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COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

Shoshone Water Rights



Preservation





COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

The Colorado River District was founded in 1937 as the watchdog for West Slope water.





SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION

Working together to permanently protect the historic
River flows tied to the Shoshone Hydropower

**“Our fortunes are tied.
Our futures are linked.
When the Colorado River thrives,
we all thrive.”**

- Julie McCluskie, Colorado Speaker of the House -



SHOSHONE WATER RI

Sentinel of the Colorado River for over 100 years

Large and very senior non-consumptive water rights on the Colorado River

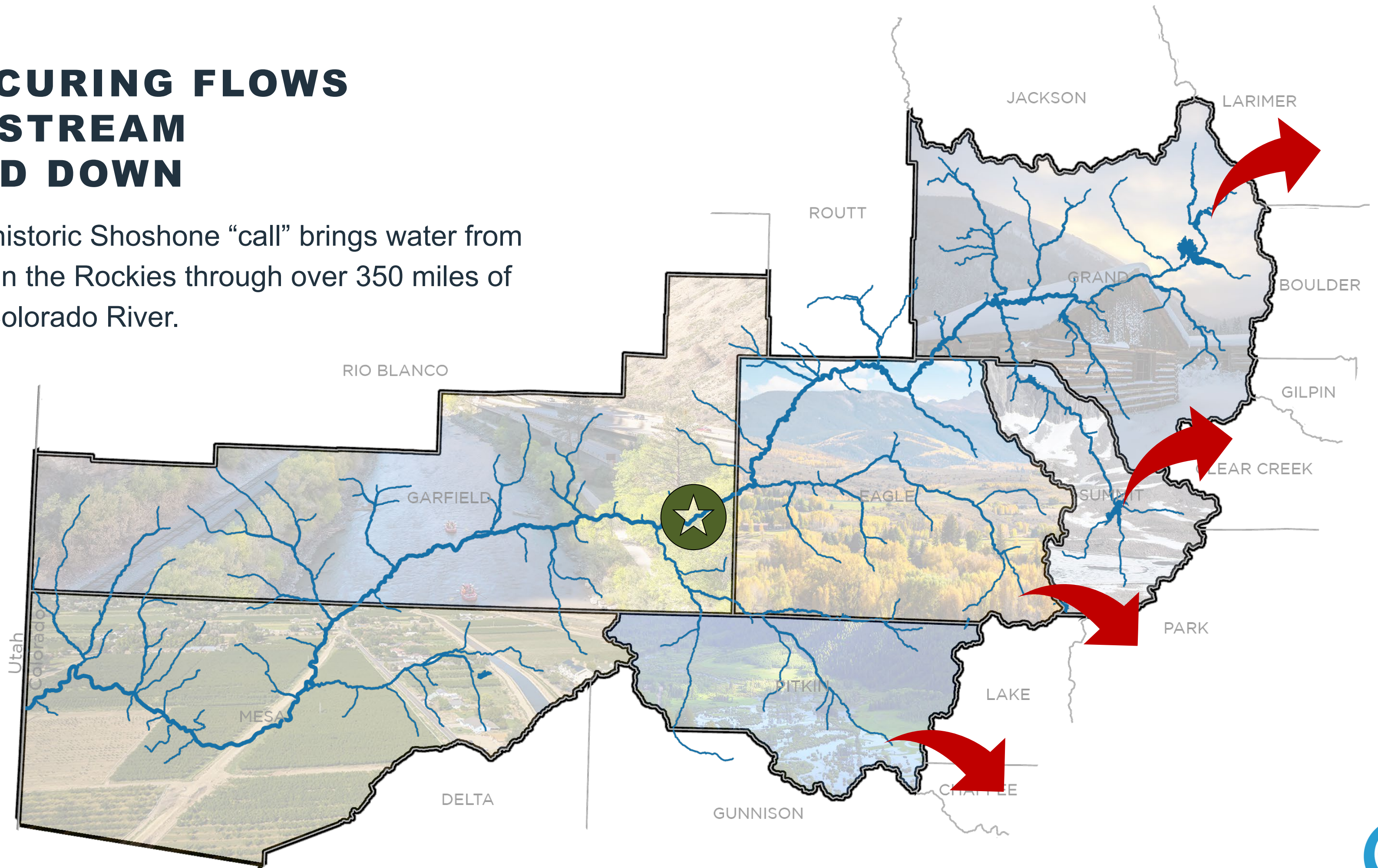
1250 cfs – 1902
158 cfs – 1929

Currently used to generate hydropower

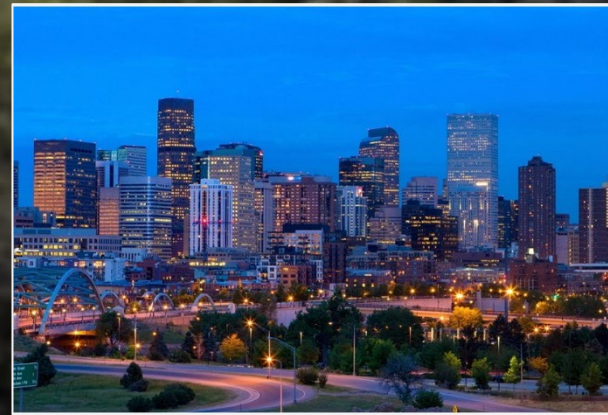


SECURING FLOWS UPSTREAM AND DOWN

The historic Shoshone “call” brings water from high in the Rockies through over 350 miles of the Colorado River.



West Slope water under pressure



SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS

Large and very senior non-consumptive water rights on the Colorado River

1250 cfs – 1902

158 cfs - 1929



Ensure long-term water security for West Slope communities.



Maintain a healthier river for fish, wildlife, and recreation.



Protects flows in a hotter, drier future.



Protect clean drinking water.



Protect farmers and ranchers and local food production.



Keep West Slope water on the western slope.



Ensure long-term water security for West Slope communities

Once-in-a-generation,
permanent, investment
locking in critical flows
that benefit the whole
system.

Foundational to water
management across the
state.





Protect flows in a hotter, drier future

Preserve base flows in times of rising temperatures and hydrologic volatility.

Help communities, economies, and ecosystems manage more intense and frequent droughts.



Protect farmers and ranchers and local food production

Sustain flows which help maintain water quality and availability for crops.

