



Town of New Castle
450 W. Main Street
PO Box 90
New Castle, CO 81647

Administration Department
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www.newcastlecolorado.org

Agenda

New Castle Town Council Work Session

Tuesday, March 04, 2025, 6:15 PM

Virtual Meetings are subject to internet and technical capabilities.

To join by computer, smart phone or tablet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7096588400>

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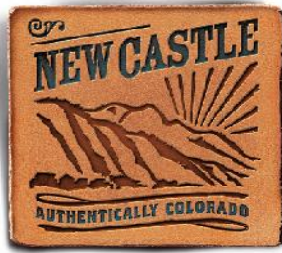
Please call: 1-346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 709 658 8400

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a.

**Presentation: Amy Moyer – Shoshone Water Rights
Project**



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Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council
From: David Reynolds
Re: Workshop Item: Shoshone Water Rights Presentation & Update
Date: 03/04/2025

Purpose:

The purpose of this Council Workshop is to allow time for Amy Moyer from the Colorado River District to update the Town Council regarding the local preservation of Shoshone Water Rights. As Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Colorado River District, Amy has been actively involved in educating area leaders on the importance of preserving Shoshone Water Rights for the continued benefit of the Colorado River Valley. Amy first visited Town Council on June 18, 2024, and discussed the history of the Shoshone Water Rights and provided an update to the Council which included the pending sale of water rights, how a sale might affect our region, and what area stakeholders are doing to try to protect these water rights for continued uses in our area. Following Amy's visit on June 18th, the Town Council discussed the importance of New Castle's support in this effort. During our 2025 budget discussions the Town Council identified funds that may be directed toward this effort. With months of fund raising behind her, Amy has been asked to return to Town Council and provide an update on the pending sale and the funds that have been raised to date.

Attached please find materials provided by Amy during our meeting on June 18th.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

FROM: AMY MOYER, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SUBJECT: SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION PROJECT - UPDATE

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2025

I. SHOSHONE PERMANENCY PROJECT SUMMARY

The Shoshone Hydro Plant, a unique run of the river hydroelectric power plant, sits alongside the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon, about eight miles east of Glenwood Springs. Owned by the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, it produces 15 megawatts of electricity, enough power to serve approximately 15,000 customers. The Shoshone Power Plant produces hydroelectric power by means of two of the largest, and most senior non-consumptive water rights in the Upper Colorado River Basin, the 1902 senior Shoshone Water Right in the amount of 1,250 cfs, and the 1929 junior Shoshone Water Right in the amount of 158 cfs. The Shoshone Water Rights enable PSCo to divert water from the Colorado River on a year-round basis to operate the power plant and, because these water rights are by nature non-consumptive, all diverted water is returned to the Colorado River un-depleted downstream of the Shoshone Diversion Dam. The long-standing exercise of the Shoshone Water Rights has led to the creation of a historical flow regime which extends down the Upper Colorado River's mainstem, providing vital ecosystem, habitat, recreational, agricultural, and economic benefits.

For more than 20 years, the Colorado River District and 19 other western Colorado governments and water entities, including Summit, Grand, Eagle, Garfield, and Mesa Counties and many of the municipalities and major water organizations therein, have been working together to find a way to permanently preserve the Shoshone flows. In addition, the 2013 Colorado River Cooperative Agreement between Denver Water and 17 West Slope governments/water user organizations expressly recognizes the importance of – and memorialized the need to provide permanent protection of – the Shoshone flows in the Colorado River.

We are now on the cusp of the unprecedented alignment of multiple factors that presents a real opportunity to finalize this long-standing goal. On December 19, 2023, Xcel Energy and the Colorado River District signed a Purchase & Sale Agreement (PSA) to transfer ownership of the historic Shoshone water rights to the River District for \$99 million. The historic agreement marks



a first step towards permanent protection of the historic flows and the resulting economic benefits provided by the Shoshone water rights.

Permanent protection of the Shoshone Flows will secure multiple benefits to the Colorado River water users on the West Slope and across the state such as:

Water Quality Improvements: Communities large and small along the Colorado River mainstem benefit from the enhanced water quality Shoshone flows provide, diluting salinity and sediment in source drinking water for towns like New Castle, Silt, Rifle, Parachute, Battlement Mesa, and De Beque. Without the higher flows of clean and cold headwater-sourced supplies provided by the Shoshone call, a higher concentration of salinity and other water quality constituents creates increased costs for municipal drinking and wastewater treatment.

