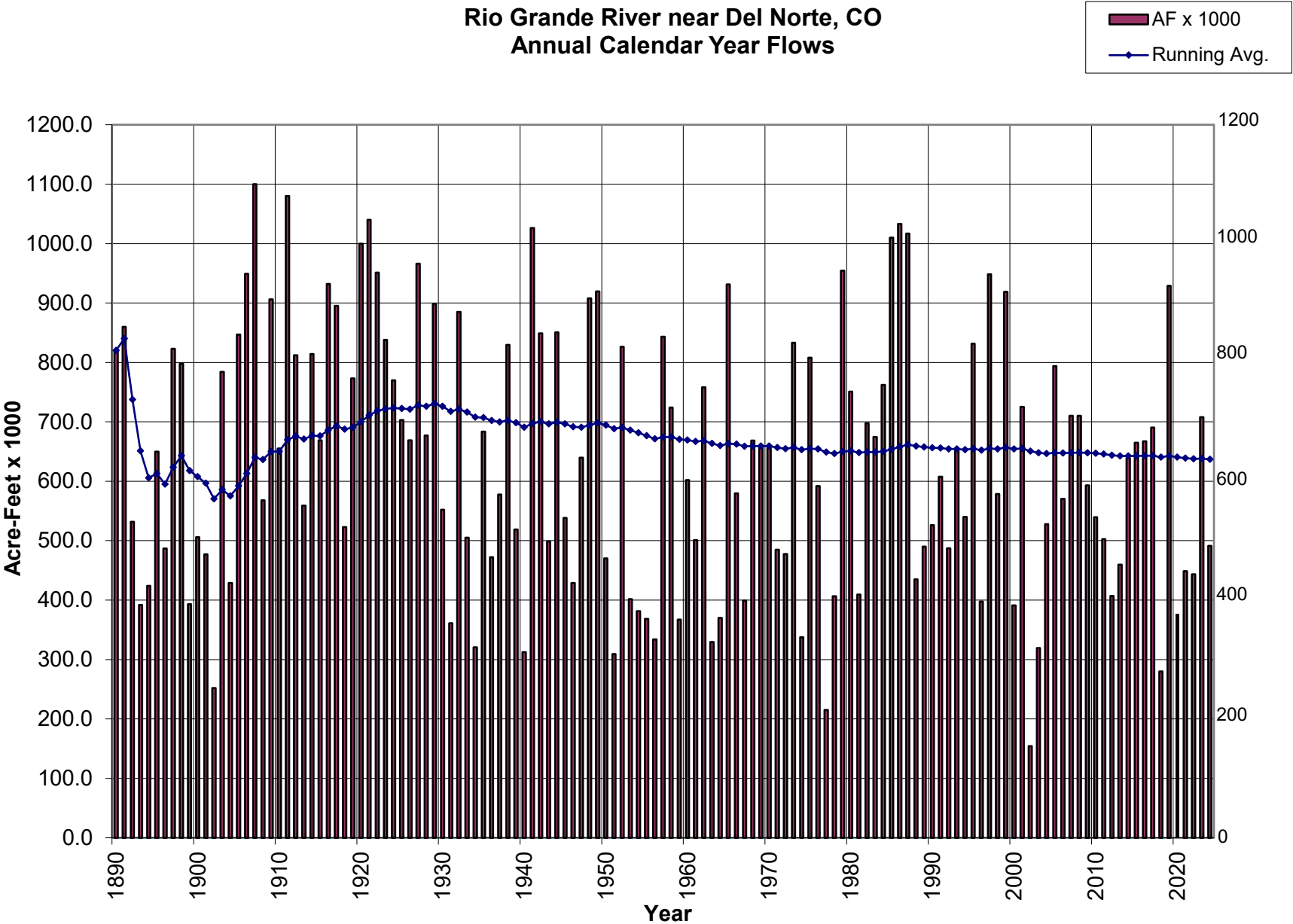
Official 50% Fcst (2025-03-01): 380 kaf (80% Avg, 79% Med)

ESP 50% Fcst (2025-03-09): 301 kaf (63% Avg, 63% Med)

