Politics is the practical exercise of the art of self-government, and somebody must attend to it if we are to have self-government: somebody must study it, and learn the art, and exercise patience and sympathy and skill to bring the multitude of opinions and wishes of self-governing people into such order that some prevailing opinion may be expressed and peaceably accepted. Otherwise, confusion will result either in dictatorship or anarchy. The principal ground of reproach against any American citizen should be that he is not a politician. Everyone ought to be, as Lincoln was."

— Elihu Root

Speech presenting statue of Lincoln to the British people, July 28, 1920

Dedicated to the Candidates of Colorado...

"...

CANDIDATES

"Talk on Water"

SENATOR

GOVERNOR

ATTORNEY GENERAL

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1) Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
2) Lt. Gov. Gail Schottler
3) John Suthers
4) Robert Reed Kelley

"In the current political atmosphere, discussion of more storage facilities is taboo. That is unfortunate because it is a fact of life in the west and we ought to be suspicious of elected officials who don't recognize or won't acknowledge this fact."

— Page 3

"Water is one of our most precious natural resources that we often take for granted but fiercely fight over... Satisfying all of the various needs and demands will be the defining challenge for governmental and water policy leaders in Colorado."

— Page 5

"...the most contentious area of involvement for the AG's office in water issues over the next decade will not involve the 18 downstream states that court our water, but involve continuing federal intervention that seriously impairs Colorado's ability to preserve and properly allocate its water resources."

— Page 6

"The ever-increasing percentage of people living in urban rather than rural areas in the west is causing water resource transfers from rural areas at the expense of our agricultural economy and traditional rural communities. As a rancher, I am concerned about preserving our rural character and the agricultural sector of our economy."

— Page 7

"The federal government can provide useful knowledge, but the federal government does not always know best. I continue to believe in the principle that, when possible, local organizations should be given the power to decide and control their future."

— Page 6

"We must work cooperatively with all the communities that have a stake in the management of water resources. Working together we can protect our water supplies, provide recreational opportunities, protect the environment, maintain Colorado's economic vitality and retain the natural beauty of our state."

— Page 7

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Lt. Gov. Gail Schottler
John Suthers
Robert Reed Kelley

Dedicated to the Candidates of Colorado...
November 3 - 6, 1998 - 67TH ANNUAL NWRA CONFERENCE — Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. For more information, contact the NWRA office in Arlington, Virginia: 703-524-1544.

January 7 - 8, 1999 — NWRA WATER POLICY FORUM — El Conquistado Hotel, Tucson, Arizona. For more information, contact the NWRA office in Arlington, Virginia: 703-524-1544.

Tentative CWC 1999 Convention Program

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1999

8:00 a.m. Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. CWC Board of Directors’ Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

7:30 a.m. Registration Opens
8:00 a.m. Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting
8:30 a.m. Five Concurrent Workshops - i.e., (1) Engineering & Management Developments; (2) The Ups n’ Downs of Support Staff; (3) Historical Perspective by Aspinall Recipients; (4) Legal Ethics Issues; and (5) Roundtable for Ditch Companies.
10:15 a.m. Four Concurrent Workshops - i.e., (1) Engineering & Management Developments; (2) Endangered Species Issues; (3) Roundtable on Water Education; and (4) Legal Ethics Issues.
12:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON — (Invited) Next Governor of Colorado.
2:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION I — Keynote speaker will address “The Best Way to Predict the Future is to Create It.”
2:45 p.m. Three speakers will be invited; and they are: (1) New Attorney General of Colorado; (2) New Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources; and (3) President of the Colorado Education Association.
4:00 p.m. Five Concurrent Workshops — i.e., (1) Water Conservation; (2) Engineering & Management Developments; (3) Water Quality Issues; (4) Ground Water Issues; and (5) Internet Opportunities.
6:00 p.m. RECEPTION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

7:00 A.M. LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST — Speakers will be six members of the legislature.
8:45 a.m. GENERAL SESSION II — A panel will address “The Generations Look at the 21st Century.” (The panelists will be one representative speaker age-wise from his/her teens, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s.)
10:30 a.m. GENERAL SESSION III — A panel will discuss “Growth, Water Needs and The Environment.”
12:15 p.m. THE WAYNE N. ASPINALL LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON — Floyd E. Dominy, Retired Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will be the speaker. The Nineteenth Annual “Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year” award will be presented at this luncheon.
1:45 p.m. CWC Annual Business Meeting
2:00 p.m. CWC Board of Directors’ Meeting
The U.S. Senate Candidates

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Republican, serves Colorado in the United States Senate. He is seeking a second term.

Dottie Lamm, a Democrat, is running for Senate.

The phenomenal growth rates experienced by Colorado and most other western states will place an increasing burden on the existing water supplies in the west. Preparing for this growth will be the central challenge of water managers and elected officials from congress to city councils.

Colorado has been one of the fastest growing states in the country this decade, with ten of the fifty fastest growing counties. Moreover, our growth rate is expected to continue well into the next century. Many other Western states are also growing rapidly, as nine of the ten fastest growing states in the 1990s are in the West. This kind of growth will put intense pressure on all our natural resources.

In dealing with all natural resources as a federal official, I am charged with protecting Colorado’s unique interests while promoting policies that advance the national interest. In my six years in the Senate, and another six in the House of Representatives, I have developed a strong record of advancing Colorado water interests within a broader policy framework.

I have been and remain committed to three tenets in meeting our growing needs with our limited water resources: less direct federal involvement in water resources decision-making, preserving the integrity of state laws and existing water rights, and renewed investment in facilities and programs to stretch and expand our supplies.

What follows is only an outline of my principals in meeting our water needs and is not meant to be a comprehensive profile of my positions on the entire range of water issues.

More often than not we take it for granted. Water, however, has been, is now and will continue to be a resource over which many political battles are fought. Complicated by the fact that the West — and Colorado in particular — is one of the fastest growing regions of the country, the increasing need for water and the desire to manage growth, as well as protect the environment, is likely to pit developers and newcomers against environmentalists and those who want to preserve the quality of life to which they have grown accustomed.

I believe that protecting Colorado’s water resources for future generations must guide our water policies and, to some degree, our approaches to managing growth. Sprawl and suburban development are caused by a number of factors. Access to water, however, is critical to any development and/or growth strategy for obvious reasons.

Large urban centers along the Front Range must come up with creative ways to conserve water and stabilize consumption. Potable water is not an unlimited resource and the demands for this resource are growing every day. In fact, demands to transfer water from the San Luis Valley and the Western Slope continue to grow along with rising population centers on the Front Range. Moreover, polluted water sources only exacerbate issues of scarcity over this resource.

Colorado does not use the full allotment of water to which we are entitled under the Colorado River Compact of 1922 (in fact, 800,000 to 1.2 million acre feet of Colorado’s water flows to lower basin states), while other states such as California and Nevada use more than their allotment. As Colorado continues to grow, this equation could change dramatically, depleting our surplus that other states have become accustomed to using to meet their demand. This could increase pressure to renegotiate the 1922 Compact (probably resulting in Colorado owning fewer water rights), while exacerbate existing conflicts over water transfers to the Front Range from the Western Slope and San Luis Valley.