Recreation Economy: Shoshone flows benefit Colorado communities both upstream and downstream of the call. Colorado's robust recreational economy relies heavily on the Colorado River mainstem, with Shoshone flows strengthening the state's iconic river recreation industry throughout Grand, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, and Mesa counties. River recreation in Colorado contributes \$18.8 billion annually to the state's GDP, with nearly \$4 billion coming directly from the Colorado River basin on the Western Slope. As temperatures rise and streams diminish, Shoshone permanency provides security for this economic industry, protecting the recreational fishery and boating that sustain local businesses and attract water-based recreators.

According to the Shoshone Outfitter Partnership, the Colorado River through Glenwood Canyon experiences over 70,000 commercial customer trips and an estimated 80,000 private boaters who launch from the Grizzly Creek and Shoshone boat ramps. River recreation sustains local businesses and the middle Colorado's recreation- and tourism-based economies. Achieving Shoshone permanency provides certainty and security for outfitters, the hospitality industry, and all local businesses that rely on resident and non-resident tourists and qualified employees. In 2022, the Colorado River Outfitters Association estimated that commercial river rafting through Glenwood Canyon created an economic impact of \$23.5 million.¹

Agricultural Benefits: Shoshone flows support Colorado's \$11.9 billion agricultural economy in several important ways. First, water security for West Slope agriculture is intimately linked to the success of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program where cooperative water management allows for continued development and diversion of water resources while maintaining compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Second, if the Shoshone water rights were not exercised, irrigators would be directly impacted by a foreseeable and likely increase in the frequency and duration of the Cameo Call to supply major irrigation water rights near the City of Grand Junction. The resulting impact would trigger less opportunity for upstream agricultural diversions, a

¹ Commercial Rafting Use Report 1988-2022: <https://www.croa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022-CROA-Commercial-Rafting-Use-Report.pdf>



greater frequency of river administration in the month of April, and insufficient replacement supplies for some West Slope augmentation plans.

Furthermore, the Shoshone flows create higher water quality for irrigators up and down the mainstem which brings greater agricultural production. Agricultural producers benefit significantly from improved water quality, bringing greater agricultural production to the West Slope. High salinity levels in the Colorado River can negatively impact crop yields and soil health, especially for salt-sensitive cash crops, such as fruits and vegetables.

Ecosystem Benefits and Endangered Species Recovery: Over 380 miles of the Colorado River mainstem experience a benefit when the Shoshone water rights are being administered, preserving aquatic habitat that would otherwise be diminished by the decrease in flows.

The Colorado River downstream of Rifle is habitat for four fish listed under the Endangered Species Act, including the 15-Mile Reach, a stretch of critical habitat in the Grand Valley. Preservation of the Shoshone water rights support the recovery of these threatened and endangered fish species by providing well-timed baseflows during important shoulder and late irrigation seasons when the river is prone to higher temperatures and lower flows, as well as during the winter months. All Colorado River water users in the State of Colorado rely upon the benefits of the Shoshone flows as part of the success of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and continued compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which provides compliance protections for over 1,250 projects in Colorado.

II. PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

The Purchase and Sale Agreement (“PSA”) contemplates the conveyance of the Shoshone Water Rights from the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) to the Colorado River District. As defined in the PSA, the “Shoshone Water Rights” to be acquired by the Colorado River District include both the senior Shoshone Power Plant water right in the amount of 1,250 cfs with an appropriation date of January 7, 1902, and the junior Shoshone Power Plant water right in the amount of 158 cfs with an appropriation date of May 15, 1929. The purchase price for the Shoshone Water Rights is \$98,500,000, with an additional \$500,000 payment for PSCo’s transaction costs.

To close the transaction and authorize the expenditure of public funds for the acquisition of the Shoshone Water Rights, the PSA contains four closing conditions that must be met by December 31, 2027, unless that deadline is extended by mutual agreement. The four closing conditions described in the PSA are as follows:

1. **Negotiation of an instream flow agreement with the CWCB.** The PSA contemplates that the River District and PSCo will negotiate with the CWCB for an agreement that authorizes the CWCB to use the Shoshone Water Rights for instream purposes when the rights are not being used for hydropower generation.



-
2. **A change of water right decree.** The PSA provides that the parties anticipate being co-applicants with the CWCB in the filing of an application for adjudication of a change of water right decree to allow the Shoshone Water Rights to be used by the CWCB for instream flow purposes in accordance with the terms of the instream flow agreement.
 3. **Approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.** The PSA contemplates that PSCo will petition the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to approve the sale of the Shoshone Water Rights and the disposition of proceeds.
 4. **Secured funding.** The PSA requires the River District to secure funding for the negotiated purchase price prior to the commencement of the PUC process.

