



Colorado River District

75 Years

Protecting Western Colorado Water



Colorado River District celebrates 75 years

In 2012, the Colorado River District is marking its 75th year of existence. The Colorado General Assembly formed the River District in 1937 to ensure that the West Slope could protect itself in the contentious negotiations over water projects that impact Western Colorado.

This was a direct result of the battle over the Colorado-Big Thompson Project that resulted in Granby Reservoir in Grand County, Green Mountain Reservoir in Summit County and a host of reservoirs and canals in Northern Colorado.

The River District was also given the responsibilities of working on all of Colorado's behalf on Colorado River Compact issues and developing Western Colorado water for Western Colorado.

Timeline of history

In Colorado, water development knows no geographical boundaries. The Colorado Constitution states that under the Prior Appropriation System the right to appropriate water shall not be denied. But in Colorado there *is* a critical boundary, the Continental Divide.

On the west side lies most of the surface water in Colorado but a minority of the population.

On the east side, water is comparatively scarce but that is where the state was first heavily settled in the wake of

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WHEREAS, a high quality of life for all people of Colorado is dependent on a clean and sustainable water supply; and

WHEREAS, water is one of Colorado's most important and precious natural resources as it is integral to our economic, societal, and environmental well-being; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's rivers, lakes, and streams provide abundant recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, plentiful water supplies are critical for agricultural production, and all water users should work together to supply the wide range of water needs; and

WHEREAS, water awareness is a fundamental step in helping the citizens of Colorado understand the growing needs for limited water supplies and the need to find ways to enhance supplies and promote conservation to provide water for all needs and uses as we continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, the year 2012 is a milestone for water in Colorado: it is the 100th anniversary of the Rio Grande Reservoir; the 90th anniversary of the Colorado River Compact; the 75th anniversary of legislation that created the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; the 50th anniversary of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project; the 10th anniversary of the Lower Arkansas River Water Conservancy District and the Colorado Foundation for Water Education; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness of water issues can be achieved through community education, action, and celebration;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim 2012,

THE YEAR OF WATER

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of January, 2012

John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor



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TIMELINE OF COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT HISTORY

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the 1859 Gold Rush. Time has neither altered that dynamic nor the drive to move West Slope water to the East Side to accommodate the climactic and geographic imbalance.

1933-1939

In the midst of drought and the Great Depression, the quest for large projects to divert water from the West Slope to the Front Range reached the Colorado General Assembly. This caused a group of concerned West Slope citizens to mobilize the Western Colorado Protective Association (WCPA), which began negotiating the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT). Boosting the C-BT were northern Colorado agricultural interests who needed supplemental irrigation water.

The C-BT became a Bureau of Reclamation project and Green Mountain Reservoir was built in Summit County as basin-of-origin mitigation, thanks to the WCPA.

It became clear to the West Slope that it needed an organization with a dedicated funding stream to watchdog water issues.

In 1937, the Colorado legislature created the Colorado River Water Conservation District to continue the work started by the WCPA. The legislation also assigned the Colorado River District the task of working on behalf of the entire state on Colorado River Compact issues. In that landmark year, the legislature also created the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy Act, allowing for the creation of the Northern Water District.



Frank Delaney, the Glenwood Springs attorney who was instrumental in the Western Colorado Protective Association and in 1937 wrote the legislation that founded the Colorado River District. He later became the River District's attorney.

The founding counties of the Colorado River District were Delta, Summit, Eagle, Pitkin, Gunnison, Garfield and Mesa. Grand County opted out, thinking it had gotten a bad deal with the C-BT.

The first board president was John Heuschkel of Garfield County. The first general counsel was Frank Delaney and the first secretary-engineer was Frank Merriell.

1938-1960s

The staff and board launched into an era where the missions were to

keep an eye on developments downriver, an eye on the East Slope and to try to "conserve" as much water as possible by developing it first for West Slope use.

While construction started on the federal C-BT, Denver Water became a focus with its Moffat Tunnel Project in Grand County, thus beginning an engagement that continued in detail through the 21st century. For the first five decades, the relationship with Denver went from bad to worse.

Meanwhile, talks heated up over a large Gunnison-Arkansas transbasin diversion that ignited a revolt in Gunnison County, and thus began another long-term engagement internally and externally that finally resulted in the federal Fryingpan-Arkansas project three decades later.

