

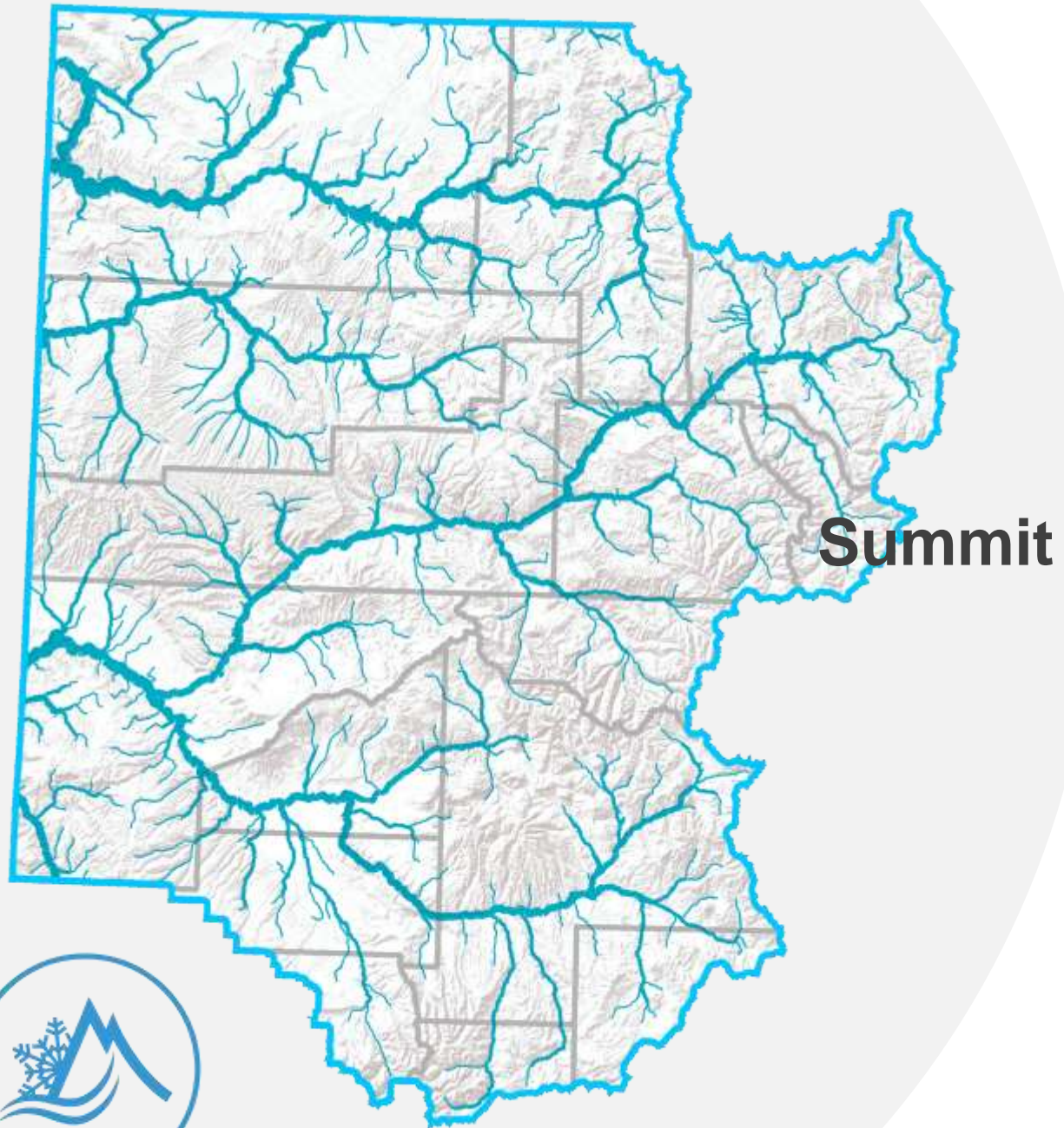
# Protecting West Slope water in times of uncertainty

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Andy Mueller  
General Manager  
Colorado River District



**COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT**  
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937



**To lead in the  
protection,  
conservation,  
use, and  
development  
of the water resources of  
the Colorado River basin.**

(By The Associated Press)

In 1900, the then deputy state engineer of Colorado opened the technical school in the State of Colorado with a statement today declared the state is entitled to unimpaired use of the

The plans call for a three tunnel under Jones peak, eight west of Empire, to divert water the Williams fork into either creek or Ralston creek. A two tunnel between South fork and dle fork also is included in the gram.

