

# Worksession Presentation



City of  
**Greeley**  
Colorado

# The NoCO Water Big Picture

## ✓ Growing regional population

- ✓ Fastest growing region in state
- ✓ Expected to double by 2050
- ✓ Raw water costs limiting housing affordability

## ✓ Major regional agricultural economy

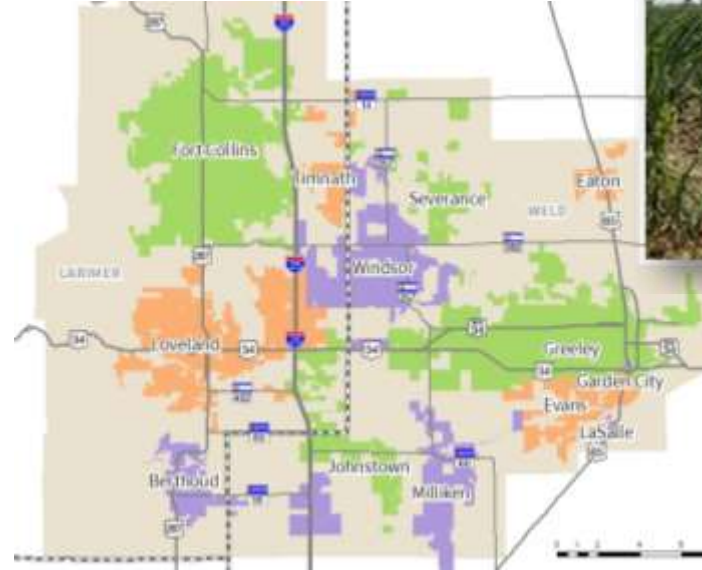
- ✓ Dependent on reliable irrigation

## ✓ Finite water supply

- ✓ Region has been water-short since 1930s
- ✓ NoCO remains a target for Denver Metro area water transfers

## ✓ Water supply challenges

- ✓ Impacts of a warmer climate – more frequent and severe droughts
- ✓ Colorado River shortages that will impact NoCO and Front Range
- ✓ Impaired snowpack and water quality from forest fires



# Synergy of Regional Water Group Formation:

## Fast Growing NoCO Region

- Economic growth and sustainability is based upon a finite water supply
- Competition among municipalities, dairy industry, and Denver suburbs



## NoCO Leaders prioritized a discussion of regional water issues

- 2019 leadership discussions on water scarcity created a call to action
  - Explore the mission of a regional group and evaluate the proposed focus
  - Define boundaries or limits for a regional water group
  - Recommended an organization structure for operating a regional group



**Greeley & Ft. Collins identified the Paterson Center to guide strategic facilitation**

# NoCO Water StratOp Group

## What is a StratOp?

A StratOp is a strategic system, designed to help any kind of team first get clear on where they stand;  
**Developing Perspective before Planning**

- NoCO Utility Directors and City Managers engaged in a facilitated StratOp to identify:
  - Common values, areas of alignment and opportunities.
- StratOp equipped our teams to clarify their purpose, make their vision clear, and move forward with strategic impact;
- Close the gap between a big vision and day-to-day actions;

