



# COLORADO

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

### Memorandum

To: Governance Committee, Water Advisory Committee, Executive Director's Office  
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

From: Kara Scheel, Endangered Species Recovery Program Manager  
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: Colorado's Annual Report for 2024, North Platte River Basin

The following information fulfills Colorado's 2024 annual monitoring and reporting requirements for the North Platte River basin pursuant to Colorado's Plan for Future Depletions:

- Colorado's North Platte annual accounting for the year 2024
- Colorado population estimates for the year 2024
- Use of water in the North Platte River basin for the water year 2024

The attached accounting form shows the overall depletions in the North Platte River basin in Colorado have not exceeded the baseline consumptive use. The total consumptive use was less than the baseline consumptive use by 27,084 acre-feet in 2024.



**DRAFT NORTH PLATTE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FORM FOR YEAR 2024**

1.	Irrigated acres during year:	101,546	acres	X	0.83 acre-feet (af)/acre*	=	84,283	af
2.	Population during year:	1,306	people	X	0.088 af/person**	=	115	af
3.	Total new post-1997 industrial uses:					=	258	af
4.	Total new post-1997 piscatorial, wildlife and environmental uses (PWEUs), not incidental to agriculture:					=	45	af
a)	The decree issued in case number 10CW57 is for an absolute instream flow water right held by the CWCB to preserve the natural environment for 4.0 cfs (April 1 – July 15) and 0.7 cfs (July 16 – March 31). The CU is 0 af.							
b)	The decree issued in case number 10CW48 is for an absolute surface water right to maintain a 4.0-acre fish pond owned by Donald Right for 1 cfs. The diversion will occur during the irrigation season (June 1 to October 31). The CU is estimated from information from the court application and is 5.92 af for evaporation.							
c)	The decree issued in case number 13CW3018 is for an absolute instream flow water right held by the CWCB to preserve the natural environment for 3.6 cfs (May 1 – July 31), 1.0 cfs (August 1 – September 30) and 0.5 cfs (October 1 – April 30). The CU is 0 af.							
d)	The decree issued in case number 17CW3019 is for an absolute surface water right of 38.6 acre-feet for the Lake Creek Wetlands over 18.5 acres for wildlife propagation. Evaporative loss, CU, is 38.6 acre-feet.							

---

TOTAL CU	=	84,701	af
BASELINE CU	=	111,785	af
<b>ANNUAL CU UNDERRUN(-)</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>-27,084</b>	<b>af</b>

---

\* This 0.83 af/acre CU factor may be significantly higher if a high altitude crop coefficient is used. Current information demonstrates that the CU for irrigated pasture grass, assuming a full water supply, could be as high as 1.82 af/acre, or higher. Nevertheless, Colorado agrees to use the 0.83 af/acre factor for the first increment, and will not seek a change of this factor from the Governance Committee during the First Increment.

\*\* 0.2504 af/person diversion X 35% CU = 0.088 af/person. (Based on applying South Platte Basin M&I assumptions to Jackson County as of July of the year that begins the increment [i.e. July 2007]. The 2007 South Platte Basin M&I per capita use was changed to 0.2504 af/person by the Governance Committee on October 13, 2009.)

**Notes**

- 1) If total af of CU ever totals more than 111,785 af (177 af for population baseline and 111,608 af for agricultural baseline) under the current set of assumptions, then Colorado would propose mitigation as described below. Note, this does not add in the CU for pre-1997 PWEUs or pre-1997 industrial uses because these uses will not be used to offset other types of uses that are new depletions.
- 2) Total annual overruns and under runs to these benchmarks will be quantified and reported. If a total overrun occurs, Colorado will provide a mitigation plan for the review and approval of the Governance Committee. The mitigation plan will identify the total annual overrun that occurred, and offer a means to replace the overruns in the year following the year the overruns occurred.



**COLORADO**  
**Department of Local Affairs**  
Office of the Executive Director

March 25, 2025

Kara Scheel, P.E.  
Endangered Species Recovery Program Manager  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Scheel,

According to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, the State Demography Office (SDO) shall report annually population changes in each of the three implementation regions.

On the second page, you will find a table with the defined regions and the SDO estimates for January 1, 2024, the SDO forecast population for January 1, 2025, and population change for the period between these two years. The population is expected to increase by 36,400 across the three regions in the South Platte River Basin between January 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025.

You have also asked for the population estimates and forecasts for Jackson County, which are 1,306 for January 1, 2024, and 1,296 for January 1, 2025, a 10-person decline year-over-year. With changes this small and margins of error in estimates, the population is considered flat over this period.

