



Wolford Mountain Reservoir to see construction work on dam, grounds

The Colorado River District's Board of Directors awarded several contracts, all to northwest Colorado contractors, for work this summer at Wolford Mountain Reservoir, which is located about eight miles north of Kremmling in Grand County.

The Board awarded the largest of its contracts, \$452,000, to Moody Construction & Sons Inc. of Meeker to restore the height of the Ritschard Dam.

The dam, which is owned by the Colorado River District, has settled roughly 18 inches since its construction 22 years ago in 1996. This contract will restore the originally designed dam crest elevation and re-level the top of the dam.

Structural engineering support for the dam crest rehabilitation has been contracted to SGM of Glenwood Springs for \$30,000.

During rehabilitation of the dam crest, a materials testing consultant with laboratory capability will be required on site nearly daily.

Construction monitoring and observation will also be required on a near-daily basis.

To provide both of these services, the Board awarded a time and materials contract not to exceed \$80,000 to Northwest Colorado Consultants of Steamboat Springs.

Over the past nine years, the River District has installed sophisticated monitoring equipment to measure movement of the dam. Some of that equipment on the reservoir side of the dam will be removed this summer as part of the dam crest rehabilitation.

Additionally, fencing around Wol-



The crest of the Ritschard Dam at Wolford Mountain Reservoir will see construction work this summer to raise the crest to its originally designed elevation to make up for settlement that has occurred since the dam was put into operation in 1996. Despite a relatively poor snowpack year, the reservoir on Muddy Creek in Grand County is expected to fill by June 1, if not sooner.

ford Mountain Reservoir and inside the recreation area requires constant maintenance and frequent additions and upgrades.

This fencing work has been and will continue to be provided by Grand Fence of Kremmling. However to address more than customary fencing needs this summer, Grand Fence's existing contract will be increased by \$20,000.

To accommodate access and construction activities, the District's proposed operating plan for Wolford Mountain Reservoir for 2018 is to fill the reservoir by June 1, assuming

storable inflow is sufficient.

The reservoir will gradually be drawn down beginning July 15 to 20 feet below full pool. The temporary peninsula created near the dam to host the no-longer-required monitoring equipment will be removed by September 1.

Water surface elevation of the reservoir is expected to be roughly 22 feet below full pool by November 1st.

The River District does not anticipate this will adversely impact fishing, full use of the boat ramp, or visitor experience.



Colorado River District

Protecting Western Colorado Water Since 1937

A Q&A with Tom Alvey, President of the River District's Board

Note: this Q&A first appeared in Future Water: News from the Colorado River District.

Where do you live? For 40 years, I've lived and worked on Rogers Mesa in Delta County.

What do you do? I operate an orchard growing organic apricots, peaches and apples, and manage a packing shed for myself and other growers. We sell fruit to most of the major retailers on the Front Range – King Soopers, Whole Foods, Natural Grocers and Sprouts.