More info at: <https://patersoncenter.com/stratop/>





# Defining the NoCO Water Region:

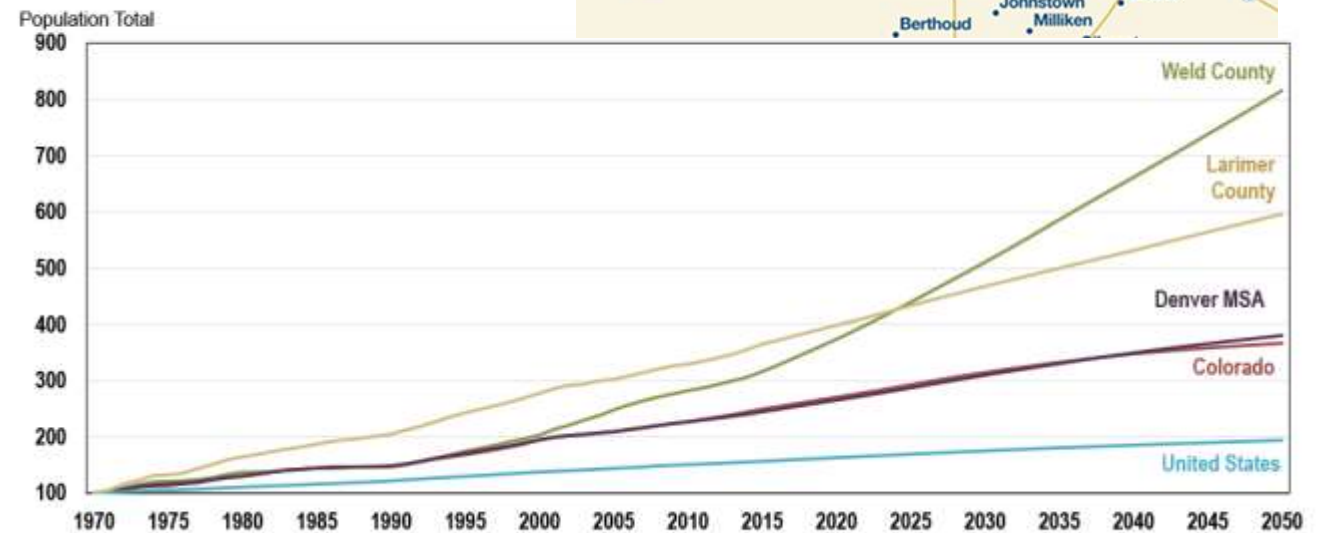
## Common Sources of Water Supply

- Cache la Poudre River
- Big Thompson River
- Upper Colorado River, via
  - Colorado – Big Thompson Project
  - Windy Gap Project

## Common Water Provider Risks and Opportunities

- Supply and infrastructure sustainability
- Robust economic growth
- Vulnerability to Colorado River system shortage
- Watershed health and sourcewater protection
- Wildfire recovery and impact mitigation

### Population Change 1970-2050



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office.

# Regional Organization Formation

## Formation Best Practices

1. Stakeholder engagement and process are critical to success
  - Dec. 2020 StratOp work was limited to anchor communities
  - All communities in the NoCO Region have now been engaged
2. The selection of an org structure should be guided by the stakeholders who would eventually participate in the organization
3. Goals in forming an organization structure:
  - Well defined mission & vision created by stakeholders
  - Balanced membership criteria, fair and transparent
  - Board criteria to be representative of members, yet functional



**Source:** *Colorado Water Conservation Board Report on the Northeast Colorado Water Cooperative*

# 2022 Regional Group Work Plan

## Expanded NoCO Stakeholder Engagement

1. Counties
2. Water Districts
3. Small Communities
4. Chambers of Commerce

April '22 Kick-off Meeting

## Facilitated Workshops:

1. Refine Priorities
2. Define Scope
3. Develop Buy-in
4. Consider Org Types
5. Develop Recommendations

April - June '22

## Regional Leadership Initiative Check-in

1. Report on '22 Work
2. Recommendations
  - Scope
  - Areas of Focus
  - Organization Type

July report out to regional leadership group

## Integrate Feedback & Refine Workplan – Q3

1. Incorporate regional leadership feedback
2. Develop Workshop and Subcommittee agendas
3. Define process for formation of an org.

*Ongoing work is being coordinated by the Northern Colorado Community Foundation, water utility directors from the larger cities and facilitated by Michael Chiarelli of Paterson Center*

# Comparison of Structures Commonly Used In Regional Water Organizations

Table ES-1. Organizational Frameworks Qualitative Assessment								
Organizational Framework	Adaptability	Flexibility	Ease of formation	Long-term certainty	Legal protections	Inclusiveness	Interim effectiveness	
Nonprofit Corporation	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Existing Government	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Water Conservancy District	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Regional Water Authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Memorandum of Understanding	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Intergovernmental Agreement	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

**Source:** Tech Memorandum, South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study (SPROWG) March 2020 Report





# Questions, Comments

