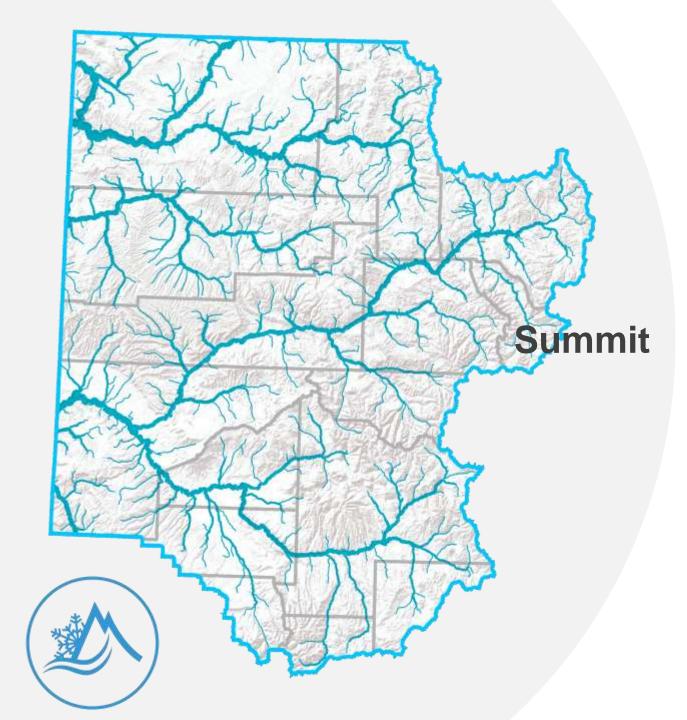
Protecting West Slope water in times of uncertainty

Andy Mueller General Manager Colorado River District



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT



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

### Denver Needs Water From Western Slope

### (By The Associated Press)

Denver, March II-The Colorado Iliver commission this afternoon heard 1 first testimony resulding plans C100 trans-mountain diversion of the water of the Colorado river. W. F. E. Mills a member of the Denver bound of wa for commissioners, told The infinitive aloners diversions must be undertaken if the city of Denver is to colain a supply of water for domestic constitutetion for its growing population.

Mr. Mills and other withdaws dechared 256,050 mere feet of water abould ba divorted from the western slope a Colorado to Denver 101114 trrigation tunnels built at althudes of apprecimately 10,000 fest in the Hocky moun-Listide.

Diversion of this amount of water, Mr. Millis declared, would not in ur the fiver in its descent into the lowe LIDIT PI NELLERING.

Annwering a querry from Frank C Enumierson, commissioner of Waoming Mr. Milla dechered any parel between the states shund provide for TPIATES mountain diversion to gustantee TON ALL LITTLE From dementic Chinese magail spill. other etty continenting difficially & Med with Mr. MODE: In Property deputy state engineer a sata o nat 10162-0141 attain marrie. And to cheathers of statilized in protestricted, that of 2.545

### Take Western Slope Water Under Range

tain water dversion project, to provide water for Golden, Arvada, Edgewater, the state rifle range and irrigation districts west of Denver. has been announced by a committee headed by A. D. Quainta EAST SLOPE WANTS The plan was originally ma an expenditure of \$1,000,000 after investigation, the 50 decided to more than double pacity and the investment. ganization to be known as the ver-Golden Metropolitan Water association is to be and it will seek funds from th construction Finance corporat 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 tw tunnel between South fork and dle fork also is included in th W. B. Burkett, Ouray: C. G. Waggram.

#### WATER DIVERSION MIGHT INJURE WESTERN SLOPE Two large projects are being promoted to take water from the Plans for a \$2,250,000 transmoun-Western Slope through tunnels to irrigate lands on the eastern slope of Colorado. Representatives were Glen-In. to investithe Rofr-COLO. RIVER WATER number of take water Initial steps toward an agreement between Eastern and Western slope this river. interests for transmountain diversin Lakes sion of water into northern Cololarge tract rado from the Colorado river watershed were taken at a conference its section of Grand Junction last Friday. Representatives were present from should Weld, Larimer, Logan, Morgan and Sedgwick counties. The Western ection to slope was represented by the prowould bla. tective association directors from the counties on the Colorado river waly of this tershed. Those directors are: Simon rity rights Emith, Mesa; B. F. Long, Eagle; a large Frank Delaney, Garfield; Milton R. 10 Weich, Delta; C. J. Moynihan, diversion Montrose; E. M. Nourse, Gunnison;

rered flow

Archival news stories courtesy Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

