



38.2%: 119.29

51.25%: 108.98

61.6%: 99.19

Water, Agriculture, and ATMs



Colorado Legislature
Water Resources Review Committee
October 27, 2021



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Fort Collins, CO

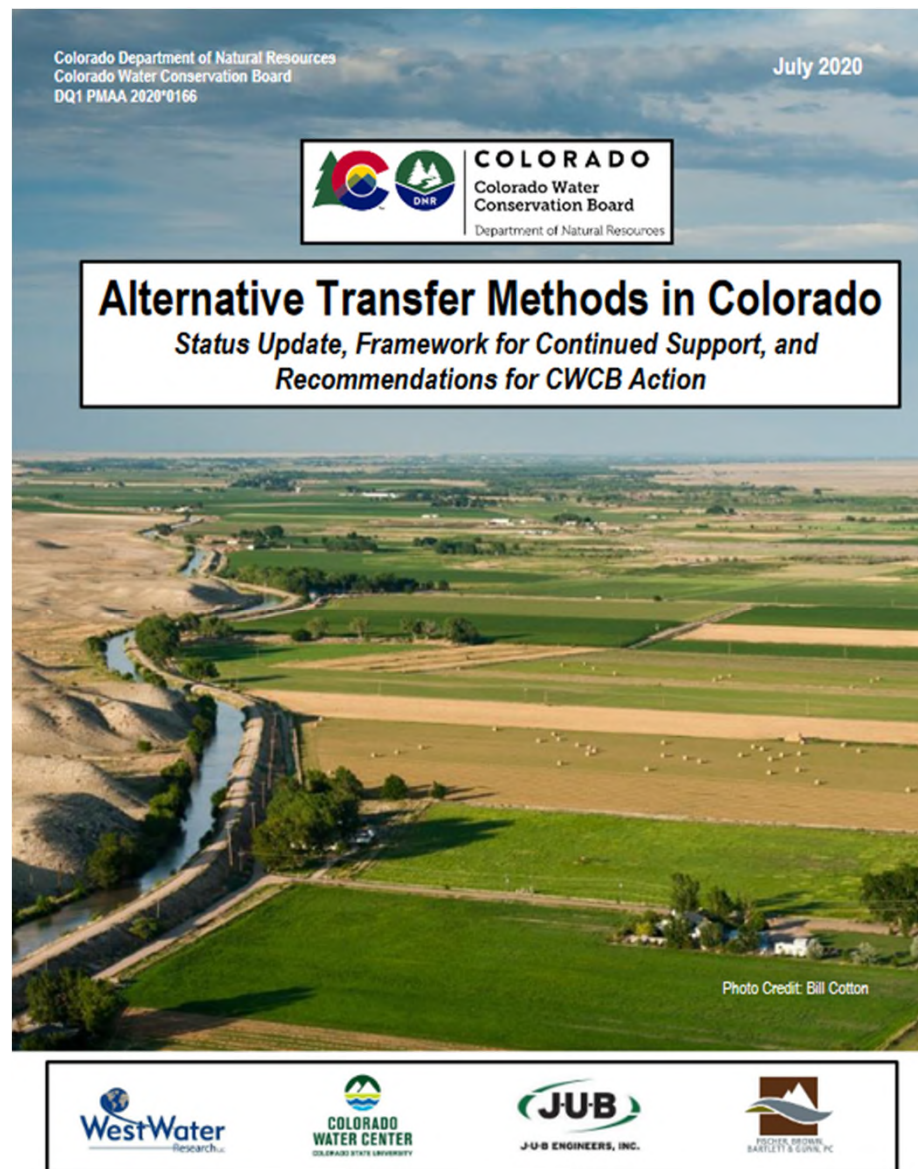
Photo: Poudre River, NPS

For more information on ATMs



- Project team included CSU Water Center, JUB Engineers, Fischer Brown law firm, WestWater, and CWCB staff
- Project objectives:
 - (1) Assess the progress made to date on ATMs
 - (2) Develop a framework for CWCB and broader state consideration of ATMs moving forward

