Compact Facts

Colorado River Compact of 1922

Allocates 7.5 million AF of consumptive use annually to (1) the Upper Colorado River Basin (those parts of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming above Lee Ferry, Arizona), and (2) the Lower Colorado River Basin (those parts of Arizona, California, and Nevada below Lee Ferry, Arizona). This Compact requires the Upper Colorado River Basin to deliver an average of 75 million AF to the Lower Basin during any consecutive 10-year period. The Lower Basin is allowed an additional 1.0 million AF of consumptive use from the Colorado River system.

Rio Grande, Colorado, and Tijuana Treaty of 1944 between the United States and Mexico

Guarantees delivery of 1.5 million AF of Colorado River water per year to Mexico. If there is not adequate surplus water to satisfy the obligation, the Upper and Lower Basins are to equally share the burden of reducing uses to make up any deficiencies.

Upper Colorado River Basin Compact of 1948

Allocates the 7.5 million AF apportionment of consumptive uses available to the Upper Basin as follows:

Arizona	50,000 AF/year
Colorado	51.75%
Utah	23%
Wyoming	14%
New Mexico	11.25%

Additionally, the State of Colorado may not deplete the flow in the Yampa River below an aggregate of 5 million AF over any 10-year period.

Depending upon the interpretation of the Compacts, other laws, and the amount of water in the river, Colorado's right to the consumptive use of water under the Compacts may range from 3.079 million AF to 3.855 million AF per year. Colorado currently consumes an average of 2.3 million AF per year with facilities in place capable of using up to 2.6 million AF. Colorado's apportionment has not been divided among the various subbasins within the state. The Yampa and La Plata River Basins have specific delivery obligations under the Compacts. The allocation and administration of Compact waters within Colorado remains open to discussion but ultimately will be subject to rules and regulations for administration by the State Engineer.

Trapper Lake (photos courtesy of Barbara Goodrich)

Major Storage Projects

Reservoir	Normal Storage (AF)
Stagecoach Reservoir	33,275
Willow Creek Reservoir (Steamboat Lake)	23,064
Taylor Draw Reservoir	13,800
Elkhead Creek Reservoir	13,500
Yamcolo Reservoir	9,580
Big Beaver Reservoir (Lake Avery)	7,658
Stillwater Reservoir	6,088

Source: Colorado Division of Water Resources Office of Dam Safety Database

Major Imports into the Basin

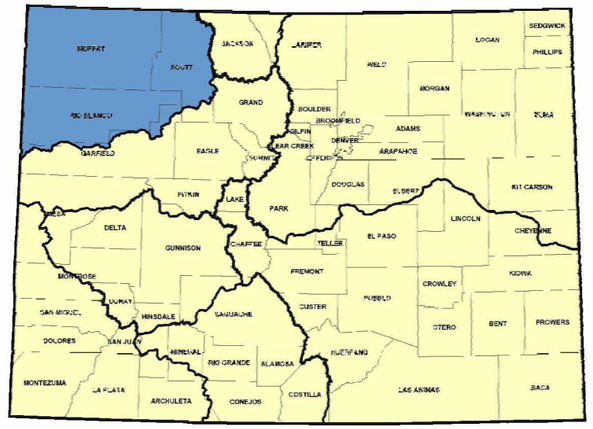
None

Major Exports from the Basin

	Name	Average Annual Diversions (AF)
1	Stillwater Ditch	4,280

Source: Division 6 1998 Annual Report, 10-year averages

Yampa/White/Green Basin



Yampa/White/Green Basin Overview

The Yampa/White/Green Basin covers roughly 10,500 square miles in northwest Colorado and south-central Wyoming. The largest cities or towns in the basin are Steamboat Springs (population 10,402) and Craig (population 9,185).

The Yampa/White/Green Basin is defined in part by the Continental Divide on the east. The elevations in the basin range from 12,200 feet (Mount Zirkel) in the Sierra Madre range to about 5,100 feet at the confluence of the Yampa and Green Rivers at Echo Park within Dinosaur National Monument. The basin contains diverse landforms including steep mountain slopes, high plateaus, rolling hills, incised sandstone canyons, and broad alluvial valleys and floodplains.

Large portions of the basin are federally owned lands. Livestock, grazing, and recreation are the predominant land uses in the basin. Steamboat Springs is a destination ski resort and is likely to experience continued population growth. Near the towns of Craig, Hayden, Steamboat Springs, Yampa, and Meeker, much of the land is dedicated to agricultural use. The mountains are densely covered by forest. The valley and plateaus are mostly covered by shrubland and are also dotted with forest.