The Front Range’s political power could make such trans-basin water transfers even more likely, regardless of whether or not is is the best long-term policy. I believe we must put in place mechanisms that can resist politically expedient pressures that are sure to dominate future conflicts over water, in addition to finding ways to conserve.

Of the water treated by public water systems in Colorado, less than 1% is used for drinking and cooking. The rest is used for everything from watering lawns to washing cars.

Anecdotally, driving around the metro area one often sees sprinklers, intended to water grassy boulevards, shooting straight up in the air, watering the street or watering in the rain — not a wise use of what everyone acknowledges is a scarce resource (not to mention the wisdom of watering boulevards in the first place). Kentucky Bluegrasses, which dominates our lawns and boulevards, uses 18 gallons of water per square foot a year, while wheatgrass uses only seven gallons.

Since 1960, industrial water use has remained constant in relation to other uses while agricultural uses have declined nearly 10%. As a result of high growth rates, both domestic and thermoelectric water uses have increased.

Agriculture, however, remains the single largest user of water in Colorado, some argue that water for farming is subsidized and that farmers should be asked...
The Gubernatorial Candidates

Gail Schoettler, a Democrat, is the Lt. Governor of Colorado and is running for Governor.

Bill Owens, a Republican, is Colorado's State Treasurer and is a candidate for Governor.

Water is one of our most precious natural resources that we often take for granted but fiercely fight over. We expect it to be available whenever we want it and for whatever purpose promotes our values. It defines Colorado's image, from its skiing, white water rafting, gold medal trout streams, irrigated agriculture, to its source of many western rivers. These images create increasing demands on our water resources—especially as the state continues to grow in population. Satisfying all of the various needs and demands will be the defining challenge for governmental and water policy leaders in Colorado.

As one of the fastest growing states in a region of water scarcity, Colorado faces a choice: we can either let each competing interest fight for its share, or we can work together to face the tough issues ahead. "Collaboration" and "cooperation" historically have been foreign concepts in water policy. They must become part of our permanent water lexicon.

This is especially true today as the options available to develop water supplies are limited by other factors, such as environmental, fiscal and social concerns. Unlike any time in history, water providers must operate within the confines of an overwhelming array of constraints. These constraints inevitably bump against growth pressures forcing us to acknowledge the necessity to provide water but in new and creative ways.

In this regard, I support efforts underway to develop collaborative solutions to our water needs. I support the Metropolitan Water Forum, an effort by various water providers in the Denver-metro area to find new ways to develop supplies for Front Range communities.

We are blessed here in Colorado to live in a state with a rich and vibrant heritage. Those of us who live in Colorado today are truly stewards of the land, and we must therefore preserve and protect our state's water resources for generations to come.

During the past several years, we have enjoyed many historically wet years while our population has grown. This has given Colorado some extra time to plan for the water use needs of tomorrow. Unfortunately, federal regulators have recently begun to intrude far too much into Colorado's water planning without respecting our water heritage and constitutional guarantee that our waters shall be available for all citizens in the state. In the future, before we adopt a state policy which allows the federal government to attempt to over rule our compact entitlement to our water resources, we must ensure that the federal government keeps its commitment to the people of Colorado. We must also ensure that the federal government uses its resources to keep its commitment to the Native Americans in the Southwest region of our state and builds the Animas-La Plata Project that will meet the just demands of the Native Americans as well as future water requirements for that region of the state.

We must do all we can to protect endangered species. But we should not stand by while the federal government and special interest groups use the Colorado's Endangered Species Act to send Colorado's water out of state when there are other technologically feasible and acceptable methods to protect endangered species. Coloradans must have reasonable access to our own water. Both on the East and West slopes, new demands for water require that we utilize modern technology, conservation, and all the other management tools available to ensure that our water supply is utilized to the maximum extent possible.

In our high mountain valleys with their fragile ecosystems, where we have growing communities based on recreation economies, we will need new approaches to high mountain storage to meet increasing demands for water. On the Eastern plains, we must employ a mix of water supply alternatives to ensure that our agricultural communities, which nourish our nation, are not sacrificed as water is moved from agricultural to urban uses.

We must be innovative in order to meet the growing demand for water along the Front Range. We must be creative in storage solutions which upgrade existing facilities combined with high-tech demand management and recharge technology to ensure that water flows to us as a reusable resource is utilized and recycled.

Colorado has a long history of utilizing private sector ingenuity to solve many of our water supply problems. As Governor, I will encourage the private sector to work in cooperation with the public sector in order to meet our future water needs. This means that private property rights with respect to water must be protected. I will strongly encourage the public sector to use private funds and other local funding sources to make water-related recreational opportunities available to meet Colorado's expanding need for such facilities. The legacy we leave future generations must also include the wise use of our water heritage and protection of our compact entitlement so that our legacy is one of expanded opportunities for all.
The Attorney General Candidates

A native of Colorado, I have watched with great interest over the years the struggle between competing water interests and the resolution of major conflicts that have brought us to where we are in terms of water policy in the state. In the process, I have come to recognize that Colorado truly is "a land where life is written in the water."

While the doctrine of prior appropriation and our system of water courts have provided us a valuable system of dispute resolution, there are clearly many critical issues in front of us that can only be effectively resolved through the mutual cooperation of various competing interests and through the help of organizations like the Colorado Water Congress. Whether the issue is additional storage capacity, the purchase of agricultural water by cities, diversion of surface or groundwater, the impact of increased recreational uses or the effect of various federal legislative initiatives, Colorado needs the input of seasoned "water buffer" to help determine appropriate water policy for our future.

The Attorney General’s Office in Colorado has a very important role to play in protecting Colorado’s interests and those of its individual citizens in regard to water issues. As Attorney General, I would work hard to protect the rights of Colorado under the various interstate compacts that have been carefully negotiated through the years, assist in achieving cooperative relationships among water users with varying interests, and vigorously oppose federal intervention that interferes with the ability of Colorado to control its own destiny in terms of preserving and allocating precious water resource.

In regard to specific ongoing issues, as Attorney General, I would work with the special deputy attorney generals representing Colorado in the Kansas v. Colorado case in hopes of achieving a final resolution that is in the best interests of all the Arkansas River water users. I would be an outspoken advocate for expeditious commencement of the Animsa-La Plata Project in accordance with the legal and moral commitments to Indian and non-Indian water users in south-west Colorado. Further, I would vigorously protect Colorado’s right to future development of its full entitlement under the Colorado River compacts.

It may well be that the most contentious area of involvement for the AG’s office in water issues over the next decade will not involve the 18 downstream states that cover our water, but rather will involve continuing federal intervention that seriously impairs Colorado’s ability to preserve and properly allocate its water resources. The Attorney General must carry the fight against federal usurpation of the right of Colorado and its citizens. While litigation in opposition to federal intervention has thus far been relatively unsuccessful, the attorneys general in the western states must continue to be willing to challenge the constitutional validity and questionable scientific basis for federal initiatives, when the interests of the state so dictate. The whims of Congress or federal agencies should not be allowed to change the essential rights Colorado has under its various interstate compacts.

I believe I could work very effectively with Colorado’s Congressional delegation to protect our state’s interests. I know the members of this delegation personally and have worked with most of them on a cooperative basis in the past. It will take a great deal to enforce Colorado’s natural resources laws and regulations. More time and attorneys are spent on these efforts than on virtually any other single issue area within the AG’s office. I have a record of working to provide workable water solutions, preserving our water resources, and developing them in a sound, common sense way.