III. STATUS OF FINANCING FOR SHOSHONE ACQUISITION

The funding strategy to acquire and permanently protect the Shoshone Water Rights relies on a diverse partnership of local, state, and federal funding sources. An update on financial commitments at each of these levels is included below for your review:

State and Local Commitments: The River District has secured more than \$16 million from its consortium of local partners, including numerous local governments, municipalities, water entities, and other organizations across the West Slope. This amount is on top of the River District's \$20 million commitment and the State of Colorado's \$20 million which was formally committed through HB24-1435. Thus, as of today, we have secured just over \$56 million in local and state commitments with additional commitments anticipated from local partners in the months ahead. These financial commitments are in addition to the over 50 letters of support from a diverse coalition of stakeholders representing 108 perspectives from federal and state governmental entities, municipalities, local governments, major water entities, economic partnerships, NGOs, and other public and private organizations. *(See summaries on Page 5-8.)*

Federal Funding Request: On November 14, 2024, the River District submitted its funding request to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, requesting \$40 million in furtherance of the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project. On January 17, 2025, the Bureau of Reclamation informed River District leadership that the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project had been awarded funding and would move on to the next phase to negotiate terms and conditions of a funding agreement. This news was widely celebrated by water users, rural municipalities and agricultural producers on Colorado's Western Slope.



State and Local Funding Commitments (as of 2/26/2025)

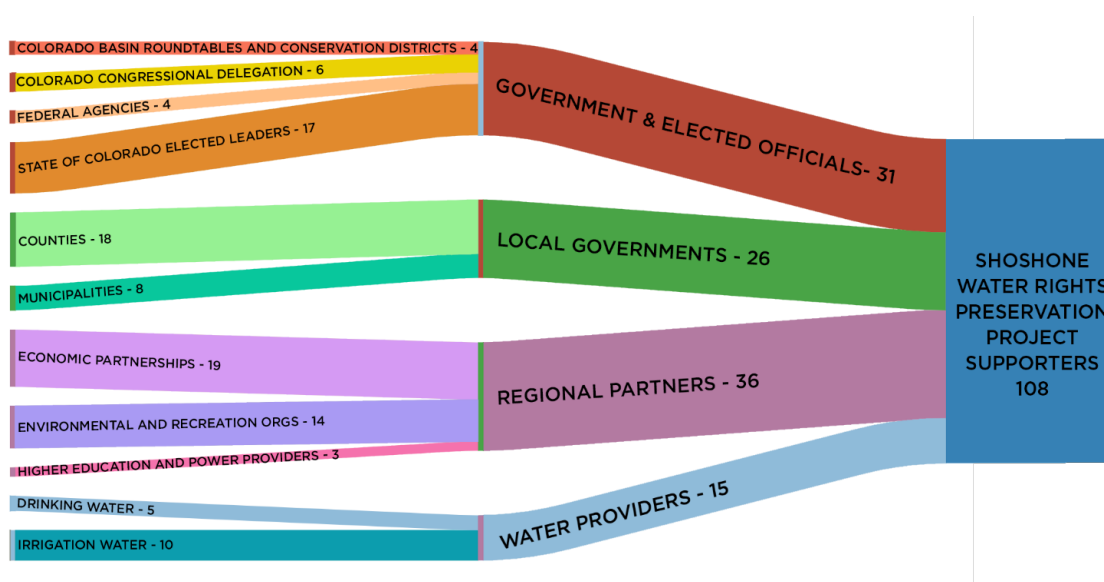
State of Colorado	\$20 million
Colorado River District	\$20 million
Garfield County	\$3 million
Eagle County	\$2 million
City of Glenwood Springs	\$2 million
Ute Water Conservancy District	\$2 million
Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority	\$1 million
Grand County	\$1 million
City of Grand Junction	\$1 million
Mesa County	\$1 million
Summit County	\$1 million
Colorado Mesa University	\$500,000
Clifton Water District	\$250,000
Grand Valley Irrigation Company	\$250,000
Basalt Water Conservancy District	\$100,000
Grand Valley Power	\$100,000
Grand Valley Water Users Association	\$100,000
Middle Park Water Conservancy District	\$100,000
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	\$100,000
City of Rifle	\$100,000
Snowmass Water & Sanitation District	\$100,000
Town of Silverthorne	\$100,000
Mesa County Irrigation District	\$50,000
Palisade Irrigation District	\$50,000
West Divide Water Conservancy District	\$50,000
Kobe Water Authority	\$25,000
Town of Parachute	\$25,000
Town of De Beque	\$5,000
De Beque Soil Conservation District	\$5,000
Total:	\$56.01M



Letters of Support Summary

The following index includes 58 letters of support from a diverse coalition of stakeholders representing 108 voices from organizations with broad political, cultural, and regional interests statewide. United in advocating for the permanent protection of the Shoshone water rights, these letters reflect a rare alliance of federal and state government entities, counties, cities, towns, water conservancies, NGOs, and both public and private organizations. Together, they underscore the crucial role of the Shoshone Water Rights in bolstering drought resilience, preserving ecosystems, and sustaining the economic and recreational vitality of the Colorado River.