Support local food production and rural economies.





Maintain a healthier river for fish, wildlife, and recreation

Significant benefit to listed and endangered fish that depend on a healthy 15-Mile-Reach, especially in dry years.

Long-term protection measure for Wild and Scenic stretches, and priority of the Basin Roundtable.



An aerial photograph of a town, likely West Slope, showing a river winding through the landscape, roads, and residential buildings. The text "Protect clean drinking water" is overlaid in large white font.

Protect clean drinking water

Reliable source water conditions for West Slope towns and cities.

Secure long term and sustainable water supply planning.





Keep water on western slope

Limits future water transfers to other regions of Colorado including the Front Range.

Secures the water future of West Slope communities for generations.



Shoshone water rights preservation project

Purchase and Sale Agreement

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

**INSTREAM FLOW
ACQUISITION**

(Completed)



**WATER COURT
PROCESS**


(In Progress)


FUNDRAISING - \$99 MILLION
(In Progress)


\$57 million (local)
\$40 million (federal)

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
(PUC) APPROVAL**

(Not Started)

 Completed

 In Progress

 Not Started



100+ SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION PROJECT SUPPORTERS



REGIONAL PARTNERS

- ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS
- ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATIONAL ORGS
- HIGHER EDUCATION & POWER PROVIDERS



GOVERNMENT & ELECTED OFFICIALS

- STATE OF COLORADO ELECTED LEADERS
- COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
- COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLES & CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
- FEDERAL AGENCIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- COUNTIES
- MUNICIPALITIES



WATER PROVIDERS

- IRRIGATION WATER
- DRINKING WATER





SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHTS PRESERVATION

**Securing historic
flows for future
generations.**

**Help us protect
the Colorado
River.**

www.KeepShoshoneFlowing.org

