Colorado’s Water Future

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March 8, 2013
U.S. Drought Monitor

Colorado

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>None</th>
<th>D0-D4</th>
<th>D1-D4</th>
<th>D2-D4</th>
<th>D3-D4</th>
<th>D4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>91.30</td>
<td>51.14</td>
<td>24.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Week (02/19/2013 map)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>91.30</td>
<td>51.14</td>
<td>24.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Months Ago (11/27/2012 map)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>93.27</td>
<td>51.05</td>
<td>12.56</td>
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<td>Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)</td>
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<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>95.06</td>
<td>53.47</td>
<td>13.48</td>
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<td>Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)</td>
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<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>61.75</td>
<td>16.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Year Ago (02/21/2012 map)</td>
<td>30.48</td>
<td>69.52</td>
<td>41.16</td>
<td>10.67</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Released Thursday, February 28, 2013
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center
Colorado Population, Irrigated Acres and River Flows

**West Slope**
- Population: 562,000
- Irrigated Acres: 918,000

**East Slope**
- Population: 4,490,000
- Irrigated Acres: 2,548,000
Colorado’s Current Water Use by Sector

- **Agricultural**: 86%
- **Municipal and Industrial**: 12%
- **Self-Supplied Industrial**: 2%
Agricultural Producers Irrigate Nearly 3.5 Million Acres in Colorado
“If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else.”

--Yogi Berra
HB05-1177 Water for the 21st Century Act created nine Basin Roundtables

- Consumptive Needs
- Nonconsumptive Needs
- Water Supply Availability
- Projects and Methods to Meet Needs
Statewide M&I and SSI Gap Summary

SWSI 2010
The State is helping to plan for our water future

The IBCC and BRTs provide forum for locally driven, collaborative solutions

Broad range of stakeholders—municipal providers, counties, industry and interest groups have a seat at the table
Providing an adequate water supply will involve implementing a mix of low-risk strategies. The IBCC is currently engaged in scenario planning.
Scenarios

• Business as usual
• Weak economy
• Cooperative growth
• Adaptive Innovation
• Hot growth
“No Regrets” Actions

- Buy & Dry
- AlternativeAg Transfers
- New Supply
- Conservation
- Nonconsumptive
- IPP
- Storage

- Less than 20% South Platte Basin Acres Transfer
- Implement agricultural and ag sharing projects
- Planning and Preserving Options
- Low/Medium Conservation Strategies
- Implement non-consumptive projects that still preserve options
- 80% IPP Yield Success
- Multiple Purpose In appropriate site
Framing the Roadmap Forward

- Basin Projects and Plans
- SWSI 2016
- State Water Plan
In Order to Avoid the Status Quo, Colorado Will Need a Mix of Solutions

- **Possible Strategies**
  - **Agricultural Transfer**
    - Agricultural Transfers (Traditional and Alternative)
  - **New Supply Development**
    - Green Mountain
    - Yampa
    - Flaming Gorge
    - Blue Mesa
  - **Conservation**
    - Active Conservation
  - **IPPs**
    - Categories of IPPs include agricultural water transfers, reuse of existing fully consumable supplies, growth into existing supplies, regional in-basin projects, new transbasin projects, firming in-basin water rights, and firming transbasin water rights
Thank you