Figure 1: Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project Supporters



The quotes below are examples pulled directly from the following letters of support. They illustrate the wide-ranging support for securing the Shoshone Water Rights for Colorado's communities, economy, and environment.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis — “The project is a strong match for the innovative new program recently launched by The Bureau of Reclamation for “Bucket 2 Environmental Drought Mitigation” funding to provide environmental and ecosystem benefits that address issues directly caused by drought. The request for funding, if granted, would serve as the linchpin to a historic agreement for the Colorado River Water Conservation District to purchase the water rights associated with the Shoshone power plant. Not only will this agreement preserve the status quo of water rights administration on the river, but will also benefit water users and the environment at a time of unprecedented drought.”

Colorado Congressional Delegation — “The Colorado River District has allocated \$20 million, with additional commitments from the State of Colorado and Western Slope partners, reflecting a strong local recognition of the Shoshone Water Rights' importance to the health of western Colorado's environment and economies.”



Members of the Colorado General Assembly — *“Without the Shoshone water rights, Colorado River flows would be significantly lower (especially in drought years), diminishing over 250 miles of connected ecosystems that rely on the river’s flows to support Gold Medal fisheries and critical habitat for native, threatened, and endangered fish. These water rights are vital to Colorado’s \$11.9 billion agricultural and \$14.6 billion recreation economies, which support thriving communities and small businesses on both sides of the Continental Divide.”*

National Park Service — *“The Colorado River District’s application for Shoshone water rights would provide a clear benefit to the 15-Mile Reach, a stretch of critical habitat in Western Colorado that is heavily impacted by drought and water development, provide well-timed flows during important shoulder seasons when the river is prone to high temperatures and low flows, and preserve the natural baseflow in the river during the winter months.”*

Colorado Counties, Inc., Western District — *“The Western District of Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) strongly supports the Colorado River Water Conservation District’s effort to acquire and permanently protect the Shoshone water rights. We are united in our conviction that this effort is crucial for our region’s agricultural operations, recreational economy, and ecological sustainability.”*

Town of New Castle — *“Though New Castle’s primary water source is East Elk Creek, the Colorado River provides a crucial backup, especially as climate change intensifies drought, wildfires, and water quality issues. As a local source of recreation and tourism, the Colorado River relies on historic water flows which contribute to the health of our local economy.”*

Clifton Water District — *“In Clifton, our future is tied to the flows of the Colorado River because the drinking water we depend on comes directly from that river. Sustained, year-round river levels, supported by the Shoshone call, allow for higher water quality and reduce consumer costs by diluting difficult-to-remove pollutants and sediment.”*

City of Glenwood Springs — *“The City of Glenwood Springs is a West Slope community whose economy and way of life depends on recreation, especially on our rivers. The health of the Colorado River, which flows through the town, is directly tied to the heart of the community, quality of life for residents, and local economy.”*

Letter of Support Index:

1	Colorado Congressional Delegation
2	Colorado Governor Jared Polis
3	Members of the Colorado General Assembly
4	National Park Service
5	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6	Xcel Energy
7	Grand County



8	Summit County
9	Eagle County
10	Garfield County
11	Mesa County
12	Ouray County
13	Routt County
14	Western District, Colorado Counties, Inc
15	Grand Valley Water Users Association
16	Orchard Mesa Irrigation District
17	Collbran Water Conservancy
18	Silt Project
19	Water for Colorado
20	American Rivers
21	American Whitewater
22	Blue River Watershed Group
23	Eagle River Coalition
24	Middle Colorado Watershed Council
25	RiversEdge West
26	Roaring Fork Conservancy
27	The Sonoran Institute
28	Western Resources Advocates & The Nature Conservancy
29	Eagle River Water and Sanitation District & Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority
30	Ute Water Conservancy District
31	West Divide Water Conservancy District
32	Clifton Water District
33	Grand Valley Irrigation Company
34	Mesa County Irrigation District
35	Middle Park Water Conservancy District
36	Palisade Irrigation District
37	Tri-County Water
38	City of Grand Junction
39	Town of Breckenridge
40	Town of Silverthorne
41	City of Glenwood Springs
42	City of Rifle
43	Town of New Castle
44	Town of Silt
45	Town of Basalt
46	Southwestern Water Conservation District