On the home front, work began on planning West Slope irrigation projects in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation. Some of the larger projects were Silt, Rifle, Paonia and West Divide, the latter, which was never built but still makes the news today. The theory was a good offense was the best defense: obtain water decrees on the West Slope to protect against outside uses of Western Colorado water.

Always on the front burner, however, was Denver Water with its Moffat Project, which was built after courtroom battles over water rights and subsequent attempts to tap the Blue River Basin. What would become Dillon Reservoir and the Roberts Tunnel in the 1960s only resulted after epic legal battles over Green Mountain Reservoir water rights. Denver had initially tried to prove Dillon was senior to Green Mountain.



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And pressure continued for a Gunnison-Arkansas Project. It had become clear that in Colorado, if the Front Range was willing to pay for a project that was feasible, it could be built. The Colorado River District's job was to take steps to protect the present and future water supply for the West Slope.

Concurrently, the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project arose as a first stage of the Gunnison-Arkansas Project. Negotiations resulted in the Fry-Ark and its 1962 Congressional authorization. Ruedi Reservoir was built as compensation to the West Slope.

Another result of this work was the start of construction in 1962 of what would become the Aspinall Unit reservoirs on the Gunnison River.

Looking farther west in the 1940s, the issue became how to equitably split the Upper Basin's half share of the Colorado River Compact of 1922. In 1948, the four Upper Basin states agreed to the Upper Colorado River Compact. Colorado got 51.75 percent of the water made available by the river system. Now plans could commence to develop the river, resulting in the federal Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 that authorized the Glen Canyon, the Aspinall Unit, Flaming Gorge and Navajo projects as well as a host of participating projects in Western Colorado.

The Colorado River District began the race to file on water rights before others on the Front Range could and to form water conservancy districts to help build the projects, along with the Bureau of Reclamation.

In the 1950 and '60s, the District expanded with the additions of Grand, Montrose, Ouray, Routt, Rio Blanco, Hinsdale, Saguache and Moffat counties. Frank Delaney and Frank Merrell resigned. They were replaced by a new generation of leadership in General Counsel John Barnard and Secretary-Engineer Phil Smith. By the late 1960s, Rolly Fischer was Secretary-Engineer.

The 1970s to Present

This became an era on the Colorado River that saw the advent of environmental laws, minimum streamflow water rights, snowmaking water rights, recreational water rights and eventual cooperation with Front Range water users on mutually beneficial projects. The era of Reclamation Projects was ending. In response to the new



It was 1967, and like the present, Colorado River District officials traveled to Washington, D.C., for consultations on western water issues. In this photo, River District Secretary-Engineer Phil Smith, top left, and Attorney Ken Balcomb, to Smith's right, met with Senator Peter Dominick, bottom left. Rounding out the photo, at bottom, are Larry Sparks and Ivan Patterson. At top are Smith, Balcomb, W.G. Jackson, River District co-founder Frank Delaney and Ivan Goslin.

times, the District raised its profile on the state and national governmental fronts.

The District constructed its first project, Taylor Draw Reservoir at Rangely in the early 1980s. Cooperation with Northern Water and Denver Water resulted in the District building Wolford Mountain Reservoir in the mid-1990s, creating water supply for the West Slope while settling issues with the Windy Gap transmountain diversion and separately, matters regarding Denver Water and the filling of Dillon Reservoir. Planning also resulted in the District's enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir in 2006.

Cooperation continues to this day. In 2011, a historic proposed water-supply agreement was reached between Denver Water and 34 West Slope entities. And as the state ponders a water supply for a population slated to double by 2050, the District is helping to find balanced solutions that will support the state economy on both sides of the Continental Divide.

Eric Kuhn became the General Manager in 1996 and continues in the position to this day. Peter Fleming just celebrated 10 years as the District's General Counsel.



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The 2012 Colorado River District Board of Directors includes, seated, Jon Stavney of Eagle County, Board President Tom Sharp of Routt County, Steve Acquafresca of Mesa County; standing, Rebie Hazard of Saguache County, John Ely of Pitkin County, Tom Gray of Moffat County, Gary Martinez of Summit County, Kai Turner of Rio Blanco County, Dave Merritt of Garfield County, Andy Mueller of Ouray County, Tom Alvey of Delta County, Board Vice President James Newberry of Grand County and Bill Trampe of Gunnison County. Missing from the photo are Steve Mathis of Montrose County and Warner Dewey of Hinsdale County.