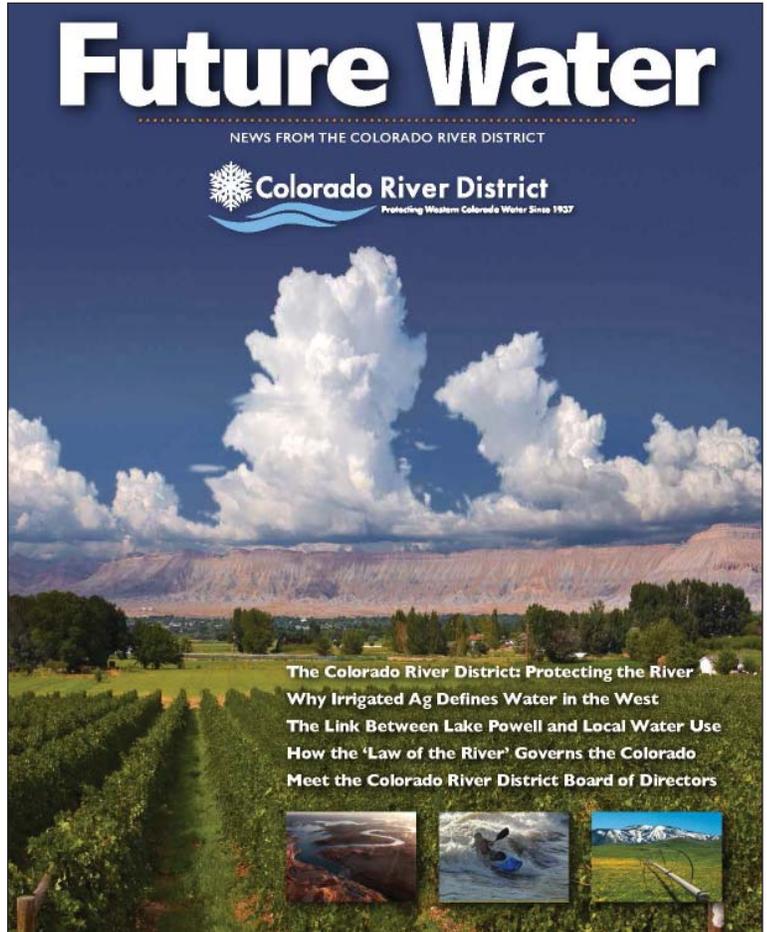


Other affiliations in water? I am President of the North Fork Water Conservancy District (Paonia Reservoir is our main responsibility), Vice President of the Leroux Creek Water Users Association (small reservoirs and irrigation/municipal distribution) and President of Ellington Ditch Company (mutual ditch and irrigation distribution).

How did you get involved with western water?

You can't farm in western Colorado without being involved with water. It is not optional. In small irrigation companies there is always the need for new help (fresh meat!), so the first year we started growing fruit I also became part of "reservoir management 101" for our local water company. I've been involved ever since and always intrigued by the interplay between community and water. Water users are the most self-reliant people I've ever known.

What role does the CRD play in your operations/community? The River District has had a huge influence on our community through the efforts of staff, namely Dave Kanzer and Sonja Chavez, but certainly including Eric Kuhn, Peter Fleming and others. Our largest water supply in the North Fork Valley is the Paonia Project and it is a Bureau of Reclamation project.



The Colorado River District has just released its new annual publication, *Future Water: News from the Colorado River District*. The magazine functions as a report on important western Colorado water issues and the work the Colorado River District is dedicating to them. It can be downloaded from ColoradoRiverDistrict.org or a traditional magazine version can be requested free of charge by emailing edinfo@crwcd.org or calling Meredith at 970-945-8522.

The River District has been vital in helping us deal with the Bureau — knowing the ins and outs of getting things done on the government level as well as advocating for funding from the Colorado River Storage Project's hydropower revenues to rehabilitate our aging dam. In addition, the River District has pioneered the use of federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) funds in combination with Reclamation's salinity-control grants to achieve some spectacular infrastructure improvement projects. Throughout Delta County, the River District has provided leadership in creatively improving our water-delivery systems. And that does not include the huge

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Staff profile: Denise Hussain - keeping the records

Denise Hussain, Records Administrator/Information Specialist at the Colorado River District says there is no such thing as a typical day at work. "Every day is different, and that's why I enjoy my job."

There are always new challenges to resolve whether it's debugging the District's electronic document management database,

tweaking electronic forms, creating user manuals, conducting research or uploading reports, correspondence, maps, images, audio or video recordings.

With these and her many other endeavors, Denise says she works with every staff member to ensure the District follows state record keeping laws, and that over 80 years of historical and

contemporary information can be retrieved with the click of a button.

Denise began working for the District 11 years ago, coming from a local engineering company specializing in hydrology.

She is a resident of Glenwood Springs, which provides her many opportunities to hike, bike and skate-ski.



Alvey: Maintaining current water uses is a priority

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benefits and influence the District has in terms of "Big River" issues that impact us all on the West Slope in regard to Lake Powell and relations with the other six states in the Colorado River basin.

