



Colorado Water Conservation Board
DCP & Demand Management
Resiliency Toolbox

www.cwcb.colorado.gov

The CWCB is a 15 member board formed in 1937 as the water policy arm of the state, with the mission to:

Conserve, protect, manage and develop Colorado's water for present and future generations.

In our last grant cycle we approved:

\$10.9m in Water Plan grants

\$3.3 in Water Supply Reserve Account grants

Loans

www.cwcb.colorado.gov

News Flash!

Fully staffed, and awaiting final vote from legislature
on our budget request to add...

positions across the state of Colorado!

Colorado Water Plan update:

Action-oriented, more user-friendly.

Basin Implementation Plans – complete

Board review – April

Draft released for public comment – June

Final Plan – January 2023

Upper Basin Drought Activities per the DCP

- Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan:
 - Drought Response Operations Agreement activated May 2021 – 2022 plan almost in place.
 - Weather Modification – ongoing
 - Demand Management Feasibility Investigations – UCRC, NM, WY, UT studies all ongoing. Colorado paused.

Demand Management – a history

A voluntary, compensated, and temporary program that would pay water users to reduce demand. It was expressly named as a potential tool to be explored by the Upper Basin states in the DCP Act, which was signed into law in 2019.

Colorado organized 7 workgroups to explore DM in 2019, then adopted Decision-Making Roadmap in September 2021 based on the findings and the work of the Board of Directors - far ahead of the other Upper Basin States.

**UCRC investigation is ongoing, with UCRC and other Upper Basin States likely to provide further information upon completion.*

PIVOT!

At our March 2023 board meeting, we placed a hard pause on Demand Management to pivot our staff energy, and our water users and stakeholder's energy to the **Resiliency Toolbox**.



PIVOT!

Resiliency Toolbox

Getting our house in order – managing crisis

A water crisis is an energy crisis, a food crisis and a low-income crisis.

Resiliency Toolbox

Goals and Objectives:

- Leverage federal funds where possible
- Identify opportunities for partnership
- Consider potential opportunities that:
 - Address measurement and infrastructure needs
 - Increase agricultural viability
 - Have multiple benefits where possible, including watershed and forest health and restoration

Resiliency Toolbox

Next Steps

- Workshop/ forum & contest for ACTIONABLE ideas and projects that can take advantage of current funding opportunities
- Low hanging fruit to big ideas that:
 - Address measurement and infrastructure needs
 - Increase agricultural viability
 - Have multiple benefits where possible, including watershed and forest health and restoration
- Prioritize, fund and execute

Resiliency Toolbox

Examples

- Analyze NM Strategic Water Reserve for possible implementation in Colorado
- Water banking
- Regenerative Agriculture, soil health practices – incentives
- Carbon sequestration
- Resiliency by basin – specific needs unique to our different watersheds – e.g. Yampa Basin reservoir reoperation/ management
- Reuse – municipalities,
- Infrastructure improvement (on-farm/ on-ranch) on a larger scale
- Interagency partnership with Dept. of Agriculture
- Forest Management
- Hydropower add-ons (low head, retrofit reservoirs, etc)

Jackie Brown

Jackie.brown@state.co.us

Nate Pearson – Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act Funding...

Nate.pearson@state.co.us