



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

**Lauren Ris,
Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Lauren.Ris@state.co.us**

Who We Are

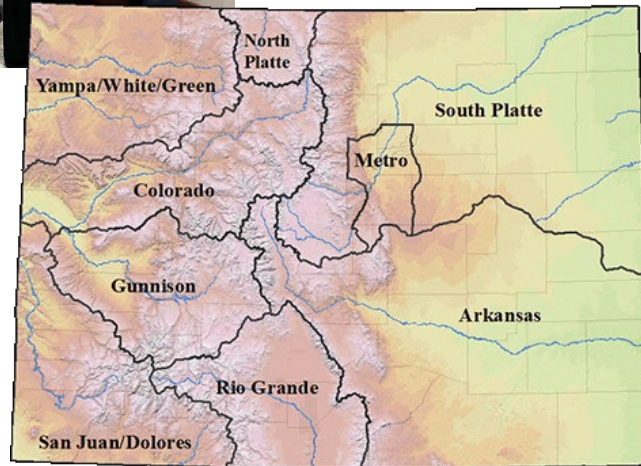


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Voting Board Members:

Alan Ward - Arkansas, **Taylor Hawes** - Colorado, **Greg Johnson** - Denver, **John McCloy** - Gunnison, **Barbara Vasquez** - North Platte, **Nathan Coombs** - Rio Grande, **Lorelei Cloud** - San Miguel (Board Chair), Dolores, Animas, San Juan, **Brad Wind** - South Platte, **Mike Camblin** - Yampa/White



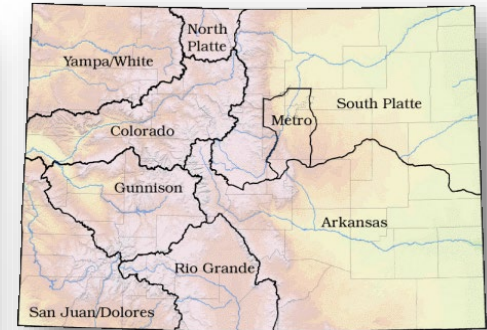
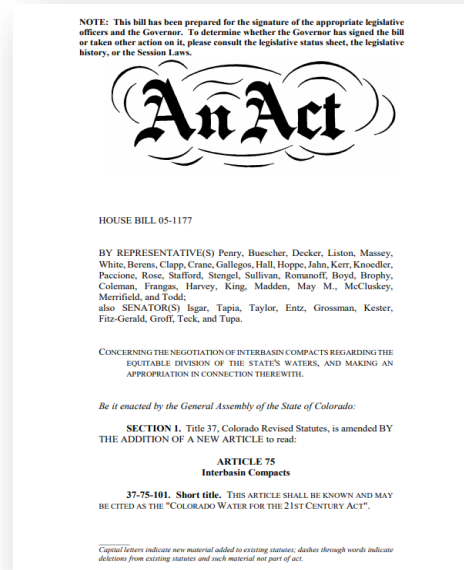
Ex-Officio Members:

Dan Gibbs, DNR Director (*voting*), **Phil Weiser**, AG (*non-voting*), **Jason Ullmann**, State Engineer (*non-voting*), **Kate Greenberg**, DOA Director (*non-voting*), **Laura Clellan**, CPW Director (*non-voting*), **Lauren Ris**, CWCB Director (*non-voting*)

LAUNCHING A GRASSROOTS FRAMEWORK

- “Water for the 21st Century Act”
- Established nine basin roundtables
- Established the Interbasin Compact Committee

These groups are foundational to Colorado’s grassroots water supply planning process .