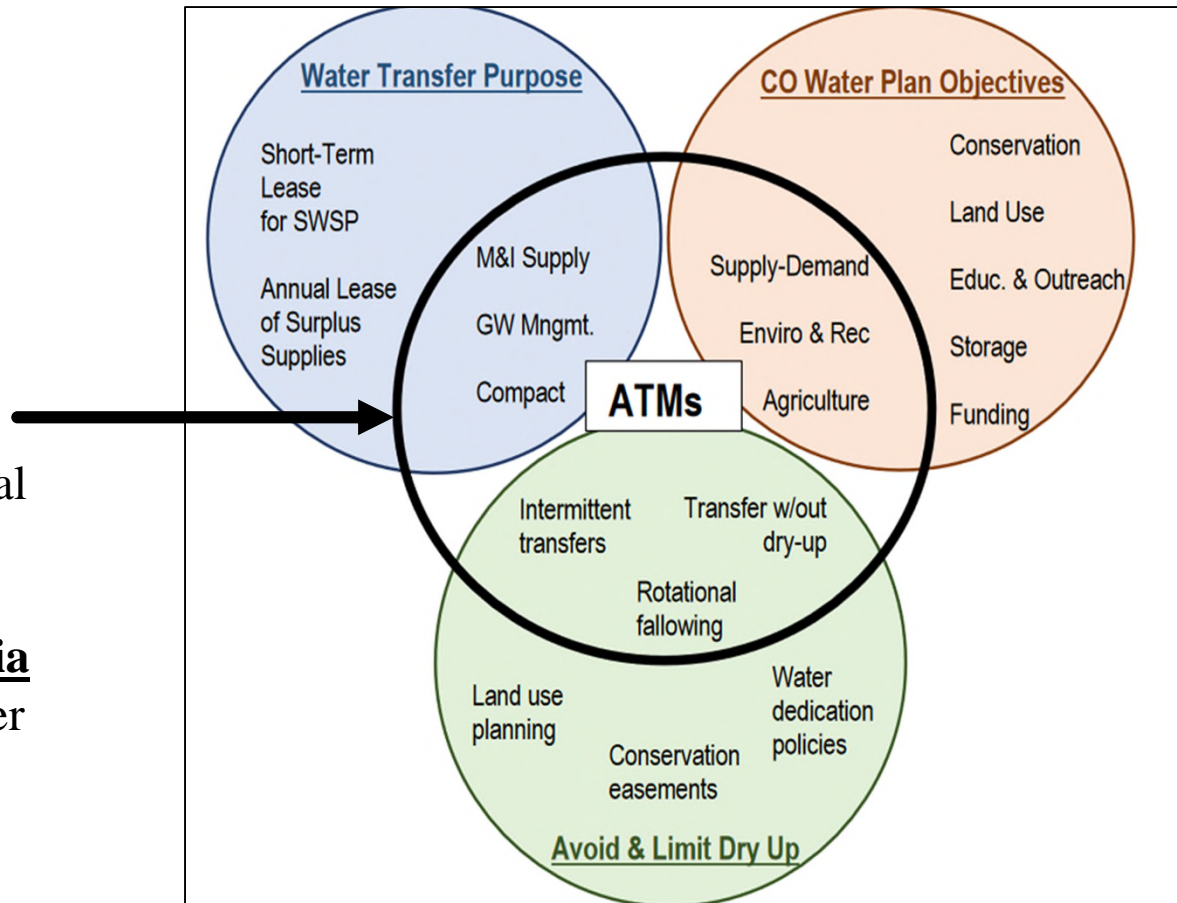
<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/supply/water-sharing-agreements>





Definition of ATMs

- Variety of definitions exist. We received dozens of different definitions for ATMs
- Conceptually, ATMs are **water transfers** to meet a defined **objective** while **avoiding** the permanent dry up of agricultural lands
- Project team proposed a **criteria approach** to evaluating whether water transfers or projects met the definition of an ATM





Structure of ATMs

ATM =

Agricultural Water Supply Method

- Full-Season Fallow
- Rotational Fallow
- Split-Season Fallow
- Regulated Deficit Irrigation
- Crop Switching
- Infrastructure

+

Water Transfer Method

- Water Bank
- Buy & Supply
- IWSA / Option Contract
- Purchase / Lease
- Lease to Fix

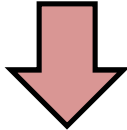




History on ATMs

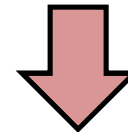
SWSI plans predicted 500k irrigated acres (~20% of total) could be lost statewide due to:

- **Urbanization** (100k acres, 20%)
- **Municipal Transfers (200k acres, 40%)**
- **Other Reasons** (200k acres, 40%)
 - Augmentation Needs
 - CRP Enrollments
 - Compact Compliance
 - Groundwater Overdraft

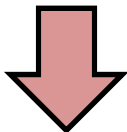


Influence from:

- Significant dry-up in Crowley County in Arkansas Basin
- Example following programs developed in Southern California



SB 07-22 (2007) authorized CWCB to develop a grant program to facilitate development and implementation of ATMs



