Coping with Drought: A Tale of Three “Cities”

Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
3/7/13
Denver Basin Aquifer System

Estimated 259 MAF recoverable water

--BUT--
It was the best of times

I t was the worst of times
It was the spring of hope
Prairie Waters Project

- Began delivering water in October 2010
- Current capacity of 10,000 AF/YR
- Expandable to 50,000 AF with additional infrastructure
- 34-mile pipeline with 3 pump stations
- Multi-barrier state of the art treatment process
- $800 million in infrastructure
WISE: Water Supply Benefits

- **South Metro**
  - Renewable supply for South Metro
  - Allows use of Denver Basin Aquifer for drought supply

- **Denver Water**
  - Drought and emergency supplies for Denver

- **Aurora Water**
  - Continued use of PWP for drought supply
  - Offset WPC costs

Total Population affected = 2 million
WISE Regional Benefits

- Opens the door to regional cooperation
- Provides a sustainable supply to SMWSA without compromising Aurora’s and Denver’s water supplies
- Leverages extensive existing infrastructure and water rights
- Broadly supported and promotes solid working relationship with West Slope, environmental community, & State government

“This type of water-sharing agreement is a critical step toward bolstering water supplies in the southern metro area...”
Governor John Hickenlooper
Denver Post — October 5, 2011
“Sorry, no water. We’re just a support group.”

QUESTIONS?