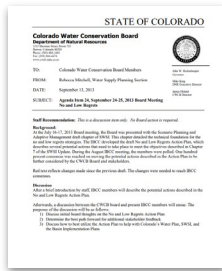
THE BASIN ROUNDTABLES TODAY

- Appointed Seats (counties, county municipal)
- 10 At-Large Seats
- Water Conservation & Conservancy Districts
- Liaisons from interested parties

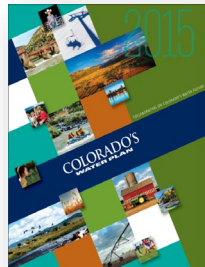


ITERATIVE PLANNING & INPUT

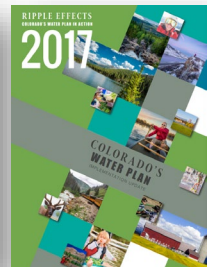
2013 No & Low Regrets



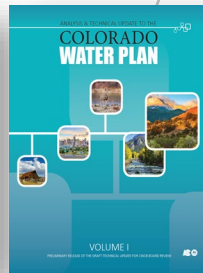
2015 Water Plan



Progress Report



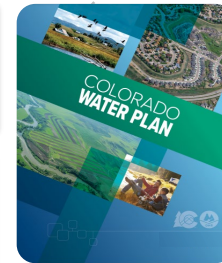
Tech Update



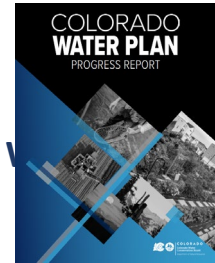
Basin Implementation Plans



2023 Water Plan



Progress Report



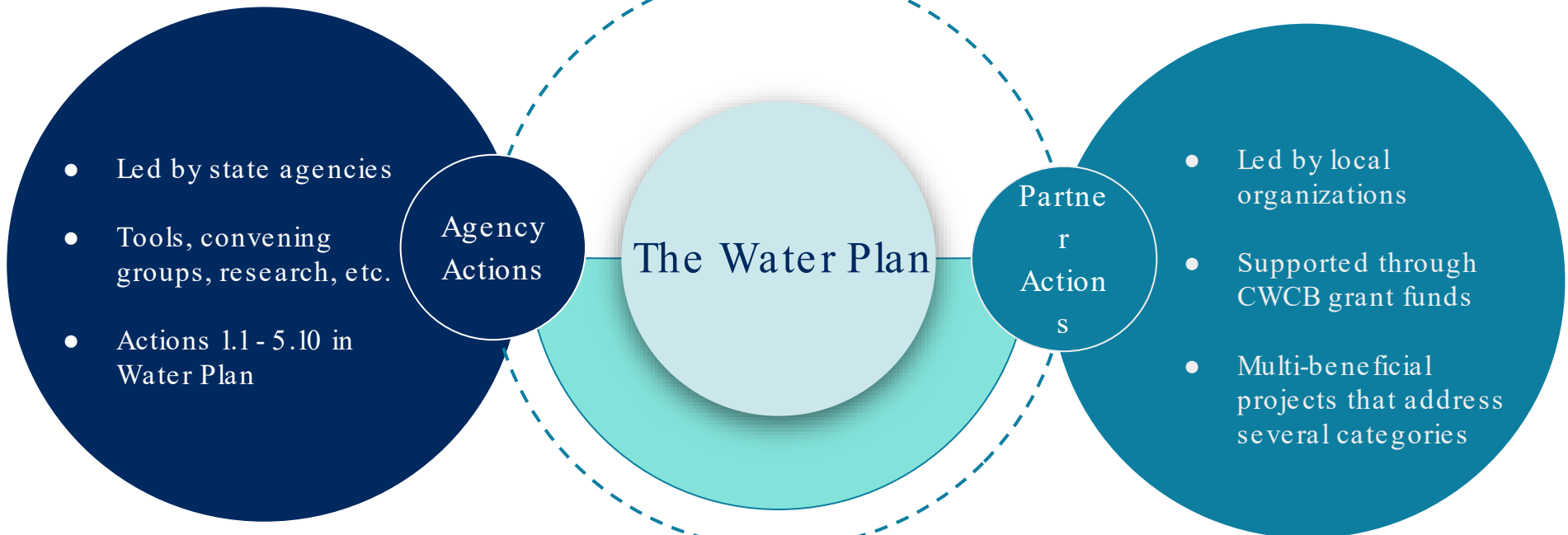
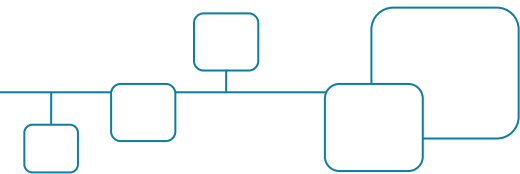
The Colorado Water Plan (2023)

