



Conservation Finance: A Flexible Tool to Meet Local Needs

CCI Concurrent Session | December 3, 2024

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TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Conservation Finance



Trust for Public Land Changes Lives

GENERATED OVER

\$110B in state and local funding for parks, open space, and climate resilience



WE'VE COMPLETED OVER

5,400 projects parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places



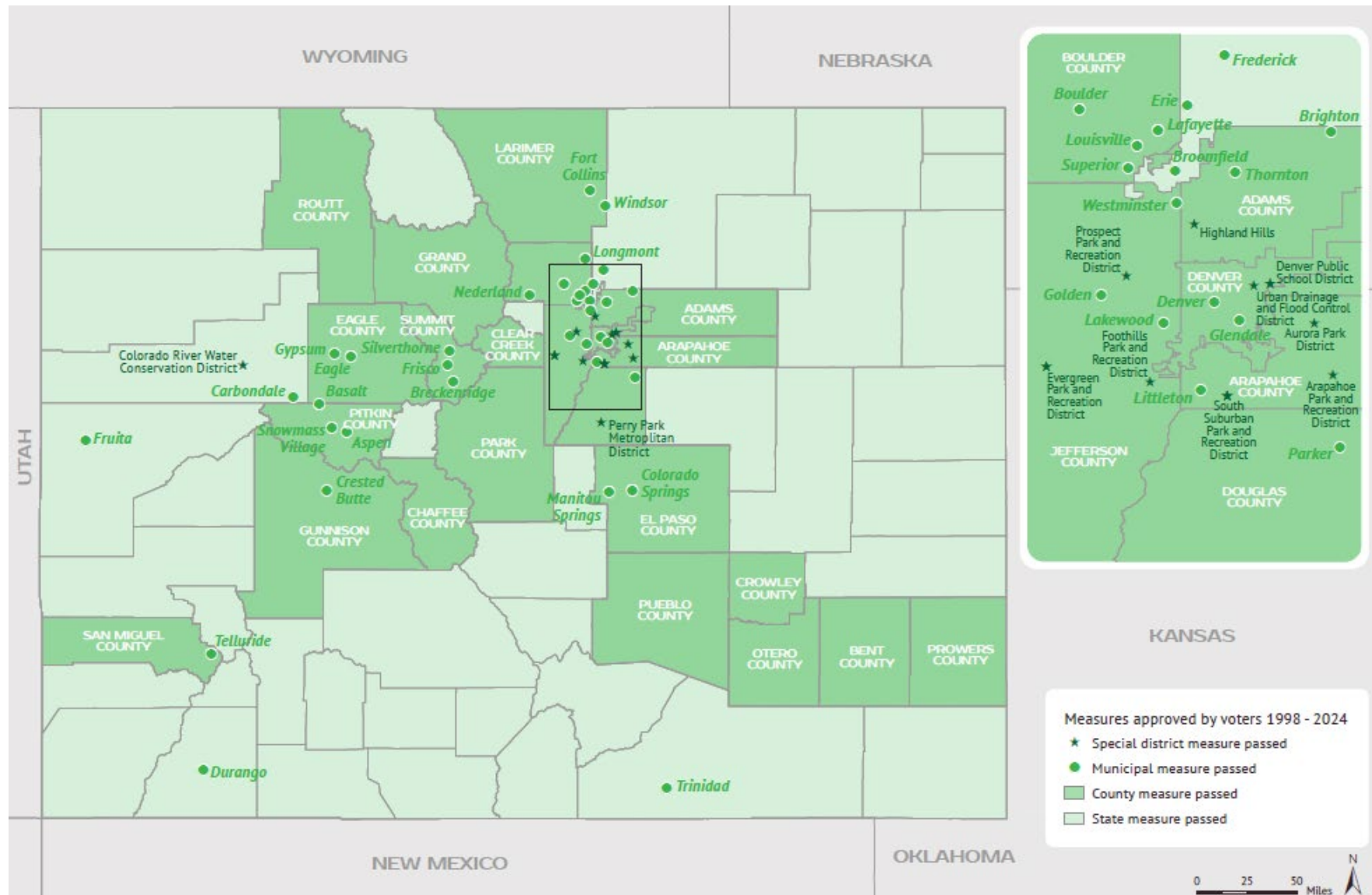
AND CREATED ACCESS TO OVER

4 million acres of public land



JURISDICTION	FINANCE MECHANISM	AMOUNT	Pass ?	% YES
California statewide – climate	Bond	\$10 billion	✓	60%
California statewide – education (CSYs)	Bond	\$1 billion	✓	59%
Los Angeles Unified School Dist., CA (CSYs)	Bond	\$1.25 billion	✓	68%
Santa Cruz County, CA	Property tax	\$146 million	✓	59%
Denver PSD, CO (CSYs)	Bond	\$13 million	✓	75%
Eagle County Cons. Dist., CO	Property tax	\$13 million	✓	68%
Lakewood, CO	Other	\$54 million	✓	62%
Trinidad, CO	Lodging tax	\$3 million	✓	58%
Clay County, FL	Bond	\$45 million	✓	73%