47	Basalt Water Conservancy District
48	Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC)
49	Business for Water Stewardship
50	Club 20
51	Colorado Mesa University
52	Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership
53	Grand Junction Economic Partnership
54	Grand Valley Power
55	Shoshone Outfitter Partnership
56	Colorado Basin Roundtable
57	Gunnison Basin Roundtable
58	Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable

** Note: The USFS and the BLM provided a joint report titled “Biological and Recreational Resources Dependent on Colorado River Flows Through Glenwood Canyon, published September 2024.*



SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 17, 2025

CONTACT:

Lindsay DeFrates, Colorado River District Deputy
Director of Public Relations — 970.456.8973

**Bureau of Reclamation Announces \$40 Million Funding Award for
Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project**

Recently announced awards from the Inflation Reduction Act include multi-million-dollar investments in drought mitigation for rural communities in Western Colorado.

Glenwood Springs, Colorado — Today, the [Bureau of Reclamation announced](#) \$388.3 million in funding awards including \$40 million for the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation project. This investment supports efforts of the Colorado River District, the state of Colorado and a coalition of West Slope governments and water users to secure Western Colorado's top water priority: the permanent protection of the water rights associated with the Shoshone Power Plant in Glenwood Canyon.

These funds, awarded through the Inflation Reduction Act's Upper Colorado River Basin Environmental Program, known as B2E, are dedicated to projects which will mitigate the impacts of drought and support ecosystems throughout the Colorado River Basin. They were made available to the Department of the Interior thanks to the hard work of Colorado's federal delegation led by the efforts of Colorado's senior senator Michael Bennet and build on the more than \$56 million raised by state and local organizations.

"Securing the Shoshone water rights has been a priority of West Slope water entities and local governments for over eighty years," said **Colorado River District Board President, Kathy Chandler-Henry**. "This funding award is a huge step forward in what is a continuing effort, and we are thankful for the leadership shown by the Bureau of Reclamation in bringing these critical funds to West Slope communities."

"The Colorado River is a lifeline for the Western Slope and the thousands of Coloradans who call it home. This support for the Shoshone water rights is a huge step towards ensuring that the river will continue flowing to Western Colorado farmers, ranchers, communities, and businesses," said **Governor Polis**.

"Permanent protection of the Shoshone water rights is a multi-generational investment in our farms and ranches, and our thriving rural economies," said **Senator Marc Catlin (SD-5)**. "Today's announcement builds upon decades of work by our predecessors to protect the river as we have known it for more than a century."

"The importance of securing this water right cannot be overstated. Shoshone's flows provide crucial water flow that supports agriculture, outdoor recreation and the environment," said **Senator Dylan Roberts (SD-8)**. "This investment will pay enormous dividends for today's water users and future generations of Coloradans."

“When the Colorado River thrives, we all thrive,” said **Perry Will, Garfield County Commissioner and former State Representative and Senator representing Western Colorado**. “Today’s announcement is welcomed news for not only our rural communities on the Western Slope, but the entire state as well.”

“Water is the lifeblood of the Grand Valley and the Western Slope, and we are encouraged to see federal funds supporting the future water security of our communities,” said **Bobbie Daniel, Mesa County Commissioner**. “Mesa County is proud to have invested \$1 million in the Shoshone permanency effort. By safeguarding these water rights, we are sustaining our families, farms, natural habitats, and way of life for generations to come.”

“Securing the Shoshone water rights is a vital, multi-generational solution to protect the Colorado River’s communities and ecosystems in a hotter, drier future,” said **Matt Rice, Southwest Regional Director for American Rivers**. “Investments like this are how we keep water in the river and life thriving along its banks.”

“Water has always been essential to our way of life here on the Western Slope,” said **Curtis Englehart, Executive Director for the Grand Junction Economic Partnership**. “Protecting Shoshone’s flows in perpetuity is a critical investment that paves the way to long-term economic vitality for our communities.”

The Bureau’s announcement also included significant awards for 15 other Western Slope water projects totaling almost \$95 million which will have long-term, durable benefits to our communities and the Colorado River. The full list of projects is available [here on the Bureau's website](#). These projects, along with Shoshone, are selected to move on to the next phase to execute a funding agreement and complete necessary reviews.

The Shoshone water rights, some of the largest and most senior non-consumptive water rights on the Colorado River, are vital to maintaining flows that support a wide range of interests across Western Colorado. In December 2023, the Colorado River District reached a landmark \$99 million purchase and sale agreement with Public Service Company of Colorado, a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, to transfer ownership of those water rights. Representing a broad-based coalition, the Colorado River District is working to permanently secure these flows in partnership with the State of Colorado to ensure they remain in the Colorado River. The newly announced federal funds, combined with over \$56 million already committed by local and regional partners, including \$20 million from the State of Colorado, bring the total amount raised to over \$96 million. With strong bipartisan backing and local support, the River District will continue to move forward toward fulfilling the financial obligations of this transformative agreement.

