



## 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: Jojo La, Endangered Species Policy Specialist  
Colorado Water Conservation Board

cc: Kent Crowder, Jackson County Water Conservancy District

Date: April 20, 2020

Subject: Colorado's Annual Report for 2019, North Platte River Basin

---

The following information fulfills Colorado's 2019 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 2019
- Colorado population estimates for the year 2019
- Use of water in the North Platte River basin for the water year 2019

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 with an underrun of 17,332 acre-feet in 2019.

Colorado's 2019 annual depletion reports for the South Platte River Basin are included in a separate memo.



# **NORTH PLATTE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FORM FOR YEAR 2019**

1. Irrigated acres during year:	112,464 acres	X	0.83 acre-feet (af)/acre*	=	93,345 af
2. Population during year:	1,388 people	X	0.088 af/person**	=	122 af
3. Total new post-1997 industrial uses:				=	960 af
a) Oil and gas well development and operations by SandRidge Energy equaled 960 acre-feet of consumptive depletions for 2019.					
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	=	94,452 af
BASELINE CU	=	111,785 af
<b>ANNUAL CU UNDERRUN(-)</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>-17,332 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

April 14, 2020

Jojo La  
Endangered Species Policy Specialist  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman St. Room 718

Dear Ms. La:

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 2019 and forecast for January 1, 2020 and population increase for the period. The population is expected to increase by 54,806 in the whole South Platte River Basin between January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020.

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, 2019 = 1,388 and January 1, 2020 = 1,380, and the expected decline to be 8 people. With changes these 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 2018 work and released November 2019. 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  
State Demographer  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs





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

Colorado Population Estimates and Forecasts - Platte River Recovery Implementation Program  
 Source: State Demography Office, Department of Local Affairs April 2020.

Counties	SDO Jan 2019	SDO Jan 2020 Forecast	Pop. Change 2019-20
Boulder	326,995	329,743	2,747
Broomfield 55%	38,662	39,590	927
Larimer	352,739	357,477	4,738
Logan	21,937	22,097	160
Morgan	28,614	28,832	218
Phillips	4,262	4,251	-11
Sedgwick	2,269	2,253	-15
Washington	4,726	4,721	-6
Weld	318,944	328,321	9,377
<b>Total Northern Region</b>	<b>1,099,149</b>	<b>1,117,285</b>	<b>18,136</b>
Arapahoe 90%	589,232	595,372	6,140
Adams	515,672	524,366	8,694
Broomfield 45%	31,633	32,392	759
Clear Creek	9,693	9,751	58
Denver	723,371	733,400	10,029
Gilpin	6,104	6,114	11
Jefferson	581,297	584,585	3,288
Park	18,675	18,912	237
<b>Total Central Region</b>	<b>2,475,677</b>	<b>2,504,892</b>	<b>29,216</b>
Arapahoe 10%	65,470	66,152	682
Douglas	345,733	351,476	5,743
Elbert	26,753	27,782	1,029
<b>Total Southern Region</b>	<b>437,956</b>	<b>445,410</b>	<b>7,454</b>
<b>South Platte River Basin Total</b>	<b>4,012,782</b>	<b>4,067,588</b>	<b>54,806</b>





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

March 30, 2020

Jesse Bradley  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
Jesse.Bradley@nebraska.gov

Greg Lanning  
Wyoming Deputy State Engineer  
State Engineer's Office  
[greg.lanning@wyo.gov](mailto:greg.lanning@wyo.gov)

Mr. Tom Hayden, Division Supervisor  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
Tom.hayden@nebraska.gov

Carlie A. Ronca, Area Manager  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Wyoming Area Office  
cronca@usbr.gov

Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
rebecca.mitchell@state.co.us

Dear Ms. and Messrs.;

Enclosed herewith is the report of the use of water and irrigated acres in the North Platte River drainage within the State of Colorado. The report covers the period from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, and is prepared in compliance with Paragraph IX of the North Platte River Decree of the United States Supreme Court. The report reflects the acreage and water use as limited by Paragraph I(a), (b), and (c) of the Decree. The amount of water stored for irrigation and the number of acres irrigated for each structure within North Platte River drainage of Colorado are available for inspection upon request.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Rein, P.E.  
Director/State Engineer

Enclosure

ec: Erin Light, Division Engineer, Water Division 6  
Jojo La, Endangered Species Policy Specialist, CWCB



**NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN**  
**USE OF WATER IN COLORADO**  
**WATER YEAR 2019**

The State of Colorado reports the following use of water from the North Platte River Basin for the period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. 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	112,464 Acres
--	---------------

Total amount of water stored for irrigation in Jackson County, Colorado	14,863 AF
---	-----------

Amount of water exported from the North Platte River Basin, Jackson County, Colorado by:

Michigan Ditch	6,156 AF
Cameron Pass Ditch	<u>248 AF</u>

Annual Total	6,404 AF
--------------	----------

10-Year Cumulative Total	32,737 AF
--------------------------	-----------

