



UPPER ARKANSAS

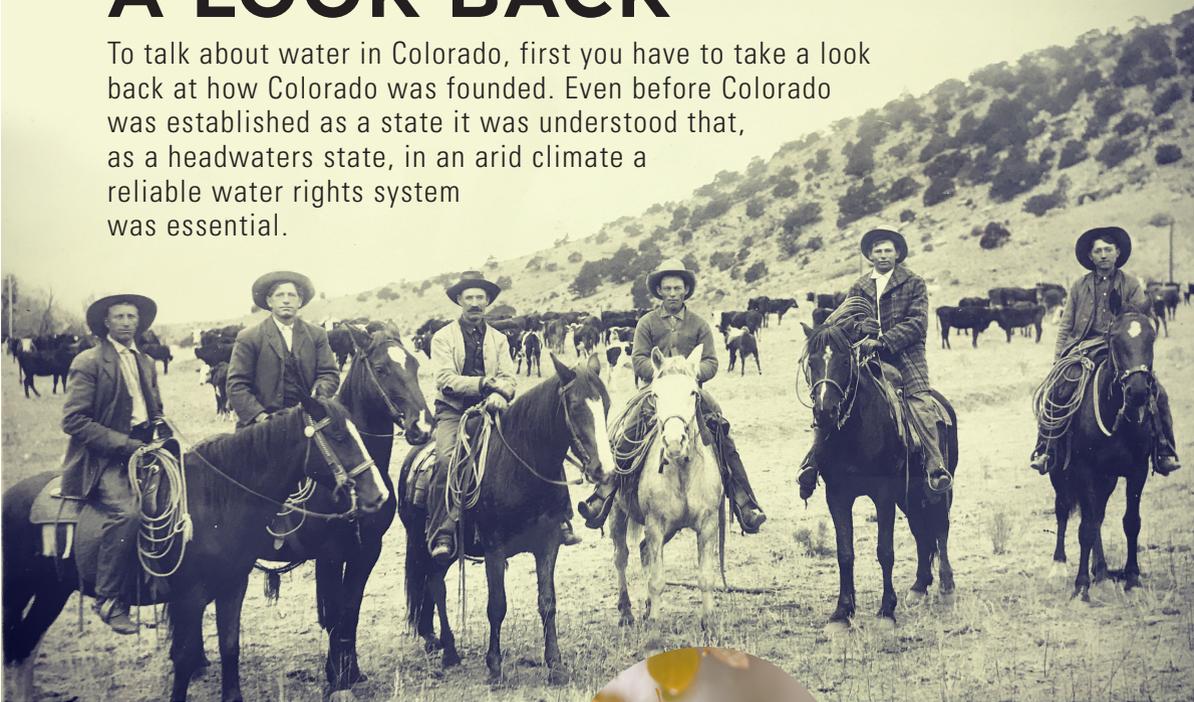
WATER CONSERVANCY

DISTRICT

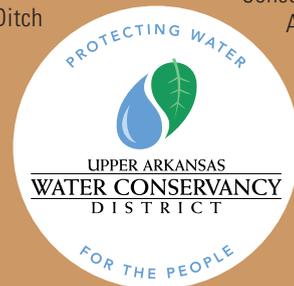
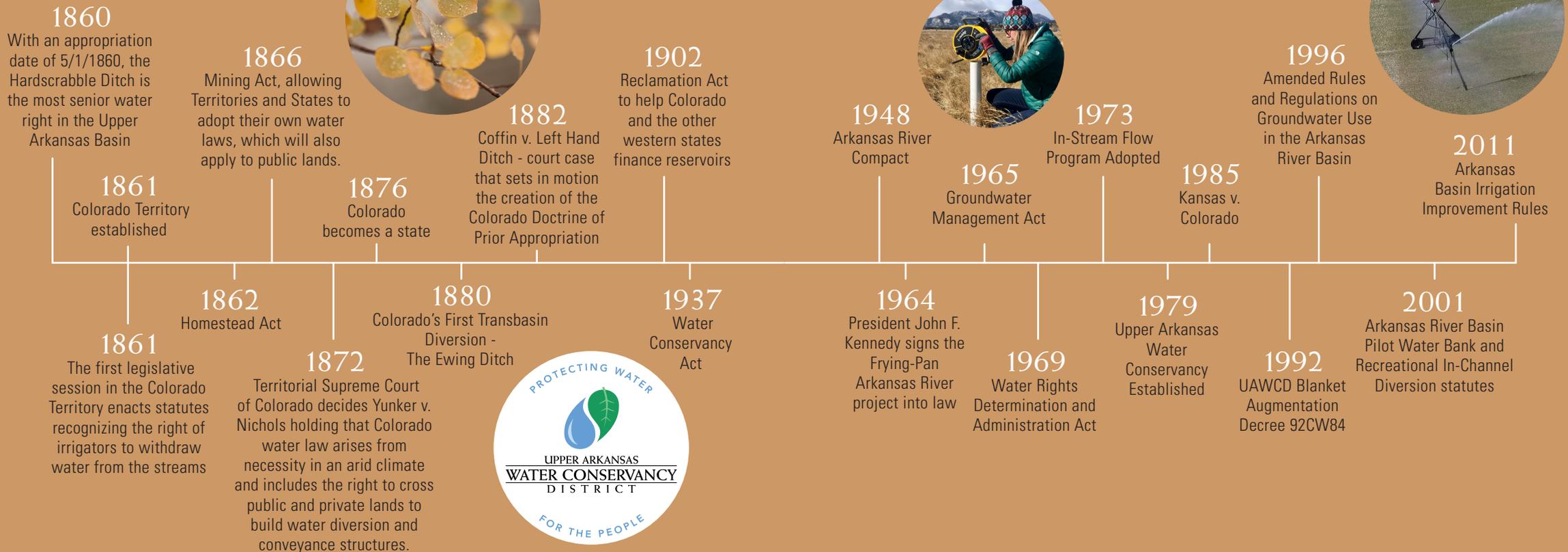
Protecting Water, For The People