- Sets the stage for collaboration, resilience, and mitigating risk
- Shines light on critical state water issues
- A CWCB planning and strategy document
- Highlights agency opportunities for leadership





Making it Happen



AGRICULTURE



CONSERVATION & LAND USE



ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION

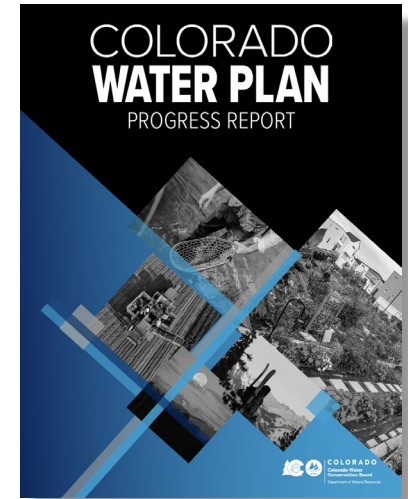
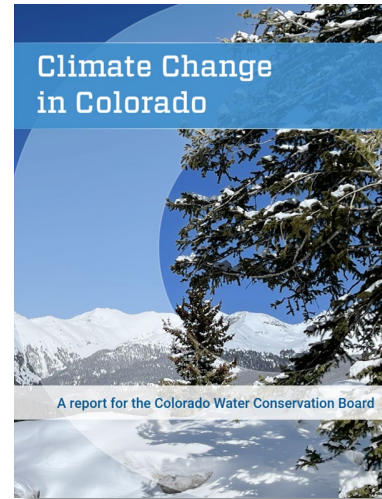
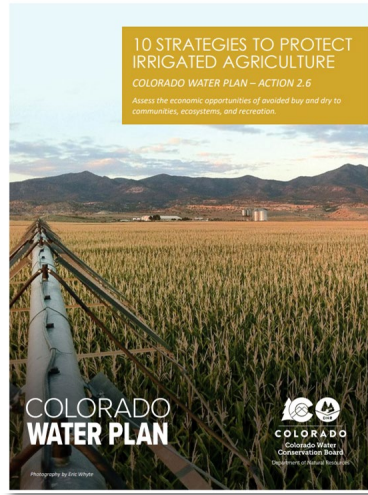
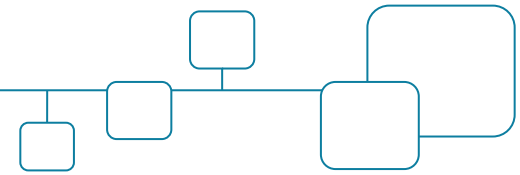


WATER STORAGE & SUPPLY



WATERSHED HEALTH & RECREATION

Related Reports



Progress and Milestones

- **~1,800** water projects have been identified through basin implementation planning
- A total of **43 Agency Actions are underway** and partially completed in only 3 years, which means we are on track for completion by 2033.
- **\$2.1 million invested** in the Colorado Water Loss Initiative; CO has trained and retrained over 90 water utilities with 50 utilities identifying over 20,000 acre-feet in preventable losses so far.
- **5% reduction** in per capita water use since 2015
- **531** projects have been funded through the Water Plan Grant Program in 57 of the 62 Colorado counties





The ABC's of Water Plan Update



PHASE 1

Analysis and Technical Update

Foundational data sets that describe our current and future water supplies and needs

PHASE 2

Basin Plan Update

Local planning conducted by basin roundtables that provide grassroots input to the Water Plan

PHASE 3

Comprehensive Water Plan Update

Update to the visions and actions in the Water Plan itself



NO & LOW REGRETS

What is a No & Low Regrets Action?