I have been a leader in the fight against massive intrusive projects such as American Water Development Inc. (AWDI) in its attempt to take water from the San Luis Valley and the Union Park Project in Gunnison County. I have also been at the forefront in attempting to fashion more practical solutions for water supply for Front Range metropolitan communities.

I do not believe these water grab are the best solutions for supplying water to the Front Range metropolitan communities. I recognize that the Front Range, particularly in the Denver metropolitan area, needs additional water supply. I believe that more cost effective, less damaging solutions can be found working cooperatively with water users in the region that will ensure a stable long-term water supply for the growing metropolitan area without pitting the people of Colorado against each other in bitter fighting between neighbors.

The Colorado Attorney General plays a key role on water issues in Colorado. For example, a previous Colorado Attorney General fashioned the reserve rights settlements with the Indian tribes in southwestern Colorado. The Attorney General has the key responsibility for the fight against the state of Kansas on the Arkansas River and numerous other interstate issues. The Colorado Attorney General has the key responsibility to assure that federal environmental programs do not legally destroy Colorado’s water rights. The

Coloredado Water Rights

Continued on Page 8

John Suthers, a Republican is running for Colorado Attorney General.

Ken Salazar, a Democrat is a candidate for Colorado Attorney General.
The 3rd Congressional Candidates

Robert Reed Kelley, a Democrat, is the candidate for the 3rd Congressional District.

As a former and once again current member of the Colorado Water Congress and speaker at some of your past conventions, it is a particular pleasure to have the opportunity to present my views on water issues. For many years, the Water Congress has been among the most influential and effective advocates for Colorado's water users in both the state and federal arenas. I have always enjoyed and appreciated my associations with the Colorado Water Congress and look forward to working with you in the future.

As a candidate for the United States Congress, I want to focus my comments on water issues that involve the federal government where, as a member of Congress, I could hopefully have some meaning in the principal influence. When I look at water issues in Colorado, it is immediately apparent that one of our biggest challenges is that the federal government is already in the middle of almost everything.

Recognizing the inevitable role of the federal government in water quality, endangered species, the management of federal lands and the management of federal water projects, the issues of critical importance to the State of Colorado stem from two primary objectives:

1. Protection of the sanctity of interstate compacts that establish our current and future rights to water; and
2. The preservation of the State's independent role in the allocation and administration of water rights.

Historically, we have invested most of our political capital in efforts to secure national budget appropriations for large federally subsidized projects to develop our compact entitlements. The political reality is that neither Republican nor Democrat administrations have been or will be willing to support large federal funding in the federal budget because of conflicting national priorities and environmental concerns.

Thus, the efforts of Senator Campbell and Representative McInnis to secure funding for the Animas - La Plata project have failed repeatedly because of their reluctance to effectively address issues associated with fiscal responsibility and environmental impacts. Our Congressional representatives need to provide some insight regarding the national perspective on these issues and then some pragmatic leadership in forging a compromise solution that meets the legitimate needs to be served by a given project. The biggest threat to the State's independence on water rights determination is currently through federal permitting activities where mandates associated with threatened and endangered species, water quality and environmental protection are invoked in a manner that effectively preempts local water supply planning decision. Our State's current Congressional representatives have responded by supporting ineffective efforts to weaken federal laws and programs intended to protect environmental quality. In my opinion, these efforts have been mostly ill-advised and a waste of time because of the strong grassroots public support on both the state and national levels for these programs.

I would propose that instead of investing our limited political capital in short sighted efforts to weaken environmental laws, we should take a more preemptive approach. For example, if we can successfully implement programs on the state and local levels to protect water storage projects throughout the West are serving public access, addressing growth issues and managing in a similar manner as it has in the past, precluding ineffective efforts to weaken federal laws and programs intended to protect environmental quality. In my opinion, these efforts have been mostly ill-advised and a waste of time because of the strong grassroots public support on both the state and national levels for these programs.

I'd like to begin with what I see as a good model for the future of water usage and governance in Colorado and the West. When I came to Congress, I came with the goal of returning government to the people - the federal government should help being governing back to the state and local level where decisions can be made by those who are directly affected by these decisions. The federal government can provide useful knowledge, but the federal government does not always know best. I continue to believe in the principle that, when possible, local organizations should be given the power to decide and control their future. It is these organizations, at the state or local level, who are best able to speak for and understand the issues that affect them.

Water storage projects throughout the West are reaching a point of maturity. Many were built quite some time ago and have reached a new phase in their existence. The payments required from the irrigation interests have been paid off by the parties involved, yet the current plan seems to be that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation run the projects forever. After hearing from local irrigation interested in reclaiming some local control of their water storage projects, I have offered what I think is a better model for how we should operate some of our water storage facilities - a proposal which represents the best example of a 'New West' model of local cooperation to achieve local control of public resources, using the best available science. I have sponsored legislation during this session of Congress which would transfer the title of facilities of the Pine River Irrigation Project, including the Vallecito Dam and Reservoir, from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the Pine River Irrigation District. I firmly believe that this type of joint action between the federal and the local authorities will set the standard for future efforts of this nature.

The local irrigation district has managed the reservoir and irrigation facilities for many years, so it only makes sense to transfer the actual responsibility and control to the irrigation district, while making sure that the local authority remains subject to state and federal laws. As part of my proposal, all parties must address a number of compliance concerns, before any transfer takes place. I want to make sure that the transfer is a considered, wise move that protects the needs and concerns of all the parties involved. Before a transfer takes place under my legislation, the following concerns must be addressed: (1) the irrigation district must develop a management plan that ensures the project is managed in a similar manner as it has in the past, preserving public access, addressing growth issues and protecting recreational values; (2) the district must work with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a flood control plan; (3) treaty obligations on the part of the federal government must be fulfilled, and (4) the public aspects of the project must be protected.

I also want to ensure that these types of transfers are not handed down from Washington, D.C., but are rather initiated in a public and open manner. Colorado and the West have been forced to endure years of federal decrees which have not necessarily been in the best interests of our state. That is why, in

Continued on Page 11

Scott McInnis, a Republican is Colorado's Congressman representing the 3rd District and is seeking a fourth term.
The Colorado Water Congress Water Education Committee is on a mission -- to provide basic water education information and materials to citizens and their elected officials.

Wise use of Colorado's water resources relies on informed citizens. Whether it be consideration of a water-related ballot initiative or forming an opinion on the future water needs of a region, our citizens need to understand basic Colorado water law, history, and issues. For example, most do not realize that much of the state is a semi-arid desert that receives less than 14 inches of annual precipitation. Our system of water rights, water courts, and water attorneys is often overwhelming to new residents. And our system of irrigation ditch companies and boards, and our various state water agencies, are confusing and complex to understand. The CWC Water Education Committee hopes to change some of these problems.

This insert provides information on a variety of outstanding water education programs delivered by water agencies across the state. From Durango to Grand Junction, from Loveland to Greeley and clear past Aurora, many dedicated groups and individuals are making a difference in educating students and adults. And changes are already being seen. Dr. Robert Ward of the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute in Fort Collins has stated that some new students at Colorado State University have a better understanding of Colorado water due to children's water festivals they attended in 4th or 5th grade. Water agencies are getting more calls than ever before because citizens are asking questions about newsletter articles, brochures, and brochures being distributed. Our state legislature has allowed the CWC Water Education Committee to make several presentations to the Senate & House Agriculture Committees of the Colorado Legislature.