Water Conservation District

Colorado River

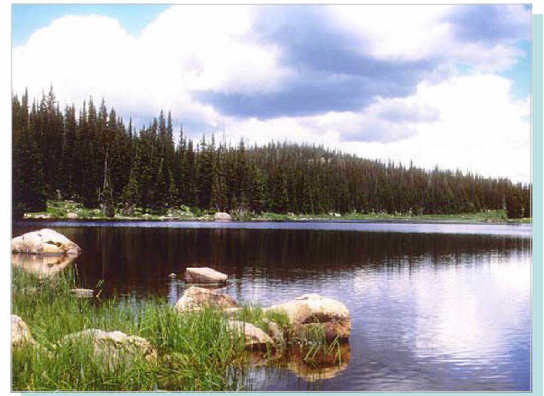
Water Conservancy Districts

Great Northern
Upper Yampa
Juniper
Yellow Jacket
Rio Blanco

Yampa/White/Green Basin Water Management Issues

The Yampa/White/Green Basin will face several key points and challenges with respect to water management issues and needs over the next 30 years. The following provides an overview of some of the points and challenges that have been identified:

- *Agriculture, tourism, and recreation are vital components of this basin's economy.*
- *Industrial uses, especially power production, are a major water use. Future energy development opportunities exist but are less certain.*
- *While rapidly growing in some areas (Yampa River/Steamboat area) the basin is not developing as rapidly as other portions of the state. This has led to concern that the basin will not get a "fair share" of water use afforded to Colorado under the Colorado River Compact.*
- *The Recovery Implementation Program is designed to address the recovery needs of the Colorado River endangered fish while protecting existing water uses and allowing for the future use of Colorado River water in compliance with Interstate Compacts, Treaties, and applicable federal and state law "the Law of the Colorado River."*



Fishhook Lake (photo courtesy of Bill Green)

Yampa/White/Green Basin Growth

The Yampa/White/Green Basin is comprised of all or part of three counties. Changes in population from 2000 to 2030, including percent annual growth rate on a county level, are shown in the table here. During that time, the population in the basin is expected to grow by 22,100 people, or 56 percent.

Yampa/White/Green Basin Population Projections

Subbasin Designation	2000 Population	2030 Population	Increase in Population 2000 to 2030	Percent Change 2000 to 2030	Percent Annual Growth Rate
Moffat	13,200	18,200	5,000	38	1.1
Rio Blanco	6,000	8,400	2,400	40	1.1
Routt	20,100	34,800	14,700	73	1.8
TOTAL	**39,300**	**61,400**	**22,100**	**56**	**1.5**

Yampa/White/Green Basin Water Demands

The Yampa/White/Green Basin is projected to increase in municipal and industrial (M&I) and self-supplied industrial (SSI) water demand by 22,300 acre-feet (AF) by 2030. M&I is defined as all of the water use of a typical municipal system, including residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation, and firefighting. Large industrial water users that have their own water supplies or lease raw water from others are described as SSI water users. M&I and SSI water demand forecasts for the Yampa/White/Green Basin are shown in the table above.

The 2000 and 2030 gross demands are presented in the table along with the projected conservation savings. Conservation practices include ordinances and standards that improve the overall efficiency of water use, such as installation of low water-use plumbing fixtures. As the table indicates, the Yampa/White/Green Basin will need an additional 22,300 AF to meet the increased demands of M&I water use. The majority of the demand is expected to be met through existing supplies and water rights and through the implementation of various projects and processes.

