INTERIM WATER RESOURCES REVIEW COMMITTEE

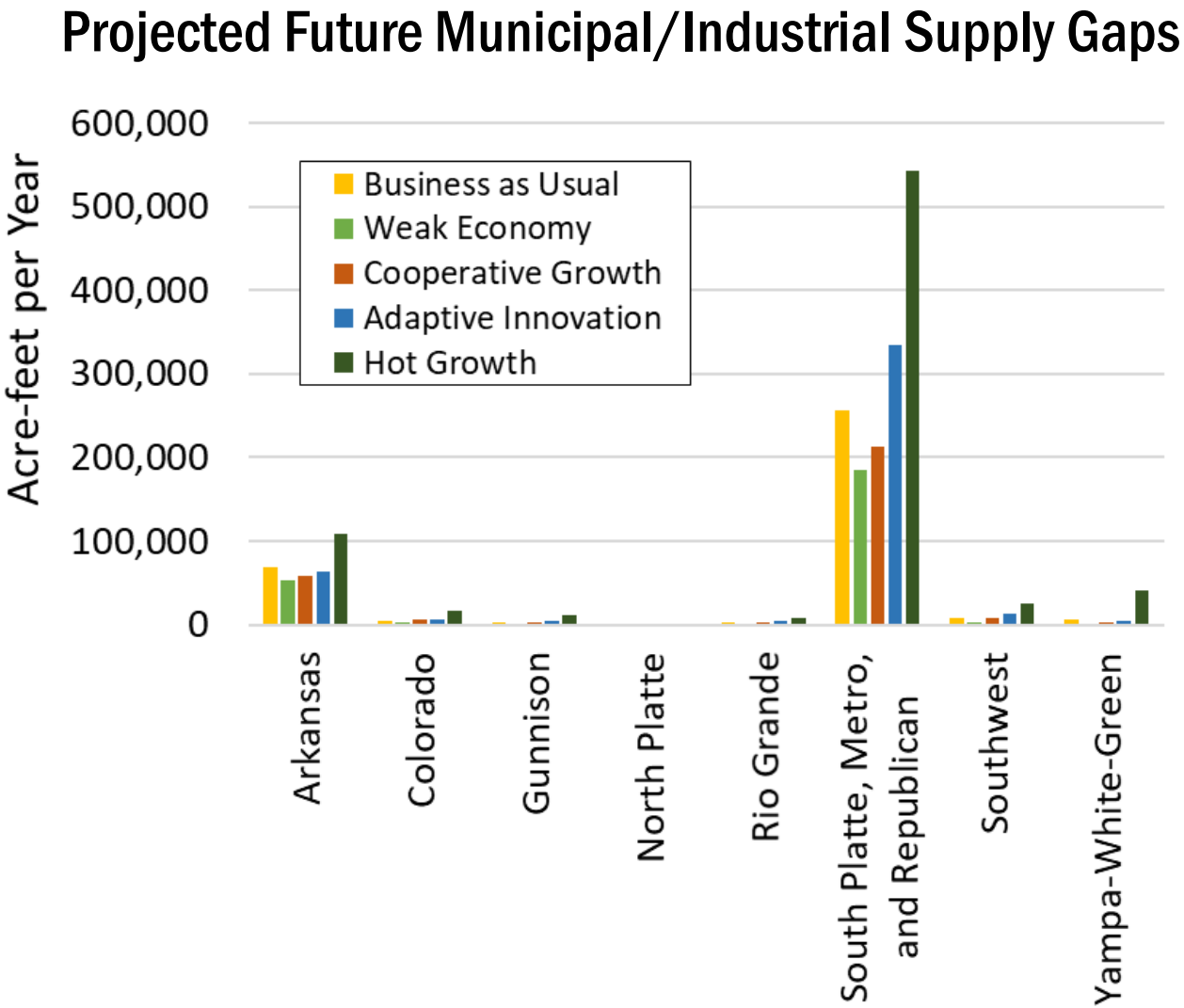
Briefing on the South Platte Regional Opportunities Water Group (SPROWG) Feasibility Study

October 24, 2019

Communities in the South Platte River Basin continue to aggressively implement conservation measures, but more supply will be needed