A LOOK BACK

To talk about water in Colorado, first you have to take a look back at how Colorado was founded. Even before Colorado was established as a state it was understood that, as a headwaters state, in an arid climate a reliable water rights system was essential.



Since that time, important legislation and a strong legal system has been established to guarantee the security, reliability and flexibility in the development and protection of water resources.





UPPER ARKANSAS
WATER CONSERVANCY
D I S T R I C T

Protecting Water, For The People

Across the state of Colorado including the Upper Arkansas River Valley, our population is growing. It's no surprise that meeting water demands imposed by this growth presents a challenge to communities. Water managers are tasked with balancing the needs of diverse water uses including agriculture, municipal, industrial, recreation, and the environment. Estimates project the population within the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District service area to grow by 30% by 2040.

Our District plays a vital role in protecting water usage now and in the future by securing the Upper Arkansas River Valley's water supplies through our augmentation plan, legislative efforts, innovative projects, water studies, integrated water management practices and education

UPPER ARKANSAS WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District (The District or UAWCD), a statutory organization, was founded in 1979 by a group of visionary water users, irrigators and leaders for the purpose of protecting and securing water in the Upper Arkansas Valley. That same mission endures today for the protection of all water rights including municipal, agriculture, environment, industrial and recreation.

Our 13-member appointed Board of Directors, District officials, and staff bring a diverse range of experience and expertise to the District including water law, engineering, agriculture, economics, business, hydrology, recreation, and geology. We also participate and provide leadership on a variety of regional and statewide boards and legislative initiatives.

Our office is located in Salida, Colorado and our service area covers over 3,000 square miles, which is substantially larger than any municipality in Colorado and includes Chaffee County, Custer County, Fremont County, and a small portion of Saguache and El Paso Counties.

OUR OPERATIONS

The work of the Upper District is somewhat unique in Colorado. We do not provide retail water sales to our customers, nor do we maintain the water distribution network of a typical municipal water utility. Instead, we provide for and administer augmentation water programs for citizens or other entities needing replacements for water used out-of-priority. This ensures protection of water rights in the Upper Arkansas Basin. We also manage and own multiple storage reservoirs, engage in ongoing engineering studies to better understand the water supply and needs within our service area, and collaborate with local and statewide partners to develop innovative tools and projects to fulfill our mission.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Water is a limited resource. This is a fact of life in Colorado. In the Upper Arkansas River Basin we annually have an average of 12 inches of precipitation or less. The timing of precipitation also varies throughout the year. Rivers and streams rise with spring run-off from snowmelt and flows reduce significantly during the hot summer months, making it essential to manage our water prudently throughout the year.

The UAWCD has been effective at managing our water resources and planning for the future since our inception. We continue to diversify and expand our system of water resources to make certain that we will continue to protect water rights in the Upper Arkansas River Basin while also maintaining a viable water supply now and into the future. There are several areas of importance that the UAWCD is involved in to ensure a secure water supply in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. They are: storage, augmentation, integrated water management, legal & engineering, studies and education.