Plans continue, and the CWC Water Education Committee will work to provide basic water information for the citizens of our state.

**The Runoff for Kids & Adults**

Turn off the faucet. *Sweep the sidewalk. Take shorter showers.*

We frequently deliver water conservation and education messages to children. While we’re not talking to the same children repeatedly, the concepts can become routine.

Two years ago, a group of water educators decided to find another way to send the message. We also wanted to construct a template others could use to duplicate the idea and customize it for their cities or regions.

The result was The Runoff for Kids and Adults, a 12-page tabloid size newspaper inserted in four northern Colorado newspapers in spring 1997.

The tab, aimed at elementary-aged children, their parents and teachers, was a cooperative effort among the Northern Colorado Water conservation District; Colorado Water Conservation Board; City of Fort Collins Water Utilities; City of Boulder Public Works/Utilities; City of Greeley Water Resources; City of Loveland Water and Power, and Central Colorado Water Conservation District.

The objective was to endorse the idea of water conservation, and add activities, fun facts and cartoons to make our point.

Each entity agreed to share the cost to write, design and print 200,000 of the full-color tabs. Boulder, Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley’s representatives each put together information and graphics for a four-page insert particular to their cities.

Then, we set about writing, designing and editing the publication.

We contacted Olympic Gold Medal winner Amy VanDyken’s agent to ask if she would write a letter to students. (She did. We got a great photo to use, too.)

We called publishers for permission to reprint interesting information and explanations about water and its physical properties. We asked a physics professor to review facts for accuracy.

We collected details about conservation, water treatment and wastewater treatment. We researched the way ice was made for a hockey rink and why ice skates work. We explained the signs that say CLIMB TO SAFETY IN CASE OF A FLASH FLOOD.

We learned that snow is secretly dynamic, even when it just looks like it’s sitting on the sidewalk, waiting patiently to be shoveled onto the lawn.

In essence, we looked at what might interest a 10-year-old about water. Then, we tracked down the information, verified it and put it in a package we thought would grab their attention.

Then The Runoff was done and had been proofread until we nearly had it memorized; we invited a group of teachers and students to review it. Over dinner and juice, then later soda pop and several pizzas, they told us what they liked and what they didn’t. One half-page section, on how to make a rainstick, was pulled and entirely rewritten. Other sections were nipped and tucked. In some cases, we listened to suggestions, but made no changes.

Plenty of people will say that a project like The Runoff has the ideal elements for an extended, recurring nightmare: money from public entities; individuals; individuals with different ideas, approaches and bosses, and deadlines.

The fact is, we learned a lot and it was fun, right down to the day we spent at the Boulder Daily Camera when The Runoff went to press.

We found another way to deliver the message, and we’re still finding ways to use it.

Built into the final 200,000 copies were extras for use in classrooms and at children’s water festivals. About 10,000 stored at NCWCD, still are available for teachers and water entities to use. If you would like copies of The Runoff, or information about putting together a publication, please contact Brian Werner by e-mail, b.werner@ncwcd.org, or by phone, (970)667-2437.
The Changing Face
of Water Education and Water Information

Water Education and Information

In the state of Colorado, up to the last five years or so, amounted to attorney reports, engineering reports, board reports, agency reports and a few newsletters here and there. In the early nineties, people became much more interested and much more critical of government spending and their activities. This began with the federal agencies and "tricked down" to the local agencies. Growth and transportation spurred the world into travel and relocation. Technology increased the hunger for information. This prompted government agencies to spend more time and money for education and information in order to respond to the public.

Colorado residents were not excluded in this quest for more information. Water knowledge was limited to the water professional. Due to the unique water law that exists here in Colorado, water education became more important as the growth of Colorado continued to challenge existing uses of water. Newcomers to Colorado didn't understand the importance of our reservoirs for water storage. They didn't understand ditches and diversion, water rights, and the priority system.

The Water Information Program was southwestern Colorado was created in 1994 by the Southwestern Water Conservation District. Due to politically charged water issues in southwest Colorado, many water agencies, water companies, (ranging from Pagosa Springs to Cortez and Silverton including the city of Durango) came together in a joint effort to inform and educate residents. The first major effort of the new "Program" was the press clipping summaries. By scanning various newspapers in Colorado and New Mexico for water related issues, editorials and articles water board members, elected officials and others were kept abreast of water issues. These summaries are now distributed to many water board members, government agencies, local and federal officials.

During the past four years the Program has grown to include informational brochures, newcomer packets, quarterly newsletters, children's water festival participation and an Internet web site. The Program is reaching out to local and state residents to tell them about water. This was the goal and purpose four years ago and it has been successful. The Water Information Program has tried to let the need of information rule the program and not allow the political issues to overwhelm us.

Colorado water districts, water companies and water people need to be the leaders in Colorado in providing water education and information. We must become partners with our schools by sponsoring water festivals for children and teacher workshops for our educators. In addition, real estate agents, developers, and other local residents can benefit from our newsletters, brochures and work shops. We believe that by education and information, understanding of water will follow. Technology has allowed us a multitude of ways to make our water information available. Today, we have mail, faxes, telephones, e-mail, web sites on the Internet and we must not forget our most important form of communication - our face to face contact.

Web sites for Water Organization in Colorado

- Colorado Water Knowledge — www.cnr.colostate.edu/CWK
- Colorado Water Districts and Boards — www.coloradorivers.org
- Colorado Links to Water Organizations — www.waterinfo.org
- Colorado Water and Interstate Compacts — www.cnr.colostate.edu
- Colorado Water Conservation Board — www.dnr.state.co.us/cwcb
- Colorado’s Stream Flow — www.dnr.state.co.us/water
- Some data collected in the last 18 months including stream discharge, water levels and parameters from water quality monitors.
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources — www.dnr.state.co.us/cdnr_news
- Colorado Division of Water Resources — http://water.state.co.us/surface
- State Engineer’s Office quarterly Newsletter STREAMLINES — http://water.state.co.us
- Colorado Water Resources Research Institute — www.colorado.edu.depts/CWRRI
- Colorado River Water Conservation District — www.crwcd.gov
- Denver Board of Water Commissioners — www.water.denver.co.gov
- Southern Water Conservation District — www.waterinfo — History of SWCD
- Water Policy Review Advisory Committee Western — www.den.doi.gov/wwpwac
- Colorado Springs Xeriscape Demonstration Garden — www.csu.org/xeri
Colorado Education for Young and Old Alike

"The 150 to 200 people who participate in and assist with the water festival firmly believe that educating our young people is the first step to creating understanding and support from future rate payers, environmentalists, irrigators, etc. Twenty years from now, it's possible that we will be able to compromise and find solutions to the problems the world will be facing in the water arena due to the fact that children are being exposed to everything that 'preserve and protect' entails."

