

Southwestern Water Conservation District's Engagement in the Colorado River Basin

38th Annual Water Seminar
Southwestern Water Conservation District
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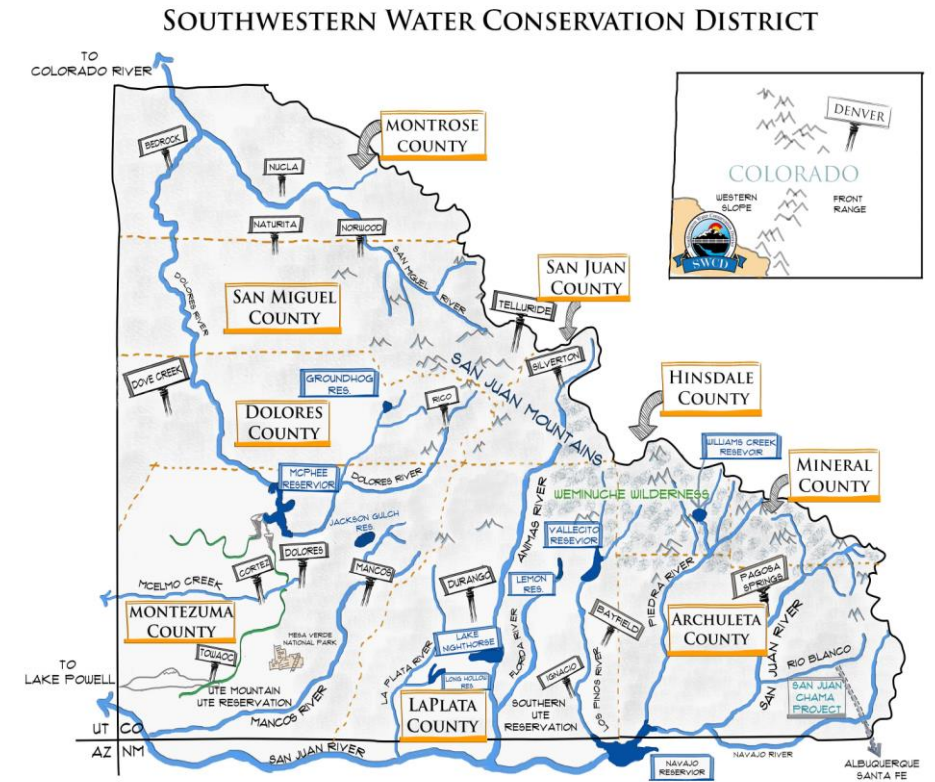


Presentation Overview

- Purpose and Role of the Southwestern Water Conservation District
- Recent Areas of Engagement
- Next Steps