Basin population is expected to grow to around 6 million by the year 2050

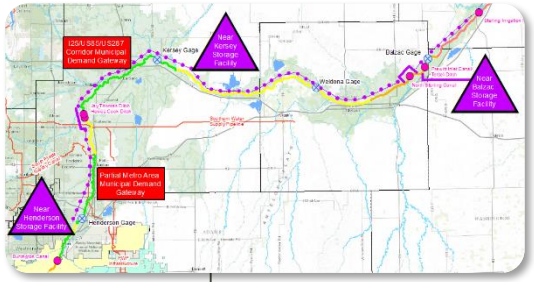
In addition to municipal and industrial use, water is also needed for agriculture and for environment and recreation



South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SPBIP)

described the original "Conceptual Future In-Basin Multipurpose Project" in Section 4.6.2

Dec 2013 – April 2015



South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group (SPROWG)

advanced the SPBIP concept and developed the initial regional water project

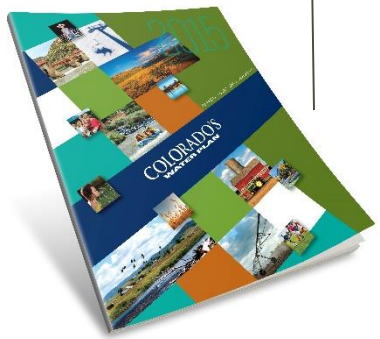
June 2015 – May 2018

South Platte BIP

Phase 2

Date TBD

May 2013 – Nov 2015



Colorado's Water Plan

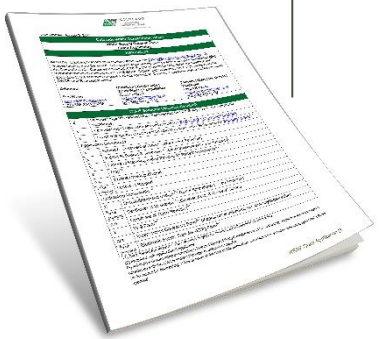
voiced the need for storage and collaborative projects

Jan 2017 – Dec 2017

South Platte Storage Study (SPSS)

identified potential South Platte River storage projects

June 2018 – Oct 2018



SPROWG Task Force

developed scope of study and grant application for feasibility study

Mar 2019 – Mar 2020

SPROWG Feasibility Study

will conduct outreach, explore organizational alternatives, and refine the concept

Guiding Principles

Principles describing what SPROWG *IS*

The Guiding Principles describe the framework for developing the SPROWG concept. The Principles may be modified as the project progresses.

Guiding Principles are not presented in any specific order or priority and are paraphrased.

1. SPROWG will advance the goals of the **South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and Colorado's Water Plan.**
2. SPROWG intends to provide at least **50,000 acre-feet of yield** to meet part of the projected municipal and industrial water supply project gap in the South Platte basin. **A significant portion of this yield is targeted for smaller but rapidly growing communities between Denver and Greeley and also larger communities in the Denver Metro area and northern Colorado.** The project will also explore providing supplies to smaller communities east of Greeley.
3. SPROWG intends to meet a **portion of the agricultural gap**.
4. SPROWG will identify and incorporate **strategies to address environmental and recreational needs**.

Principles describing what SPROWG *IS*

The Guiding Principles describe the framework for developing the SPROWG concept. The Principles may be modified as the project progresses.

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5. SPROWG intends to **enhance the ability to conduct alternative water transfers**, thus reducing the need for traditional buy-and-dry transfers.
6. SPROWG will utilize different **sources of water** available in the South Platte basin and manage them conjunctively to achieve an overall reliable yield beyond what an individual source could produce.
7. SPROWG is intended to help water supply organizations and water users **maximize the use of in-basin supplies**.
8. SPROWG intends to improve integration of **water quality** and quantity planning and management activities.