###

Securing Shoshone

Safeguarding Colorado's water, economy and communities

The history of Colorado's Western Slope and the rural communities that make it great is written in water. We all rely on a healthy, flowing Colorado River to raise crops, sustain livestock, provide clean drinking water, and support world-class sport fisheries. As our communities face growing challenges from increasing demands and prolonged drought conditions, we must stand together to protect the future of our water. We need common-sense solutions to ensure that the next generation of Coloradans can enjoy the same benefits that we do. And we need smart investments like the Bureau of Reclamation's recently announced funding for the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation project.

For over 100 years, the Shoshone Hydropower Plant's senior water rights have maintained flows in the Colorado River through western Colorado. This water does far more than generate power for 15,000 homes — it is the lifeblood of communities across western Colorado. Colorado's \$47 billion agricultural economy and nearly \$15 billion outdoor recreation economy depend on these flows. World-class fishing, rafting, and hunting draw visitors that drive local businesses, which in turn support rural livelihoods.

Without the consistent flow sustained by Shoshone's call, many communities on the Western Slope would face economic and environmental hardship. Its permanent protection is a necessity for the hundreds of thousands of Coloradans who depend on the river for their way of life.

The Shoshone Water Rights Preservation project is a powerful example of what a broad-based, bipartisan group of supporters can accomplish when they know what needs to get done. All of the counties through which the Colorado River flows — including Grand, Garfield and Mesa counties — wholeheartedly support the project. Along with more than 20 other local governments, water entities, and the state of Colorado, these counties have helped secure funding commitments of over \$56 million toward the \$99 million purchase price. The Bureau of Reclamation's recent announcement of an additional \$40 million award for Shoshone permanency is a recognition of just how important these water rights are to the entire region as well.

We appreciate the support of Rep.

This is an incredible opportunity to bring more certainty to an uncertain future. Protecting Shoshone's water rights is a once-ever opportunity to provide water security for our communities, our agricultural economies, and for the men and women whose livelihoods depend on the Colorado River.

Bobbie Daniel is a Mesa County commissioner. Perry Will is a Garfield County commissioner. Merrit Linke is a Grand County commissioner.



BOBBIE DANIEL



PERRY WILL



MERRIT LINKE



Water leaves the Shoshone Generation Station and passes under the Interstate 70 viaduct in Glenwood Canyon in this 2014 file photo. With more than \$56

Jeff Hurd and the Colorado congressional delegation for their leadership on this historic, durable, and locally driven cause. By advocating for continued federal support to protect Shoshone's water rights, Colorado's leaders can help secure a resource and generational investment critical to Colorado's agricultural and rural economies.

million committed from local governments to the Colorado River District's purchase of the water rights from the Shoshone power plant, the focus now turns to federal funding to complete the \$99 million purchase.

CHRISTOPHER TOMLINSON/ The Daily Sentinel

The stakes are clear: securing Shoshone's water rights is essential for the health of the Colorado River, the prosperity of rural livelihoods, and the future of western Colorado. We urge Reps. Hurd and Joe Neguse, as well as Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, to continue championing this effort and proudly represent the water interests of our rural communities.

We also applaud the broad-based coalition made up of leadership from state and local governments, community organizations, and federal agencies that have brought us to this point.

These partnerships show that protecting the Colorado River is not just a shared responsibility but an opportunity to unite around a common goal.

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Shoshone Water Rights Preservation

