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Innovations in Managing Western Water: New Approaches for Balancing Environmental, Social and Economic Outcomes (Martz Summer Conference, June 11-12)

2015

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SLIDES: Colorado's Water Plan

Lauren Ris

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Colorado's Water Plan

Lauren Ris
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
June 2015



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

COLORADO'S
WATER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | DECEMBER 2014

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

DRAFT



**BALANCING
OUR WATER
NEEDS.**

A PLAN
THAT CONSIDERS
STATEWIDE
VALUES.



**WE ALL
LOVE
COLORADO.**

SOLUTIONS
FOR OUR
WATER VALUES.

A Land of Extremes



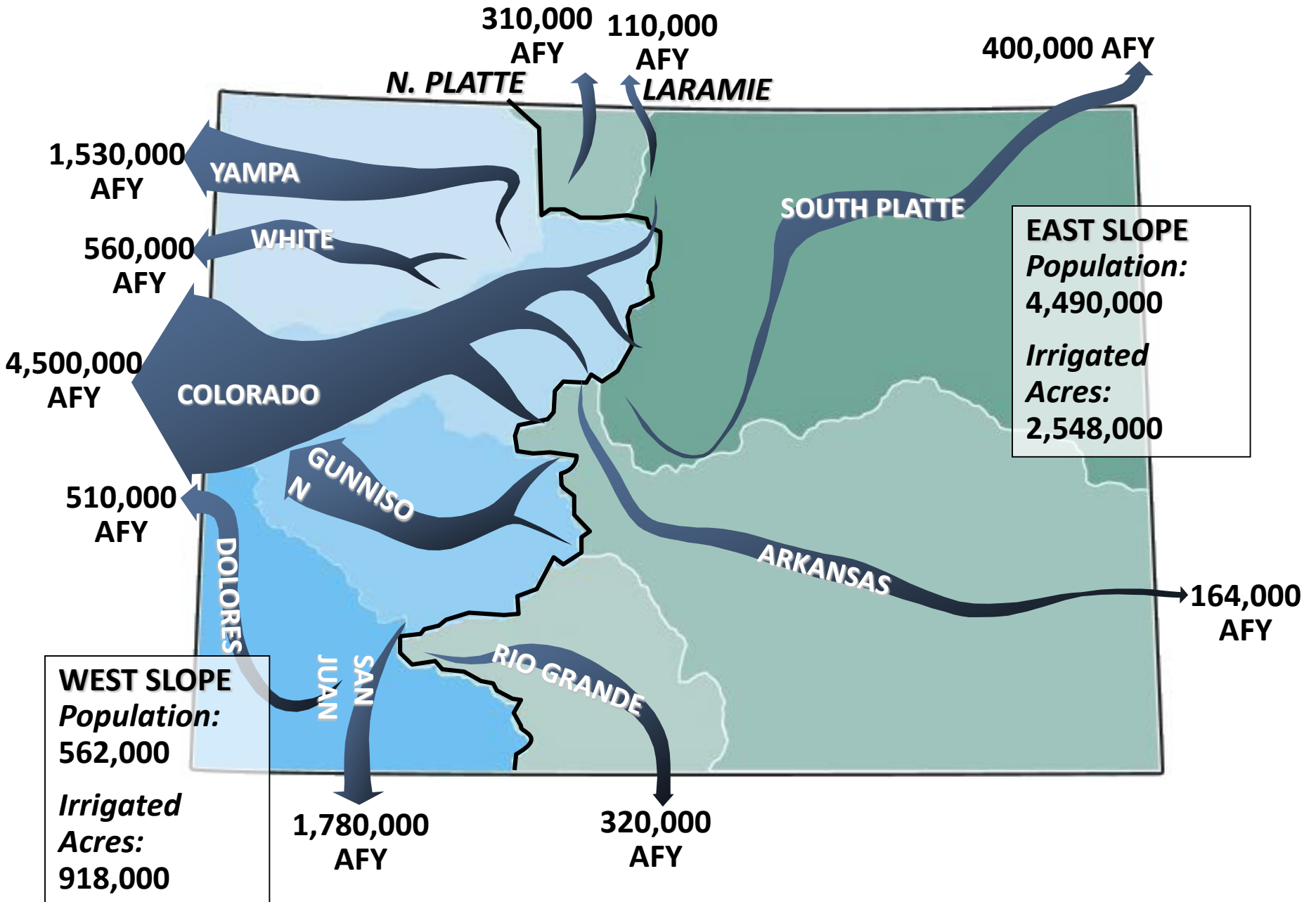
WILDFIRE



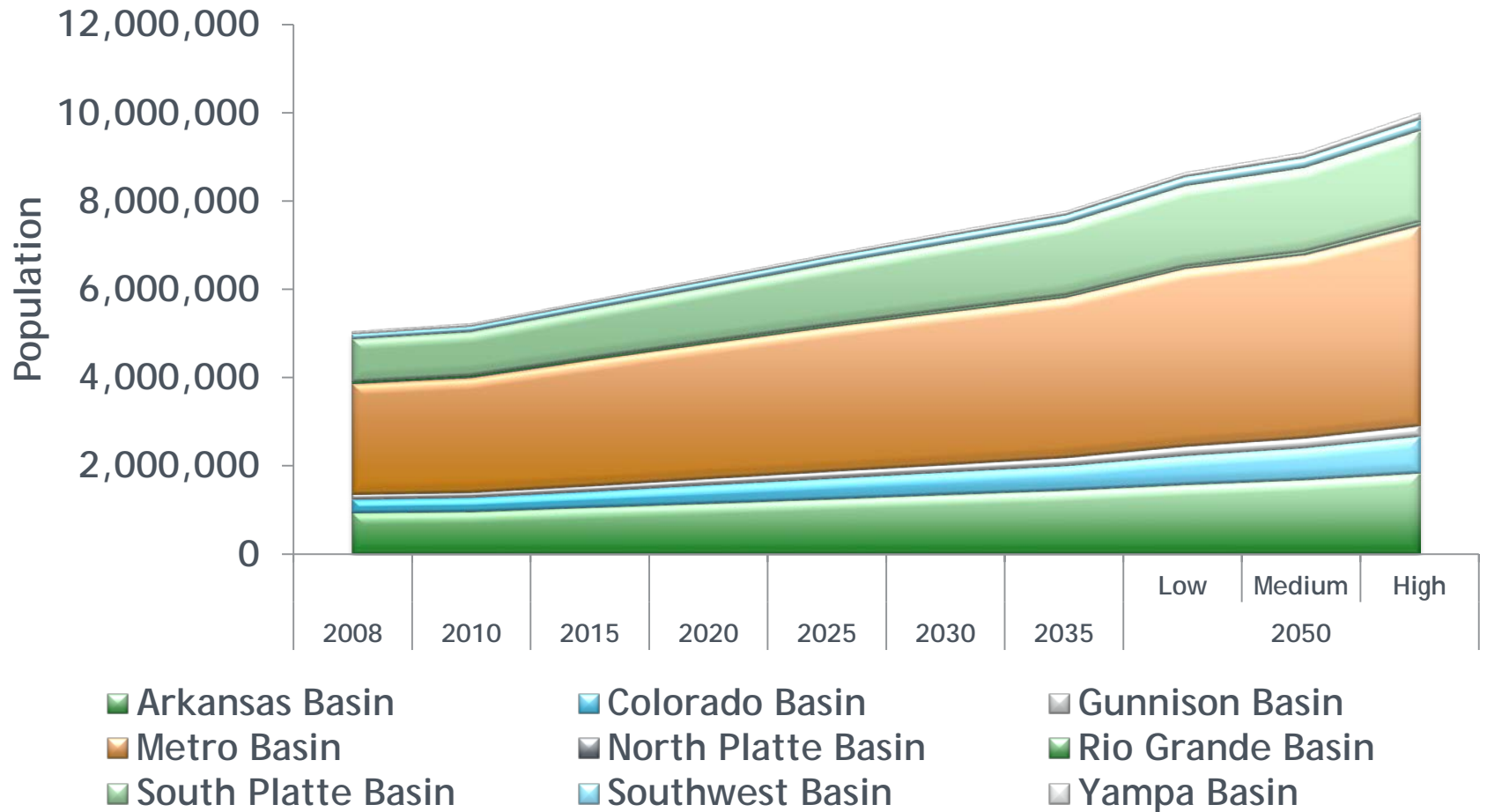
FLOOD



DROUGHT

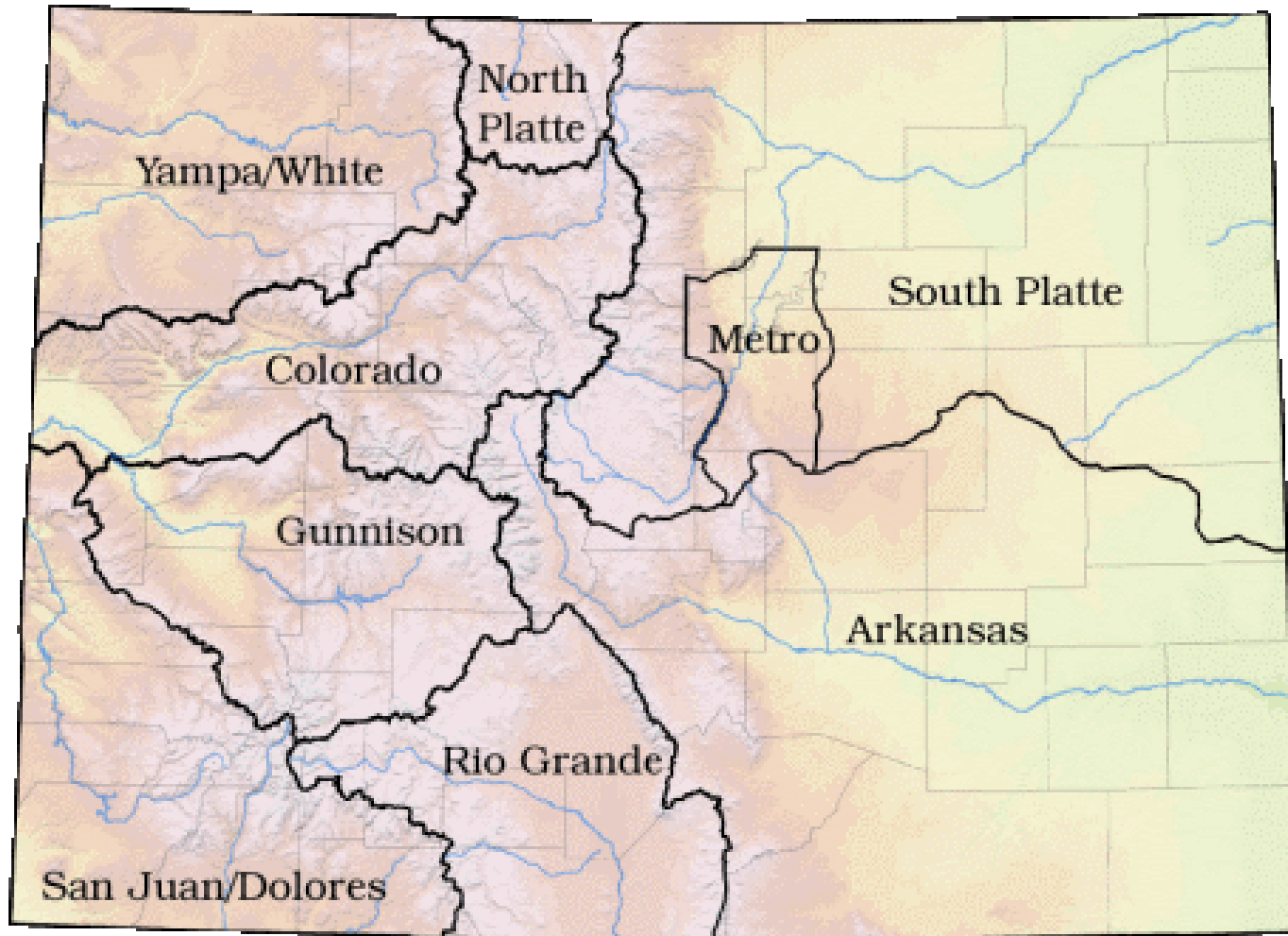


By 2050 Colorado's Population Expected to Nearly Double





The Basin Roundtables



Executive Order Values

- A productive economy that supports cities, agriculture, recreation and tourism;
- efficient and effective water infrastructure; and
- a strong natural environment including healthy watersheds, rivers, streams and wildlife



Timeline: where we've been

- ✓ **May 2013** - Executive Order Issued
- ✓ **August 2013** - IBCC No and Low Regrets actions
- ✓ **January 2014** - first sections released
- ✓ **May 2015** - SB 115 passed
- ✓ **June 2014** - Draft Conceptual Framework
- ✓ **July 2014** - Draft Basin Implementation Plans Submitted
- ✓ **October 2014**- Public comment deadline for the Draft Plan
- ✓ **December 2014**- the Draft Plan was submitted to the Governor