Lake County, FL	Bond	\$50 million	✓	80%
Martin County, FL	Sales tax	\$183 million	✓	64%
Osceola County, FL	Bond	\$70 million	✓	84%
Chamblee, GA	Bond	\$30 million	✓	80%
Lake County Forest Pres. Dist., IL	Bond	\$155 million	✓	67%
McHenry County Cons. Dist., IL	Property tax	\$70 million	✓	50%
Maine statewide (trails bond)	Bond	\$30 million	✓	55%
Scarborough, ME	Bond	\$6 million	✓	62%
Minnesota statewide	Lottery	\$2.7 billion	✓	78%
Bernalillo County, NM	Bond	\$12 million	✓	79%
Cuidad Soil & Water Cons. Dist., NM	Property tax	\$121 million	✓	80%
Kingston, NY	RETT	\$12 million	✓	63%
Jasper County, SC	Sales tax	\$94 million	✓	55%
San Juan County, WA	RETT	\$45 million	✓	67%

Conservation Funding in Colorado



Key Ingredients for Conservation Funding

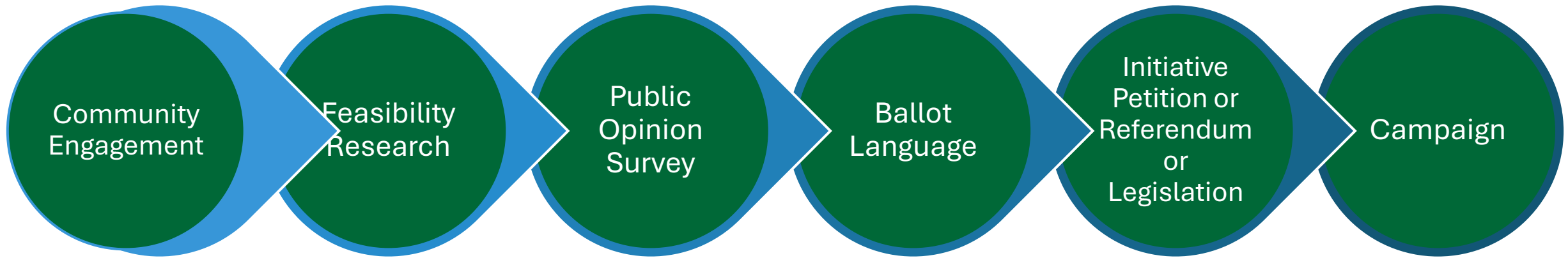
Community Support

Demonstrable
Need, Benefit, Risk

Elected Leadership



Critical Steps for a Successful Ballot Measure



Outcome: generate the public funding communities need for climate resiliency



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David Weinstein – Bozeman, MT david.weinstein@tpl.org