Offers benefits across a wide range of future uncertainties:

Options which provide an acceptable level of benefit across a range of future climate and development scenarios.

Brings co-benefits across sectors and stakeholders:

Options which minimize trade-offs and maximize benefits to all stakeholders and other related development priorities.

Offers flexibility to future change:

Options which can be adjusted in future, avoiding locking in investment or regulation/policy for long periods of time.

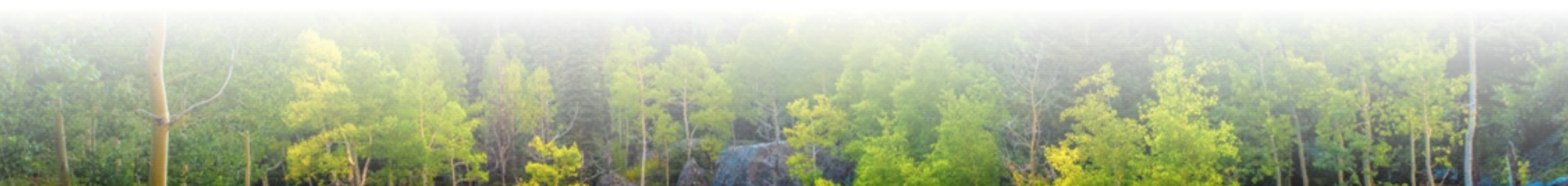


NO & LOW REGRETS

What is it?

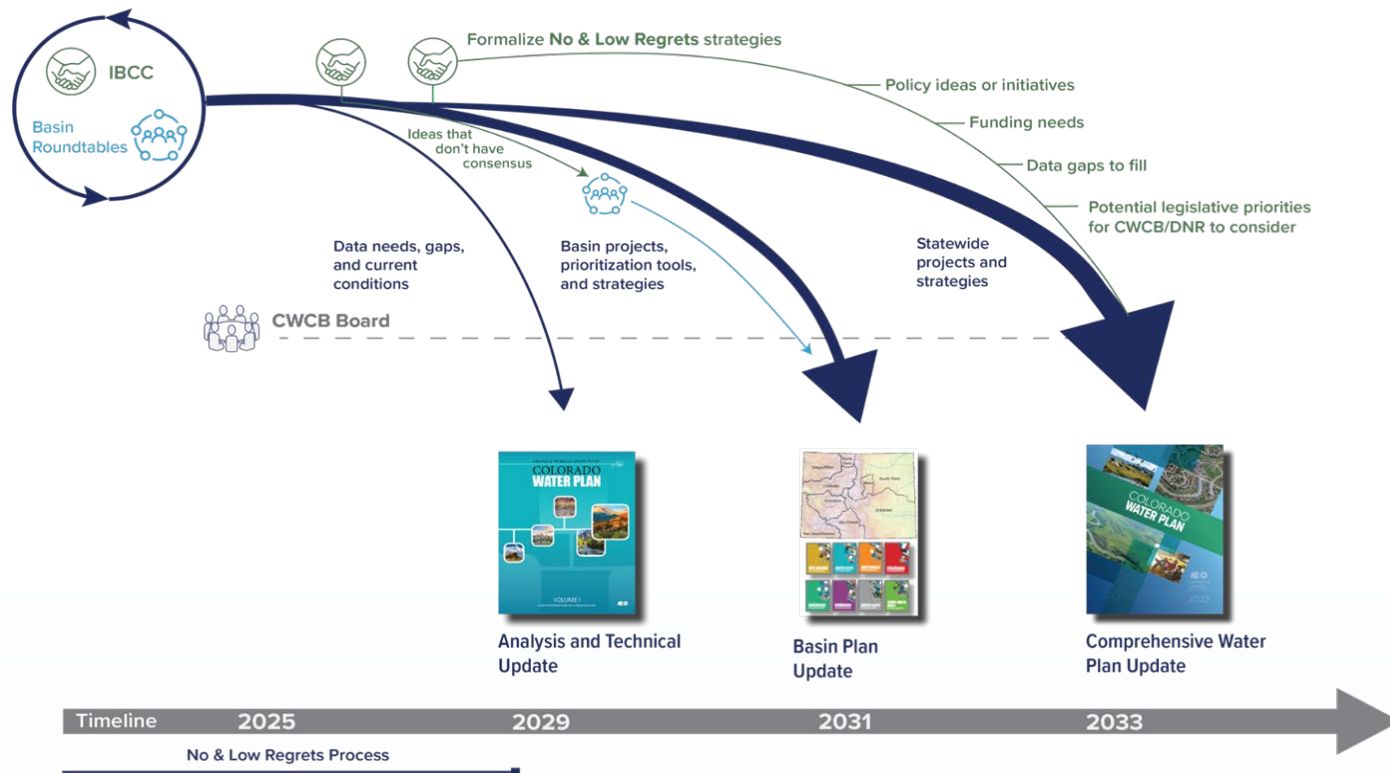
IBCC is modernizing its 2013 No & Low Regrets Action Plan to:

- Address the 740,000 AF/year gap shown in the 2023 Water Plan.
- Identify strategies to make Colorado thrive under any future.
- Build Colorado's resilience to long-term warming and drying trends.
- Inform the next Tech Update, Basin Implementation Plans & the Colorado Water Plan.
- Build cross-basin collaboration and momentum for project funding.



NO & LOW REGRETS

How Does this Fit into Statewide Water Planning?





PATHWAYS TO ENGAGE

Basin Roundtables:

- *Attend your local basin roundtable meetings*
- *Participate in the discussions at the roundtables about topics you are interested in*

Support your county roundtable representative:

- *Each county within a roundtable boundary has the ability to appoint a representative*
- *Check in with your appointed basin roundtable representative(s)- make new appointments as needed*
- *Prepare them for the roundtable discussions to ensure county needs are discussed*
- *This process will benefit greatly by having engagement from local government officials*





NO & LOW REGRETS TOPIC SCHEDULE

June 2026

Storage and Water Plan Scenarios

October 2026

Water Conservation, Efficiency, & Land Use Planning

February 2027

Protecting Colorado Agriculture

June 2027

Fire Management & Post Fire Recovery

October 2027

Nature-Based Solutions & Natural Infrastructure

February 2028

Climate Adaptation & Cross Sector Innovation

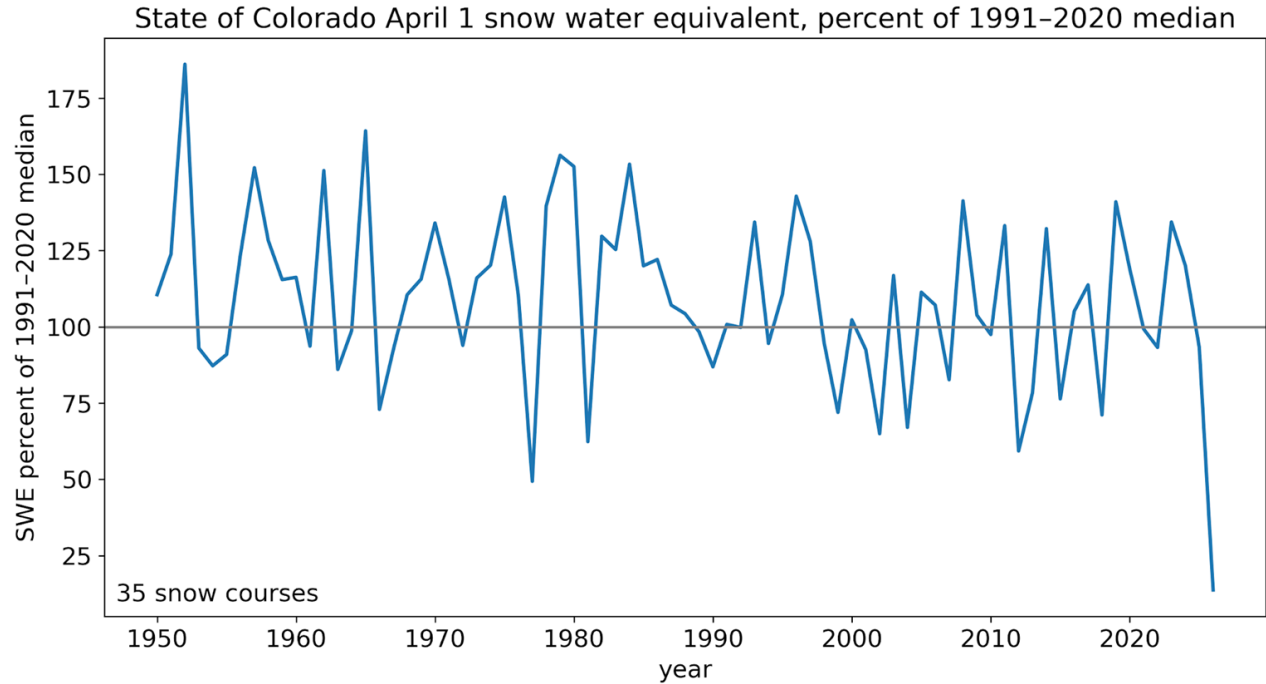
June 2028

Education and Collaboration

October 2028

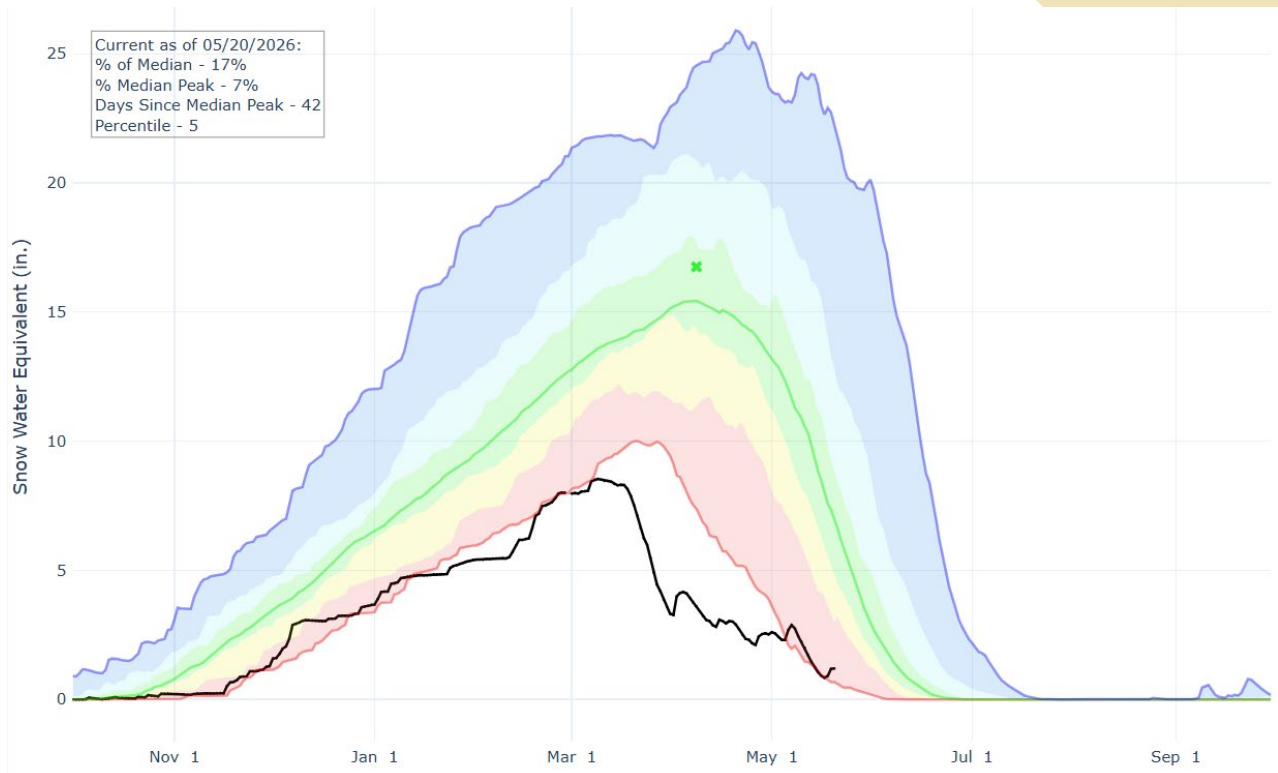
Additional Topics As Needed

Snowpack Update



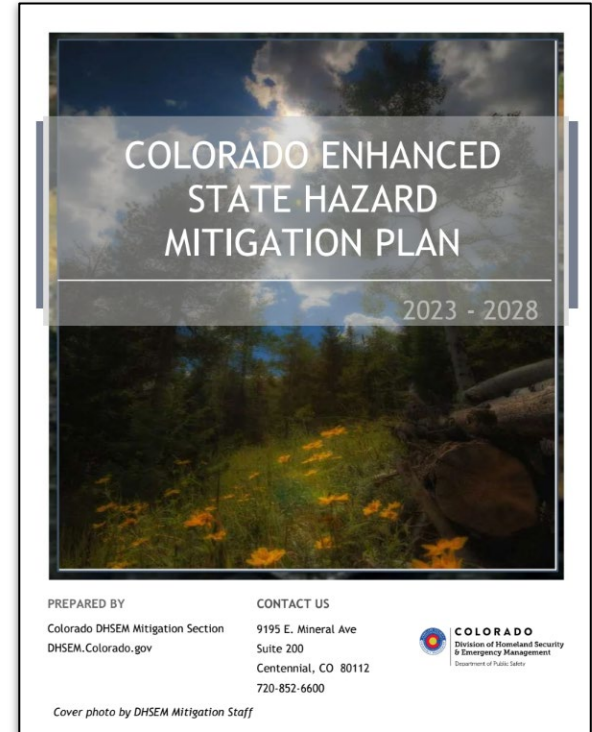


Snowpack



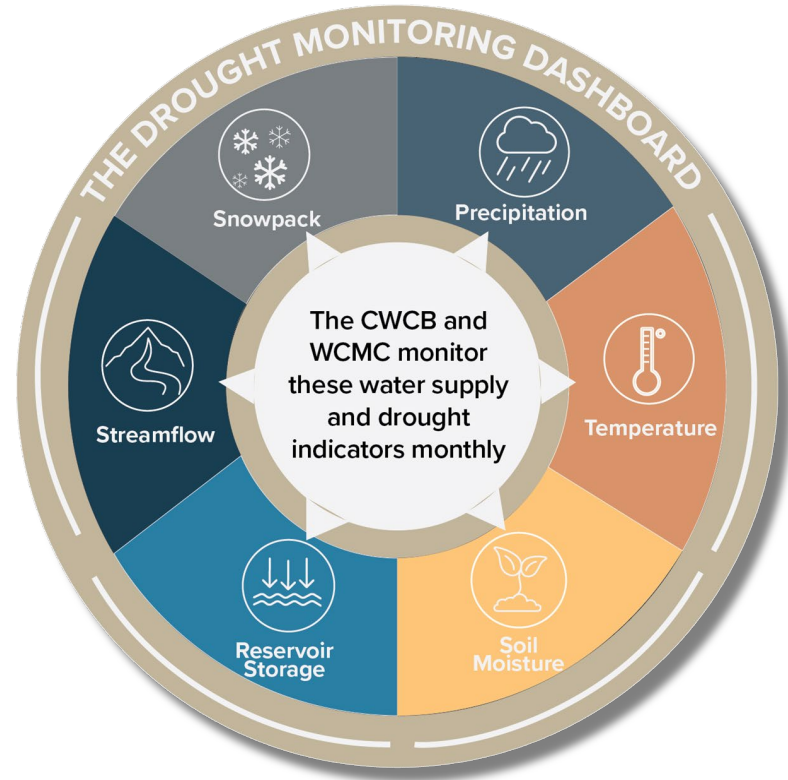
Drought Response Background

- Colorado's Drought Response Plan is located in the state's Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (ESHMP).
- Drought Response Plan and ESHMP were last updated in 2023. Plans are updated every 5 years.
- In 2023, Drought Response Plan was included in the ESHMP to streamline all hazard response plans into one document.