Rita Crumpton
Ute Water Conservancy District,
Grand Junction, CO

Children’s Water Festivals – 1999

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| April 19 & 20, 1999| Pueblo, CO |
| April 1999         | La Junta, CO |

Festivals in Planning Stages

| Montrose, CO | Patrice Mocher |
| Delta, CO    | Al Spika |
| Buena Vista, CO | Jeff Keidel |
| Grand County, CO | Brian Werner & Lori Lamb |
| Pueblo, CO | Pete Juba |
| La Junta, CO | Toni Arnold |

Regional Water Festival

May 20, 1999 Casper, Wy

The Mission statement of the water festival is simple:

“To entertain and educate students about the importance of water in their lives, in their community, and in their world and to celebrate our western heritage.”
Another element of this goal is the Household Chemical Roundup, an annual pollution prevention event. In 1997 alone, over 4,400 gallons of paint, 2,400 gallons of used motor oil, 400 tires and 1,500 gallons of anti- freeze were collected and then recycled, reused, or disposed of properly. Every year approximately 1,600 participating households receive an educational packet including information about water pollution prevention and proper disposal and storage of household chemicals and hazardous products.

While Aurora is proud of its programs, it recognizes that the future of education lies not with any one entity but rather in alliances formed with other water providers throughout Colorado. In recognition of this power, we cite a couple of examples of several highly successful joint projects.

- Denver Water and Aurora Utilities have jointly published two, soon to be three, color brochures featuring Xeriscape plans. The plans are designed by professional landscape architects or designers and address a specific landscape needs, for example narrow spaces. Both these entities are working with Xeriscape Colorado to print additional quantities of these brochures making them available to any entity that wishes to purchase them.

- The Alliance, a group of green industry (landscape) and water providers that have published a great primer on Colorado water entitled "Water... Colorado's Precious Resource.

- Education is Xeriscape Colorado's cornerstone. Xeriscape information is available on their website and requests for brochures, news letter or membership information can be placed on line.

- WaterWiser, the water efficiency clearing house sponsored by the American Water Works Association, also serves as a great source of information to the industry and general public.

For the water festival are that it will be held May, 1999 at the University of Southern Colorado. The District and other water resource agencies from throughout the Arkansas River Basin sponsor the annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, which is a two-day forum highlighting the water issues in the basin. The forum is open to the general public and serves as an educational tool on water resource issues. For more information on water resource education materials or programs, please call the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District  office (719)544-2040.

Contributors to this Special Supplement include:

Mary Ferwick, Southwestern Water Conservation District, Durango
Rita Crampton, Ute Water Conservancy District
Shelley Stanley, City of Aurora
Brian Werner & Lori Lamb, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Loveland
Kelly Bruce, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo
Tom Cech, Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, Greeley

A short list of web sites follows. If you have any educational needs, these are the experts in the field, feel free to visit their sites or contact them directly with any educational questions or needs. These professionals are willing and able to help give them a call.

ONLINE
For precipitation and temperature records for the metro area and around the state, check out the Colorado Climate Center:
http://wysses.atmos.colostate.edu/Welcome.html

Water Resources information is available through the Colorado Water Research Institute at Colorado State University:
www.colostate.edu/cwr/research.html

Colorado Water Basics, explains some of the issues unique to water supply and availability in our state:
www.colostate.edu/CKW/CKW/index.html

Xeriscape and youth education materials can be found at the Colorado Springs Water Resources Department Home Page:
www.ess.org

City of Aurora Utilities home page offers water conservation, water pollution prevention, rate, and other utility information at:
www.cityaurora.co.us

Fort Collins home page has information on Xeriscape and upcoming educational events at:
www.city.fort-collins.co.us/

ENVIRONMENT/XERISCAPING/index.html

Xeriscape Colorado lists local demonstration gardens and links to other Xeriscape sites:
www.xeriscape.org

Northern District's web page contains information on irrigation management and Water Festivals:
www.cecwcd.org

Denver Water web page has information on a wide variety of subjects including rates:
www.water.denver.co.gov

Boulder Public Works and Utilities Department web address has information on conservation programs including multi-family plumbing retrofit device rebates:
http://ben.boulder.co.us

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District is very much interested and involved with the education for our constituents. At this time the District releases a fall and spring newsletter "Water News" that keeps everyone updated on current happenings within the Southeastern District. The District has also put out an informative brochure and video which tells of the history of the District and the Frying-pan Arkansas Project. The District and Bureau of Reclamation are in the process of planning for the first annual water festival for local school district's 5th grade students in Pueblo, Colorado. The initial plans for
The 4th Congressional Candidates

The importance of Colorado water is paramount among the state's many natural resources. Water supplies the state with power, drinking water, irrigation, recreation and wildlife habitat.

In these times of rapid growth and growing demand for water, it is fundamentally important that Colorado preserve its ability to manage and allocate the resource under existing state laws, compacts, agreements and treaties. While misguided federal attempts to control Colorado water continue, many overlook the federal government's role in managing forest lands for favorable water supplies.

Irrigated agriculture makes a great contribution to Colorado's economy and quality of life. The direct and indirect income generated by irrigated agriculture accounts for 70% of all U.S. crop production and has a tremendous multiplier effect on the U.S. economy. In 1995, conservative estimates indicated that irrigated agriculture contributed over $1 billion to the economy. One of the largest employers in the West, irrigated agriculture accounts for an estimated one billion in export revenues from Colorado alone.

Locally and nationally, rural economies rely heavily on the water rights held by farmers and ranchers. Those rights must be protected from unwarranted federal intervention. At the same time, we must hold the federal government accountable for its own actions related to the management of land and water resources.

Forest Management for Water Resources

The federal government is required by law to manage forest lands for water resources. The Organic Administration Act of 1897 provides that "No national forest shall be established except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States."

In 1960, the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act authorized the Forest Service to manage for other uses, but only in addition to water and timber resources. Unfortunately, the agency seems to have lost its sense of mission in the haze and confusion of Washington bureaucracy and politics.

Federal land management practices have a startling affect on water quality and quantity. Since the turn of the century, management practices have led to an unprecedented increase in the annual net growth of national forests. Healthy forests have a diversity of age classes and successional stages. We now see the overgrowth of shade-tolerant understory plant species, accumulating forest fuels, and a decrease in forest diversity. Those factors contribute to problems with water quality and water flows.

Many scientists believe Colorado has more, and older, trees now than at any time in recorded history. For example, in 1996 only 12,343 acres of the 2,841,000 acres of suitable National Forest lands were harvested in Colorado. Timber sale targets (excluding salvage sales) have decreased by 50% since 1990. Meanwhile, forest growth has out-paced harvest on suitable lands by roughly 400%.

Insect outbreaks and large, intense fires are becoming more common and more severe on these dense, homogeneous forests. Currently, 40 million acres of National Forests are susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. Those fires threaten lives and property and cause serious air and water quality problems. Catastrophic fires leave in their wake baked soils devoid of any vegetation.

Water is the essence of life. Not enough of it falls as rain on most of Colorado (and many of the western states). That scarcity makes us Coloradans completely dependent upon the diversion and storage of the water that flows through the state in its rivers and is stored in its reservoirs.

Through my service as Mayor of Fort Collins and as a member of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust, I have had special opportunities to learn about the complex issues that arise when there are numerous interests competing for this scarce and critical resource. And it's not just the water itself; it's the environment, it's endangered species; it's the rights of Native Americans; it's recreation; it's other states that want to share the water, and it's federal interests versus states' rights. Oh, it's a wonderfully complex and downright dramatic - life and death stuff.