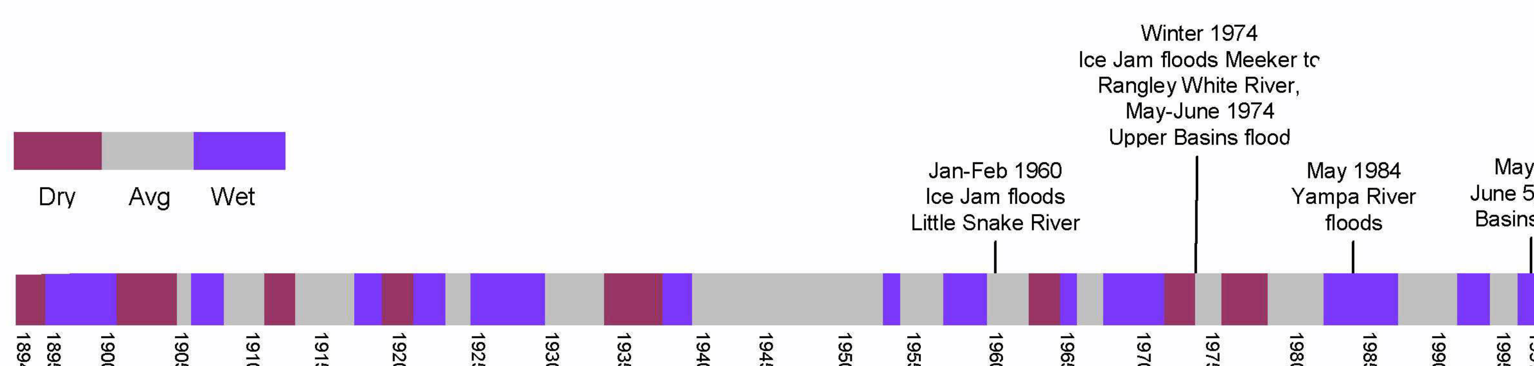
Yampa/White/Green Basin Demand Projections

Subbasin Designation	2000 Gross Demand (AF)	2030 Gross Demand (AF)	Projected Conservation Savings (AF)	Increase in Gross Demand (AF)	Identified Gross Demand Shortfall (AF)
Moffat	16,300	26,900	300	10,300	—
Rio Blanco	2,000	2,700	100	600	—
Routt	11,100	23,000	500	11,400	—
TOTAL	**29,400**	**52,600**	**900**	**22,300**	**—**

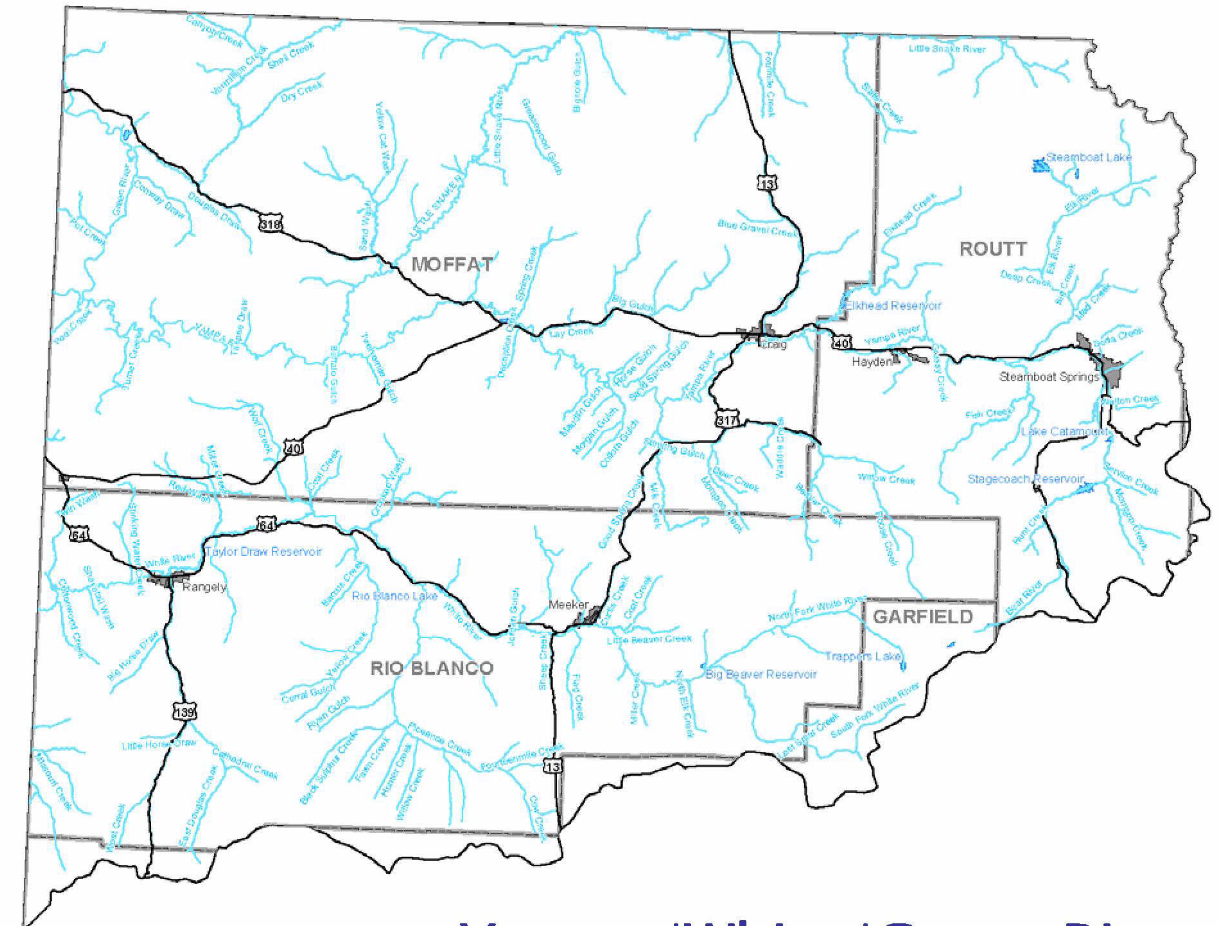
Yampa River (photo courtesy of Colorado State Parks)