STORAGE

The key to our future water supply

Unfortunately, nature does not distribute its water resources evenly with regard to either location or time of need. Some years water is more plentiful, and storage allows water managers to capture excess water when available, then hold it until it is required at a later date. As our population grows; storage, including alluvial (underground) storage, will continue to be an essential aspect of managing our water resources effectively in the Upper Arkansas Basin.



Serving a variety of needs

The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District owns and stores water, as well as operates several reservoirs, within the Arkansas River system. These storage reservoirs provide a range of economic, environmental and community benefits including water supply, recreational opportunities, flood mitigation, flow enhancement and wildlife habitat. Most people appreciate storage reservoirs for the fun they offer such as fishing, canoeing, camping nearby and other water activities. Storage also helps the environment. After all, if there wasn't enough water in our lakes or the right flows in our streams and creeks, our fishery and other wildlife would be greatly impacted.

Most importantly, storage provides the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District the ability to implement our blanket augmentation plan and to carefully manage our water supply needs. Storage also allows the District the ability to store and carry water over from year-to year for use in times when there are water shortages. That means the customers we serve will have a more predictable and secure water supply.



BLANKET AUGMENTATION PLAN

The District's blanket augmentation plan protects water rights in the Upper Arkansas River Valley and plays an important role with keeping our river and streams whole and our valley green. At the same time, our augmentation plan provides our customers with a cost-effective and efficient solution for their water augmentation needs.

What Is Augmentation?

The interaction between groundwater and surface water has long been recognized here in Colorado. Because of this interaction, the out-of-priority use of water for uses such as: residential wells, commercial wells, and lawns can deplete surface water levels (streams, creeks, ponds and rivers) that injure senior water rights. To prevent injury and to ensure our river and streams remain whole, augmentation replaces water into a stream due to losses from out-of-priority usage.

How It Works

When a person or business needs to replace water depleted through their out-of-priority well use they can purchase water augmentation from the District through participation in our blanket augmentation plan. The District takes care of the rest by managing and administering the releases of water.

Benefits To Our Customers

Cost-Effectiveness:

The majority of other augmentation plans in our region are private, typically are more expensive to put into place and take a considerable amount of time and other resources. When choosing the UAWCD for your augmentation needs, you will undoubtedly be saving money and time.

Accessibility:

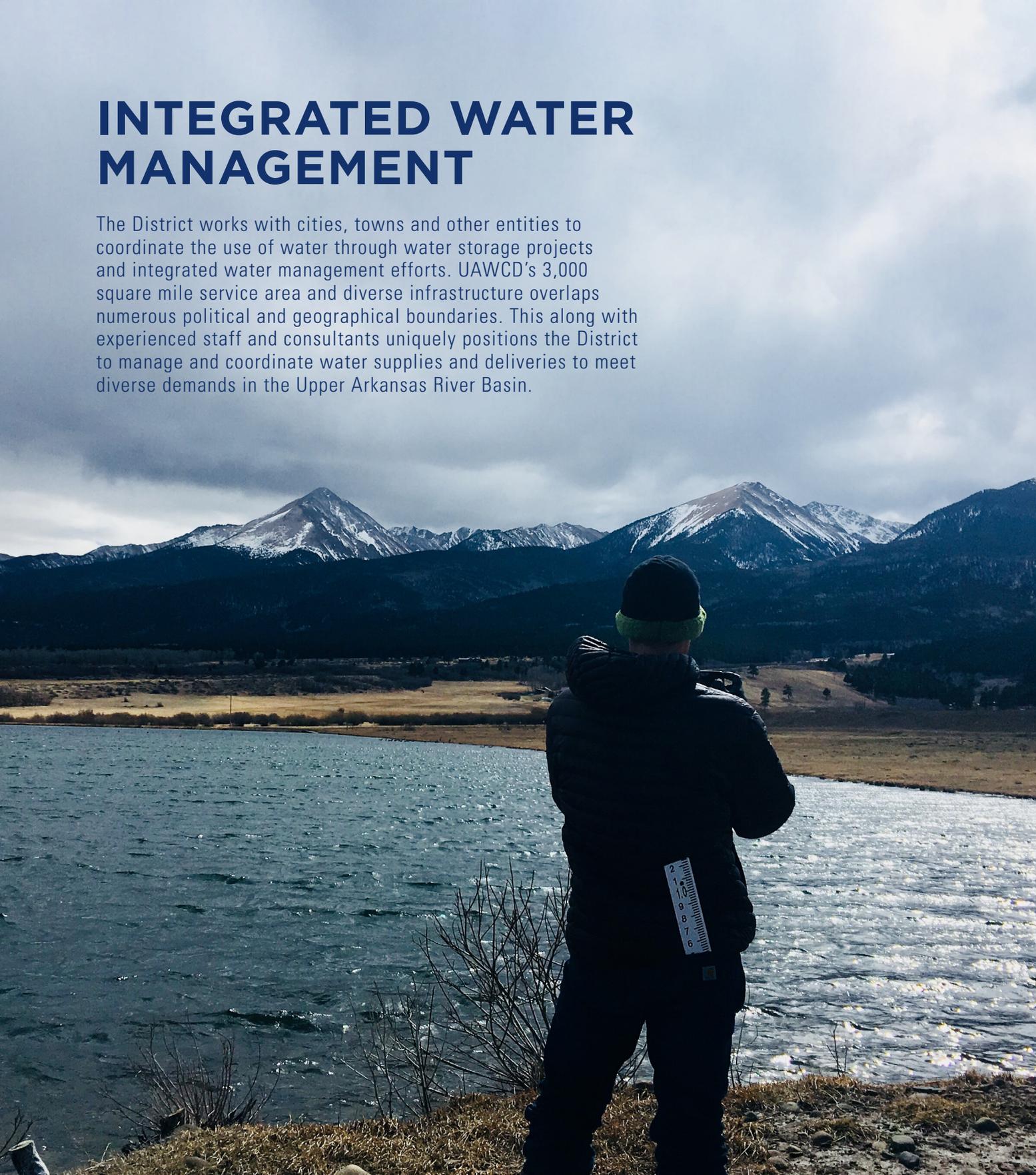
Customers within our service area simply apply at our local office in Salida, Colorado. We have a streamlined application process and management system which means less hassle for our customers who are in need of an augmentation water right.

Attainability:

The District has gone to great lengths to preserve water for future use. Water reserves are readily available to meet growing demands, including water augmentation needs.

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

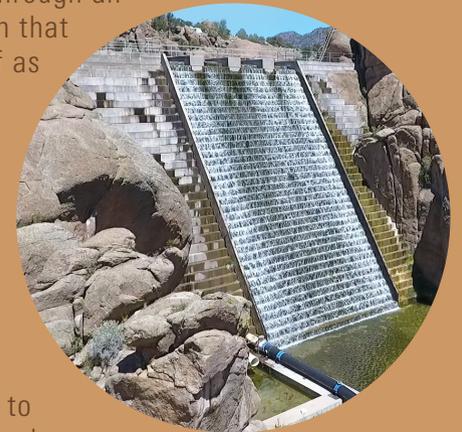
The District works with cities, towns and other entities to coordinate the use of water through water storage projects and integrated water management efforts. UAWCD's 3,000 square mile service area and diverse infrastructure overlaps numerous political and geographical boundaries. This along with experienced staff and consultants uniquely positions the District to manage and coordinate water supplies and deliveries to meet diverse demands in the Upper Arkansas River Basin.



MULTI-USE PROJECTS

Providing the greatest utilization of both land and water resources in an efficient and cost-effective manner for multiple benefits and diverse uses

Our years of dedication to the development of multi-use projects throughout the Upper Arkansas River Basin aim to integrate multiple water components to address the water "gap" through an inclusive approach that meet the needs of as many water users as possible. Our innovative multi-use projects provide a state-wide example of how to address future water needs in a collaborative way to meet our water needs today and tomorrow.



There are six key elements to our multi-use projects which provide the greatest utilization of both land and water resources for people in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

1. Storage
2. Irrigated Agriculture
3. Recreation & Environment
4. Hydropower
5. Education
6. Collaboration & Partnerships



LEGAL & ENGINEERING

Protecting water, for the people

Major component of the District's efforts to protect water rights in the Upper Arkansas Basin are our legal and engineering activities, including water change cases proposed by other entities. The District is regularly involved with the monitoring and litigation of these very important and costly change cases to protect water for people in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

The Upper District is vigilant for the Upper Arkansas Basin by challenging legislation that may threaten the availability and use of the Upper Arkansas River water supply.

EDUCATION

For anyone who has ever attempted to fully understand water in Colorado, you know that water law, policy and management is complex, to say the least. This makes it challenging when needing to make informed decisions. Our world of water is more complex than ever before and the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District offers balanced educational programming and resources throughout the Upper Arkansas Basin to promote better understanding of water resources and issues affecting our region.





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UAWCD.COM

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