It is absolutely essential that Colorado's elected officials be knowledgeable about water issues and that they be able to communicate clearly the major components of these issues to the citizens of the state. When the people of Colorado are adequately informed about the issues, they can respond thoughtfully to guide lawmakers and others toward policies that work.

I favor recognition that water issues transcend city, county (and often state) boundaries. I believe that federal and interstate cooperation at basic levels must be sought if we are to solve the critical water related issues.

We should not fear federal input; we should tolerate responsible, informed, federal input which comes from sources that are sensitive to the need to consult the people at the state and local levels concerning proposed actions and regulations. The issues are broad and deep; the solutions to problems are most likely to come from putting all the interest groups together to work out common-sense solutions.

When I was on the City Council of Fort Collins and when I served as the mayor, I was all for working productively with local, state, and federal officials of all parties to rise above narrow partisan positions to seek workable solutions.

Among the actions and recognition related to water and its uses while I served on the City Council and as mayor were these:

• Receipt of the 1987 USEPA Region VIII Excellence Award for Operations, Maintenance and Management of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works.
• Receipt of the 1989 USEPA Region VIII Excellence Award for the Beneficial Use of Sewage Sludge recognizing the benefits of the Resource Recovery Farm.
• The development and implementation of Demand Management and Water Supply Policies for the City of Fort Collins.
• Purchase of 18,000 acres of short grass prairie range land to recycle wastewater biosolids and preserve open vistas.
• Began negotiations to resolve a dispute between Fort Collins and the U.S. Forest Service over the land beneath Joe Wright Reservoir. An innovative compromise was reached in 1995 through the issuance of a 50 year easement of Forest Service land to the city. This easement protects winter flows of water to the Cache La Poudre River.

On these critical water issues that affect us and our children and grandchildren, we need to cooperate openly and frankly and effectively.
Continued from Page 3

Although the Animas - La Plata example show the federal agencies' prevailing attitude towards water policy, it also shows us glimpses of a new direction. The Animas-La Plata Project is a prime example of cooperation among various stakeholders, both Colorado and local, to address water-related issues. The project aimed to balance water needs while also respecting environmental concerns.

In the current political atmosphere, discussion of more storage facilities is taboo. That is unfortunate because it is a fact of life in the west and we ought to be suspicious of elected officials who don't recognize or won't acknowledge this fact.

Impoundment facilities are expensive and have important environmental impacts, some beneficial, some adverse. On balance, they are a tried and true method of dealing with a scarcity of water. The Western Water Advisory Commission gives only lip service to this fact. Unless we address this issue early and honestly, then in another thirty or forty years when we find ourselves forced to build more impoundment facilities, many choices will be foreclosed, and costs will have escalated. The need will remain, but we will have lost precious time to plan and prepare.

I have long fought for construction of the Animas-La Plata impoundment facility. In the last two years, I led the fight against opponents in the Senate who wanted to de-fund and de-authorize this project. Both times I fought to keep funding for continued activities for ALP.

I have fought for funding for other projects as well. Just this year, as a member of the appropriations subcommittee funding the Environmental Protection Agency, I secured almost $2 million in a Senate appropriations bill for upgrades to a local municipal sewage facility in Colorado, and I helped increase by $173 million funding for national water quality activities. I also worked to get increased funds for the National Rural Water Association, Rural Community Assistance Program and the National dam Safety Program. I have also secured language in an appropriations bill to give greater consideration to a water treatment plant in Fl. Morgan.

My record demonstrates that my commitment to protecting and expanding Colorado's water resources is steadfast and active.

Lamm ★★★ Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 5

Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 5

Talking on Water, cont.

Payments by Conservation District

I oppose this measure because these well flow meters are costly, unreliable and would only raise prices for consumers, the cost of U.S. exports, and force many small farmers out of business.

Some farmers and ranchers are already facing difficult economic times and many are being forced to sell to developers, thereby exacerbating the problem of sprawl.

As I have said before, I oppose trans-basin water diversions from the West Slope and the San Luis Valley unless such transfers are in the clear interests of the residents of those areas of Colorado. Moreover, I support preserving 1041 land use powers, which give Colorado's counties a say in water transfers. This tool for Colorado's counties will be even more important when Federal Range pressures to access San Luis Valley (SLV) and West Slope water increases.

This fall, Colorado voters will have an opportunity to vote on two ballot initiatives relating to water in the San Luis Valley.

Suthers ★★★ Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 5

Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 5

Talking on Water, cont.

of cooperation between state and federal elected officials to achieve our objectives.

Being a former member of the Colorado Attorney General, I will be very accessible, and I will be extremely objective. I have no vested interests or axes to grind. I have already consulted with several water law experts throughout Colorado and, if elected, I will welcome and, in many instances, seek out the advice of members of the Colorado Water Congress and other organizations that represent the interests of various types of water users in the state. The Attorney General needs such input to ensure that the AG's office is consistently acting in the best interests of Colorado and its citizens.

Thomas Hornsby Ferril.


Four legislators addressed the CWC Summer Convention delegates (L to R) Senator Don Ament, Representative Matt Smith, Representative Carl Miller and Representative Russell George.

CWC Water Education Committee meets at 1998 Gunnison Water Workshop.

Fred Brown, Political Editor of The Denver Post, provided some valuable observations about the 1998 elections at Snowmass.

A new River District staff member from Pakistan.

Former DNR Director Jim Lochhead did an outstanding job as a last minute speaker at Snowmass.

The audience was attentive at the 1998 CWC Summer Convention at Snowmass.
Continued from Page 4

General Assembly and the Courts through legislation and over many years of judicial precedent. We Coloradans understand how water is allocated within our state. The area of great threat now and into the future is the continued interest on the part of our neighboring states to acquire additional water supplies. Our forbears fought long and hard to acquire a permanent right to use and consume portions of each of the major rivers leaving our state and memorialized their success in the various interstate compacts, to which Colorado is a signatory. I am committed to insure that during my administration there will be no erosion of the rights afforded Colorado under those compacts or a diminution in the amount of water available for beneficial use within our state.

Water Speculation

I am opposed to water speculation. That does not mean I am opposed to the sale of existing water rights between willing sellers and buyers. However, I disagree with those who believe that Colorado's water ought to be developed and marketed in a for-profit context by individuals not actually interested in using the water, but in selling it to our citizens. I do not agree with, nor would I support, efforts by third-party investors to speculate in the value of Colorado's water resources. We must continue to resist efforts to speculate in the value of our water resources while, at the same time, encourage and assist those communities that need additional water supplies to acquire those supplies in a cooperative way.

Conservation

Water conservation is a critically important tool in future management decisions. It will allow existing municipal supplies to be extended. Coupled with cooperation among metropolitan water supply agencies, conservation provides a unique opportunity to furnish needed additional supplies without triggering the struggle over trans-basin exports or drying up agricultural lands.

Inter-basin Transfers

I will work to find successful alternatives to inter-basin transfers. With the greatest demand for water supplies existing on the Front Range and the greatest amount of unused water available under our compacts on the West Slope, a resolution of this issue must be forthcoming. I believe the Constitution permits the exercise of vested water rights without regard to the place of beneficial use, but to do so without regard to the environmental and economic consequences to a basin is not acceptable. I recognize that the Colorado Water Congress has been attempting to provide a forum for this debate and I congratulate you all on your continued efforts to address this problem. Without adequate protections for the basins of origin, significant new water development presents a host of environmental, economic and social costs that we must consider. I commit to you, as with the Legislature and your membership, as well as other interested parties, in order to participate in a dialogue to attempt to resolve this thorny issue.