Wet and Dry Periods

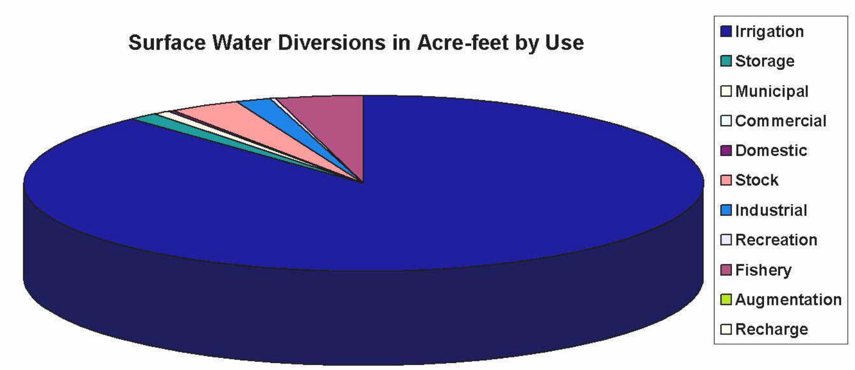
Every year, there is at least one 100-year flood somewhere in the state. Colorado's total flood losses to date have been documented to be $4.9 billion. The Yampa/White/Green Basin's most recent flood event was May 30-June 5, 1997. The estimated total historic flood damages for this basin have been $5.5 million to date.



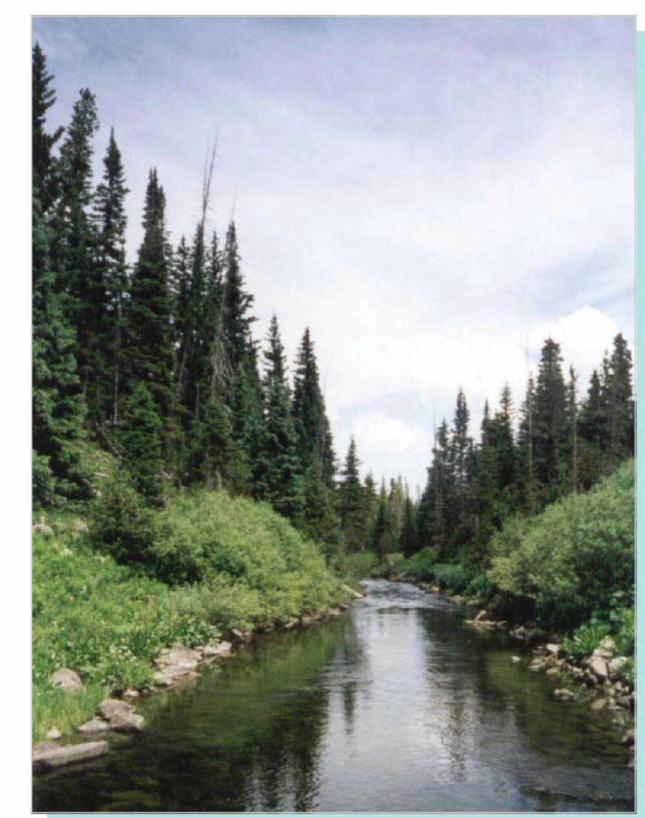
Source: Colorado Water Conservation Board and Division 6 Staff



Yampa/White/Green River Basin



Source: Colorado Division of Water Resources, Cumulative Yearly Statistics of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, 1999-2004



Elk Creek (photo courtesy of Barbara Goodrich)