Board elects officers, recognizes appointees

The Colorado River District Board of Directors re-elected President Tom Sharp of Routt County and Vice President James Newberry of Grand County as it organized for business in 2012 at its January 17-18, 2012, regular quarterly meeting.

New to the Board in 2012 is Rio Blanco County Commissioner Kai Turner, who replaced outgoing Board member Forrest Nelson. Nelson was honored with a resolution for his six years of service.

Returning Board members appointed by their respective Boards of County Commissioners were Steve Mathis of Montrose, Bill Trampe of Gunnison, Dave Merritt of Garfield and Andy Mueller of Ouray. They join incumbents John Ely of Pitkin County, Tom Gray of Moffat County, Tom Alvey of Delta County, Gary Martinez of Summit County, Rebie Hazard of Saguache County, Warner Dewey of Hinsdale County, Steve Acquafresca

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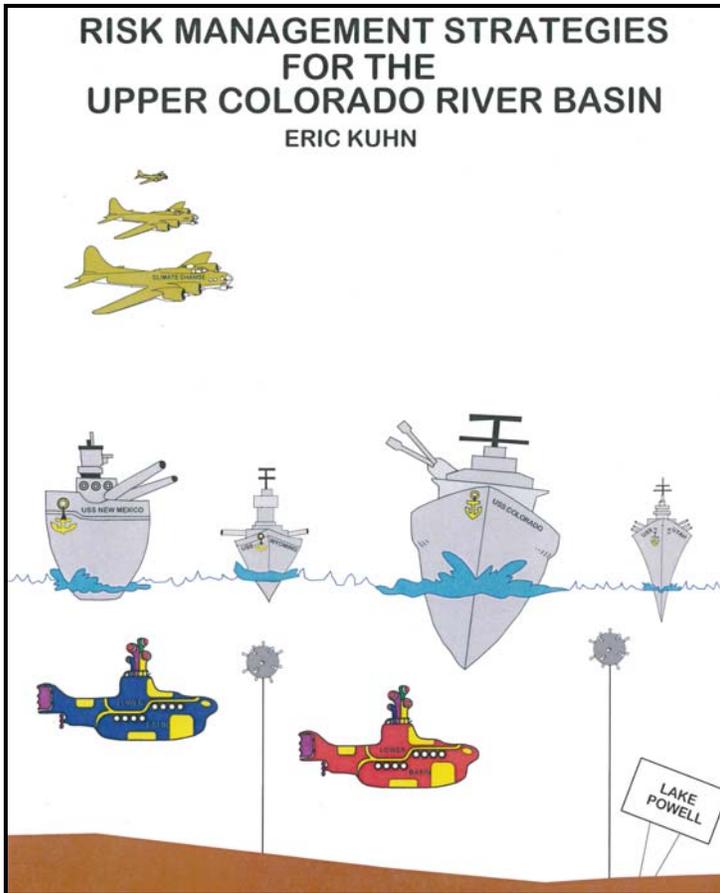


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Kuhn paper assesses risk management



The cover page of Eric Kuhn's paper, "Risk Management Strategies for the Upper Colorado River Basin."

Appointees

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of Mesa County and Jon Stavney of Eagle County.

The River District Board is composed of 15 directors, one from each member county. Each year, a third of the Board faces reappointment to a three-year term.

In its first act of business, the new Board reappointed Eric Kuhn as General Manager and Secretary, Peter Fleming as General Counsel and Dan Birch as Deputy General Manager.

General Manager Eric Kuhn has authored a paper that outlines risk-management issues associated with the growing use of water in the Colorado River Basin.

It is called "Risk Management Strategies for the Upper Colorado River Basin."

It can be downloaded from the [CRD website](http://www.crd.org) or obtained by calling (970) 945-8522 or e-mailing edinfo@crwcd.org.

Kuhn lays out the risks lurking in the shadows as demands on the river exceed supply. He explores strategies to minimize the risk of a Colorado River Compact curtailment of the states of the Upper Basin, which are Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico.

Also in the paper, Kuhn addresses new storage projects, re-operation of current projects and litigation as strategies to manage risk. He also advocates for a water bank and conservation as hedging tools.

Looking ahead, Kuhn says new agreements could reduce risk, and that the most effective ones would be the most controversial.