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN 2015 TIMELINE



Draft Colorado Water Plan in a nut shell



Public Engagement



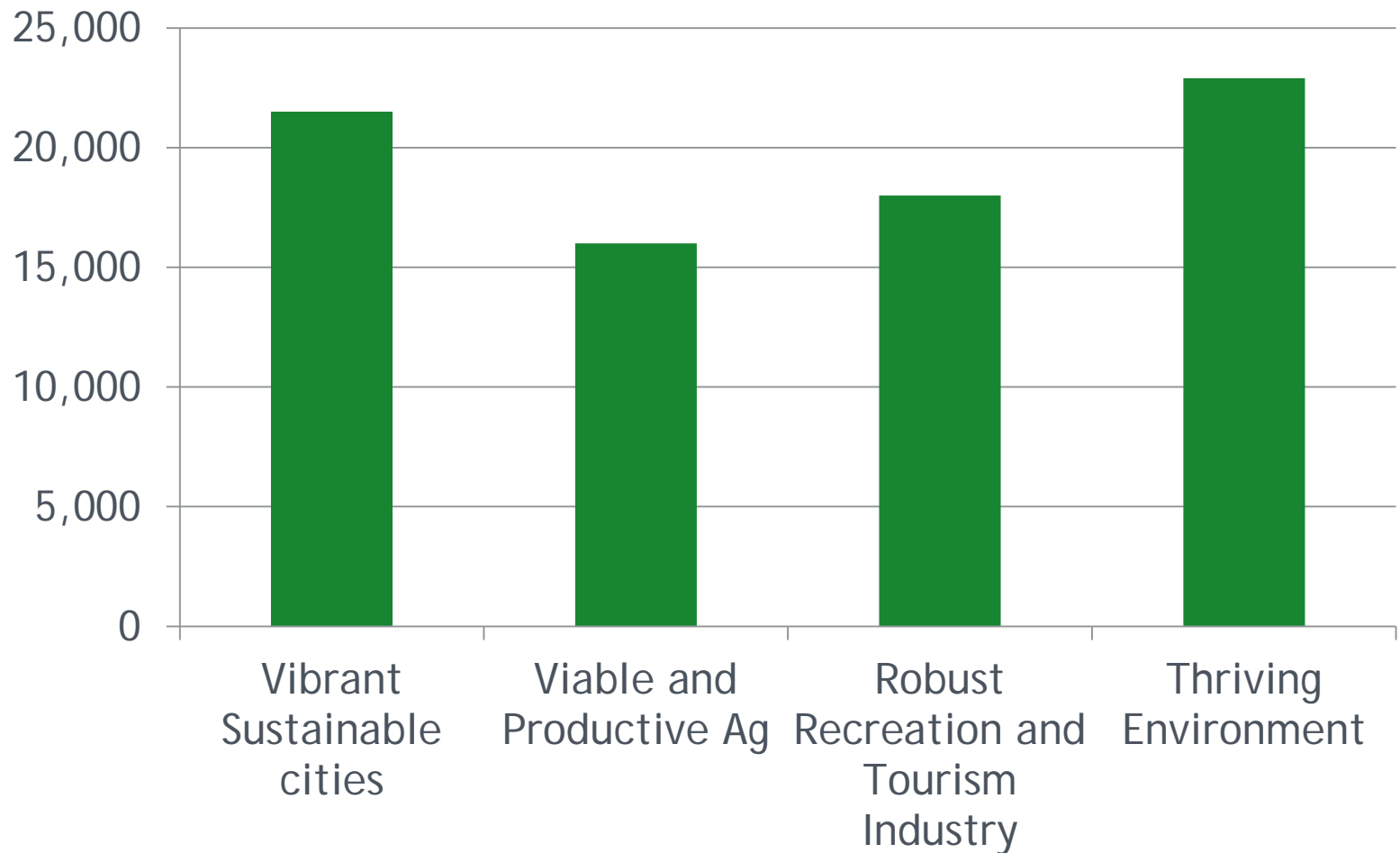
GRASSROOTS

- 24,000+ comments
- 150+ basin outreach meetings
- 1,000 roundtable meetings
- 15,000 unique pageviews
- SB115 outreach by legislature
- CWCB Board meetings through September 2015
- All input and CWCB responses available online

