

PANELISTS



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**CONFLUENCE WATER CONFERENCE
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Alternative Water Transfer Methods

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Introduction



1. Brief discussion of ATMs to put agricultural preservation issues in context.
2. Legal requirements for transferring water to new uses are somewhat complex/convoluted.
3. Will be old news to some, but not to all - will continue to be important to the future of the region.

What are ATMs?



1. “Alternative Transfer Methods”
2. Transfer of agricultural water to new uses.
3. Alternative to permanent dry up of lands under new ownership, or “buy and dry”.
4. Various legal methods available to accomplish temporary use of agricultural water for other purposes.

Need for ATMs



1. Generally, wide acceptance of need to preserve agricultural lands and economy and to reduce buy and dry.
2. Colorado Water Plan – 2015
 - Goal of 50,000 acre-feet of water for other uses from ATMs by 2030.
 - Predicts that without ATMs and other measures, more than one-third of agricultural land in South Platte Basin will be permanently dried up by 2050.

Types of Legal ATMs



1. Interruptible Water Supply Agreements - C.R.S. §37-92-309.
2. “Flex” Water Rights - C.R.S. §37-92-305(19).
3. Lease/Fallow Projects - C.R.S. §37-60-115(8).
4. Purchase/Lease Back Arrangements

Examples of ATMs



1. “Super Ditch” & Catlin Pilot Project (Ark. Basin)
2. Larimer County/Broomfield Project
3. Xcel Energy/Ft. Morgan Res. & Irr. Co. Lease
4. Others

Issues/Need for Improvements



1. Transaction Costs v. Costs of Permanent Buy & Dry
2. Certainty/Control for Water Suppliers
3. Flexibility for Farmers
4. Infrastructure Needs (More Storage!)

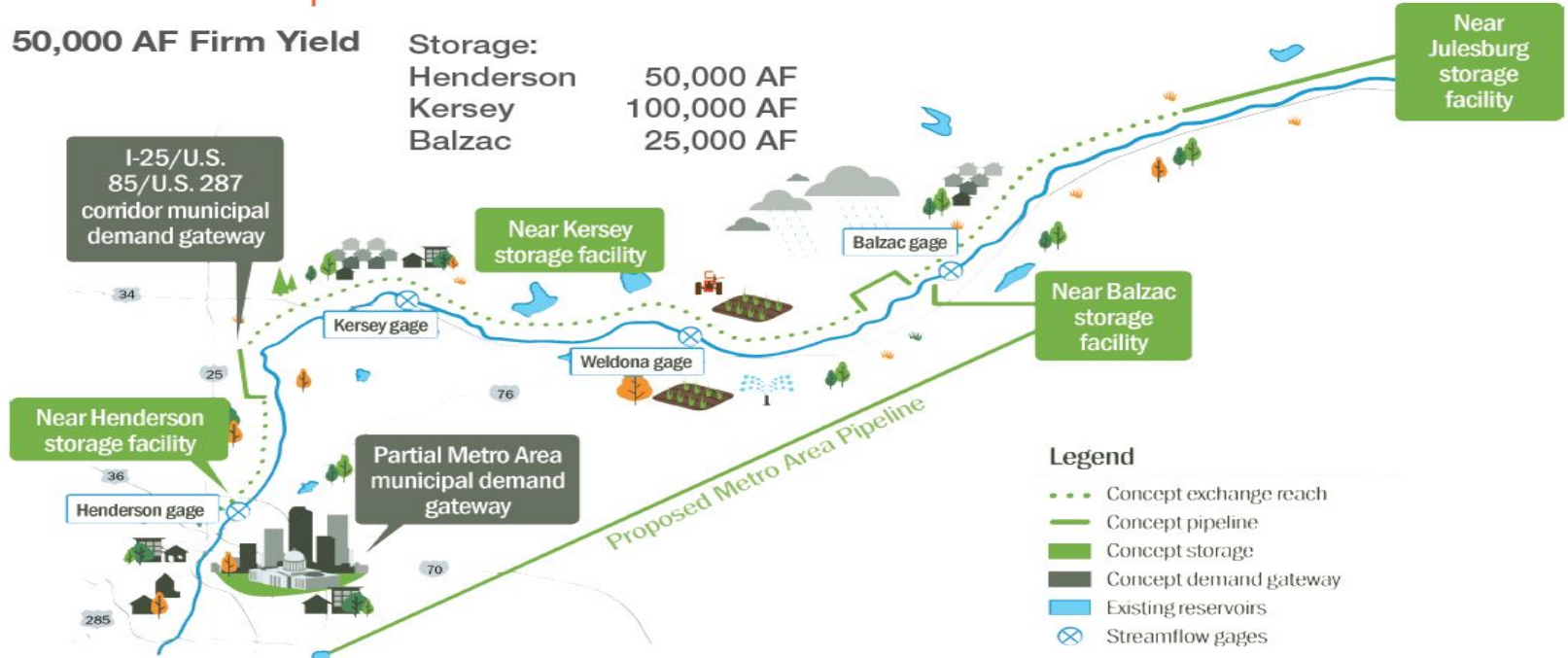
South Platte Regional Opportunities Water Group (SPROWG) Study



Initial concept evaluation results:

50,000 AF Firm Yield

Storage:
 Henderson 50,000 AF
 Kersey 100,000 AF
 Balzac 25,000 AF



This infrastructure network would store water that could be drawn from the unappropriated native flow, reusable return flows, agricultural water derived from Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs) and groundwater.

Conclusion



Improving ease of use/acceptability, and implementing ATMs, at an accelerated pace, is critically important to the preservation of agricultural heritage of Northern Colorado. Reduce buy and dry.

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