



# 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  
From: Kara Scheel, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Subject: 2023 North Platte Depletion Plan Report  
Date: June 7, 2024

The following information fulfills Colorado's 2023 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 2023
- Colorado population estimates for the year 2023
- Use of water in the North Platte River basin for the water year 2023

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 33,550 acre-feet in 2023.



**DRAFT NORTH PLATTE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FORM FOR YEAR 2023**

1.	Irrigated acres during year:	93,998	acres	X	0.83 acre-feet (af)/acre*	=	78,018	af
2.	Population during year:	1,309	people	X	0.088 af/person**	=	115	af
3.	Total new post-1997 industrial uses:					=	77	af
4.	Total new post-1997 piscatorial, wildlife and environmental uses (PWEUs), not incidental to agriculture:					=	25	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 19.2 acre-feet.						

TOTAL CU	=	78,235	af
BASELINE CU	=	111,785	af
<b>ANNUAL CU UNDERRUN(-)</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>-33,550</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 29, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Scheel,

According to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program the State Demography Office shall report annually population changes in each of the three regions and in Jackson County.

On the second page you will find a table with the defined regions and the State Demography Office (SDO) estimates for January 2023 and forecast for January 1, 2024 and population increase for the period. The population is expected to increase by 41,229 in the whole South Platte River Basin between January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024.

You have also asked for the population estimates and forecasts for Jackson County for the same time period. Their estimates and forecasts are January 1, 2023 = 1,309 and January 1, 2024 = 1,300, and the expected decline to be 9 people. With changes this small, and margins of error, the population is considered to be flat.

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 vintage 2022 work and released November 2023. The estimates will change based on updates to administrative records. The forecast will change dependent upon economic and social conditions within the state and nationally. These data are available on our webpage at: [demography.dola.colorado.gov](http://demography.dola.colorado.gov).

Please contact me with any questions regarding the estimates and forecasts.

Regards,

*Elizabeth Garner*

Elizabeth Garner  
State Demographer  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs





Colorado Population Estimates and Forecasts - Platte River Recovery Implementation Program  
Source: State Demography Office, Department of Local Affairs March 2024.

Counties	SDO Jan 2023	SDO Jan 2024 Forecast	Pop. Change 2023-24
Boulder	327,685	328,194	509
Broomfield 55%	43,013	44,756	1,743
Larimer	367,921	371,895	3,974
Logan	20,807	20,838	31
Morgan	29,393	29,641	248
Phillips	4,432	4,431	-1
Sedgwick	2,298	2,308	10
Washington	4,839	4,849	10
Weld	354,159	362,210	8,051
<b>Total Northern Region</b>	<b>1,154,545</b>	<b>1,169,122</b>	<b>14,576</b>
Arapahoe 90%	592,762	597,966	5,204
Adams	530,179	535,880	5,701
Broomfield 45%	35,192	36,619	1,426
Clear Creek	9,375	9,399	24
Denver	715,326	720,940	5,614
Gilpin	5,921	5,974	53
Jefferson	576,314	577,623	1,309
Park	17,996	18,185	189
<b>Total Central Region</b>	<b>2,483,065</b>	<b>2,502,586</b>	<b>19,521</b>
Arapahoe 10%	65,862	66,441	578
Douglas	379,066	385,049	5,983
Elbert	28,105	28,675	570
<b>Total Southern Region</b>	<b>473,034</b>	<b>480,165</b>	<b>7,131</b>
<b>South Platte River Basin Total</b>	<b>4,110,644</b>	<b>4,151,872</b>	<b>41,229</b>

SDO - State Demography Office, November 2023





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

April 6, 2024

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Dear Ms. Ris and Messrs. Riley, Myers 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 2023. The report covers the period from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, 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.

Sincerely,

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 2023**

The State of Colorado reports the following use of water from the North Platte River Basin for the period October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. 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, Colorado	93,998 Acres
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Total amount of water stored for irrigation in Jackson County, Colorado	9,336 AF
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Amount of water exported from the North Platte River Basin, Jackson County, Colorado by:

Michigan Ditch	5,309 AF
Cameron Pass Ditch	<u>170 AF</u>

Annual Total	5,479 AF
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10-Year Cumulative Total	38,690 AF
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