Please be aware the estimates and forecasts are produced as vintages and will be revised annually. The data for these estimates and forecasts are based on the vintage 2023 population estimates and forecasts released November 2024.<sup>1</sup> Estimates are subject to change with updates to administrative records and forecast projections will change with expectations for state and national economic and social conditions.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Kate Watkins  
State Demographer  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

---

<sup>1</sup> These data are available on the State Demography Office website: [demography.dola.colorado.gov](https://demography.dola.colorado.gov)



**Table 1. Colorado Population Estimates and Forecasts  
for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program**

<b>Counties and Regions</b>	<b>January 1, 2024 Estimate</b>	<b>January 1, 2025 Forecast</b>	<b>Annual Population Change</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>			
Boulder	326,737	326,888	151
Broomfield 55%	42,882	44,853	1,971
Larimer	371,732	374,970	3,238
Logan	20,597	20,577	-21
Morgan	29,649	29,872	223
Phillips	4,468	4,472	5
Sedgwick	2,320	2,336	16
Washington	4,863	4,896	34
Weld	363,492	371,733	8,241
<b>Total Northern Region</b>	<b>1,166,739</b>	<b>1,180,597</b>	<b>13,857</b>
<b>Central Region</b>			
Arapahoe 90%	591,571	594,930	3,359
Adams	536,225	541,686	5,460
Broomfield 45%	35,085	36,698	1,613
Clear Creek	9,157	9,171	14
Denver	718,198	723,315	5,117
Gilpin	5,957	6,018	61
Jefferson	576,990	577,808	818
Park	18,194	18,373	179
<b>Total Central Region</b>	<b>2,491,377</b>	<b>2,507,998</b>	<b>16,622</b>
<b>Southern Region</b>			
Arapahoe 10%	65,730	66,103	373
Douglas	386,491	391,485	4,994
Elbert	29,086	29,640	554
<b>Total Southern Region</b>	<b>481,307</b>	<b>487,228</b>	<b>5,921</b>
<b>South Platte River Basin Total</b>	<b>4,139,423</b>	<b>4,175,823</b>	<b>36,400</b>

Source: Colorado State Demography Office, based on vintage 2023 population estimates and forecasts.



**COLORADO**  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Natural Resources

April 6, 2025

Jesse Bradley, Director  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
[jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov](mailto:jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov)

Brandon Gebhart  
Wyoming State Engineer  
Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
[brandon.gebhart@wyo.gov](mailto:brandon.gebhart@wyo.gov)

Lyle Myler, Area Manager  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Wyoming Area Office  
[lmyler@usbr.gov](mailto:lmyler@usbr.gov)

Lauren Ris, Director  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
[lauren.ris@state.co.us](mailto:lauren.ris@state.co.us)

Dear Ms. Ris and Messrs. Bradley, Myler, and Gebhart;

Enclosed herewith is the report of the water stored for irrigation purposes, number of acres irrigated, and transbasin diversions from the North Platte River drainage within the State of Colorado for water year 2024. The report covers the period from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, and is prepared in compliance with Paragraph IX of the North Platte River Decree of the United States Supreme Court. The report reflects the irrigated acreage and water use as limited by Paragraph I(a), (b), and (c) of the Decree. The amount of water stored for irrigation purposes and the number of acres irrigated for each structure within North Platte River drainage of Colorado and the transbasin diversions from the North Platte River drainage, along with the 10-year cumulative total, are available for inspection upon request.

If additional information or clarification is needed, please feel free to contact me or Erin Light.

Sincerely,

 for

Jason Ullmann, P.E.  
Director/State Engineer

Enclosure

ec: Erin Light, Division Engineer, Water Division 6  
Kara Scheel, Endangered Species Recovery Program Manager, CWCB



**NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN**  
**USE OF WATER IN COLORADO**  
**WATER YEAR 2024**

The State of Colorado reports the following use of water from the North Platte River Basin for the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. This report is made pursuant to Paragraph IX of the decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, entered October 8, 1945, in the case of State of Nebraska vs. Wyoming and Colorado, as amended.

Total area of land irrigated in Jackson County <sup>1</sup> , Colorado	101,546 Acres
Total amount of water stored for irrigation in Jackson County, Colorado	9,219 AF
Amount of water exported from the North Platte River Basin, Jackson County, Colorado by:	
Michigan Ditch	4,630 AF
Cameron Pass Ditch	<u>193 AF</u>
Annual Total	4,823 AF
10-Year Cumulative Total	39,986 AF

---

<sup>1</sup> Jackson County encompasses the entire North Platte River drainage in Colorado



## 2024 NPB - TOTAL WATER USED SUMMARY

	Barrels of Water Used for 2024 Drilling Program				
	Pole Mountain Reservoir delivered via Grizzly Creek			Town of Walden	Total Barrels
	Frac	Drill-Out	Drilling	Drilling	All Phases
PRU Janet 0880 3-33H21	492,096	2,200	1,050	2,560	497,906
PRU Janet 0880 4-33H21	480,265	2,200	1,900	2,850	487,215
PRU Janet 0880 5-33H21	496,229	2,200	2,800	2,250	503,479
PRU Janet 0880 6-33H21	504,828	2,200	1,700	2,250	510,978
TOTAL	1,973,418	8,800	7,450	9,910	1,999,578

1,999,578 barrels (42 gallons/barrel) = **257.732 acre/feet of water** used in 2024 by  
Fulcrum Energy Operating, LLC