CO's Phased Drought Response

- The Water Conditions Monitoring Committee tracks water supply indicators on a monthly basis
- Next meeting is June 16
- When indicators begin showing that drought could occur, the state begins its drought response processes



Drought Phases

Phase	Potential Response Activity
Normal	Monthly drought monitoring via Water Conditions Monitoring Committee (WCMC)
Phase 1	More close monitoring from WCMC and CWCB; Official drought not yet declared
Phase 2	Drought Task Force activated
Phase 3	Drought Emergency is declared by Executive Order or proclamation of the Governor

We are here



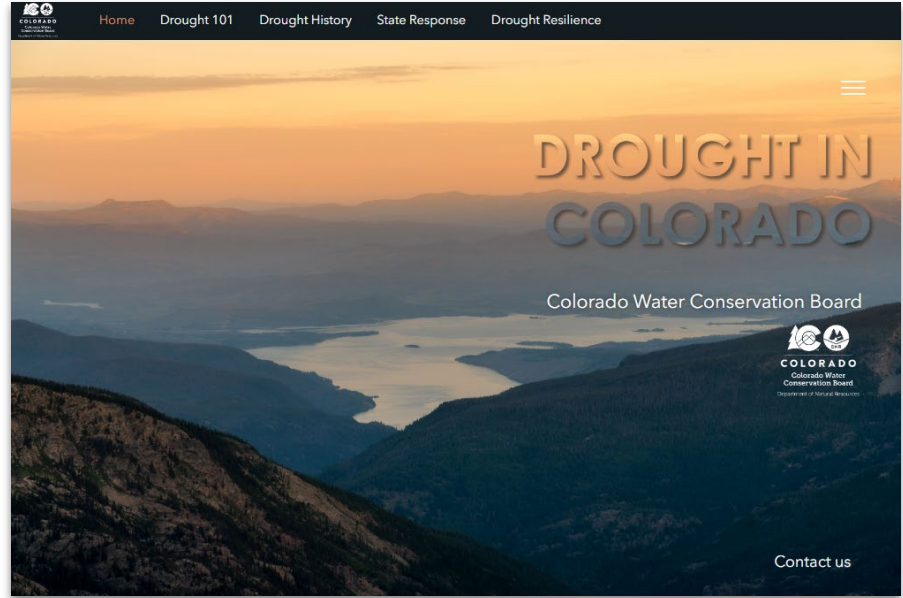
2026 Drought Task Force

- **March 16:** Governor officially moves into Phase 2 of the Drought Response Plan, activating the state's Drought Task Force
- **April 10:** Drought Task Force Meeting #1
 - **Key Outcomes:** Task Force members agreed to explore work groups focused on municipal impacts, agricultural impacts, wildfire risk, and drought resource consolidation
- **May 7:** Drought Task Force Meeting #2
 - **Key Outcomes:** Task Force members established paths forward for municipal impacts work group, agricultural impacts work group, and wildfire risk work group; All Task Force agencies developed their own drought resource pages
- **June 1:** Drought Task Force Meeting #3
- cwcb.colorado.gov/drought-task-force



Drought in Colorado Website

- Helps tell the story of how drought has shaped water and natural resource management policy in Colorado
- Includes **Drought 101**, **Drought History**, **State Drought Response**, and **Drought Resilience** pages
- Found at cwcb.colorado.gov/drought and <https://shorturl.at/pEkzO>



THANK YOU

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