Principles describing what SPROWG *IS NOT*

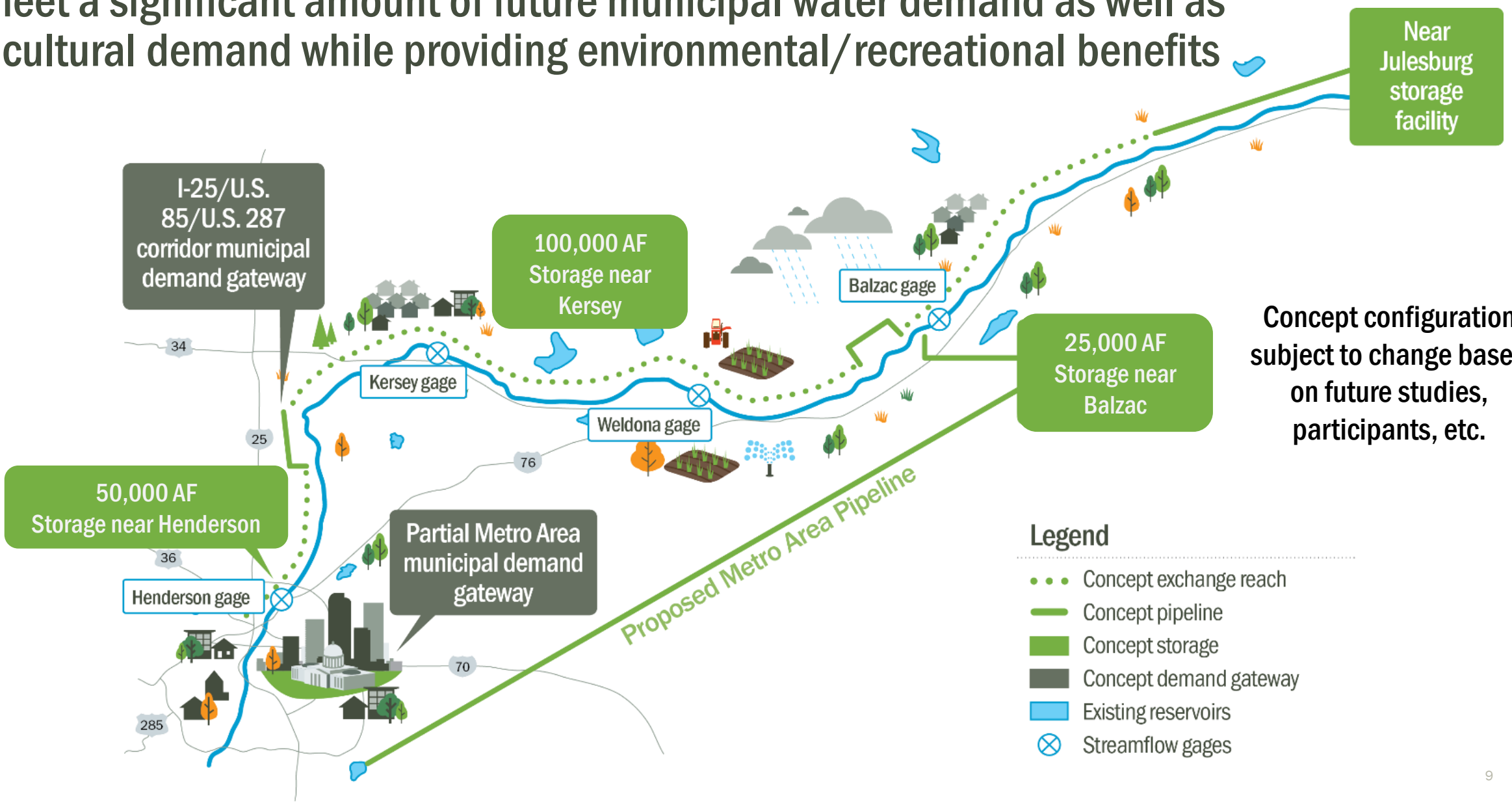
The Guiding Principles describe the framework for developing the SPROWG concept. The Principles may be modified as the project progresses.

Guiding Principles are not presented in any specific order or priority and are paraphrased.

9. SPROWG is **not** intended to be **a substitute for existing or planned projects**.
10. SPROWG is **not** intended to be used to deliver water developed from the **permanent dry up of irrigated lands** in the South Platte basin.
11. SPROWG is **not** intended to **store supplies** from an existing or new **transmountain diversion project** (though it will provide a means to utilize unused reusable return flows from transmountain diversions).

