News Statement

Statement Regarding Release of Local Water Plans in Colorado

Governor and Water Board Called Upon to Improve State Water Plan
Since Local Water Plans Would Leave Most of State High, Dry and Broke

Denver, CO (July 31, 2014)

Western Resource Advocates and Conservation Colorado offer preliminary response to today’s release of eight draft Basin Implementation Plans (local level plans in each major river basin across Colorado addressing future water supply and river health).

- “Several of the local water plans would leave us high, dry and broke. Most these plans continue to presume high amounts of water use, dry up our rivers, and call for expensive trans-mountain water diversions that leave us broke.” -- Theresa Conley, Water Advocate for Conservation Colorado
- “Governor Hickenlooper and the CWCB need to raise all boats. The state-wide Water Plan needs to show leadership if we are to move beyond the status quo and ensure a reliable water future. Some local water plans had strong elements but they don’t add-up to an adequate plan for our State.” -- Bart Miller, Water Program Director at Western Resource Advocates

Regarding Water Conservation
- “The South Platte/Metro Basin Plan keeps Colorado on a high water use path. We need the State to lead like the Colorado River Basin Plan did. This local plan from the West Slope prioritized water conservation, addressed land use planning’s role in water conservation, and clearly indicates this is not only doable but necessary.” -- Bart Miller

Regarding Health of Rivers
- “The Governor needs to step in to ensure we take action to protect our rivers and their high economic, recreational, and environmental values. While many of the plans discuss the importance of rivers, there are few specific actions to ensure water will actually BE in the rivers.” -- Theresa Conley
- “The Yampa/White Basin Plan does a good job quantifying the water needs of rivers and the impacts of projects to rivers. Our State Water Plan should follow this lead.” -- Bart Miller

Regarding Trans Mountain Diversions
- “The Trans Mountain Diversions proposed in the Arkansans and South Platte/Metro’s plans would be expensive, time-consuming and controversial. There are a broad array of alternatives that are faster, better, and cheaper for taxpayers and rate payers. The Colorado, Gunnison and Yampa Basin plans, in contrast, spells out local solutions to meet future water needs without a major state Trans Mountain Diversion. South Platte/Metro’s water plan relies on others to fix their problem. They need to float their own boat before asking others to do it for them.” -- Bart Miller

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