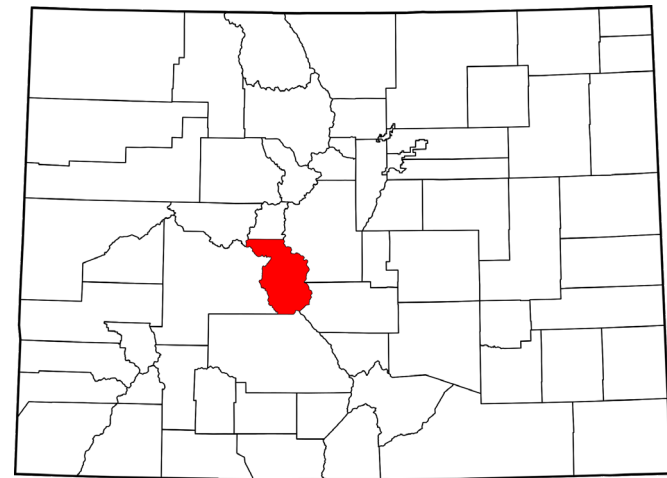
Chris Yuan-Farrell

Great Outdoors Colorado

Conservation Finance: A Flexible Tool to Meet Local Needs

through Landscape Resilience

Chaffee Common Ground: Addressing Landscape Challenges for the Community
Chaffee County Commissioner Greg Felt

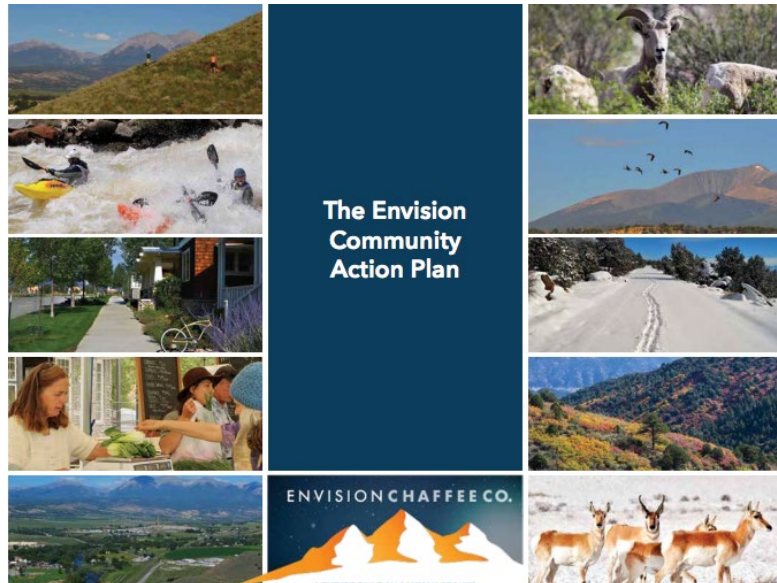




Healthy forests, waters & wildlife

Sustainable agriculture & rural landscapes

... in balance with growth in outdoor recreation





Conservation finance measure

- 0.25% sales tax
- Forest Health & Wildfire Resiliency
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Recreation Impacts Management
- Commitment to leveraging our investment



Photo ©John Fielder

Support
what you
Love
about
Chaffee
County!

Vote **YES** ✓
for Protecting Forests,
Waters and Working Lands!