No Observed



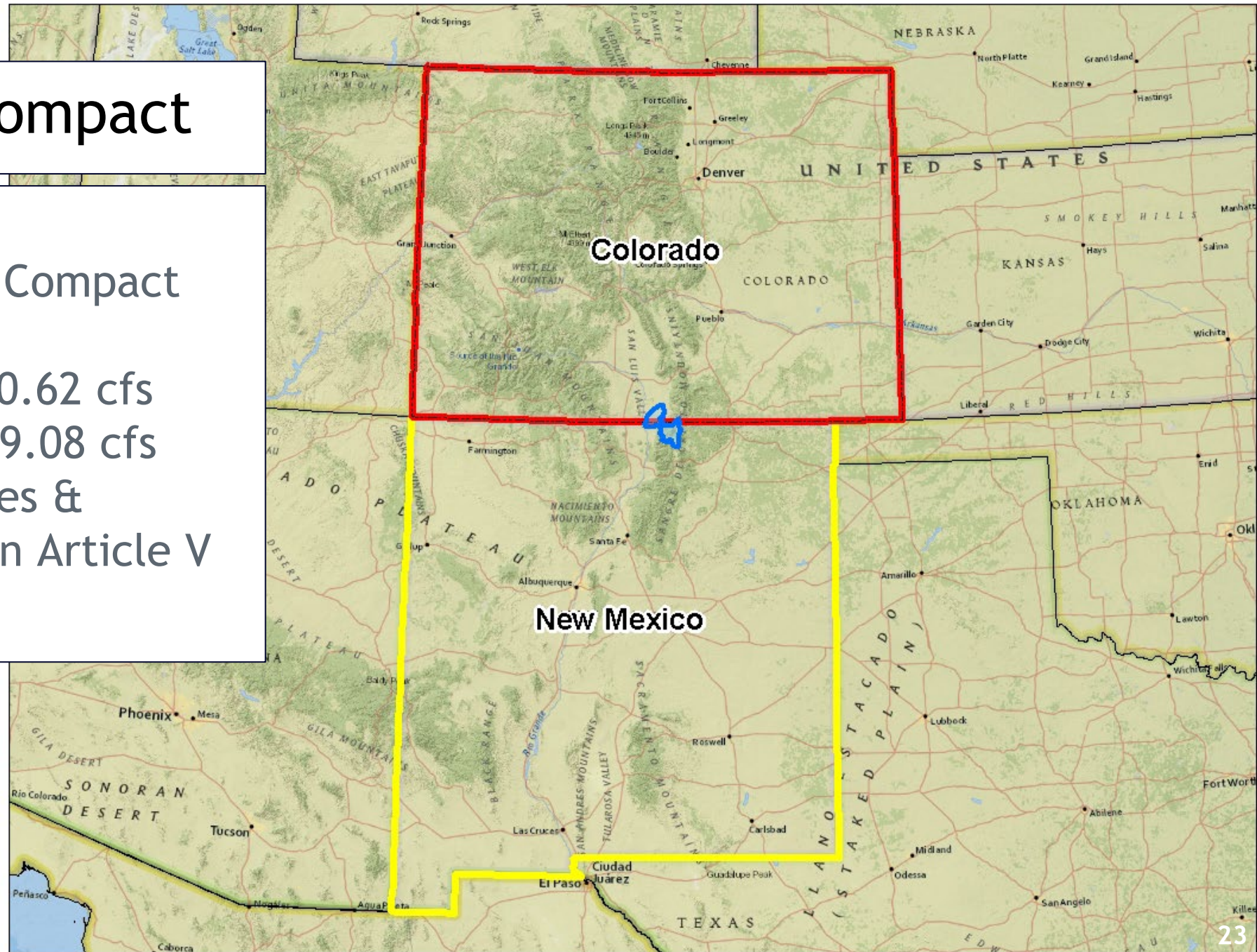
Rio Grande River near Del Norte, CO
Annual Calendar Year Flows





