Funding Colorado’s Water Future
The Challenge

- Colorado’s population expected to reach 8.5 million by 2050
- The West experiencing 20 year drought – “aridification”
- Could face a water shortfall for one million people by mid-century

How to sustain Colorado’s character, quality of life, and robust economy in the face of increasing demand for water and diminishing supply?
The Water Plan Implementation Funding Gap (30 years)

- $20 billion
- New source
- Existing state funding
- $2 billion
- Project proponents & rate payers
- $15 billion

-$100 million annual “funding gap” between 2020 and 2050

-$10 - $29 million funded annually under Prop DD between 2020 and 2050

For the love of Colorado
For the Love of Colorado
Coalition Formation

Agriculture

Government

Business

Environment

Water Providers

Recreation

WATER
For the Love of Colorado
Coalition Formation

- 2018 Keystone Policy Center convening of stakeholders
- Coalition Objectives:
  - Funding Needs
  - Fund Distribution and Governance
  - Raising Public Awareness
  - Potential Sources of Funding

Credit: Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office
For the Love of Colorado
Policy Committee

Kelly Brough – Denver Metro Chamber
Terry Fankhauser – Colorado Cattlemen’s Association
Russ George – Interbasin Compact Committee
Jon Goldin-Dubois – Western Resource Advocates
Tom Gougeon – Gates Family Foundation
Ted Kowalski – Walton Family Foundation
Jim Lochhead – Denver Water
Andy Mueller – Colorado River District
Funding Needs & Distribution

- Healthy Rivers
- Watershed Health and Water Quality
- Conservation and Efficiency
- Productive Agriculture
- Infrastructure
- Colorado Compact Obligations
Funding Sources: The Colorado Challenge

Since 1992, only 2 statewide fiscal measures have passed in CO

2018 measures

- **Amend 73**: 45% Yes, 55% No
- **Prop 109**: 65% Yes, 35% No
- **Prop 110**: 55% Yes, 45% No
Funding Sources: The Colorado Challenge

Prop DD (Sports Betting) Passes!

2018 measures

Prop 109
Prop 110
Prop DD

2019

Funding Sources:  The Colorado Challenge

Prop DD (Sports Betting) Passes!
Water Not Top-of-Mind Concern for Most Coloradans

Level of Concern on Issues
Among those who have given thought to the issue

Q9. To what extent are you concerned about each of the following issues?

American Rivers/Lynx Research Assoc. May 2019
Population growth top-of-mind among Front Rangers while roads and healthcare more prominent issues among residents of other regions.

**A Great Deal Thought to Issue**

*% Top Box on 5 pt. scale*

- **Condition of streets & roads**: Front Range 44%, Other Regions 50%
- **Population growth/number of people moving to CO**: Front Range 36%, Other Regions 42%
- **Condition of natural outdoor areas**: Front Range 31%, Other Regions 27%
- **Strength of local economy**: Front Range 36%, Other Regions 44%
- **Availability of quality healthcare**: Front Range 31%, Other Regions 34%
- **Availability of clean, safe, reliable drinking water**: Front Range 35%, Other Regions 34%
- **Quality of education**: Front Range 28%, Other Regions 31%
- **Amount of water used compared to amount available**: Front Range 20%, Other Regions 22%
- **Availability of locally grown/raised food**: Front Range 44%, Other Regions 50%

American Rivers/Lynx Research Assoc. May 2019
Coloradans need to learn more about their water source...

- 23% admit to not knowing where their water comes from,
- Only half think their water comes from mountain sources,
- Only one quarter directly connect mountain precipitation to water availability,
- Only 25% believe conserving water keeps more water in rivers, lakes and reservoirs,
- 42% don’t believe the health of rivers or streams is currently threatened.

Nevertheless, 89% agree that “we are all connected by Colorado’s water and water issues.”
Perceived Importance of Water for Agriculture Rivals Household Use

### Importance of Water Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Extremely/Very important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very/at all important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic household use</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor leisure and recreation</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor public spaces such as parks, golf courses, etc.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential lawns/landscaping</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Rivers/Lynx Research Assoc. May 2019
For the Love of Colorado Focus Areas

- Build an Excellent Track Record of Project Funding
  - Wise and strategic distribution of water plan funds
  - CWCB receives more great project proposals than funding
- Build Broad and Deep Coalition of Engaged Members
  - Champions in every basin in the state
- Cultivate New Opportunities
  - Score funding wins wherever opportunities arise
- Raise Public Awareness of Colo’s Water Plan and Shift Attitudes
Thank You.