What are the CRD's top priorities? Maintaining our historic water uses and the community of activities and interests that have grown up around them — irrigated agriculture, towns and communities, recreation and the environment. To this end, I want to mention the River District's 2017 top priority, which was to do the impossible — replace the irreplaceable Eric Kuhn as General Manager. Eric shaped the River District into the respected authority on Colorado Basin issues that it is and provided a great environment for the development of a top-level staff. We thank him for all he has done. We are now welcoming his replacement, Andy Mueller, who we think is a great addi-

tion and a great advocate for West Slope water. Moving forward, the River District will continue to protect our water rights and streamflows, balancing the need for development against the threat of overuse. The River District must try to develop consensus on methods for sharing any risk from water shortages caused by either climate change or diversions. It is vital that West Slope agriculture not be the target for any plan to ensure municipal water supply or safety from compact curtailment threats. The River District must continue to educate, be a leader in thinking about ag efficiency, advancing the Colorado River Risk Study, evaluating the consequences of drought, exploring demand management and promoting our role in implementing the Colorado Water Plan. It is vitally important that our constituents know about this work on their behalf. And the River District must continue to operate reservoirs, litigate against threats to our water, improve our water infrastructure and provide legislative leadership.

*How to contact us: email edinfo@crwcd.org;
call 970-945-8522 x 236; or visit www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org*



Board awards 2018 grants to 11 projects

The Colorado River District Board of Directors awarded financial assistance grants to 11 projects as part of the District's 2018 Water Supply Grant Program that made \$200,000 available.

River District grant awards are made on a cost-sharing basis with River District funding typically providing about 25 percent of total project costs. Successful grant projects must meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Development of a new water supply
- Improvement of an existing water supply system
- Measures to improve instream water quality
- Water-use efficiency improvements
- Sediment reduction measures
- Implementation of watershed and riparian management actions

This year, River District staff and the Executive Committee considered and examined potential impacts to return flows in the process of evaluating irrigation efficiency project proposals.

The Board approved funding for two of five irrigation efficiency proposals received by the District, the Silt River Preserve Irrigation Improvement Project and the Jennifer McPherson Micro-Jet System. The Board determined that the River Preserve Project will have minimal return flow impacts because its return flows accrue to the mainstem of the Colorado River. The McPherson Microjet System project is expected to reduce return flows, but the Board and staff decided that those impacts were minor enough to still fund the project.

In total, the District received 25 qualifying applications

representing a diverse mix of water supply development, protection, improvement and related projects.

After a review and ranking by staff and the Executive Committee of the Board, the full River District Board approved funding for 6 large grants (total project costs greater than \$60,000) and five small grants (total project costs less than or equal to \$60,000).

Grant awards went to:

- **Arch Ditch Association**, Arch Ditch Headgate improvement, Saguache County, \$3,500
- **Glenwood Springs Two Rivers Park Shoreline Restoration on the Colorado River**, Garfield County, \$9,189;
- **Eastern Rio Blanco Recreation and Park District**, Meeker Circle Park Fishing Pond, Rio Blanco County, \$33,500;
- **Fruitland Irrigation Co.**, Gould Canal Improvement Project, Delta County, \$50,000;
- **Grand Valley Water Users Association**, Roller Dam electrical and control system upgrades, Mesa County, \$50,000;
- **Jennifer McPherson**, irrigation efficiency Microjet system, Delta County, \$10,000;
- **Jerry Eller**, Antelope Reservoir rehabilitation project, Grand County, \$15,000;
- **Minnesota L-75 Lateral Ditch Co.**, salinity control project, Delta County, \$10,000;
- **Roseman Ditch Co.**, Parshall flume improvement and efficiency project, Garfield County, \$1,935;
- **Thompson Glen Ditch Co.**, Cattle Creek headgate repair, Garfield County, \$6,136; and
- **Town of Silt**, Silt River Preserve Irrigation Improvement, Garfield County, \$10,739.