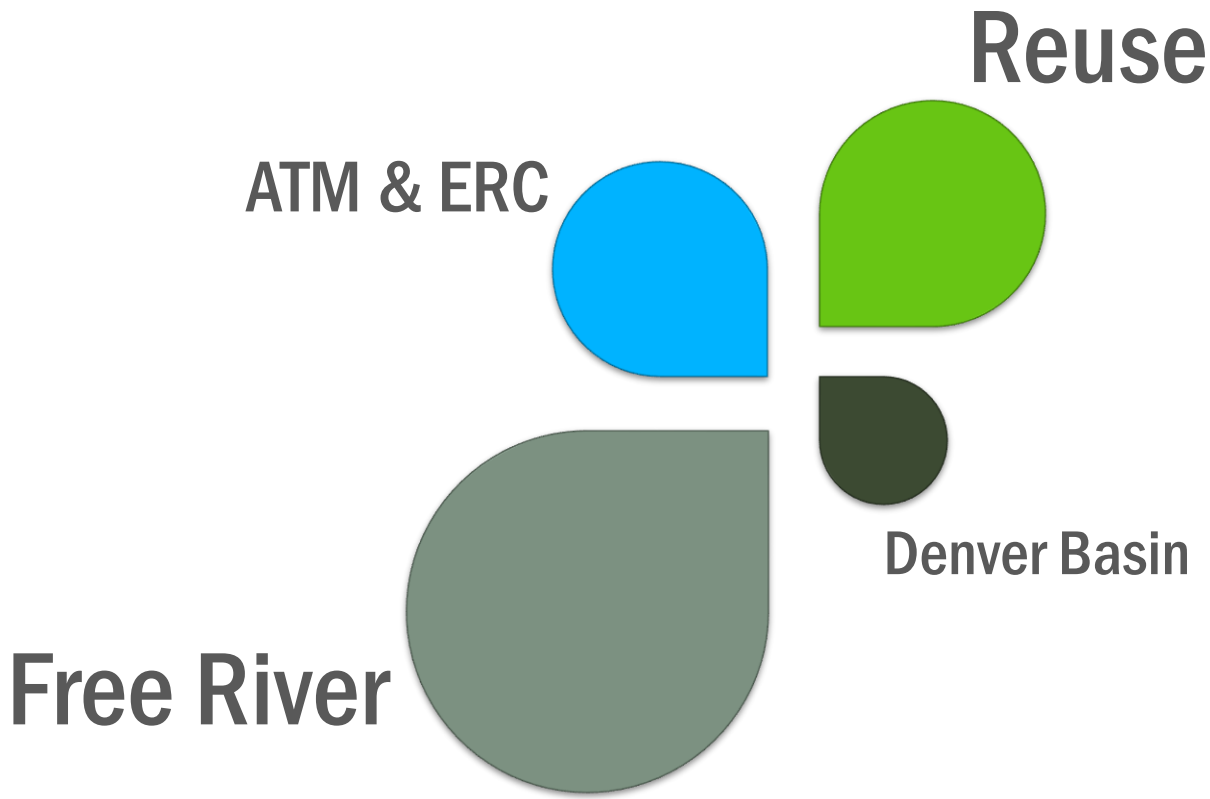
SPROWG Concept Components

SPROWG contemplates new storage, exchanges, and potential pipelines to meet a significant amount of future municipal water demand as well as agricultural demand while providing environmental/recreational benefits



Concept configuration subject to change based on future studies, participants, etc.

SPROWG will manage different sources of water conjunctively



Concept Water Supplies

Infrastructure components provide the means to maximize use of water supplies:

- Utilize unappropriated supply
- Ability to utilize ATMs
- Enhance exchange capacity
- Coordinate reservoir operations

Status and Next Steps

The SPROWG Feasibility Study will be complete in early 2020

- Results of research on organizational framework
- Results of outreach
- Concept refinements
- Water treatment strategies
- Cost estimates
- Outreach and education plan

Where is this heading?

- Incorporate into South Platte Basin Implementation Plan
- Continue to promote concept and seek participants
- Collaborate on organizational framework
- Collaborate on concept configuration and components based on participant needs

State support and funding are crucial for continuing momentum

Thank you.

Questions?