



BIP 101

VERSIONS

Version 1: 2015
 Version 2: Under revision, est. completion Jan. 2022

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2015

- Completion of 45 projects through the Water Supply Reserve Fund and Colorado Water Plan grant programs
- Completion of stream management plans and watershed assessments
- Implementation of conservation & restoration projects
- Improved accuracy of streamflow forecasting tools
- Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure
- Multi-purpose storage infrastructure improvements
- Enhanced recreation opportunities
- Formation and operation of groundwater management subdistricts

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

- Achieving confined and unconfined aquifer sustainability
- Adapting to changing watershed conditions, including the timing and amount of water supply

BIP UPDATE PROJECTS

75 projects identified
 Total cost: \$165 million

WHAT IS THE BASIN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?

The Basin Implementation Plan, or BIP, is a planning document aimed at identifying the Rio Grande Basin's water needs and to develop strategies to meet those needs.

The BIP characterizes the Basin's current and projected water use and water needs using robust datasets and analyses. Using this data, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (RGBRT) has developed project and strategies to meet these identified needs.

The Rio Grande Basin BIP has been created through the combined efforts of the RGBRT, countless local stakeholders, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, and Brown and Caldwell. The overall goal of the BIP is to create a sustainable water future for the Basin's diverse water users through cooperative water resources management.

HISTORY OF THE BIP

The original Rio Grande BIP was developed in response to Governor John Hickenlooper's 2013 Executive Order, which launched a Colorado initiative to identify strategies to address the State's water demands. As a result of that initiative, the statewide Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and the first versions of each basin roundtable's BIP, including the Rio Grande BIP, were completed in 2015. Each Roundtable's BIP incorporates the unique conditions and water needs of its basin.

GOALS

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and its partners work toward:

- Healthy watersheds that provide critical ecosystem services, are resilient to disturbances, and benefit from ongoing efforts to protect water sources, improve water quality, enhance aquatic, riparian, wetland, and upland habitat, and maintain connected ecosystems.
- Aquifers with sustainable supplies of groundwater for farmers and ranchers, towns, and wildlife habitat.
- Vibrant and resilient agriculture, recreation, municipal, and industrial economies that support thriving communities.
- Water administration that is adaptive, flexible, and creative while complying with state statutes and the doctrine of prior appropriation, and fully utilizing Colorado's compact entitlements under the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek compacts.
- Engaged and informed citizens who understand the scope and urgency of local, state, and regional water issues and participate in robust and diverse educational opportunities.

For more information, visit the RGBRT BIP Update webpage: <http://rgbirt.org/rgbip-update/>