

**TRI-COUNTY
WATER**

CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

PO Box 347
Montrose, Colorado 81402

Availability of Service

Tri-County Water is encouraging customers to take advantage of an opportunity to minimize their water bill and save some money. Availability of Service (AOS) is a fee charged by the District to keep the lights on and telephones ringing if and when you need our help. If you are NOT using water through an existing tap or own a tap that has not been installed, you may be paying too much.

AOS rate is \$12 ever 56 days and is available to any customer who is NOT using water through their tap even if the tap is installed. For a \$5 service charge, the meter will be turned off sealed, and drained. If you need water at anytime, you

can simply call the District (48-hour notice) and we will activate the account and, if necessary, turn the meter back on.

In addition to monetary savings, a sealed meter will help protect the customer from expenses and damages arising from a leak behind the meter. If you plan to be away from home for an extended period, the District encourages you to call for advice.



WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The five-year plan for Tri-County Water is complete and now available. Contact the District office for more information.

Tri-County Water Connections

Conservancy District

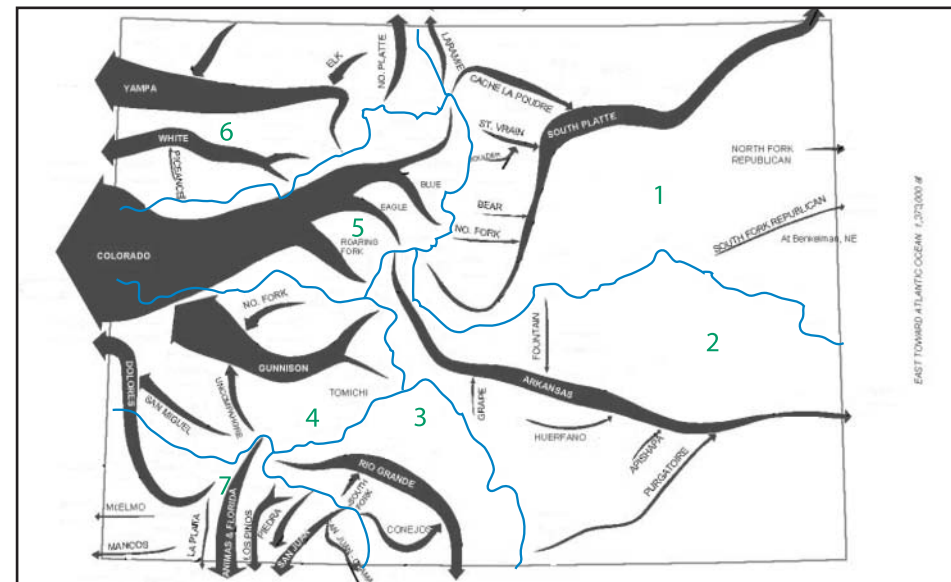
Future Water Needs



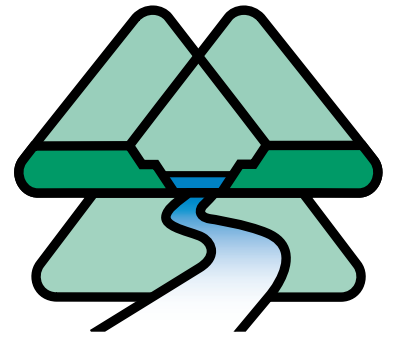
Strengthening Colorado's future water supply is the purpose of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). In 2003, Colorado Governor Bill Owens commissioned the Colorado Water Conservation Board to survey water suppliers and interested parties about future needs and concerns for the state. A \$2.5 million contract was awarded to CDM Engineering to conduct the survey and complete the water initiative study by November 2004.

The SWSI will identify how and where Colorado water users can develop and store decreed water rights. It will prioritize potential projects to improve domestic and irrigation supplies. The SWSI board is conducting roundtable meetings in the major river basins. The Western Slope basins include Gunnison, Colorado, Yampa-White, Dolores-San Juan and Rio Grande Rivers. The Eastern Slope Rivers are the Arkansas and the South and North Platte Rivers.

Representatives from each basin are identifying projects that should be studied further for feasibility and need. Some of the proposals include small dams, conservation techniques, storage and use of water for multiple purposes. *continued on page 3*



Major River Basins in Colorado
Office of the State Engineer - Colorado Division of Water Resources



PO Box 347
Montrose, Colorado 81402

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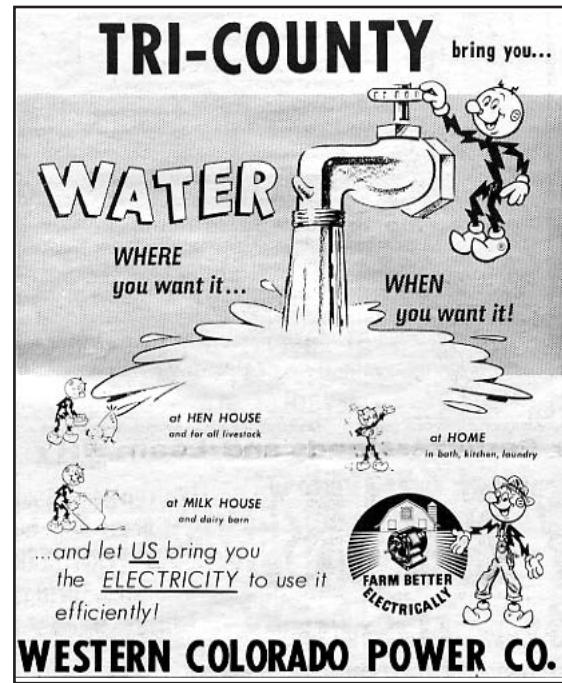
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Availability of Service

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Conservancy District
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Please write, call, or fax Tri-County Water with any questions, concerns, comments, or helpful hints.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!