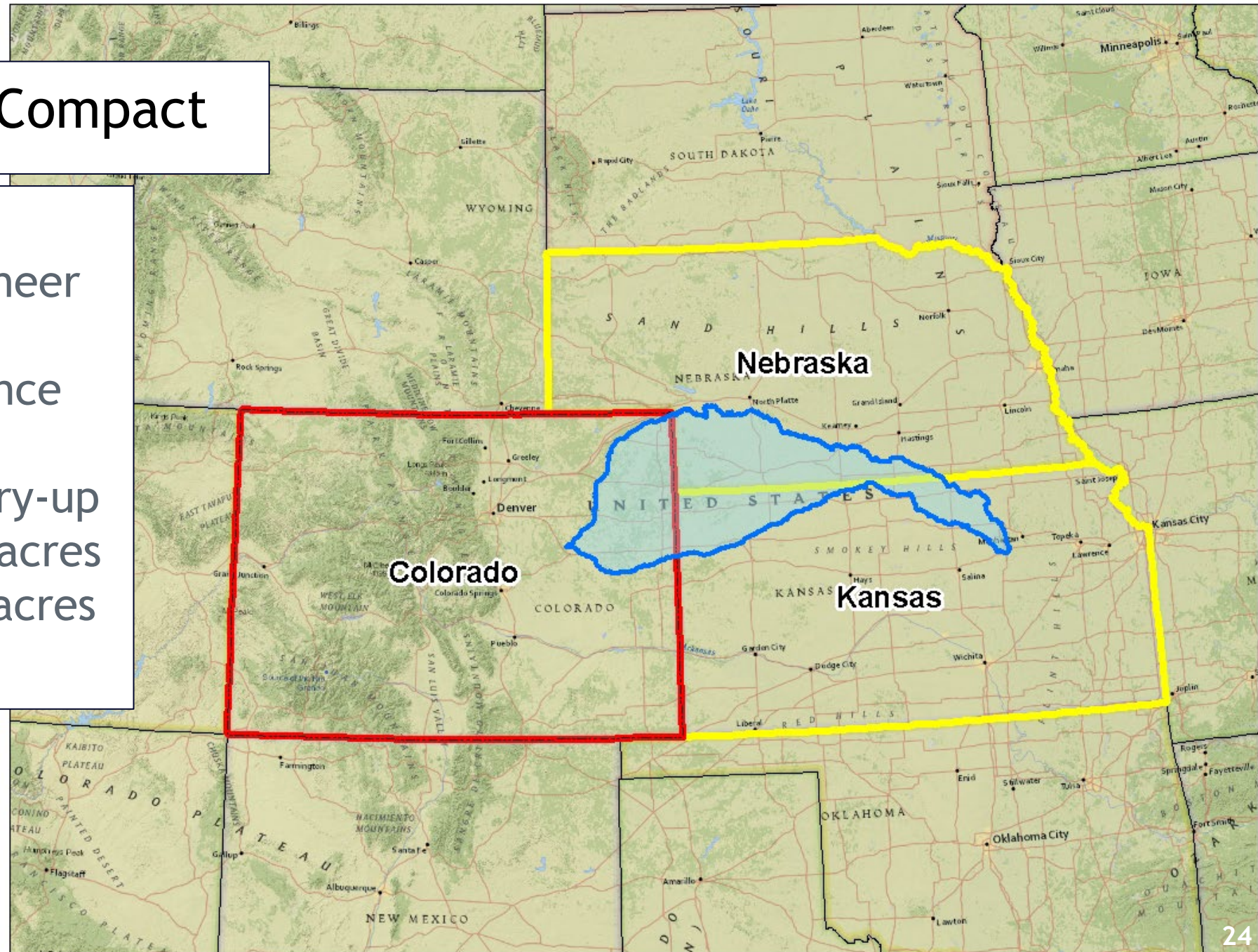
Costilla Creek Compact

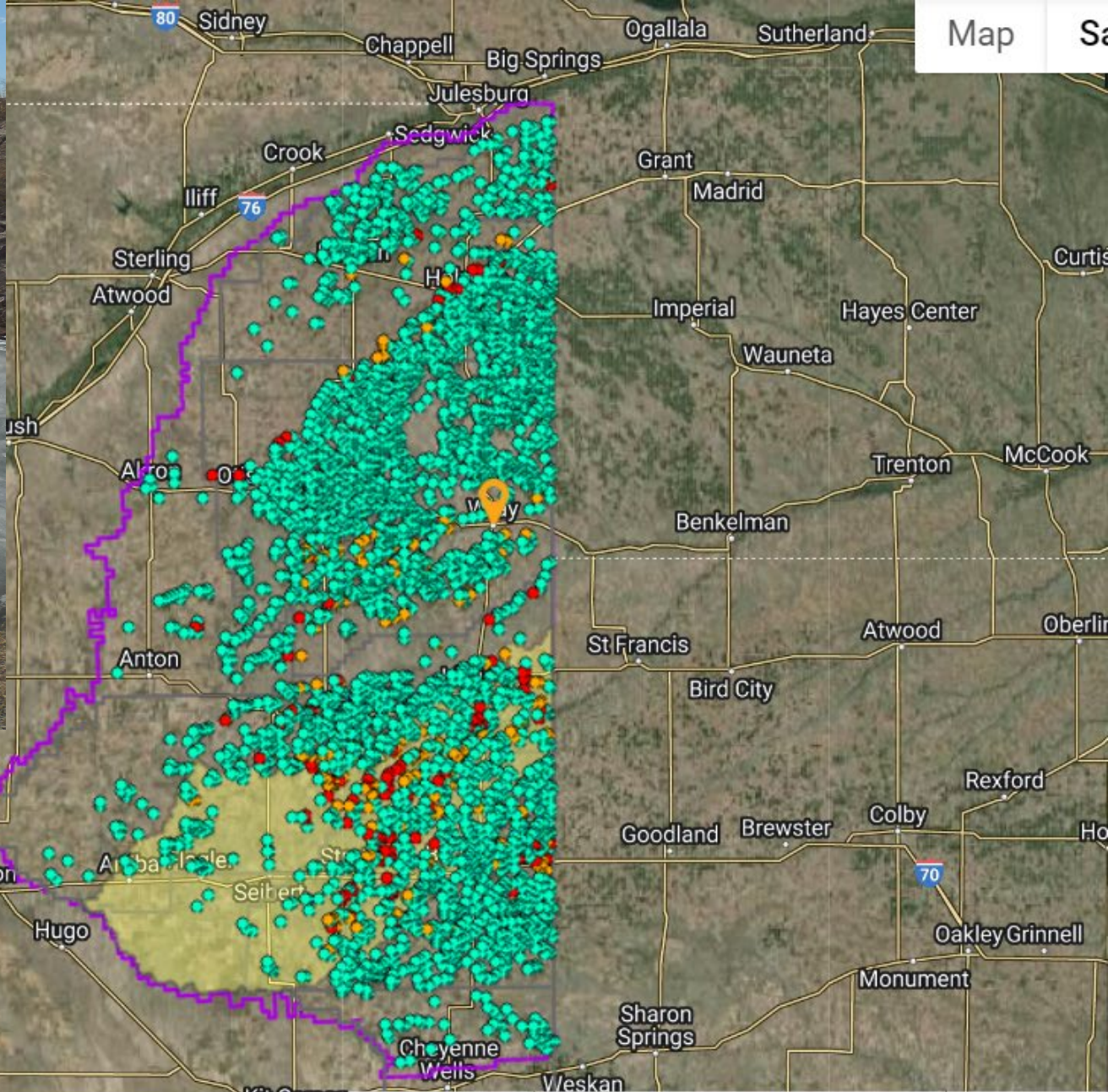
- Signed in 1944
- State Engineer on Compact Commission
- CO allocation of 50.62 cfs
- NM allocation of 89.08 cfs
- Allocated to ditches & reservoirs based on Article V schedule