For a look at the full April 2018 Board meeting agenda and the staff reports, go to: www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org/quarterly-board-meetings



Policies reviewed on reserved federal water rights, endangered fish, Prior Appropriation

The Board of the Colorado River District reviews roughly one-third of its standing policies annually.

At its April quarterly meeting, the Board gave final approval to renewing its policy statements on Federal Reserved Water Rights and the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

The Board also engaged in extended discussions regarding its policies on the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, Agricultural Water Use and Colorado's Instream Flow Program.

The River District's policy concerning Federal Water Rights clearly establishes that any special federal land designation (wilderness, national park, etc.) must include a quantification of the minimum amount of water necessary to fulfill the purpose of the designation.

The District's policy also stresses that the government must adjudicate its desire for federal water right in state water court,

just as any other water right owner must, and be subject to the same terms and conditions as any other water right.

The River District's Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program policy stresses the District's support for the program and its concurrent goals of recovering the four listed fish species while allowing present water use and future water development to occur without interference of the Endangered Species Act.

The program has met these twin goals for 30 years.

The Board's existing policy statement on the Prior Appropriation Doctrine (i.e., first in time, first in line) clearly states its support for this method of allocating water in Colorado as fair and orderly.

Its policy also notes the history of flexibility of the Doctrine in addressing changing public values (e.g., instream flows and recreational water rights).

Consistent with its noting the historical flexibility of the Doctrine, the River District Board requested addition of a statement addressing its desire to protect and work within the Prior Appropriation Doctrine when examining alternative methods for "shepherding" any water dedicated to ensuring Colorado's compliance with the Colorado River Compacts.

Directors also had the Compacts in mind when they requested modification to a draft addition to the Agricultural Water Use policy.

Concerned that any curtailment of Colorado water uses in order to meet interstate Compact obligations could hit West Slope agricultural sectors hardest, the Board inserted a policy statement committing the River District to "proactively pursue avoidance of Colorado River Compact administration in order to prevent disproportionate impacts to western Colorado agriculture and the communities and econo-

mies that rely on it."

The River District supports the state's instream flow program, as its policy makes that clear.

However, the District's policy also recognizes that implementation of the program must be actively monitored to ensure the statutory balance of environmental protection and the "activities of mankind" is maintained.

Responding to a recent instream flow decision, the Board inserted into its policy the judge's affirmation that the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has the discretion to consider terms and conditions to its water rights application to balance protection of the aquatic environment with Colorado's need to develop its water resources for future use.

For full-text of these revised and previously approved policies please visit www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org/policies.

*How to contact us: email edinfo@crwcd.org;
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A Q&A with Andy Mueller: the new GM

Note: this Q&A first appeared in Future Water: News from the Colorado River District.

What was your previous line of work? I practiced law in Ouray and then Glenwood Springs for 23 years representing a wide variety of West Slope families and closely held entities in natural resource-related matters. While doing that work, I was appointed by the Ouray County Commissioners as their Director on the Colorado River District Board. I served from 2006-2015.

At the time, why did you seek membership on the CRD Board?

I felt that protecting western Colorado's water resources was vital to the economic and environmental vitality of this side of the Continental Divide – and really vital for all of Colorado. It was an opportunity to engage in public service in a meaningful way.

What role did you see the CRD playing in your community?

The CRD primarily was seen as an advocacy organization that served to protect our community's interest on water issues and as a resource for information related to Colorado River basin issues.

Why did you answer the GM ad?

I saw it as an opportunity to engage in full-time public service while utilizing my problem-solving and management skills developed in 23 years of practicing law. I was attracted to the possibility of being able to devote my efforts full time to the mission of the CRD and the opportunity to work with and lead the highly qualified, dedicated and intelligent staff.

What are the CRD's top priorities for western Colorado? Protecting the ability of western Colorado to use its water resources to meet all of our needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Our diverse economy on the West Slope means that we need to protect our constituents' ability to use water for agricultural, recreational, municipal, industrial and environmental purposes. The Colorado River is a finite resource governed by a complex series of agreements, rules and laws. Our District must be out in front of changing politics, changing climate and changing needs in order to protect our communities.