1968 Special Insert-
Delta County Independent

Reflections

A continuing series of the history and development of the Tri-County Water Conservancy District.

Domestic Water Supply System

Residents of the Uncompahgre Valley and Lower Gunnison River Valleys expressed their desire and need for a domestic water supply and distribution system in the 1950's and 1960's. Tri-County Water was given the authority to investigate and develop potential water sources and determine the number of water taps for the area. Community response to the initial water tap subscription drive in 1967-68 affirmed the need for the project to continue.

In the meantime, Tri-County retained a Delta firm, Morcan Engineering Company to investigate potential water sources and the number of water taps needed for the area. After six years of studying and planning, a \$3.9 million bond issue was sent to the voters in July 1968. The bond issue was to construct a rural

domestic water system in portions of the Uncompahgre Valley in Montrose and Delta Counties and parts of Ouray County near Colona. Revenue from water sales was anticipated to pay off the bond without using tax revenues.

"This system probably represents the greatest advance for the area since the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Associations came into being," stated Robert K. Lewis, president of the Tri-County Board of Directors. Floyd Beach of Delta, vice president of the board, compared its importance to the growth and progress of the valley with the advent of rural electric service.



Easing Your Concerns

As a utility company, Tri-County Water has a need from time to time to acquire easements from landowners for the express purpose of placement, operation, and maintenance of its water line. An easement is an interest in the landowner's title as a right to use the surface for a specific purpose. Within an easement, an underlying property owner does not necessarily have full use of the property. For example, the landowner cannot build a permanent structure on the easement. Such interference could be detrimental to the landowner and utility company if there were a break in the line.

An easement reserves the rights of the utility company regardless of property ownership changes. The recorded easement should show in any property title insurance policy. The easement holder and landowner can restrict use of the easement to other utilities. A third party would have to be granted an easement by the landowner and approved by the easement holder for another use.

So when a utility company asks for an easement to provide a vital service to our community, please consider the request and understand you are not giving up the right to use the land, but to avoid conflict with the use of the easement by the utility.

Water Chat

What is the time cycle of a water molecule?

According to "The Freshwater Society", in a one-hundred year period, an average water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, and about two weeks in the atmosphere.

The "2003 Consumer Confidence Report," your water quality information, is available. If you haven't received yours, contact the district.

How does Tri-County Water District detect a major leak in the distribution piping system?

A major leak can be detected by:

- ⊙ A visual detection (water on the ground) by District employees who work in the field.
- ⊙ A loss in pressure that can be detected by the District and customers.
- ⊙ Reports by responsible citizens.

Once a leak is suspected, water utility personnel determine its precise location.

Stopping leaks is important to a water supplier because leaks waste water, adding cost to both the water supplier and you. The cost for water lost to leaks is passed along to the customers.

Any leakage that occurs within the boundary of a property behind the water meter is the customer's responsibility and must be repaired at their expense. Prompt repair is to your benefit, because as long as the pipe is leaking, the water bill will be higher.

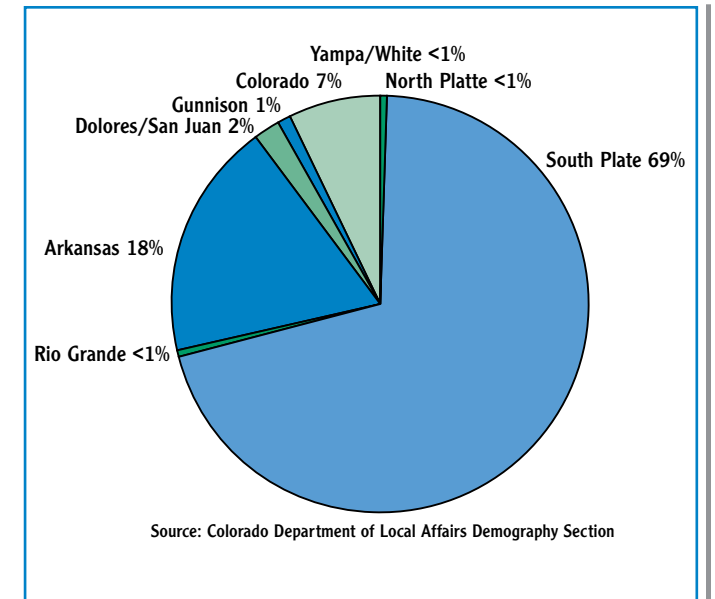
SOURCE OF INFORMATION
Plain Talk about Drinking Water by
Dr. James M. Symons



Future Water

continued from page 1

The study will prioritize projects according to cost effectiveness. The State Legislature has kicked the SWSI into high gear due to the drought and continued pressure from a growing populace.



Colorado Population Projections
through 2030

According to the state census, Colorado's population growth is projected at 2% per year. The current population of the state is 4.3 million and expected to increase to 7.1 million by 2030. The population of the Uncompahgre Valley is expected to double by 2030.

With anticipated growth, one goal for SWSI is to ensure agricultural viability, which would minimize the conversion of agricultural water to municipal water supplies.

Recommendations will be released in November 2004, shifting the survey into a workable, feasibility study for state water projects. All projects will abide by existing Colorado water laws and within the River Compact regulations.