Republican River Compact

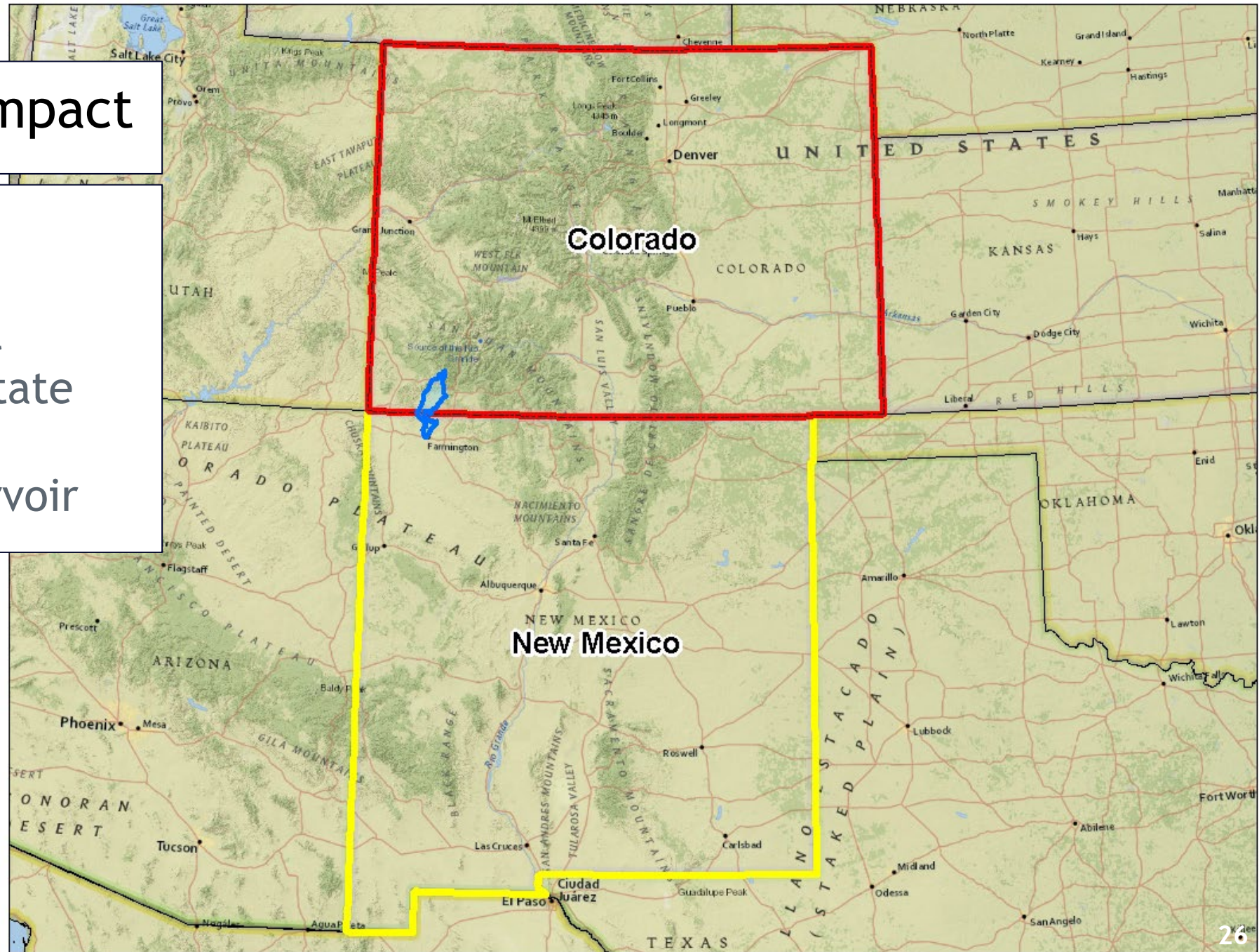
- ♦ Signed in 1942
- ♦ RRCA - State Engineer Commissioner
- ♦ Compact Compliance Pipeline
- ♦ 2016 Resolution dry-up targets of 10,000 acres in 2024 & 25,000 acres in 2029