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The conference was an outgrowth

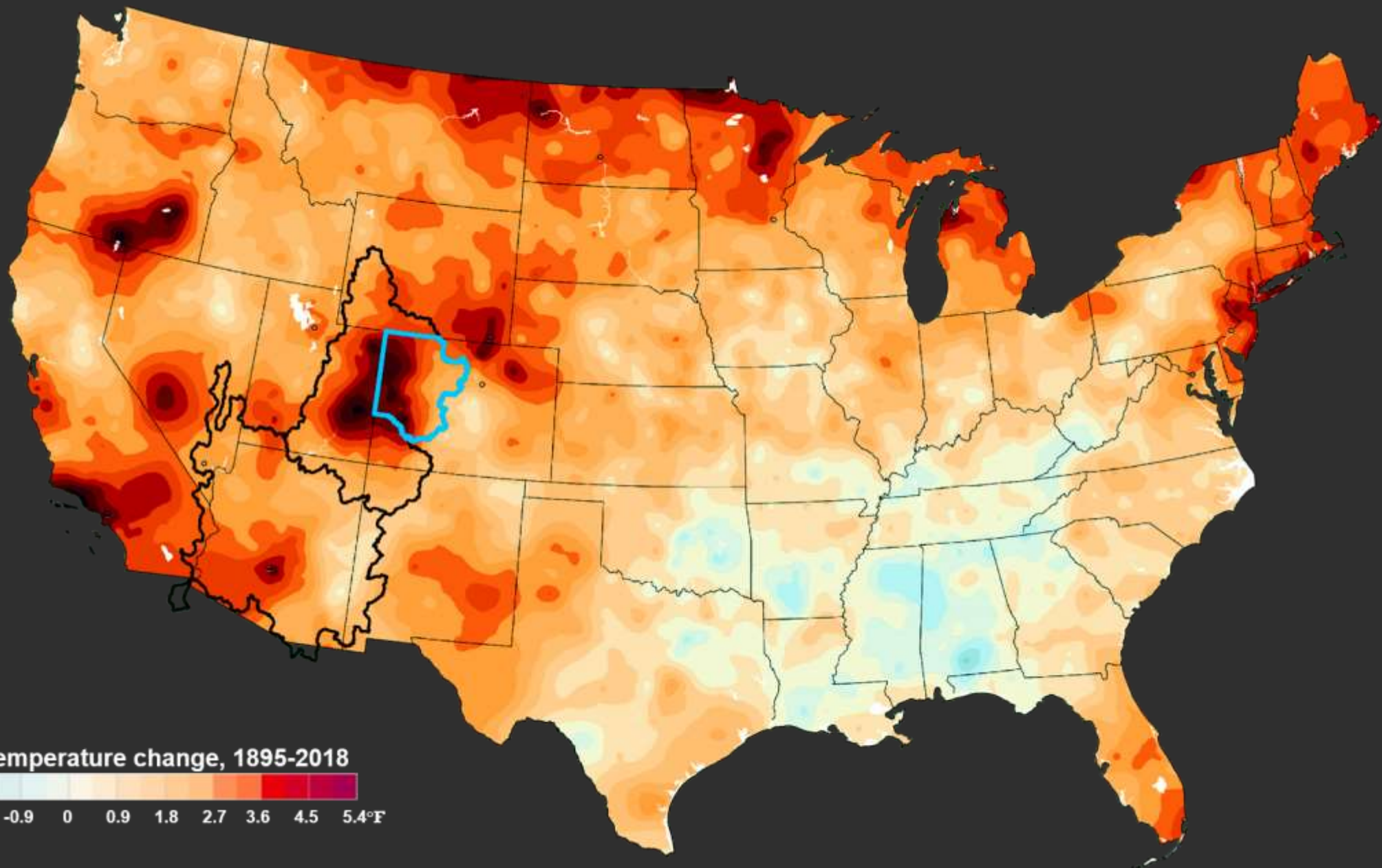
# Colorado River Basin



**COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT**  