What are the top threats to western Colorado water? Additional possible diversions of water to the Front Range and the overuse of the Colorado River in the Lower Basin, compounded with the impacts of climate change. The Lower Basin states have an historic addiction to overuse of the waters of the Colorado River, which must be reduced to their Colorado River Compact allocation. Increasing temperatures have meant — and will mean — increasingly longer growing seasons, smaller snowpack, earlier runoff and less water in the river.

What are the top opportunities?

Our biggest opportunity is to develop and effectively disseminate unbiased water-resource information and education related to our priorities. The best defense of western Colorado water is an informed citizenry. This information is also important to get in front of political leaders and policy-makers in Colorado and across the entire Colorado River basin. Information is power, and with the proper development of data and sound science,



we can lead a realistic, collaborative discussion on these issues that will lead to innovative solutions to protect the vitality of our communities on the West Slope. It is through informed collaboration among all who depend upon the Colorado River that we will best protect our constituents.

What will western Colorado look like in 50 years? We will more than double in population; it will be warmer; winters will be shorter; we will have less snow and more rain. We will continue to have a vibrant agricultural community, which will be highly valued by our growing municipal population. Our recreation industry will be a major force throughout the West Slope. Our water users will have found many ways to adapt their water use and will be significantly more efficient. We will have figured out many ways to use less water to continue to thrive

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State and federal affairs updates heard

Chris Treese, External Affairs manager, reported to the Board of Directors that nearly half of the 640 bills introduced in Colorado's General Assembly were still active.

Zane Kessler, Communications Director, then walked the Board through legislation pertinent to the River District.

Kessler highlighted passage of the Mussel-Free Colorado Act, which will provide needed resources in the effort to keep Colorado's rivers, streams and reservoirs free of the invasive and costly quagga and zebra mussel infestations that have plagued neighboring states. Mussels attach to reservoir operational works and clog them up.

Kessler also reported that Representative Dan Thurlow's efforts to provide an element of protection for the state's severance tax revenues that the water community and local governments rely on fell short in its first committee hearing.

On a happier note, Kessler noted that legislation primarily sought by the Northern Water District to facilitate their streamflow releases in the Poudre River was signed into law by the Governor. Of interest to the River District, Kessler noted that the section of Northern's legislation protecting western Colorado's interests was included, unamended in the final bill.

Treese then reported on first quarter developments in Washington, D.C. and his recent trip to the nation's capital.

He began with a review of Secretary Ryan Zinke's proposed unification of the Department of the Interior agencies' regions. (See map, page 9).

In Zinke's proposed revision, all of Colorado would be in the same region – something that is not true today. Without predicting success, Treese noted that the real benefit would be that the new regions would be the same for all agencies within Interior – also something that is not true today.

Highlighting several provisions in the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill, Treese noted several water programs were spared budget cuts and many received significant "plus ups," including several programs identified as River District priorities for the 116th Congress (e.g., Land and Water Conservation Fund and WaterSmart grant program).

Additionally, Congress ended the practice of "fire borrowing" for at least the next 10-12 years. Fire borrowing is the historical practice of requiring the U.S. Forest Service to pay for increasingly frequent catastrophic wildfires from its annual budget without possibility of emergency funding.

As a result, federal dollars appro-

riated for forest health and forest management were diverted to pay for the ever-increasing cost of firefighting. And the very programs that would reduce wildfire risk were drastically reduced. In the new omnibus spending bill, Congress established a multi-billion dollar Contingency Account to pay for wildfire suppression.

The Board spent time reviewing recent developments with Congressman Scott Tipton's Water Rights Protection Act. Noting the River District supports the House version of the bill and has serious reservations with the Senate version, Treese reported that Tipton hopes to pass a stand-alone version of his bill. (The Tipton bill was amended into a larger bill that passed the House but has slim prospects in the Senate.)

Finally, Treese recapped progress of legislation reauthorizing spending for the two Endangered Fish Recovery Programs for the Upper Colorado River. H.R. 4465 passed the House on a 392-6 vote. The Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power (of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee) held hearings at the end of March. Testimony from water users, the conservation community and the Administration was all supportive.