CO Water Plan created an objective of 50,000 AF of ATMs by 2030

6.4
ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL TRANSFERS

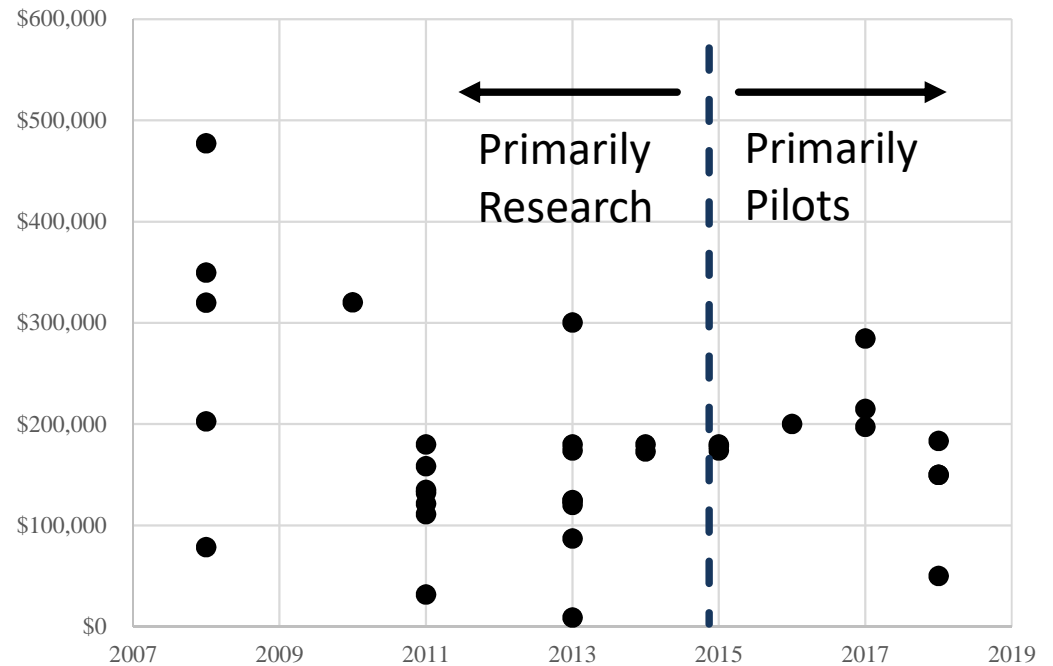
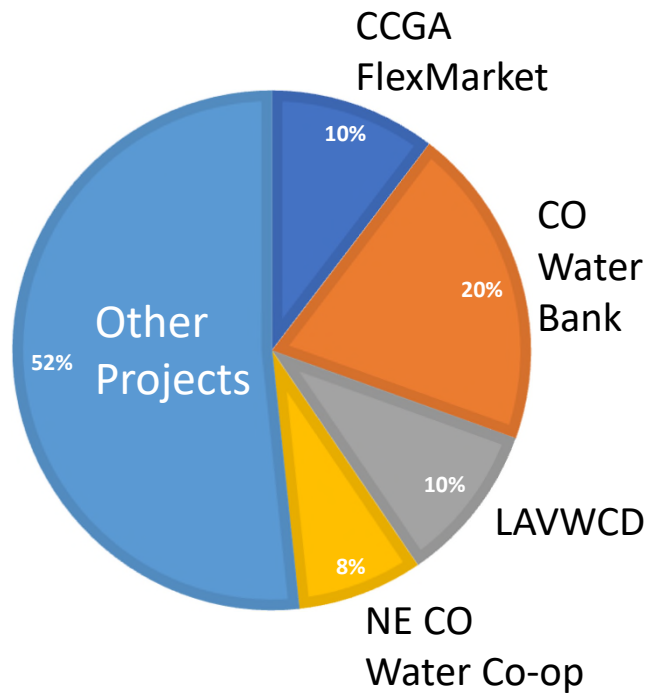
Respect the contributions of the agricultural industry by maximizing options to permanent buy-and-dry. Achievement of a sharing goal of 50,000 acre-feet could serve up to 350,000 people annually.

Pressures at state, national, and international levels threaten to reduce agricultural lands in the short term. Future municipal water demands contribute to an increasing pressure to transfer agricultural water rights to help satisfy urban demands and other non-agricultural water needs across the state.²⁹¹



ATM Grant Program

\$6,700,000 in Grants Awarded
(as of 2020)





Project Objectives

1. Status of ATM Implementation

- 18,000 acre-feet completed towards 50,000 acre-feet ATM goal presented in 2015 CO Water Plan
- Barriers are significant and have not changed much since initial research
- Interest remains in water community

2. Framework for Continued ATM Implementation

- Definition of ATMs to help guide funding and progress tracking
- Metrics for CWCB to track progress on ATM implementation
- Dry up is a multi-faceted problem and ATMs are one tool in the toolbox