

Be a Part of the Solution!
(formerly “Colorado’s Water Future”)
Partnering with water interests for conservation planning,
ecological restoration, and land protection.
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Framework and Key Players

Colorado Water Conservation Board: The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is an agency within the Department of Natural Resources with a mission to promote the protection, conservation and development of Colorado’s water resources and minimize the risk of flood damage. Its major programs include Water Supply Protection; Water Supply Planning and Finance; Conservation and Drought Planning; Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation; Instream Flow and Natural Lake Protection; and Water Information. The CWCB supports the implementation of the **Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (2005)**, which created the **Interbasin Compact Committee** , with financial, technical and staff support. The CWCB ensures the proper coordination of CWCB information, policies and resources for each of the **Basin Roundtables**. (<http://state.cwcb.co.us>)

Inter Basin Compact Committee: The Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) was established by the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act to facilitate conversations among Colorado’s river basins and to address statewide water issues. A 27-member committee, the IBCC encourages dialogue on water, broadens the range of stakeholders actively participating in the state’s water decisions and creates a locally driven process where the decision-making power rests with those living in the state’s river basins.
(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/about-us/about-the-ibcc-brts/Pages/main.aspx>)

Basin Roundtables: To facilitate discussions on water management issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions, nine basin roundtables were established by the [Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act](#). These roundtables represent each of the state’s eight major river basins and the Denver metropolitan area. Each basin roundtable is required to develop a basin-wide water needs assessment evaluating consumptive water needs (municipal, industrial, and agricultural, Nonconsumptive water needs (environmental, recreational), water supplies (surface, ground, and unappropriated), and proposed projects or methods to meet identified water needs today and in the future.
(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/main.aspx>)

Statewide Water Supply Initiative: In 2003, the Colorado General Assembly authorized CWCB to implement SWSI 1. SWSI 1 was a comprehensive identification of Colorado's current and future water needs and it examined a variety of approaches Colorado could take to meet those needs. SWSI 1 implemented a collaborative approach to water resource issues by establishing the **Basin Roundtables** that were formalized by the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act in 2005. Two updates to SWSI have been undertaken since SWSI 1, SWSI 2 and SWSI 2010. SWSI 2010 includes an analysis of consumptive and nonconsumptive needs, an analysis of supply by basin, an summary of current and future projects and processes to meet needs, a gap analysis, and strategies to fill the gap between supply and demand.
(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Pages/SWSI2010.aspx>)

Grant Programs Administered by CWCB through the Basin Roundtable Framework

Water Supply Reserve Account Grants: The Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) Program provides grants and loans to assist Colorado water users in addressing their critical water supply issues and interests. The funds help eligible entities complete water activities, which may include competitive grants for technical assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies and environmental compliance; studies or analysis of structural, nonstructural, consumptive and non-consumptive water needs, projects or activities; and structural and nonstructural water projects or activities. Applications to WSRA grant programs are (Summary report available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/public-information/publications/Pages/AgencyReports.aspx>)

- **Basin Account:** Funds administered by each Basin Roundtable and CWCB. For projects with regional impact. (\$500,000 to \$175,000 per Basin Roundtable annually since 2005).
- **Statewide Account:** Funds administered by the Roundtables and CWCB. For projects having statewide impact. (\$5M to \$7M annually since 2006.)

Grant Programs Directly Administered by CWCB

Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grants: The purpose of the Program is to assist in developing and implementing creative alternatives to the traditional purchase and transfer of agricultural water. These alternative methods could include: interruptible supply agreements, long-term rotational fallowing, water bank, deficit/partial irrigation practices, alternate cropping types. \$2M awarded since 2007.
(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/alternative-agricultural-water-transfer-methods-grants/Pages/main.aspx>)

Colorado Watershed Restoration Program: Designed to support multi-objective watershed planning and project implementation. The CWRP objectives are to provide grants for planning, engineering, and construction for watershed/stream studies and projects. Special consideration is reserved for planning and project efforts that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation. This may include stream channel restoration, habitat improvements, riparian re-vegetation, erosion reduction, flood hazard mitigation, and efforts to increase the capacity to utilize water. Since 2009 the program has funded eight projects with \$333,500.
(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/colorado-watershed-restoration-grants/Pages/main.aspx>)

Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund: Established jointly by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Water Quality Control Commission, in cooperation with the Colorado Watershed Assembly, the Program helps support local watershed organizations in their efforts to provide clean water, protect habitat, and improve recreation and accessibility. The Program is financed by the Colorado Individual Income Tax Refund Check-off Program,

which gives taxpayers the opportunity to contribute a portion of their tax return or to make a donation to assist locally-based conservation groups in their efforts to protect our land and water resources. support projects that promote the improvement and/or protection of the condition of the watershed. The program provides two types of grants: 1) Project grants (up to \$50,000) that include activities such as water quality and/or water quantity monitoring, participation in the development and/or implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), implementation of watershed related best management practices, flood protection, channel stability, and a wide variety of other riparian, stream bank and habitat restoration efforts. 2) Planning grants (up to \$25,000) may include data collection and assessment, analysis of project alternatives, project permitting, acquisition of funding for a project, and outreach efforts to ensure the education, involvement and support of the local community. The Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund has funded 50 projects with \$680,000 since 2002.

(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/colorado-healthy-rivers-fund-grants/Pages/main.aspx>)

The Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund: The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has been authorized by the State of Colorado to grant money to existing water supply facilities to help preserve a balance between development of the state's resources and the protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The grant money is awarded for mitigation of existing water diversion, delivery or storage facilities. This could included such activities as the appropriation of water rights or the acquisition of water rights to preserve or improve the natural environment to a reasonable degree to mitigate the impact of an existing water facility. River restoration feasibility studies and construction projects designed to directly mitigate or significantly improve the environmental impacts of existing water facilities, or an appropriate combination of river restoration and water rights acquisition or appropriation. The Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund has contributed \$790,000 to 4 projects since 2008.

(<http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/fish-and-wildlife-resources-fund-grants/Pages/main.aspx>)

Additional Resources

Colorado Water Trust: The Colorado Water Trust was formed in 2001 to support and promote voluntary efforts to protect and restore the state's streamflows. The Water Trust works in coordination with the agricultural community and other water users, governmental entities, land trusts, watershed groups and other non-profit conservation organizations. The Water Trust delivers its mission through 1) strategic water rights acquisitions 2) water conservation through physical and structural solutions 3) technical assistance to land trusts, including the ***Water on the Land*** series of training workshops for Land Trusts in 2011.

(<http://www.coloradowatertrust.org/>)

Colorado Foundation for Water Education: The mission of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education is to promote better understanding of Colorado's water resources and issues by providing balanced and accurate information and education. We accomplish our mission through production of high-quality educational tools and experiences. Publishes quarterly "***Headwaters***" magazine. Conducts educational/legislative basin field trips.

(<http://www.cfwe.org/>)

Colorado Water Institute: The mission of the Colorado Water Institute is to connect all of Colorado's higher education expertise to the research and education needs of Colorado water managers and users. CWI is operated, by law, as a state-wide water research institute, obligated to connect all water expertise in Colorado's higher education system with research and education needs of Colorado's water managers and users. Publishes "***Colorado Water***" newsletter.

(<http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/>)