Colorado's two Senators are co-prime sponsors of the Senate bill and are working to ensure its passage.

Mueller: A unified voice can protect West Slope water

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economically. The West Slope will continue to be an attractive place to live and call home.

What else would you like CRD constituents to know? I am honored to have the opportunity to serve them in this position and to advocate on their behalf for the protection of water resources on the West Slope. I look forward to

getting to know our constituents better and assisting our diverse communities in finding common interest in pursuing the common goal of protection of our water resources. It is important that we respect the different perspectives and values within our District, and it is important that we continue to speak as a unified voice in protecting our water resources.



District conditionally endorses Front Range project

The Colorado River District Board of Directors voted to conditionally endorse the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) in northern Colorado, a project that develops Front Range water supplies as opposed to trying to permit yet another transmountain diversion of western Colorado water.

The Colorado River District has long advocated that Front Range locales develop their native water supplies before looking at the Colorado River, already subject to about 500,000 acre-feet of annual diversions from the West Slope to the Front Range.

The condition to be acted upon is a formal agreement that NISP will not use Colorado River water supplies beyond 20,000 acre-feet from the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT) that will only be used to help the first fill of the proposed Glade Reservoir – and then be allotted back to C-BT shareholders.

The former and the new general managers for Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) met with the River District Board to ask for support. First, they updated the Board on a re-configuration of the project that took away a direct connection to the existing C-BT, which employs transmountain water.

Eric Wilkinson, who



From left, new Northern Water GM Brad Wind, just-retired GM Eric Wilkinson and Brian Werner, Communications Department Manager, explain the workings of the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) to the Colorado River District Board.

retired earlier this year, served as Northern Water's general manager for the past 24 years. Wilkinson was joined by his successor, Brad Wind, whom the Northern Board recently appointed as the sixth general manager in Northern's 81-year history. Wind joined Northern Water as an engineer in 1994 and more recently served as the organization's assistant general manager.

Northern Water is pursuing permitting, design and construction of the estimated \$1 billion NISP project on behalf of 15 Northern Front Range water providers, including 11 cities and towns and four domestic

water districts, who will be providing water to nearly half a million residents by 2050.

"These are not what I would call the 'charter cities,'" said Wilkinson. "These are more recently developed cities that need water supplies because they don't have the very senior water rights that older cities enjoy in the South Platte basin."

Upon completion, NISP will utilize unappropriated in-basin water that is currently leaving the state in years of abundance and, through storage as well as exchanges with two local ditch companies, will provide 40,000 acre-feet of new, water supply annual-

ly for the fastest growing region in Colorado.

According to Northern Water, between 2009 and 2017 more than 5.5 million acre-feet of water in excess of Colorado's South Platte River compact obligations have flowed out of Colorado into Nebraska. Some of these flows, however, would be extremely difficult to capture because of the high variability in the South Platte flows.

With this difficulty in mind, Northern Water has long advocated for additional infrastructure to allow a greater portion of Colorado's South Platte River Compact entitlement to

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NISP Proposal

- 40,000 AF of new firm in-basin yield
- 215,000 AF of Storage
- 15 Participants
 - 11 cities/towns
 - 4 water districts
 - 250,000 residents
 - Future = 500,000



At left, Northern Water officials address the Colorado River District Board. At top is a slide showing facts of Glade Reservoir and its potential location.

NISP would develop Front Range water resources

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be captured, controlled and put to beneficial use.

“NISP is really composed of two different components, with each providing approximately 50 percent of the yield for the project,” Wilkinson said. “The first is Glade Reservoir and it is supported by storage water rights out of the Cache la Poudre which are conditional for about 220,000 acre feet of new storage. And the second is what we call the South Platte Water Conservation Project, which is a cooperative effort between agricultural users north of the Poudre River, the New Cache System and the Larimer and Weld systems.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the National Environmental Policy Act compliance process in the middle of 2004, and the Corps has announced that the Final Environmental Impact Statement should be completed and released to the public this summer.