At the top of that list is the idea of inter-state water marketing, allowing market mechanisms to address regional shortages and the movement of water.

Kuhn also suggests that the Upper Basin states be allowed to store conserved water in Lake Powell as a water bank.

He advocates that dust control, phreatophyte eradication and cloud seeding should be maintained and better financed.

Additionally, he discounts the value of the desalination of ocean water as a big water-supply generator and says it is unlikely that a big project will be built that would move water from another part of the country, like the Mississippi River, to the southwestern U.S.

How to contact us

For more information about the Colorado River District or board actions, call Jim Pokrandt at (970) 945-8522 x 236 or e-mail edinfo@crwcd.org. Visit www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org.



Nutrient standards emerge as water-quality concern for smaller communities

Stricter nutrient standards for wastewater treatment plant discharges are being proposed in Colorado, much to the concern of many smaller communities that fear the exorbitant costs of meeting those higher-level standards.

The Colorado River District has been monitoring this water-quality issue and is a participant in the Colorado Nutrient Coalition that is asking Gov. Hickenlooper to review the situation and consider the cost implications carefully.

The nutrients in question are phosphorous and, more importantly, nitrogen, which is introduced by human waste.

The Colorado Water Quality Control Division and stakeholders have been working on the state's proposed rule. A rulemaking hearing is set for March 12, 2012.

Nutrient loading of streams and lakes stems from point sources (such as wastewater plants) and nonpoint sources (such as agriculture).

The proposed rulemaking could result in standards applied to nonpoint sources, initially through best-management practices, and if that fails, potentially through regulation of nonpoint sources. This is a big worry for agriculture.

General questions about the process are that the new rules are not needed statewide, but the cost of

monitoring and compliance will be implemented across Colorado.

There is also concern that while the proposed rule might not be right at this time for conditions in Colorado, if they are not imposed, the state would lose its primacy in implementing the Clean Water Act, causing direct and undesired federal intervention.

After a lengthy discussion at the January Board meeting, the Board resolved to:

(1) Participate in the Water Quality Control Commission Nutrient Rulemaking Hearing to help seek practical solutions to nutrient control when there is a scientifically demonstrable ecological benefit to West Slope rivers, lakes and streams;

(2) Support exemptions from proposed nutrient regulations, if such regulations would impose an unreasonable financial burden on District constituents without a scientifically demonstrable benefit to the ecological health of West Slope rivers, lakes and streams;

(3) Ensure that any nonpoint source regulation remains voluntary;

(4) Prevent threats from the federal government to the State of Colorado's primacy in matters of water quality control; and

(5) Explore and support viable options for financial assistance for regulated entities.

Colorado River District Mission Statement:

To lead in the protection, conservation, use and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of the District, and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which it is entitled.



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Reports: Roundtables, water availability

General Manager Eric Kuhn reported a second statewide **Roundtables Summit** will take place March 1, 2012, at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield.

Goals for the summit are:

(1) Explore a range of water-supply solutions through the Portfolio Tradeoff Tool and look for commonalities among the advocated positions from the various Roundtables;

(2) Brainstorm initial implementation elements across the portfolios;

(3) Identify implementation elements that need cross-basin discussion; and

(4) Promote long-term and short-term implementation efforts to meet consumptive and nonconsumptive goals.

The Portfolio Tradeoff Tool was developed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) as a way to analyze possible solutions to the state's need to find new water supplies for a population slated to double by 2050.

It is based on a spreadsheet that has embedded many CWCB studies about the water-supply gap, new projects, projects on the drawing board, conservation, reuse and the effects of agricultural fallowing that moves irrigation water to urban growth areas.

On the continuing Colorado River Water Availability Study, Kuhn said the CWCB is now scoping a Phase II of the work that originally said from zero to 800,000 acre feet of water could be developed in the

Colorado River system, depending on alternative forecasts of future water supplies.

Instead of narrowing that wide range, Kuhn said Phase II should focus on risk management related to a Colorado River Compact curtailment.

The Compact allocates river development among the Upper Basin and Lower Basin states in the Colorado River drainage. The Upper Basin, which includes Colorado, cannot deplete the river below a certain point without triggering curtailment to assure the Lower Basin of its share.

Board Member Tom Gray questioned how risk management would be applied to the Prior Appropriation Doctrine of water rights.