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

**Annual lower basin overuse:  
1.1 to 1.3 million acre feet**

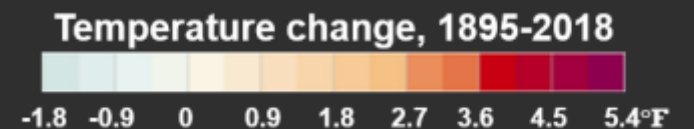
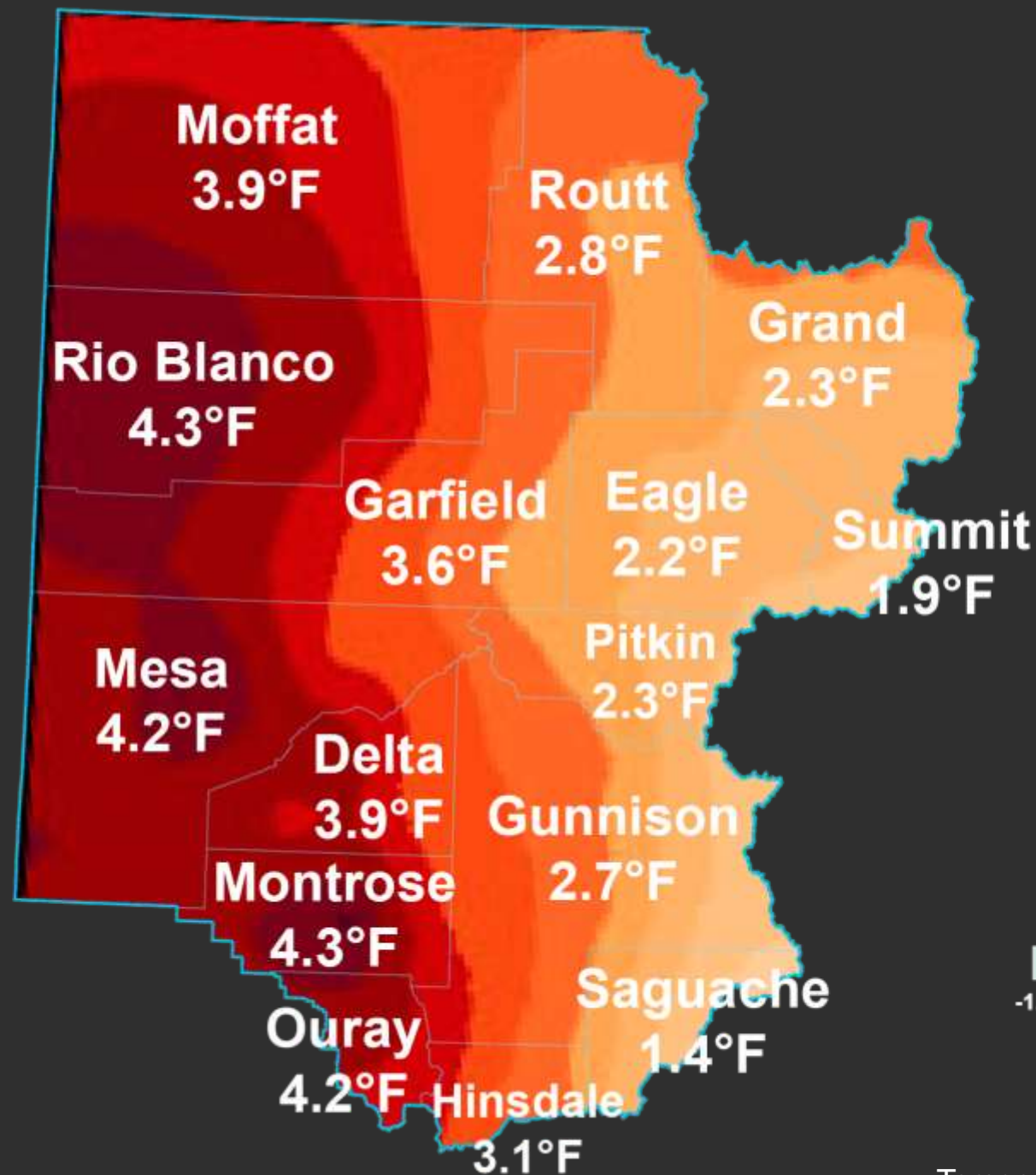