Additional Water Storage Facilities

To the extent there is a proven need for additional water storage in Colorado, I support its construction. I make this statement recognizing that there are significant environmental constraints imposed by federal law that will make it increasingly difficult to achieve, but I believe that my role in the Animas - San Juan Project establishes my commitment to see storage constructed when needed.

San Luis Valley Water Issues

I am opposed to proposals that will adversely affect the existing agricultural economy in the San Luis Valley as well as those which will negatively impact the valley's environment and will hinder the ability of the state to meet its commitments under the Rio Grande Compact. I believe that the Stockman's Water Company water export scheme will cause significant adverse environmental and economic consequences. Furthermore, I understand that the Stockman's proposal is really just water speculation by outside financial interests that I believe is detrimental to our state. Therefore, I oppose Stockman's plans.

In addition, I oppose both of the water initiatives (Ballot Initiative Nos. 15 and 16) advanced by Stockman's Water Company. These initiatives are punitive in nature and serve no useful purpose. Ballot Initiative No. 15 applies to only a select group of wells in the San Luis Valley, noticeably not Stockman's wells, and precludes all other forms of water measurement that would be more appropriate for the valley. This initiative will be expensive to administer and would not result in any new information or controls that do not presently exist. Ballot Initiative No. 16 raises for the first time the concept of selectively taxing tributary water rights. It is unfair because it would force the Rio Grande Water Conservation District to pay for water it already owns. The initiative is nothing more than selective taxation, and we ought to vigorously fight it.

In closing, I want you to know that I am dedicated to the protection of this state's rights to manage and utilize its water resources as it sees fit. I look forward to working with the water community to provide additional water supplies in the areas of shortages while at the same time protecting the interests of areas where water is available, but I will not do so if it means lining the pockets of speculators.

Schoettler

Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 4
The county was also consulted and the county commissioners would not make sense to push local control if local interests who are directly affected by the way these projects are run. This type of local control is a prime example of the 'New West' model which I believe we are moving towards in several resource-based areas. Who better to help manage our local water projects than you, Coloradans who are interested in and affected by water issues. This title transfer legislation is a first for the Bureau of Reclamation, and I hope can serve as a guide for when future projects might be handed over to local control.

McInnis

Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 6

the case of the Pine River Irrigation Project, at least five public meetings were held in order to ensure that all public and environmental concerns and priorities were identified and addressed. The District has worked with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and local landowners to address concerns they have identified. The county was also consulted and the county commissioners endorsed the transfer proposal. In my mind, it would not make sense to push local control if local input is not considered.

Before any transfers like this take place, it makes sense to look at issues of safety, public access and recreational use. In 1997, the local irrigation district took the initiative and contacted the Bureau of Reclamation expressing interest in a title transfer. Some local interests are concerned that the federal government may move too quickly to enact the title transfer. As I have outlined above, before the transfer takes place several concerns must be addressed. Depending on certain factors, the actual conveyance of the title could occur in the space of six months to years following the enactment of my legislation. That gives each community the time needed to make sure that any remaining concerns are addressed.

My legislation is now part of a larger piece of legislation making its way through Congress. I am optimistic that Colorado will have the opportunity to take a leading role in demonstrating how water projects can be developed to local control for the benefit of all the local interests who are directly affected by the way these projects are run. This type of local control is a prime example of the 'New West' model which I believe we are moving towards in several resource-based areas. Who better to help manage our local water projects than you, Coloradans who are interested in and affected by water issues. This title transfer legislation is a first for the Bureau of Reclamation, and I hope can serve as a guide for when future projects might be handed over to local control.

Kirkpatrick

Talking on Water, cont.

Continued from Page 7

Water supply questions and related environmental questions must be considered together, not separately. We must keep our agreements with our Indian neighbors to ensure Colorado's compact- tioned waters. These contracts must not be breached. Whatever short term financial aid gains are gleaned, they cannot make up for the long term limitations we are placing on future generations of Coloradans — our children and grandchildren.

We must zealously protect existing uses for Colorado. Colorado's elected officials must clearly understand the implications of the federal government's seeking to reduce or eliminate water rights without compensation or the provisions of alternative supplies.
La Plata Project. The Colorado Attorney General also serves as a member of the Colorado Water Conservation Board which is the key policy and planning water agency for the state of Colorado. My position on the following key Colorado water issues:

- South Platte and Metro Water Supplies. The Attorney General must foster cooperative water supply efforts among the hundreds of water rights holders on the South Platte in order to ensure an adequate water supply for the metropolitan area without drying up other parts of Colorado. Four key opportunities to provide additional cooperative solutions to the metro Denver water supply issue are: 1) interruptible supply contracts with agriculture; 2) conjunctive use of surface and groundwater; 3) improved management of treated effluent; and 4) operational integration of systems. For example, the Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Company irrigates 60,000 acres downstream of Denver. FRICO has been pursuing cooperative efforts to address municipal and agricultural water supply, water quality, storm drainage, and flood control issues.

- The San Luis Valley Ballot Initiatives. Continued from Page 5 Colorado Attorney General also serves as a member of the Colorado Water Conservation Board which is the key policy and planning water agency for the state of Colorado. My position on the following key Colorado water issues:

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The San Luis Valley Ballot Initiatives. Continued from Page 6 critical wildlife habitat, restore riparian lands and wetlands, recover threatened and endangered species and prevent species from becoming listed at all, then we can work to improve the environment while accommodating water development and streamlining the process of federal permitting. Since its initiation in 1988, the recovery program has served as the reasonable, prudent alternative for dozens of projects resulting in over 100,000 acre-feet of new depletions. Without the recovery program, each of these projects would have been forced to undergo separate consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and each project could have been required to individually develop and implement reasonable and prudent alternatives.

Having served for several years as a member of the Management Committee for the Recovery Implementation Program, representing several conservation organizations, I am fully aware how much time and effort has been invested by water users, representatives of the upper basin states, and federal agencies to implement this program. I know that there will be many difficult problems that must be overcome to recover the endangered fish, such as the current dispute over proposed modifications for the instream flows of each of the Colorado River. However, I do believe that over the long-term this type of program will be the most effective approach to recovering the species while accommodating water development. As a good example of this type of initiative, which I support, is the proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. Last year, the states of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming and the U.S. Department of the Interior signed an agreement to implement a program to protect and recover endangered species in the Central South Platte River in Nebraska. The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program will allow water use and development activities in the basin to continue in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and in accordance with state water laws and interstate compact entitlements.

My primary concern about the South Platte

Gunnison River Basin. As Attorney General, I will ensure that the water rights of the Gunnison Basin are protected. I oppose the Union Park project in favor of more cost-effective and less harmful water solutions for the Denver metro area's water needs.

- Animals - La Plata Project. The Colorado Attorney General must help lead the effort — as a previous Attorney General did years ago — to ensure the protection of the Colorado River Compact. The State of Colorado and the federal government must keep their promises to both the Indian tribes and non-Indian water users in southwest Colorado. If the settlement of the Indian claims is not implemented through this project as reconfigured by the proponents, Colorado will enter into decades-long multi-million dollar litigation as has occurred in other states around the West.