“We already have participants in this project that need water, and they need it badly,” said Wilkinson. “We’ve been in the permitting process since spring of 2004, so it’s been a long time coming.”

Wilkinson highlighted that Northern Water and all of their NISP participants have pursued aggressive conservation efforts in recent years to reduce overall demand in their region of the state.

“Water conservation has always been advocated by us

as well as by the opponents to new water projects. But conservation doesn’t solve everything because it’s not a silver bullet. You have to have a combination of everything,” said Wilkinson. “Looking at our 15 participants, we’ve seen about a 27 percent reduction in per capita water use by these entities over the past 15 years.”

Wilkinson also stressed that NISP will not utilize water allocated to the Municipal Subdistrict (of Northern) from the Windy Gap Project transmountain diversion, but that some West Slope water may be used in the initial fill of Glade Reservoir. Other than to facilitate first filling of Glade Reservoir, however, C-BT Project water would not be stored in NISP.

Following Northern Water’s update, the Colorado River Districts Board of Directors voted to endorse the NISP project. The motion to endorse, offered by Director Marti Whitmore, was based on the findings that NISP would allow for the increased storage and use of native flows in the Poudre and South Platte Basins, and that no C-BT water would be used in the NISP project beyond the 20,000 acre feet that may be needed to help fill Glade Reservoir.

“It’s been a pleasure to work with the River District over the past 30 years ... most of the time,” said Wilkinson with a smile.

River District Board President Tom Alvey responded (also with a smile), “We wouldn’t have it any other way.”

For a look at the full April 2018 Board meeting agenda and the staff reports, go to: www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org/quarterly-board-meetings



Poor snowpack translates into low streamflows

The winter of 2017-18 treated Colorado very unevenly with snowpack varying from about 80 percent of average in the northern part of the Colorado River District to downright dismal in the south with numbers ranging from 40 to 60 percent.

And snowpack equates into spring runoff. In his report to the Board of Directors, Deputy Chief Engineer Dave Kanzer pointed out that the April-July inflow forecast for Lake Powell is predicted to be 3.1 million acre-feet (maf). Average is about 7.16 maf. By comparison, actual April-July runoff into Lake Powell in 2017 was 8.2 million acre-feet.

Lake Powell is the ultimate barometer of snowpack and runoff health. Inflow of just better than 40 percent of average indicates how poorly a second year of La Nina conditions treated the high mountains of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico.

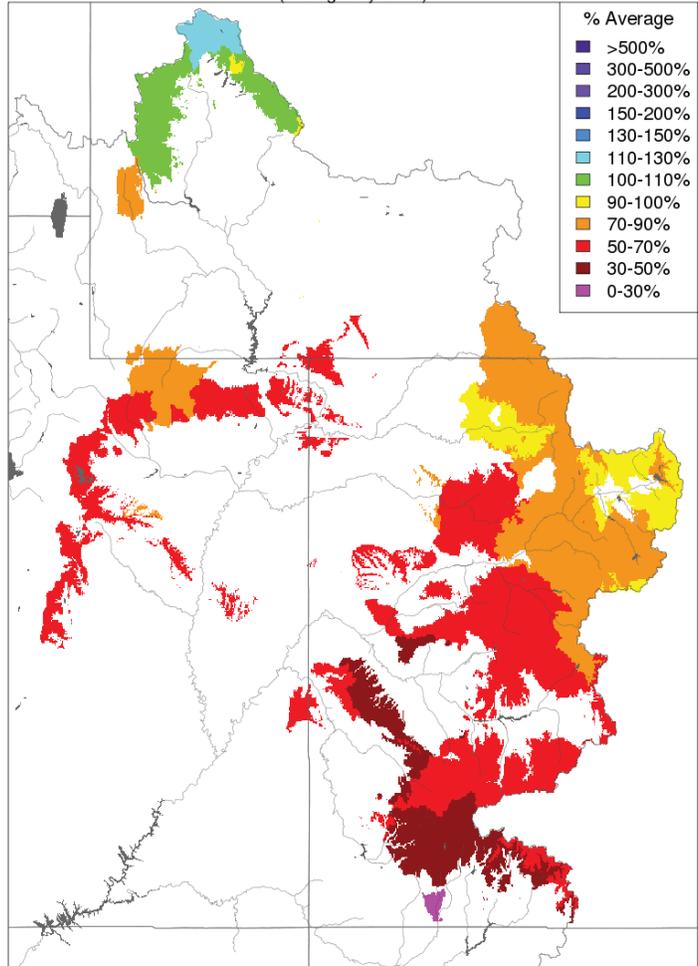
Fortunately, many reservoir facilities within the River District are at average levels entering into the fill season and at this point most are projected to be able to meet summer demands. But concerns are growing for Ridgway Reservoir and at Paonia Reservoir where inflow projections are at historical lows, Kanzer said.