Kuhn said that if risk management is not addressed, post-compact water rights will be undermined -- subject to curtailment by the development and use of newer water rights. He said some water officials have described this as the haves versus the have-nots.

"But the Prior Appropriation System sets up haves and have-nots based on priorities. That's what it is," Kuhn said. "This is a very heated subject at the Inter-Basin Compact Committee."

Flaming Gorge Taskforce update: The Colorado River District opposes the proposed Flaming Gorge Pumpback Project, said Deputy General Manager Dan Birch, repeating a position the Board took in 2007.

Birch said this viewpoint is being carried to the Flaming Gorge Taskforce, a state-sponsored panel of varied water interests charged with evaluating the pluses and the minuses of the proposal to bring water across Wyoming to the Front Range of Colorado.

Birch sits on the panel as a representative of the Colorado Basin Roundtable. He said the big issues are water availability under the Colorado River Compact, risks to current senior water rights and questions about how the State Engineer's Office would or could administer water coming from another state.

Kai Turner, the new CRD Board member from Rio Blanco County, is also on the taskforce and reported that after the first meeting in January, "I was surprised at the emphasis on risk and the compact." Turner also serves on the Yampa-White Basin Roundtable and is a County Commissioner.

Said Birch: "The big statement for us is that the cart is before the horse." Compact, risk and water availability have to be considered first.

He said the taskforce will be presented with compact information at its March 27 meeting, noon to 5 p.m., at a place yet to be determined in Glenwood Springs.

How to contact us

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Update given on study of water banking

Deputy General Manager Dan Birch said work continues on studying a water bank that would help forestall or meet a curtailment under the Colorado River Compact. Phase I of the study can be found on the Colorado River District [website](#).

Phase I investigates various curtailment scenarios and estimates of pre-1922 water rights that might be suitable for the bank. It also estimates the post-1922 uses that might be covered by the bank. The year 1922 is critical as that is the year the Colorado River Compact was signed. The compact does not affect water in use before 1922.

Much of the pre-1922 use is in agriculture. Initial thoughts were that the fallowing of row crops such as corn would supply the bank. But the study has already indicated that only 75,000 acre feet of consumptive use could be gained in this category, not enough to make the bank effective.

"So realistically, that is not a very viable alternative for us," Birch said. "On the other hand, there is 800,000 acre feet of consumptive use in hay, alfalfa and pasture grass."

These perennial crops cannot be fallowed without destroying the plant life and bringing about a four-to-five year recovery period. Ranchers learned this during the 2002 drought, according to Board Member Bill Trampe.

Birch said this predicament raises the issue of whether deficit irrigation can achieve consumptive savings for the bank while allowing

the plant life to survive. Another challenge is developing ways to measure the water savings.

Trampe noted that some ranchers own a portfolio of water rights that include both pre- and post-1922 rights. He said that if most of their rights are post-1922 and are curtailed, the water they have that is pre-1922 won't be enough to be effective. He said people in this category might participate 100 percent in the water bank if they can be compensated.

Partners in the water bank study will determine how to move it forward. Partners include the Southwest Water Conservation District, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, The Nature Conservancy and the Front Range Water Council.

Federal affairs

The Board kicked off its legislative reviews for 2012, hearing from External Affairs Manager Chris Treese about various federal legislative and administrative activities from the fourth quarter of 2011.

Notable were a final budget resolution for the current fiscal year and related appropriations bills that provided \$90 million more to the Bureau of Reclamation than included in the President's budget proposal and a more than doubling of funding for the states' wastewater Revolving Loan Fund.

Treese also highlighted a recently introduced bill co-sponsored by Congresswoman DeGette (D-CO) that would ease permitting requirements for small hydropower (less than 5MW) projects.

The River District's and the entire

Colorado water community's No. 1 legislative priority for this Congress remains reauthorization for the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Rivers. These programs have been hugely successful but require continued federal budget support.

The Board also heard about negotiations underway addressing the outstanding and compounding debt calculation on Ruedi Reservoir.

East and West Slope beneficiaries of Ruedi Reservoir are developing a consensus recommendation to present to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regarding the increasing debt on Ruedi and its attendant effect on the price of water contracts from Ruedi. The goal is a consensus recommendation by July 2012.

In this 75th anniversary year of the District, Directors reflected on the considerable contributions of "Judge" Clifford Stone of Gunnison.

