

**WESTCAS 2015 Fall Conference**  
*Tucson, AZ, October 28 – 30, 2015*

# **Colorado State Report**

by Scott Miller, Esq.  
miller@waterlaw.com

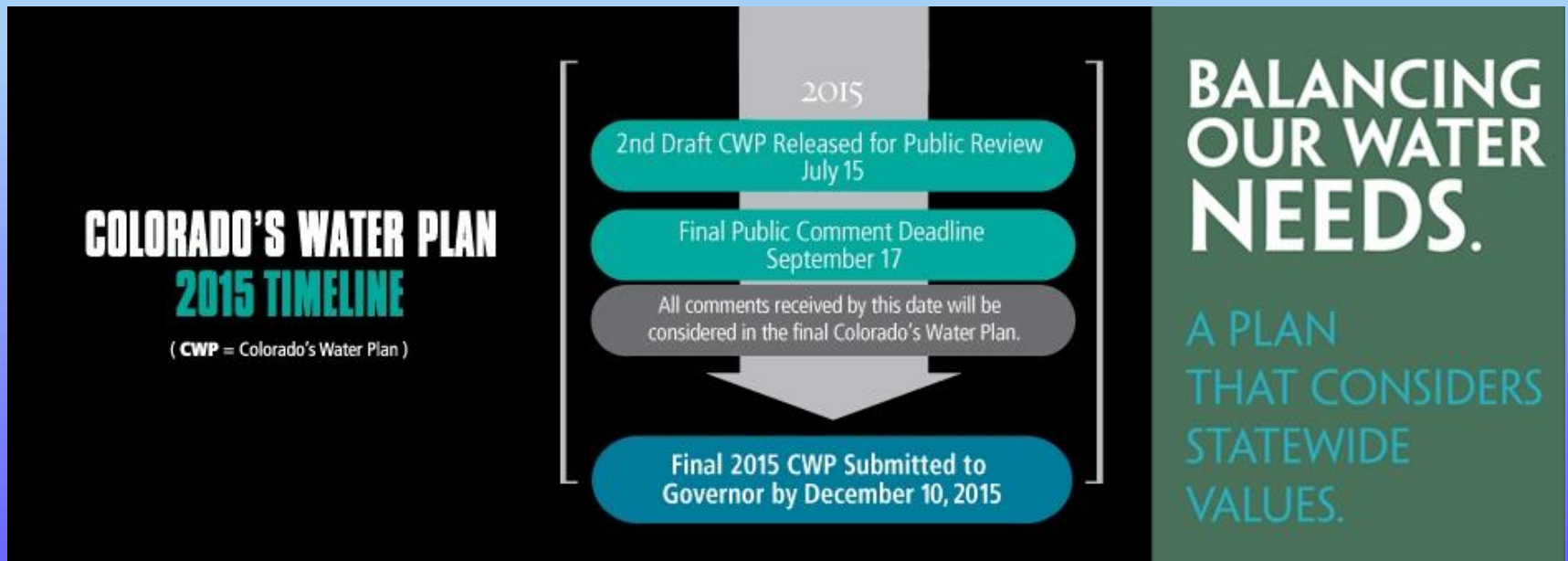
# Overview

1. Colorado Water Plan
  2. Hydraulic Fracturing Ban Cases
  3. Colo WQCC Hearing
    - Basic WQ Stds
- Reg 31



# Colorado Water Plan

- Second draft released July 15
- Comments were due by September 17
- Transmountain Diversions

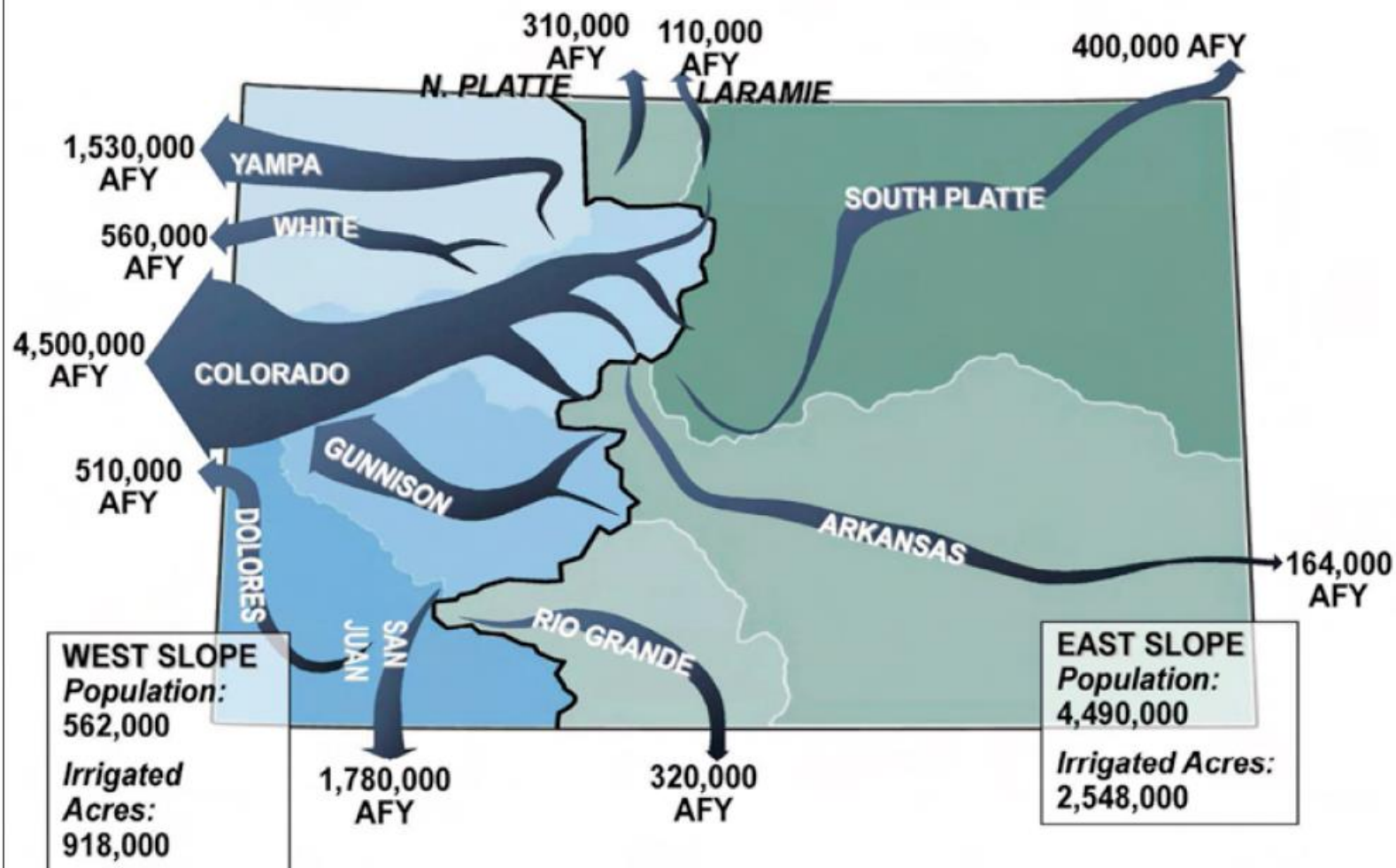


# Colorado Water Plan

## **The seven principles for TMD's in the draft conceptual framework:**

1. East Slope water providers are not looking for firm yield from a new transmountain diversion (TMD) and the project proponent would accept hydrologic risk for that project.
2. A new TMD would be used conjunctively with East Slope supplies, such as interruptible supply agreements, Denver basin aquifer resources, carry-over storage, terminal storage, drought restriction savings, and other non-West Slope water sources.
3. In order to manage when a new TMD would be able to divert, triggers are needed.
4. A collaborative program that protects against involuntary curtailment is needed for existing uses and some reasonable increment of future development in the Colorado River System, but it will not cover a new TMD.
5. Future West Slope needs should be accommodated as part of a new TMD project.
6. Colorado will continue its commitment to improve conservation and reuse.
7. Environmental resiliency and recreational needs must be addressed both before and conjunctively with a new TMD.

# Colorado Surface Water





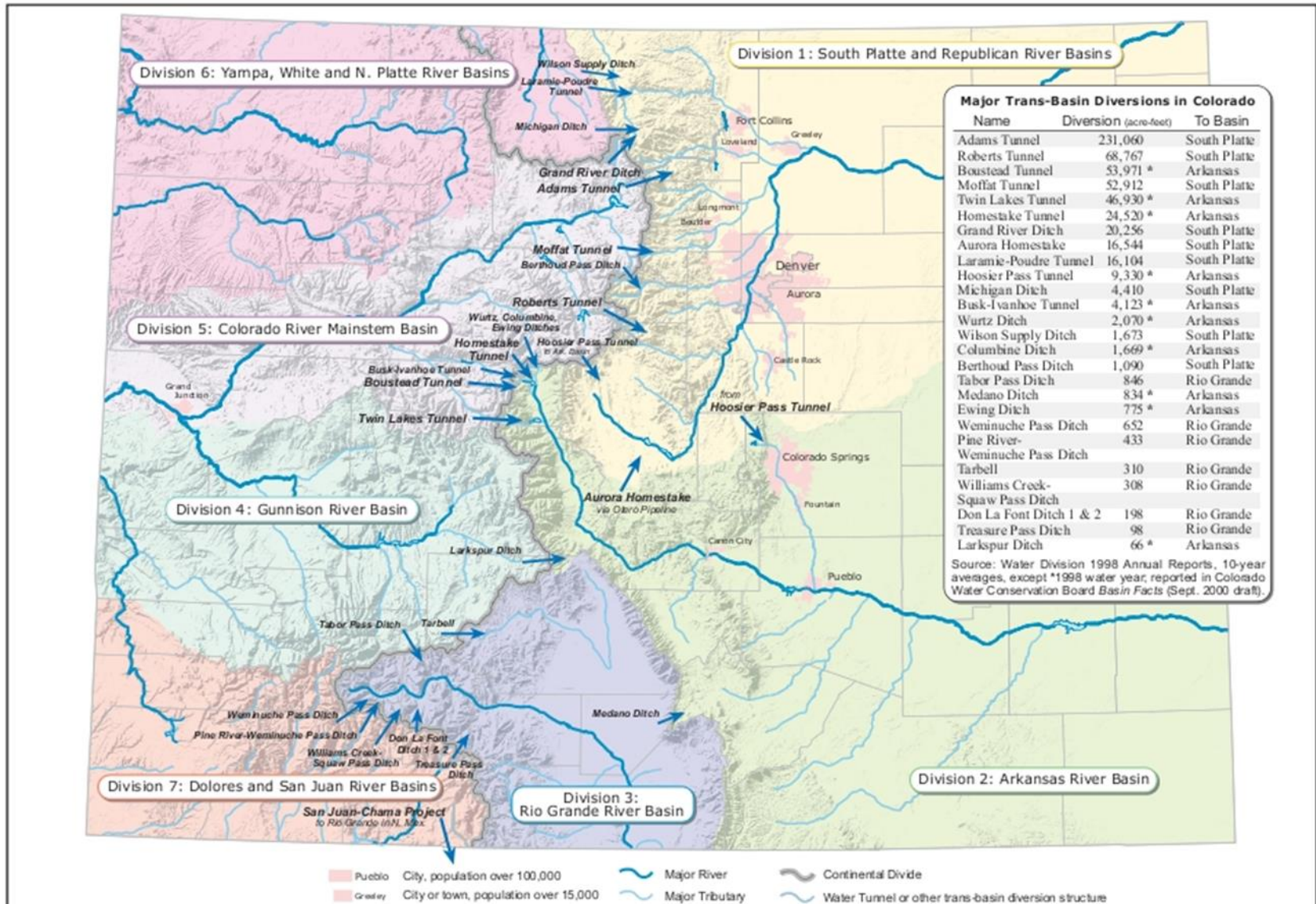


Figure 7. Major Trans-Basin Diversions

Sources: Colorado Division of Water Resources, Office of the State Engineer; Colorado Water Conservation Board; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Geological Survey. Map by Thomas Dickinson.

# Transmountain Diversions



Brent Gardner-Smith / Aspen Journalism

*The outfall of the Boustead Tunnel, which delivers water from the Roaring Fork and Fryingpan rivers to the East Slope.*



# Transmountain Diversions



Brent Gardner-Smith / Aspen Journalism

*The ditch that moves water from Lost Man Reservoir to Grizzly Reservoir and then under the Divide to the South Fork of Lake Creek and the Arkansas River.*



# Transmountain Diversions



Brent Gardner-Smith / Aspen Journalism

*The diversion dam across the main stem of the upper Roaring Fork River. The dam diverts water toward the Independence Pass tunnel and the East Slope.*

# Transmountain Diversions



Brent Gardner-Smith / Aspen Journalism

*The east end of the Independence Pass tunnel, bringing water from the headwaters of the Roaring Fork River to the East Slope.*

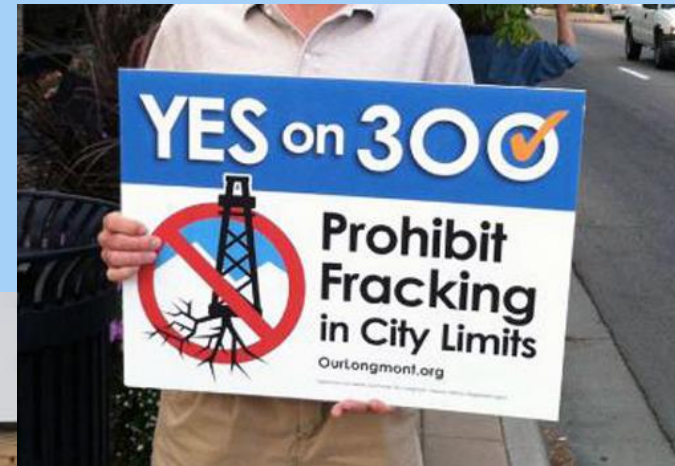
# Colorado Water Plan

- October 6 – CWCB met for 5 hour work session on latest draft
- Staff told to add “measurable objectives” and “date certain deadlines”
- Front Range: more storage should be affirmative state policy
- Western slope citizen group petitions for no new diversions to East Slope



# Hydraulic Fracturing cases

- Longmont
- Fort Collins
- Certiorari granted for both



# Colorado Water Quality Control Commission Reg 31 Hearings

- November 9 - Issues Formulation Hearing
  - Identifies specific issues to be addressed in rulemaking hearing for surface WQ stds
- June 2016 – rulemaking hearing for Regulation #31 will be held



**COLORADO**

Water Quality  
Control Commission

Department of Public Health & Environment

# Questions?

**Scott Miller, Esq.  
Patrick, Miller & Noto P.C.  
miller@waterlaw.com**

**(970) 920-1030**

