



Water Supply and Demand

Goal: Support the growth of our region with adequate infrastructure, including water supply.

Policy: Locate urban development only in areas where long-term water service can be established or where adequate service is available from an existing water supply system.

Measures: Information about water demand and supply in subareas of the state from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). The department provides data for four areas that include portions of the DRCOG region. Although these areas combined are larger than our region, they provide the most accurate picture of water supply. The 2004 data from the previous indicators report is still the most current data available.

Conclusions: The SWSI calculates gross demand shortfall as the difference between known water supply projects in some phase of planning or development and the total increase in gross water demand. Even under the optimistic assumption that all of these projects are successful, the areas that include our region will still be almost 10 percent short of meeting 2030 demand for municipal and industrial water.

Recent local water supply planning and construction, such as the Rueter-Hess reservoir project in Douglas County and the Denver Water study of expansion of its northern water collection system, will help address the shortfall.

Municipal and Industrial Water Demand Forecasts (Thousands of Acre-Feet per Year)

Subbasin	2000 gross demand	2030 gross demand	Projected conservation savings	Increase in gross demand	Identified gross demand shortfall
Denver Metro	366	486.6	26.8	120.6	12.5
South Metro	152.9	241.5	15.4	88.6	1.5
Upper Mountain	9.8	27.7	1.7	17.9	1.4
Northern	212.5	377.4	22.6	164.9	18.4
Total	741.2	1,133.2	66.5	392	33.8

Note: The Denver Metro subbasin includes Adams, Denver and Jefferson counties. South Metro includes Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert counties. Upper Mountain includes Clear Creek, Gilpin, Park and Teller counties. Northern includes Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer and Weld counties.

Action Steps: To ensure adequate water supply for future growth, our region can take the following actions:

- Assess currently available water supplies and identify actions that can meet projected demands.
- Identify intergovernmental projects that can serve the region.
- Update the SWSI information on a regular basis.
- Use growth management and urban design to reduce the growth in water demand.
- Take a more proactive stance in dealing with the issue of water quantity at the regional level.
- Establish regional water conservation strategies.
- Advance and promote an aggressive public education campaign on the topic of the availability and use of water resources in a drought-prone region.