Stone was a founding member in the early 1930s of the Western Colorado Protective Association, the predecessor to the River District, and the founding executive director of the statewide Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Stone's accomplishments were numerous, but most notable was his seminal role in negotiation and eventual adoption of the 1948 Upper Colorado River Compact.

As CWCB Director, Stone also negotiated the final West Slope-East Slope agreements which led to the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. In recognition of all Judge Stone's contributions to Colorado water history and development, the Board adopted a resolution advocating for the naming of the dam at Ruedi Reservoir as the Clifford H. Stone dam.



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Eytel, Turner, Fleming honored for tenure

The Colorado River District Board of Directors, as is its custom, honors staff members on their significant anniversaries of employment. Honored at the January meeting, from left, were Mike Eytel, Water Resources Specialist, five years; Audrey Turner, Administrative Chief, five years; and Peter Fleming, General Counsel, 10 years.

State affairs: Board begins annual review of legislation

The Colorado legislature convened for its 2012 session less than a week prior to the Colorado River District Board's first quarterly meeting on January 17-18, 2012.

Nevertheless, the Board reviewed and adopted positions on the nine water-related bills and one joint resolution that had been introduced to the Board previously.

The Board also calendared bi-weekly special meetings during the legislative session to review bills as they are introduced and to provide timely feedback to staff regarding legislative direction.

These bi-weekly meetings are underway on alternate Thursdays at noon via conference call. The next one is February 16.

Future meetings

- **Special Colorado River District Board Meetings during the legislative session:** every other Thursday by telephonic conference. Next one is Feb. 16
- **Colorado River District Board Executive Committee Meeting:** March 9, Glenwood Springs
- **Second Regular Colorado River District Quarterly Board Meeting:** April 17-18, Glenwood Springs
- **75th Anniversary Celebration with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River District Board:** May 15, Glenwood Springs
- **Third Regular Colorado River District Quarterly Board Meeting:** July 17-18, Glenwood Springs
- **Western Water Workshop:** July 18-20, Gunnison
- **Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention:** August 15-17, Steamboat Springs
- **Colorado River District Board Budget Workshop:** September 12, Grand Junction
- **Colorado River District Annual Seminar and 75th Anniversary Recognition:** September 13, Grand Junction
- **Fourth Regular Colorado River District Quarterly Board Meeting:** October 16-17, Glenwood Springs
- **Colorado River Water Users Association Convention:** December 12-14, Las Vegas



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This time in our history 75 years ago

What were the forbearers of the Colorado River District working on at this point in time 75 years ago?

A Shoshone Hydro Plant protocol to maintain flows in the Colorado River, Senate Document 80, which would go on to authorize and spell out operations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, and Green Mountain Reservoir.

What did the Colorado River District Board work on during its two-day meeting this past January? The very same issues -- although with 75 years of updated circumstances.

Shoshone, Senate Document 80 and Green Mountain Reservoir remain as three of the biggest issues on the river, and we haven't even mentioned Denver Water yet as we embark on a yearlong retrospective.

The history of the Colorado River District will be the subject of a new history book: "Water Wranglers: The 75-year History of the Colorado River District."

The book will be published in the third quarter of 2012 but the draft of the chapter that details 1937 and the CRD's creation is featured on the [CRD website](#) and on the [Water 2012 Book Club website](#).

As author George Sibley points out, the River District's work is never done. The hard-fought, emotional, high-stakes decisions of the 1930s continue to frame our modern-day work at the Colorado River District — ever balancing water development with protection of the resource for Western Colorado.

Here is how January 1937 shaped up:

The Western Colorado Protective Association continued to negotiate with the Northern Colorado Water Users Association over the proposed Colorado-Big Thompson



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Project. (The Colorado River District was not yet formed.)

A big issue was protecting West Slope water rights. Northern proposed a guarantee of 1,250 cubic feet per second at Shoshone if natural flows were falling, in order to avoid paying for a dam and reservoir as the protection mechanism.

The Bureau of Reclamation recommended what would become Green Mountain Reservoir at 152,000 acre feet of capacity, siding with Western Colorado beliefs.

At a meeting in Denver, January 3-4, 1937, the Green Mountain option was hammered out and the wording of Senate Document 80 emerged, setting the stage for the C-BT to be authorized and funded by Congress.

At its last meeting, the Colorado River District Board examined a new-style Shoshone Protocol to guarantee flows if the Shoshone hydro plant was down and not calling for water. It also worked on a tricky and technical water administration issue at Green Mountain.