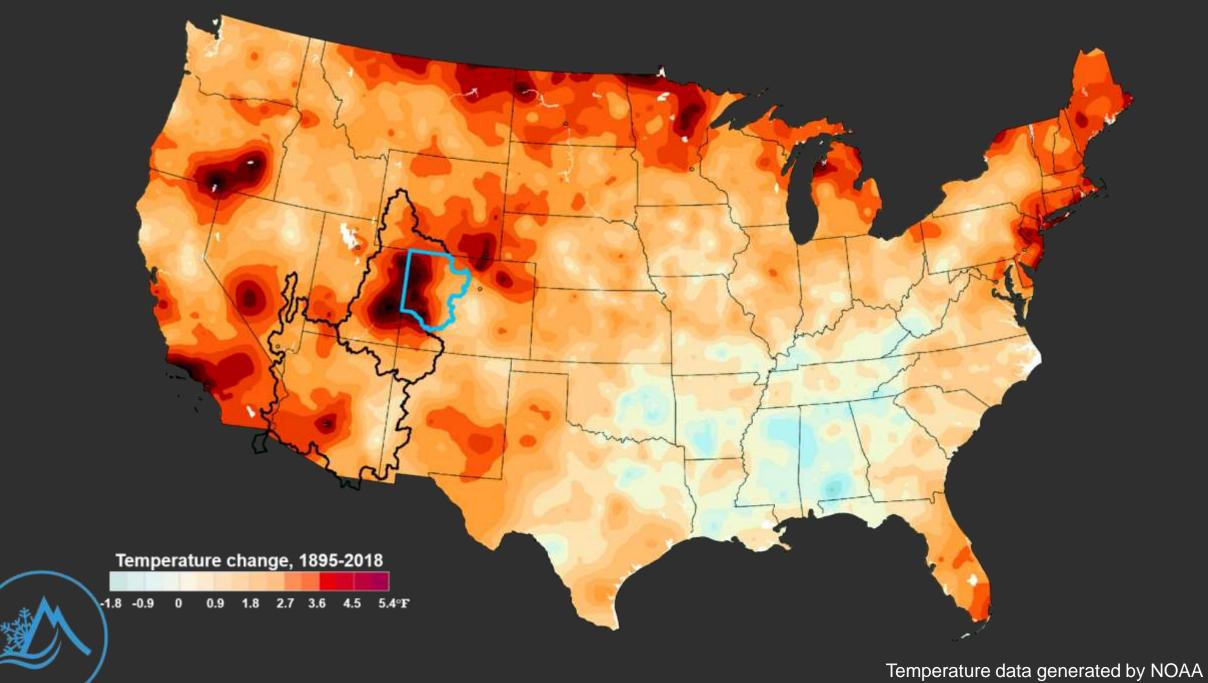
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The conference was an autgrowth

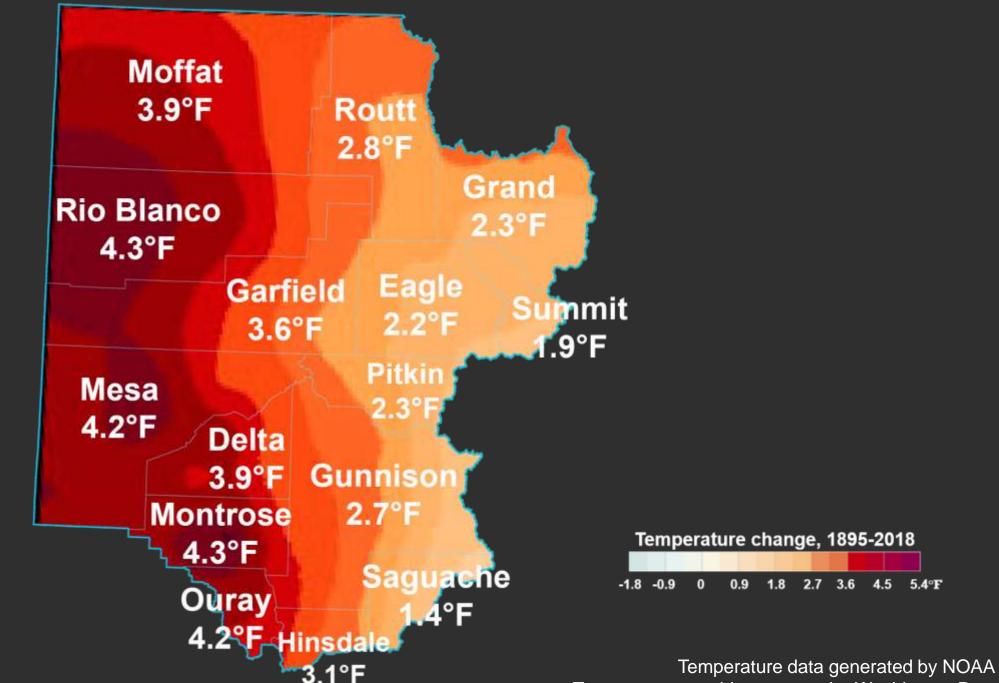




# Annual lower basin overuse: 1.1 to 1.3 million acre feet



Temperature graphic courtesy the Washington Post



## 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

# Ne work to protect West Slope water and keep your water on the West Slope

# Maintaining healthy rivers

## Ensuring adequate drinking water supplies

Securing legal protections to keep water on the West Slope

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

Based on 2019 assessments, the owner of a median-valued home in the River District would pay an additional **56.34** 

to the Colorado River District.





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