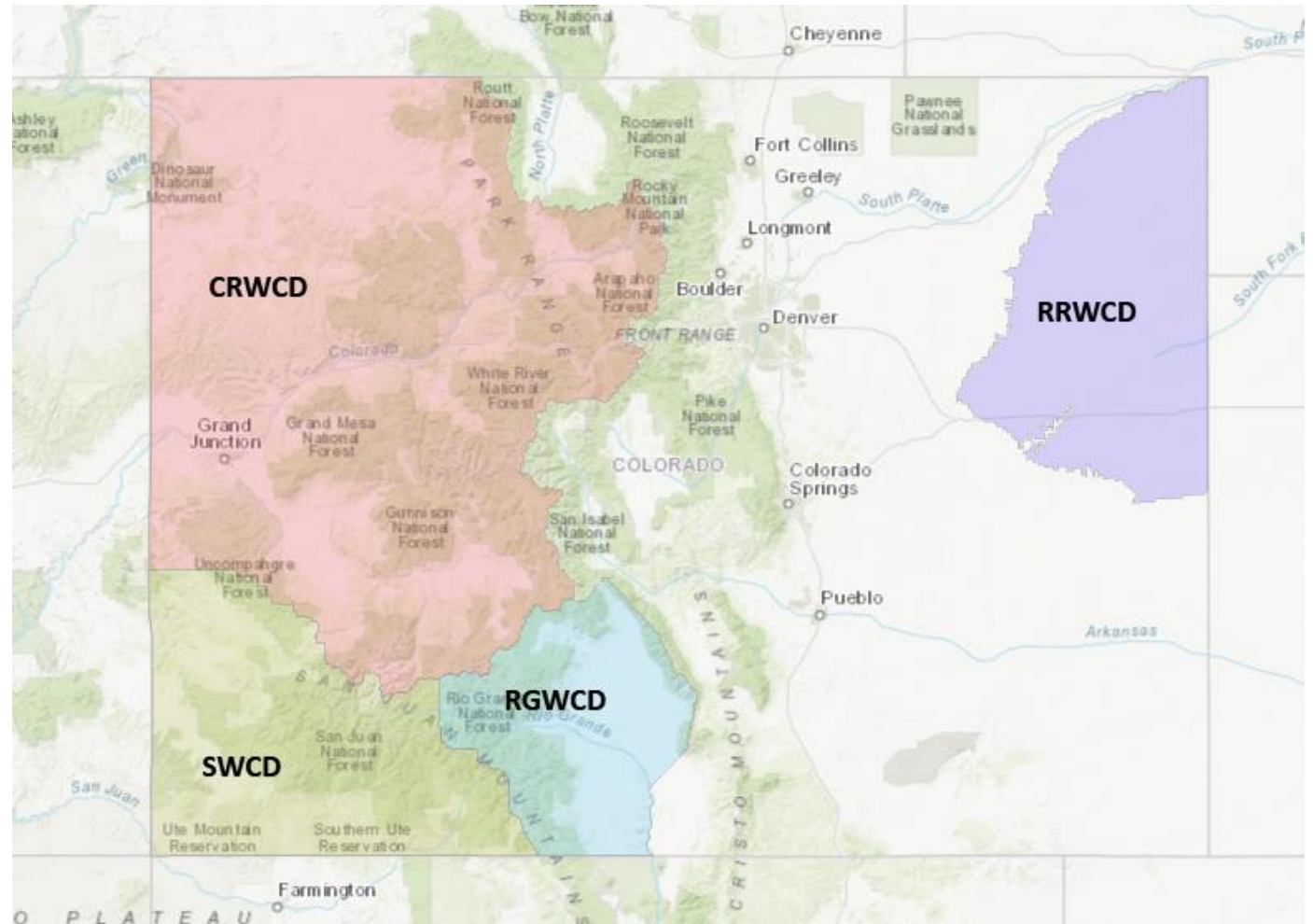
Purpose and Role of the Southwestern Water Conservation District

- Created in 1941 by the Colorado General Assembly
- For the purpose of leading in the **conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores rivers and their tributaries** and provided with such powers necessary to **safeguard for Colorado all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled**
- Encompasses all or parts of nine counties in southwestern Colorado