Both of these elements are part of the proposed Colorado River Cooperative Agreement announced by Denver Water and 34 West Slope entities in 2011.

Finally, Senate Document 80 came up as a filter for judging the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project in Grand County that would convey water through the federal C-BT system to water users on the northern Front Range.

Minor revisions made to policies that can be reviewed on website

The Colorado River District Board, in support of its triennial review of policies, made minor changes to two existing policies: Federal Reserved Water Rights and Colorado's Prior Appropriation Process.

The former calls on Congress

and the President to explicitly identify any water requirement related to any new federal reservation or change in designation of federal lands.

The Board also re-affirmed its historical belief in and support of Colorado's Prior Appropriation Doctrine as a fair and orderly system for

allocating and administering Colorado's scarce water resources.

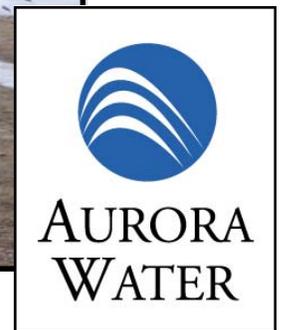
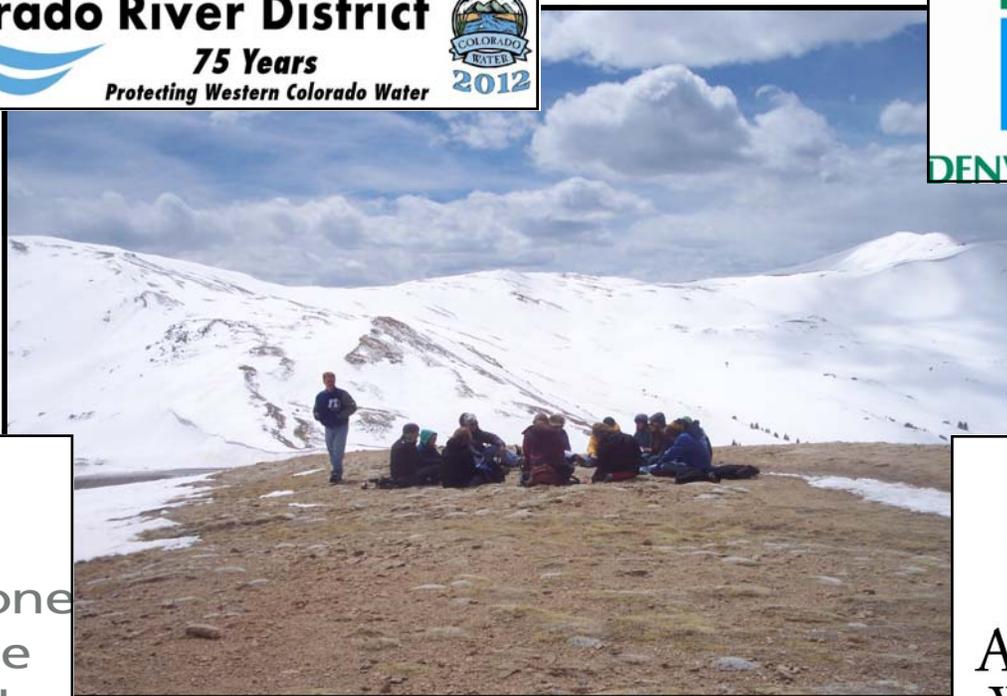
Both revised policies are posted on the Colorado River District's website for public comment and will be up for final consideration at the April Board meeting.

H₂O OUTDOORS

An Outdoor Water Camp for Colorado High School Students

SPRING SESSION: April 21-23, 2012

FALL SESSION: October 13-15, 2012



The Colorado River District, Aurora Water, Denver Water and Keystone Science School are sponsoring their seventh 3-day Water Camp for students who want to learn in-depth information about water in the West.

- The Keystone Science School is a well-established and licensed facility dedicated to natural resource education. For more information about the school, the facilities, or about H₂O Outdoors please call the Keystone Science School at 970.468.2098 or visit: www.keystonescienceschool.org.
- Cost to students is only \$25. (Scholarships available.)
- For more information about the program or scholarships, please contact Martha Moore, Colorado River District, at 970.945.8522 x 236 or by email: mmoore@crwcd.org.