Temperature change, 1895-2018



Temperature data generated by NOAA  
Temperature graphic courtesy the Washington Post



Temperature data generated by NOAA  
Temperature graphic courtesy the Washington Post

A person wearing a hat and waders is standing on a rock in a stream, fishing. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees and a bright, orange-hued sky at sunset or sunrise. The water in the stream is turbulent, creating white rapids.

**For every 1 degree Fahrenheit rise in temperature, streamflow is reduced between 3% to 5.2%.**



Data:

How Warming Drives Reductions in Streamflow Berghuijs et al. (2014), Barnhart et al. (2016), Deems et al. (2013)  
Colorado River flow dwindles as warming-driven loss of reflective snow energizes evaporation ( P. C. D. Milly, K. A. Dunne, Science 2020)



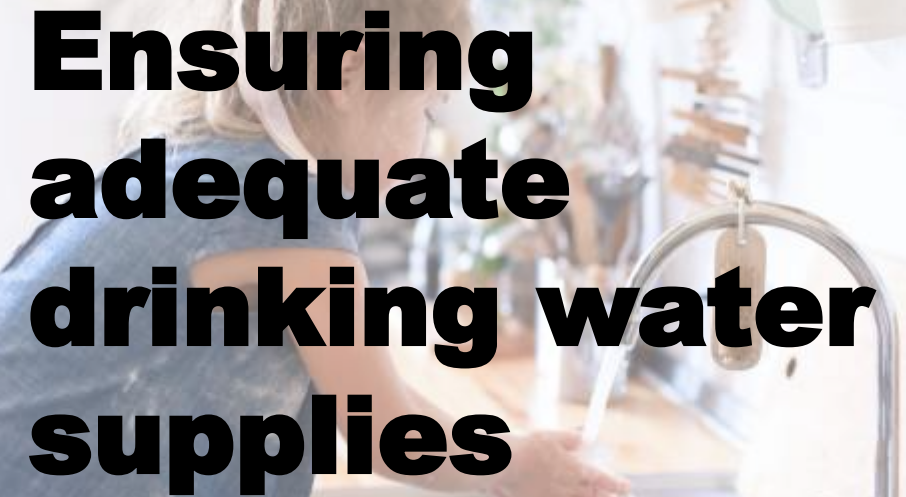
- More fall and spring precipitation falling as rain instead of snow
- More snowpack lost to sublimation
- Earlier snowmelt
- A longer growing season

**We work to protect  
West Slope water  
and keep your water  
on the West Slope.**



A photograph of a fish swimming in green water with white lily pads.

**Maintaining  
healthy rivers**

A photograph of a person washing their hands in a kitchen sink.

**Ensuring  
adequate  
drinking water  
supplies**

A photograph of a snowy mountain landscape with a river.

**Securing legal  
protections to  
keep water on  
the West Slope**

A photograph of a person standing in a field with a windmill in the background.

**Keeping water  
flowing to farms  
and ranches**





# **Financial challenges**

## **Three key issues:**

- **Declining tax revenue from the energy industry**
- **Revenue ratcheting down due to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights**
- **The Gallagher Amendment's reduction in assessment rates**



A map of the Colorado River District, showing the state of Colorado with its county boundaries and major river networks. The map is outlined in blue and has a light beige background with blue lines for rivers and brown lines for county boundaries.

Based on 2019 assessments,  
the owner of a median-valued  
home in the River District would  
pay an additional

**\$6.34**

to the Colorado River District.





**Productive agriculture**



**Conservation and efficiency**



**Healthy rivers**



**Watershed health and water quality**



**Infrastructure**



[coloradoriverdistrict.org](https://coloradoriverdistrict.org)



Colorado River District



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