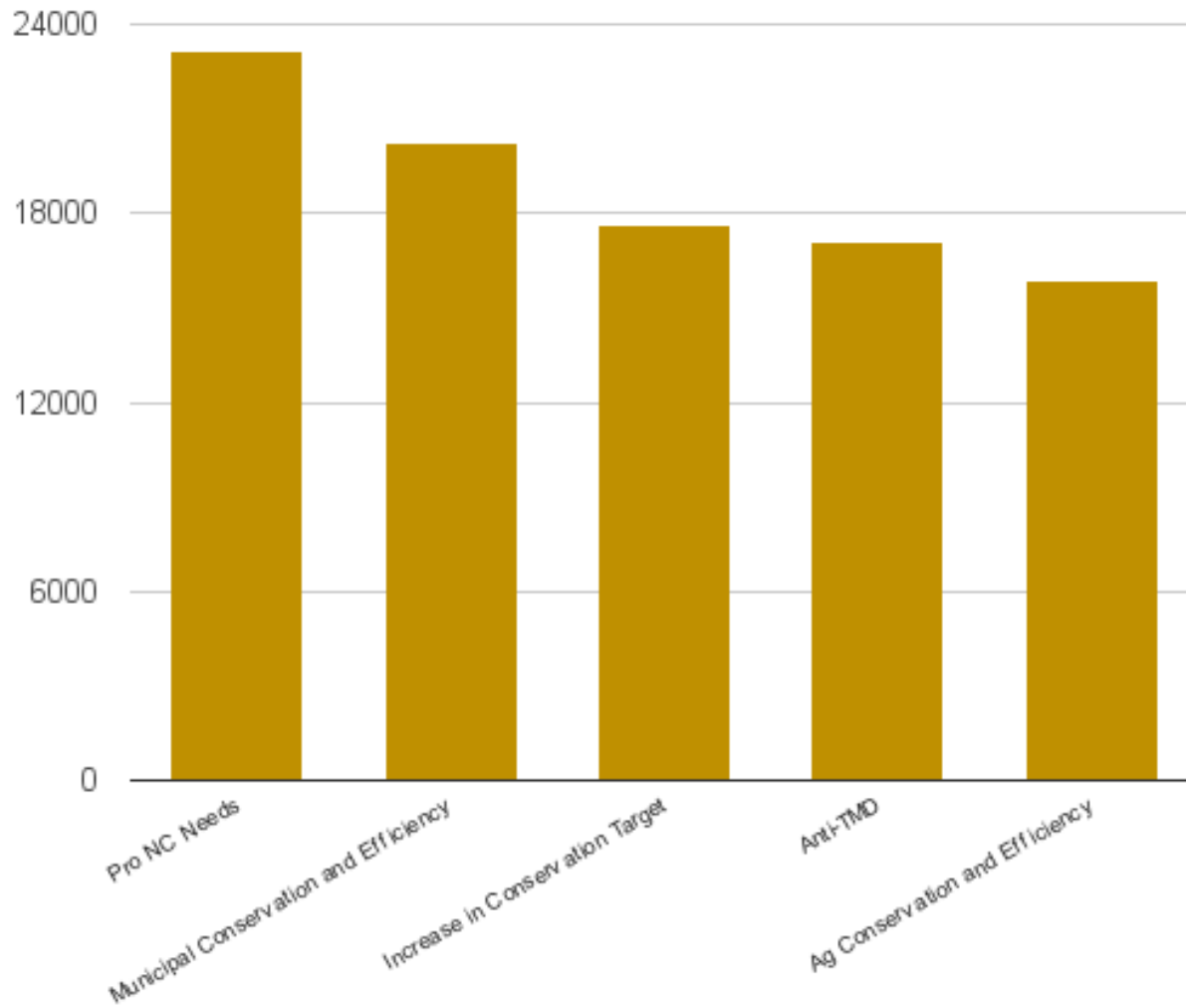




Comments by Value



Top 10 Values - Total



What will change in the second draft of Colorado's Water Plan?





Water supply management for the future

Scenario planning and alternatives for meeting the gap, incorporated with content from the Basin Implementation Plans. Includes conservation & reuse, land use, ATMs, and projects and methods. **Conservation will be further developed within the plan by working with stakeholders.**

The section on municipal and industrial conservation will be updated in the second draft of Colorado's Water Plan with an added conservation stretch goal, consistent with the IBCC's recent development of a 400,000 acre-feet aspirational active conservation stretch goal.

8

Interbasin projects & agreements

Goals for cooperative projects and interstate agreements. The Draft Conceptual Framework will be finalized collaboratively by the CWCB, IBCC and roundtables.

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Alignment of state resources & policies

From planning to action – funding, permitting, cooperative water rights management, and education. Funding options and permitting efficiencies will be further developed by working with sister agencies and stakeholders.

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Legislative recommendations

Legislative concepts will be reviewed and developed within Chapter 10, focusing on conservation and alternative transfer methods for agricultural water sharing.

10

How can you engage in this process?

- Engage with the basin roundtables and CWCB as the water plan process continues.
- Read through the second draft and submit comments online.
- Visit www.coloradowaterplan.com to learn more.



**YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS.**

COMMENT ON
THE DRAFT PLAN
HERE.

We're looking for photos!
Please send them to cowaterplan@state.co.us.

Photo by Travis Harvey, Submitted by CO Dept of Ag



COLORADO'S **WATER PLAN**

www.coloradowaterplan.com

A Roadmap for the Roundtables

- Engage in SWSI through outreach and review
- BRTs as implementation catalysts
- Continued education and outreach
- BRTs should continue to be proactive and responsive with WSRA grants and continue to serve as a policy forum



A path forward for the IBCC

- Continue to serve as a think tank to inform the cross basin water issues facing Colorado
 - Engage in SWSI
 - Develop legislative outreach plans for specific components of legislation
 - Serve as liaisons on task groups formed through the water plan, such as funding, water law and administration, etc.
- Continue to serve as representatives to basin roundtables and other stakeholders and be leaders to and for those groups.