March 4, 2025

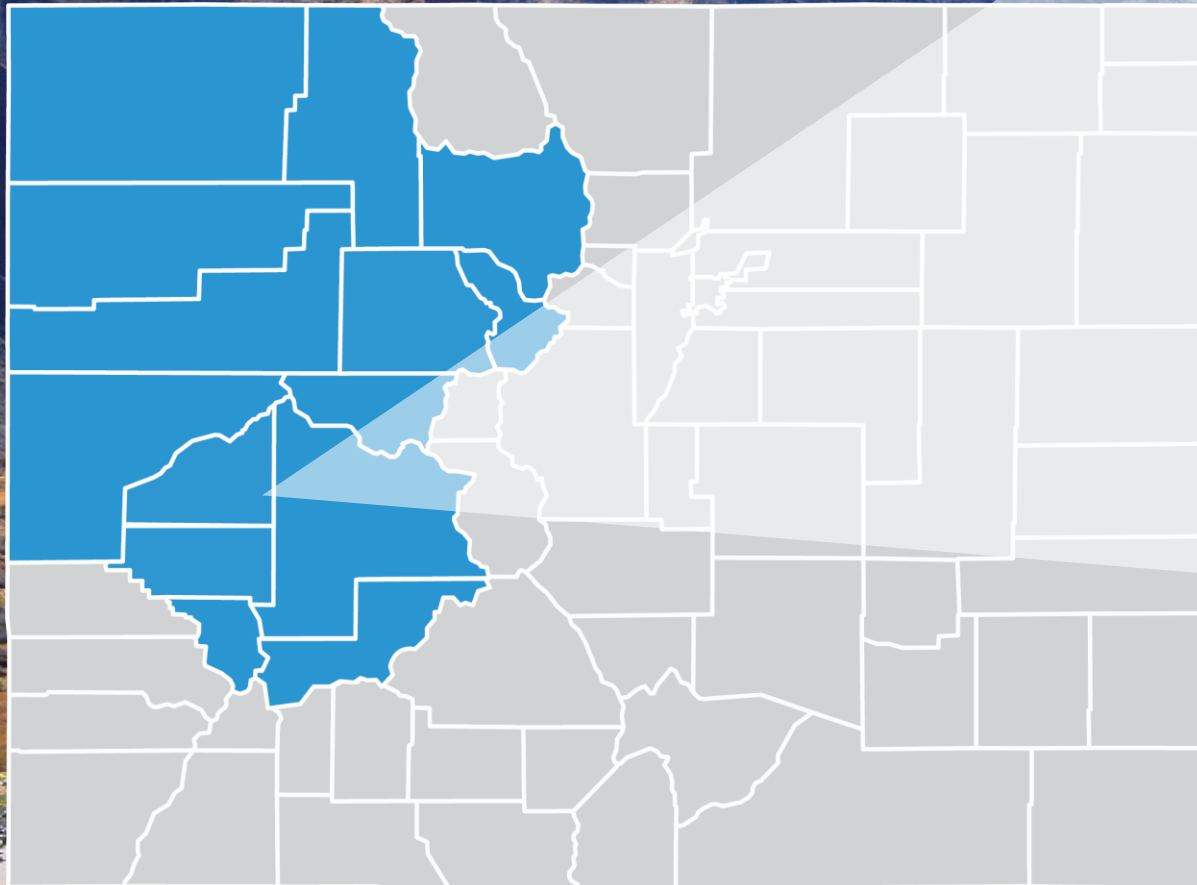
Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Colorado River District



The Colorado River District was formed in 1937 to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources *and;*

To safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.