"Many of these watersheds in the North Fork of the Gunnison Basin are at their lowest points on record," Kanzer said.

With the April-July inflow volume forecast for Lake Powell at 3.1 million acre-feet, it is almost assured that the water year 2019 release of water from Lake Powell to Lake Mead and the Lower Basin states will be 9.0 million acre-feet, in accordance with the 2007 Interim Operating Guidelines.

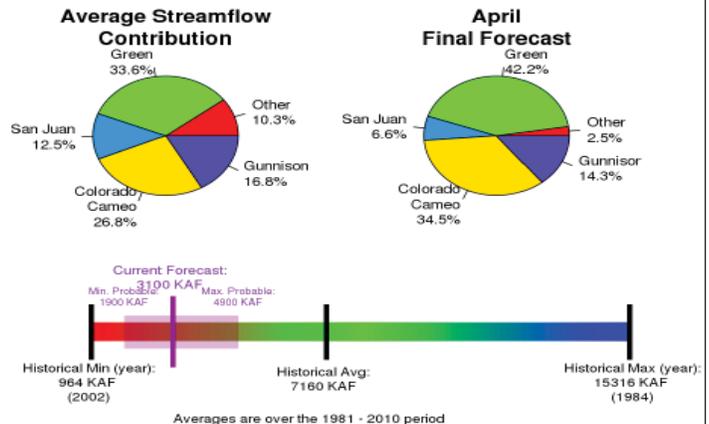
If the operating tier is not changed in the April 24-Month Study performed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, it would be the fifth straight year of 9.0 million acre-feet releases. In fact, 2014 was the only year where there was a smaller release -- 7.48 million acre-feet release.

Water Year Precipitation, October 2017 - March 2018
(Averaged by Basin)



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbRFC.noaa.gov

April - July Unregulated Inflow into Lake Powell
As of 2018-04-01





Colorado River District

Protecting Western Colorado Water Since 1937



The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke has proposed unification of the Department of the Interior agencies' regions. (See federal affairs update, page 7) In Zinke's proposed revision, all of Colorado would be in the same region – something that is not true today.

Future meetings

- Mesa State of the River Meeting: May 8, Colorado Mesa University
- Eagle State of the River Meeting, May 9, CMC Edwards
- Rifle State of the River Meeting, May 15, Ute Theatre, Rifle
- Ouray State of the River Meeting, May 16, 4-H Center, Ridgway
- Gunnison State of the River Meeting, May 21, 4-H Center, Ridgway
- Special Joint Meeting with the Southwestern Water Conservation District: May 23, Montrose
- Carbondale State of the River Meeting, May 31, Carbondale
- Third Regular Quarterly Meeting, July 17-18, 2018, Glenwood Springs
- Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention: Aug. 22-24, Vail
- Special Joint Meeting/2018 CRWCD Budget Workshop, September 13, 2018, TBD
- Colorado River District Annual Water Seminar, September 14, 2018, Two Rivers Convention Center, Grand Junction
- Fourth Regular Quarterly Meetings, October 16 2018 Glenwood Springs
- For up-to-date information on meetings and locations, visit ColoradoRiverDistrict.org