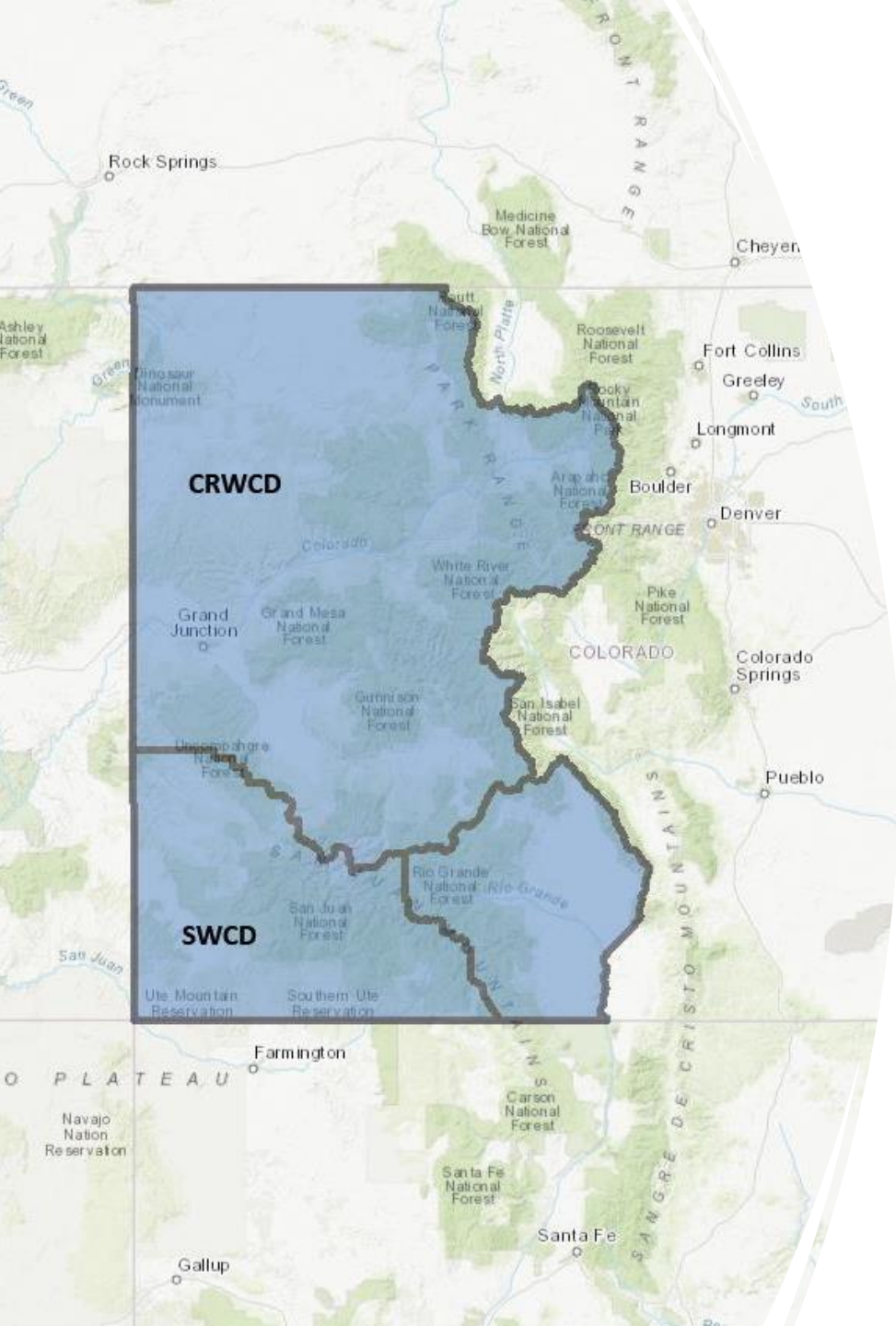


Purpose and Role of the Southwestern Water Conservation District

- One of only four Conservation Districts created by the Colorado legislature
- Each with a similar statutory charge.



Purpose and Role of the Southwestern Water Conservation District



- Only two of the Conservation Districts are located within the Colorado River Basin
- Collectively, the Southwestern Water Conservation District and the Colorado River Water Conservation District encompass all of the lands west of the Continental Divide