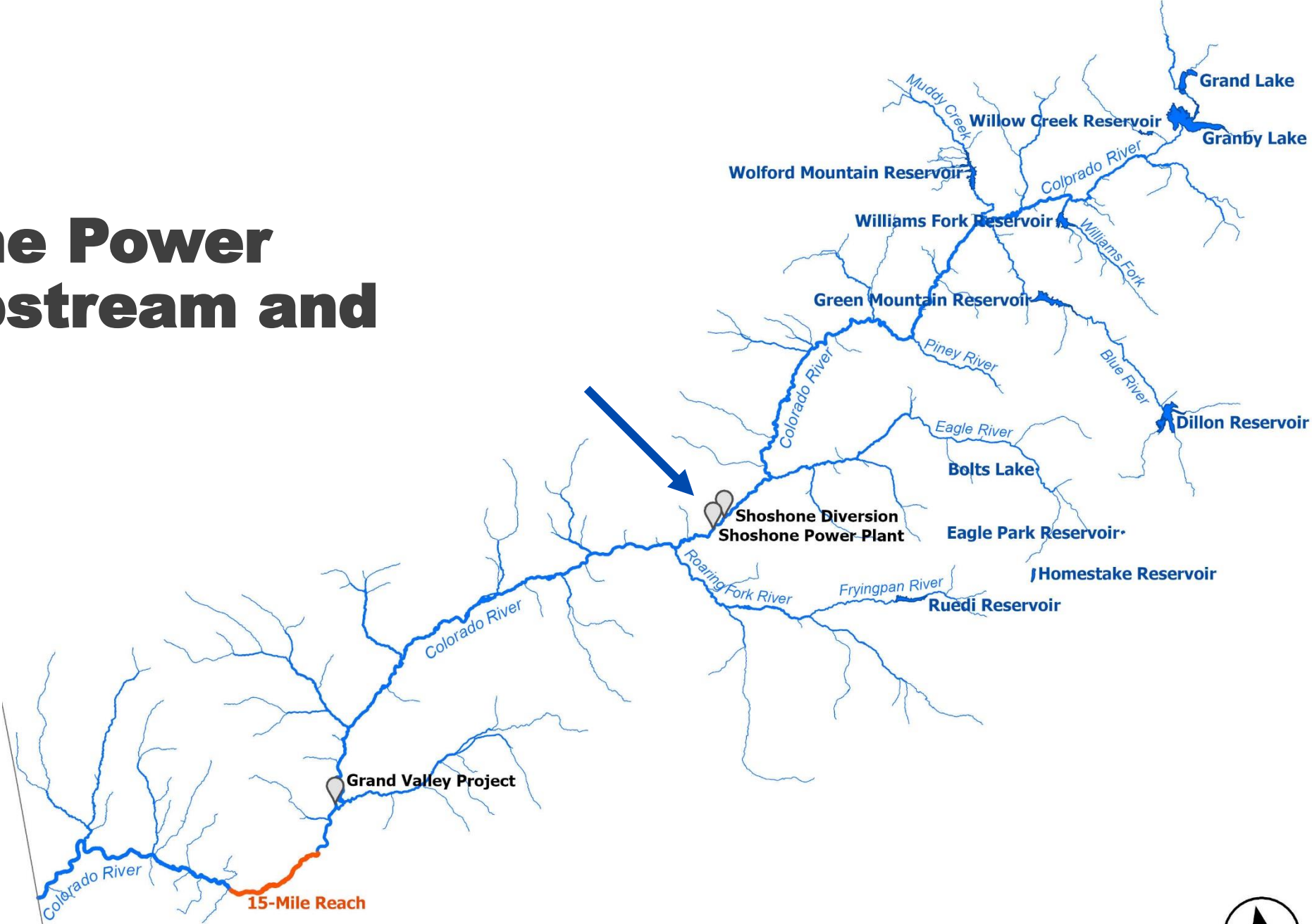


ABOUT SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS

- Large and senior non-consumptive right on the Colorado River – 1250 cfs under a 1902 right & 158 cfs under a 1929
- Benefits on the West Slope from the headwaters to the state line and statewide.
- Foundational to water management across the state.



Shoshone Power Plant Upstream and Down



The Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project

WILL

protect the status quo of the river.

WILL NOT

enlarge the Shoshone water right.

The Western Slope is working to develop a solution that mimics the historic use of the Shoshone water rights to preserve the state of the river that we have known for the last 120 years.



Purchase and Sale Agreement

Signed by Xcel Energy and Colorado River District in 2023 for \$99 million

Negotiating an Instream Flow Agreement between seller, CRD, and CWCB

Successful completion of a change case

Anticipated Closing in 2027



Ongoing fundraising with support from local, state, and federal partners

Approval from Colorado's Public Utility Commission



SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION

SHOSHONE WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION COALITION

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS
\$96 MILLION

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
STATE OF COLORADO
COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
MAINSTEM COUNTIES:**

EAGLE - GRAND - GARFIELD
MESA - SUMMIT

- BASALT WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- CITY OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS
- CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION
- CITY OF RIFLE
- CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT
- CLINTON DITCH AND RESERVOIR COMPANY
- COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
- EAGLE RIVER WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
- EAGLE PARK RESERVOIR COMPANY
- GRAND VALLEY IRRIGATION COMPANY
- GRAND VALLEY POWER
- GRAND VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION
- KOBE WATER AUTHORITY
- MESA COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- MIDDLE PARK WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- ORCHARD MESA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- PALISADE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- SNOWMASS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
- TOWN OF DE BEQUE
- TOWN OF PARACHUTE
- TOWN OF SILVERTHORNE
- UPPER EAGLE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
- UTE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- WEST DIVIDE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

- COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
- COLORADO GOV. JARED POLIS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO
- COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE
- GUNNISON BASIN ROUNDTABLE
- OURAY COUNTY
- ROUTT COUNTY
- SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- TOWN OF BASALT
- TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
- TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
- TOWN OF SILT
- WESTERN DISTRICT, COLORADO COUNTIES, INC.
- YAMPA/WHITE/GREEN BASIN ROUNDTABLE

WATER PROVIDERS

- COLBRAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
- SILT PROJECT
- TRI-COUNTY WATER
- UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- AMERICAN RIVERS
- BLUE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
- BUSINESS FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP
- COLORADO RIVER VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
- CLUB 20
- EAGLE RIVER COALITION
- GRAND JUNCTION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
- MIDDLE COLORADO WATERSHED COUNCIL
- RIVERSEDGE WEST
- ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY
- SHOSHONE OUTFITTER PARTNERSHIP
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- THE SONORAN INSTITUTE
- TROUT UNLIMITED
- WATER FOR COLORADO COALITION
- WESTERN RESOURCES ADVOCATES



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