- The Colorado River Compact Entitlements. Colorado has yet to develop an additional 1,000,000 acre feet of water from the Colorado River to which it is entitled. The Attorney General must be vigilant to ensure that private, get-rich schemers do not create a market across state lines that undermines the development rights of Colorado citizens and protect the legacy bargained for by Delph Carpenter and others, who worked on the Colorado River Compact.

Kelley

Continued from Page 6

Gunnison Recovery Implementation Program is with regard to the potential use of transbasin diversions of Colorado River water to recover endangered species in the central South Platte. We need to make sure that the program is not implemented in a manner that would interfere with the instream flow requirements to implement water conservation, reuse and other measures that maximize use of currently available supplies before taking more water from other basins.

I am also concerned about the impacts of further out-of-basin diversions from our rivers. I therefore advocate protection of in-basin uses as a condition of all future projects. Like conservancy districts' projects (e.g., the Upper Arkansas River/Upper Gunnison Basin Project) future municipal projects also should accommodate in-basin uses. Recent cooperative projects, such as the Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Clinton Gulch Reservoir, demonstrate that win/win projects can be achieved through persistence, imagination and inclusion of varied interests.

The distinction between East Slope and West Slope interests in the State is gradually dissipating. East Slope residents own second homes on the West Slope and recreate, fish, hunt, sail, ski and raft there; West Slope residents enjoy many amenities afforded by development along the Front Range. Given the choice, I believe most Colorado residents would no longer sacrifice their cherished West Slope recreational opportunities for the sake of further urban sprawl along portions of the East Slope. We need to redirect growth to Front Range and West Slope cities that already have ample supplies, including small and limited growth in other areas to fit available supplies.

We need to fully utilize existing water facilities by innovative exchanges, trades and other refinements. We do not need to divert basin water to the Front Range to add as much as to reduce new diversions. As a Congressman, I would seek federal assistance and incentives for such reuse projects, and I would actively support water projects that accomplish these goals.

I also support the concept of the South Platte Protection Plan, which is proposed by local Colorado interests as an alternative to a designation of the Upper South Platte River under the federal Wild and Scenic River Act. If the designation is successful, it could prevent federal intrusion into state water administration in this sensitive river segment. This voluntary and coordinated effort by Colorado water agencies and other entities can protect environmental and recreational values that would otherwise prompt the federal designation.

The South Platte Protection Plan is consistent with the trend toward a more holistic and integrated watershed approach to environmental and natural resource management. As often, river management is determined in a piecemeal fashion, through water right litigation, federal permitting, water quality discharge permitting, or land-use decision making. I support this trend and am encouraged by the fact that this approach is being adopted by many water users and public entities around the state. We need to more comprehensive­ly address the relationships between water uses, water quality, fish, wildlife, vegetation, floodplains, and riparian land uses in a basin-wide context. Again, such local planning and river restoration initiatives could preempt the need for unwelcome federal regulations. I would support legislation for federal financial assistance and incentives in this regard as well. I also support efforts, for example, to ensure that federal flood insurance is not used repeatedly for reconstruction in flood prone areas.

The ever-increasing percentage of people living in urban rather than rural areas in the west is causing water resource transfers from rural areas at the expense of our agricultural economy and traditional rural communities. As a result, I am concerned about preserving our rural character and the agricultural sector of our economy. As a Congressman, I would take a leadership role in efforts to encourage cities to consider arrangements such as interruptible supply contracts with farmers. For this type of arrangement to work, we need to treat municipal wastewater effluent to acceptable standards for use in such exchanges. We will also need to address potential secondary impacts to rural areas. The trend toward a more holistic and integrated water approach to the water issues we are facing is working towards the 21st Century and the status quo positions offered by my opponent. In order to seize control of our destiny, we will need new strategies and innovative approaches that are practical and responsive to ever changing public values and priorities.

In conclusion, I believe that the positions and recom­mendations described above will provide a more effective approach to the water issues we are facing as we move into the 21st Century than the status quo positions offered by my opponent. In order to seize control of our destiny, we will need new strategies and innovative approaches that are practical and responsive to ever changing public values and priorities.
Continued from Page 7

Federal Intrusions Into State Water Law

The most recent threat to Colorado water may come from the Clinton-Gore Clean Water Initiative. This latest initiative could conceivably consider farmers and ranchers that irrigate and fertilize “point sources” subject to onerous federal regulations. Most of the initiative’s estimated one-half billion dollar annual budget would go towards regulating private lands. Federal reserve water rights and bypass flows also threaten Colorado farmers, ranchers and water users. Bypass flows are often confiscated from water users who require new permits or contract renewals.

Washington-based initiatives designed to control the state’s water and destiny. For example, President Clinton’s American Heritage Rivers Initiative Executive Order threatens to invade the management of local waterways with 13 federal agencies and designated federal “river navigators.” Created by Executive Order 13061, this top-down initiative is implemented by presidential executive order, not by an act of Congress. Besides raising serious concerns about how landowners and water users could be affected, the Order likely violates provisions of the Constitution (such as the Property Clause and Tenth Amendment) as well as federal land use and environmental laws.

When the Administration attempted to sneak this Order past the public in under 20 days, I demanded the Council on Environmental Quality extend the period for public input, and cosponsored H.R.1984, a bill designed to halt implementation of the Order. The Administration was evasive and unresponsive to inquiries about the impact of the Order on water and property rights. Consequently, I joined with Representatives Don Young, Chairman of the House Resources Committee, Helen Chenoweth, and Richard Pombo in a suit against President Clinton to derail the invasive program. Sixty members of Congress then joined me in my demand that the designation of rivers under the program be open to the public. Finally, Colorado’s Republican Congressional delegation and the Colorado General Assembly joined me in opting out all Colorado rivers from the program.

My fight against this latest federal intrusion was victorious for Colorado in that no Colorado waterways will be subject for federal control this year, but we must keep a wary eye on the future.

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Federal Intrusions Into State Water Law

During recent years, the federal government has more aggressively asserted an interest in Colorado water. Fundamental misunderstandings permeate

There are five (5) copies of the video taken at the 1998 CWC Annual Convention pertaining to historical perspectives offered by W. D. Farr of Greeley, John Fetcher of Steamboat Springs, and John Sayre of Denver. This VHS video (ninety minutes) is available at $50.00, plus tax (if applicable) and postage.

In addition, there are six (6) copies of the two video tape set of CWC’s November 20, 1997 Workshop on “What You Should Know About the Legislative Process: The Law, The Rules and The Practices.” This tape has the following participants:

- Dr. Robert C. Ward, Dir.
- Dr. Robert C. Ward, Dir.

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VIDEOS AVAILABLE

- Former Senate President Fred E. Anderson; Stanley Elosion, then Assistant Director, Legislative Council of the General Assembly; Kenneth Conahan, Staff Director of the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado General Assembly; and Bart Miller of the Office of Legislative Services. This VHS video two tape set (three hours) is available at $60.00, plus tax (if applicable) and postage.

To place an order for either of these videos, please call or write the Colorado Water Congress, 1390 Logan Street, Suite 312, Denver, CO 80203, or phone (303) 837-0812 or fax (303) 837-1607.

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