Recent Areas of Engagement Across State Lines

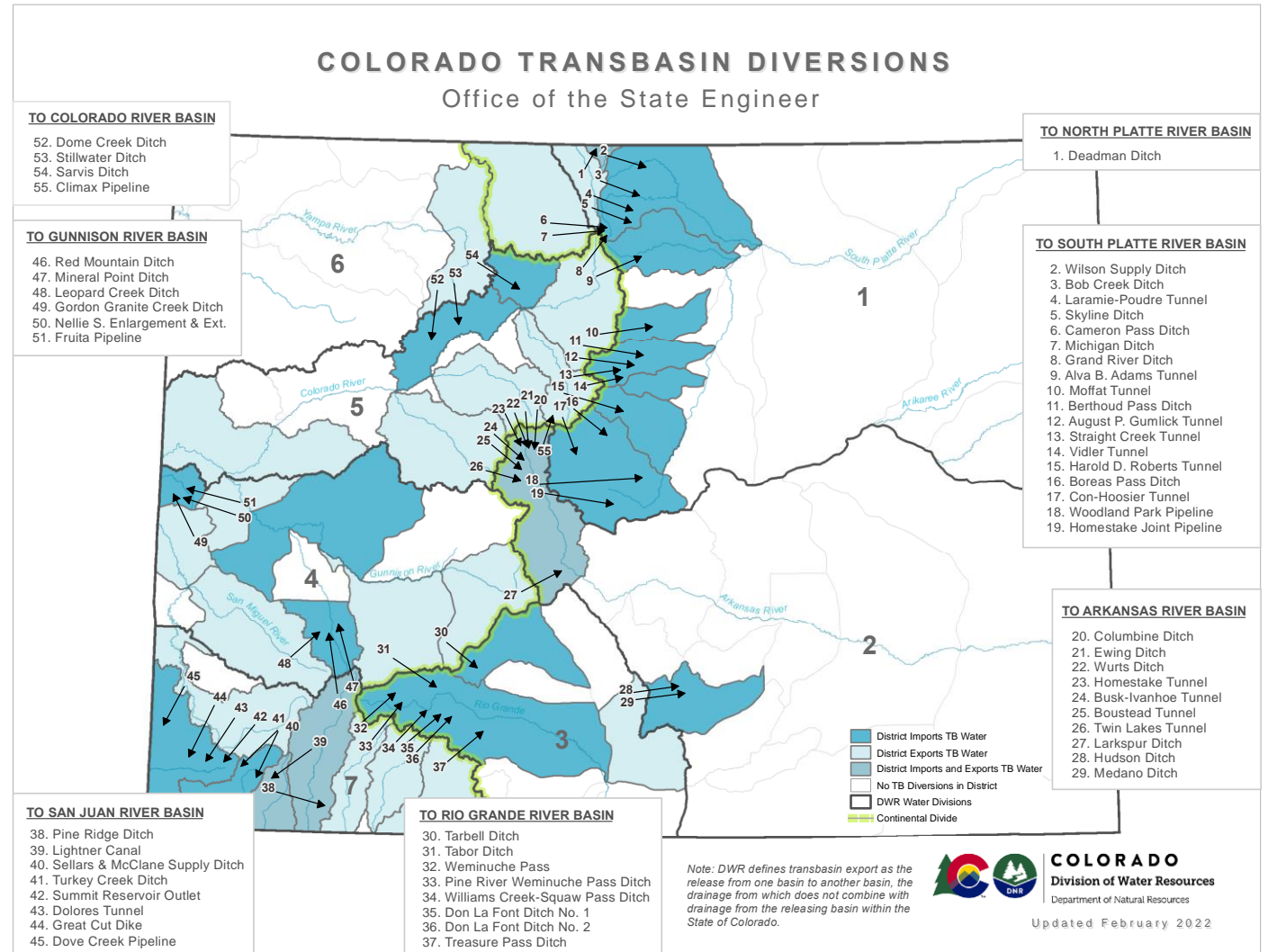
- Ongoing discussions with stakeholders in the Basin, including:
 - the Upper Colorado River Commission
 - State of Colorado
 - Colorado River Water Conservation District
- Drought Contingency Planning, including exploration of demand management

Recent Areas of Engagement Across State Lines

- Continued technical work geared towards identifying risks to Lake Powell and Upper Basin water users, including within Colorado
- Ongoing financial support towards, and participation in, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Program

Recent Areas of Engagement within Colorado

- Monitor activities related to transmountain water rights that may impact water supply within the District's boundaries
- Participate, as necessary, in water court cases.



Recent Areas of Engagement within Colorado

- Continue to support development and protection of Colorado's compact entitlements within southwestern Colorado through operation of the District's annual grant program





Recent Areas of Engagement within Colorado

- Actively monitor and, as appropriate, take positions on proposed federal and state legislation that may impact water use or development within the District.

Next Steps

- Continue to be engaged and help inform Colorado River Basin discussions at all levels, including re-negotiation of the interim guidelines
- Ongoing technical efforts to better understand:
 - water supplies and demands within the District; and
 - potential risks to water supplies and future development
- Participate in the State and Division Engineers' promulgation of measurement rules within Water Divisions 4 and 7.
- Work collaboratively and creatively with other stakeholders within Colorado and the larger Colorado River Basin to find solutions to ongoing and emerging issues