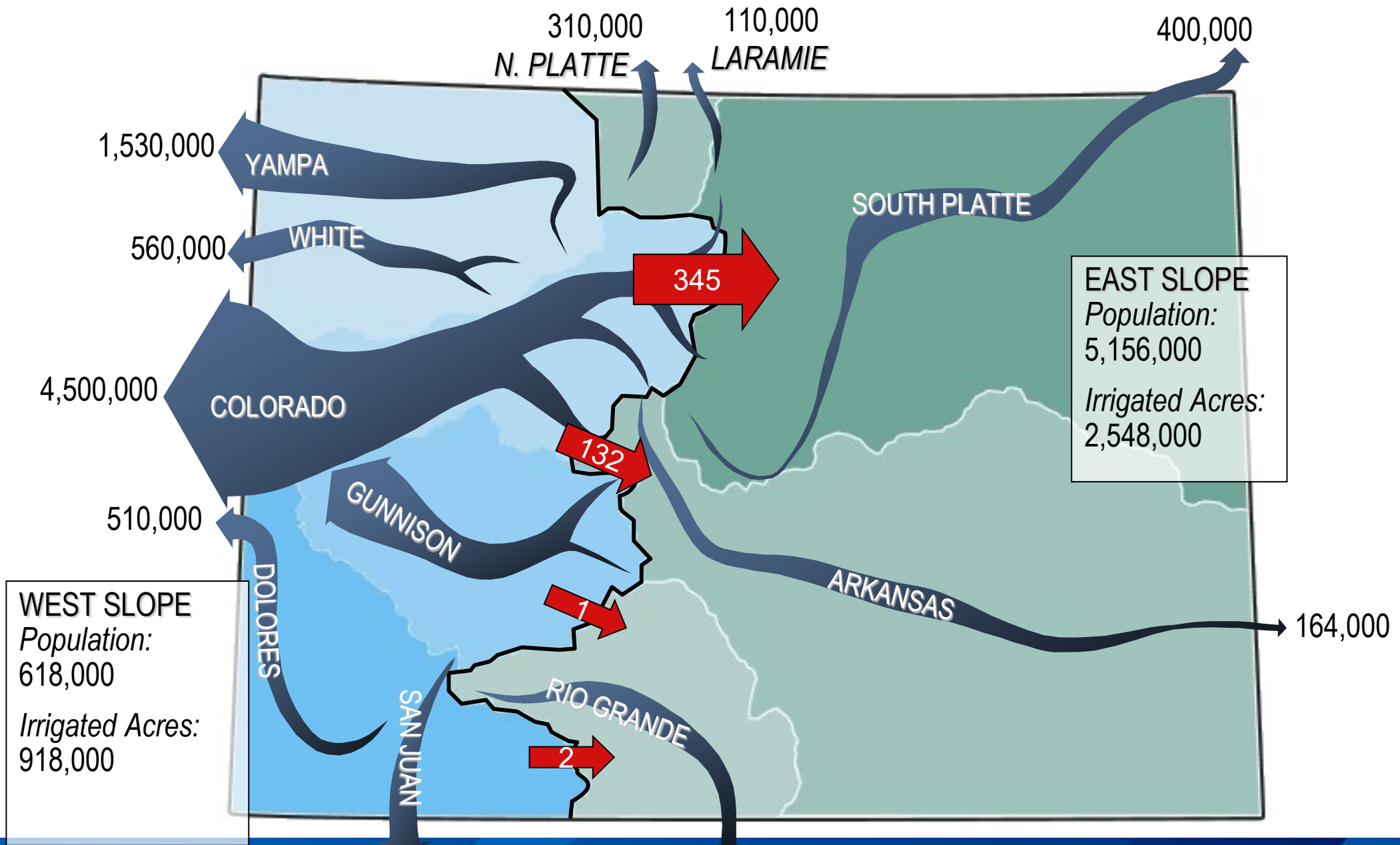




La Plata River Compact

- Signed in 1922
- No Commission
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of index flow at Hesperus due to state line following day
- Long Hollow Reservoir





An aerial photograph showing a winding river with dark water flowing through a landscape. The river is bordered by lush green trees and vegetation on one side, and large, flat, brownish-grey fields on the other. The sun is high, casting shadows from the trees onto the river and the adjacent fields.

Thank You



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources