



## Integrated Water Management Planning in the Middle Colorado River

*To improve security for all water uses in the Middle Colorado River by understanding and protecting existing uses, meeting shortages, and maintaining healthy riverine ecosystems in the face of increased future demand and climate uncertainty.*

### Consumptive Use Focus Group Meeting

January 9, 2019

#### Meeting Summary

#### I. Attendees.

Trent Hyatt – Community Development, Glenwood  
Sheryl Bower – Community Development Director, Garfield County  
Patrick Waller – Community Development, Garfield County  
Lance Stewart – Town Administrator, De Beque  
Sam Potter – West Divide Water Conservancy District  
Maria Pastore – Colorado Springs Utilities  
Dennis Davidson – Conservation Districts  
Angie Fowler – SGM  
Jim Pokrandt, Colorado River District and Colorado Basin Roundtable  
Hannah Holm – Water Center at Colorado Mesa University  
Seth Mason – Lotic Hydrological  
Laurie Rink – Middle Colorado Watershed Council

#### II. Discussion – What Kind of Planning Exercises/Outputs Could Benefit the Middle River?

- Create a map that illustrated intakes/outfalls along the mainstem as an information tool.
- Inventory water rights by priority date – annotate with some intermediate concepts like compact limitations, ability to store, etc. Note that the priority system is reflective of available precipitation (i.e., north vs. south side of river differences).
- Analyses to inform land use planning. Garfield County is considering zoning as it relates to water availability for residential development (versus allowing water hauling). Create maps that illustrate water-limited regions that may not be conducive for higher density.
- Investigate industrial uses current and future. Oil/gas producers have purchased senior water rights from ag but have not yet exercised these rights for industrial uses; are leasing back for ag production. What impact will occur to system when/if these are exercised for industrial use?
- Capture the reality of water moving from ag to municipal uses when condition are really dry.
- Localized storage is critical for our area. Municipal interests may be good partners for small scale storage. Take a look at the restricted reservoir list as starting point for storage analysis.
- Build a consumptive use model to illustrate existing conditions, determining how much ag production and other uses we have now, and what kind of buffer is needed to protect all those uses as the system changes.

#### III. Mental Model Exercise

Seth is working with each of the focus groups to develop a “mental model” of different sectors of water use in the middle river. The purpose of the exercise is to explore relationships between water use, ecosystem health and the various good and services that humans derive from river-related goods and services, introducing our

individual perceptions around the value of these goods and services. Results from all of the focus groups will be combined in a larger model. This model will serve as an important tool as the group moves deeper into the assessment and project/program prioritization process of integrated water management planning. The focus group dove into the exercise, developing a web of relationships around the variety of consumptives uses for the basin.

### III. Next Meeting

The group will be reconvened in another month or two to review the aggregated results of the mental model. Laurie will send out a poll for scheduling when the time is appropriate.