Community

- \$9.2M leveraged to \$36M in value
- Grants to 40+ local groups for 70 different programs and projects
- 60% for Forest Health, 32% for Sustainable Ag and 10% for Rec Management







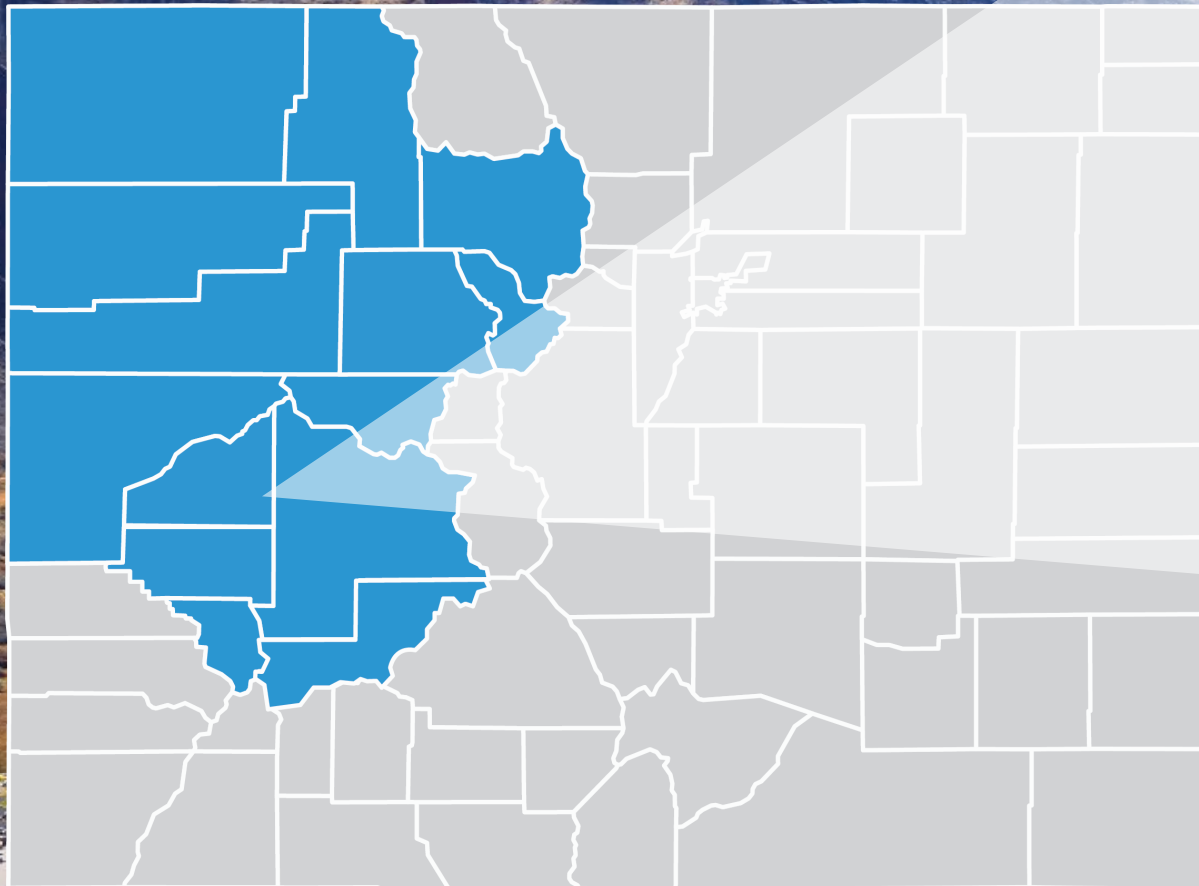
Colorado River District

*Melissa Wills, Community
Funding Partnership Program
Manager*



The Colorado River District was formed in 1937 to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources *and;*

To safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.



Unaided awareness of the River district as an entity helping protect water resources has remained the same over time.

	2003	2005	2009
US Federal Government	1%	5%	8%
CO river water conservation district or CO river district	7%	7%	7%
BLM	1%	6%	5%
State of CO/state government	2%	6%	3%
County government	2%	4%	2%
City/town government	2%	2%	2%
Other	18%	14%	14%
Cannot think of any	46%	36%	56%



Funding drinking water remained the most important project of the measure.

Recreation aspects lags other uses somewhat.



Projects to Fund Ranked by Extremely/Very Important

	March 2020		June 2020	
	Extremely/ Very Important	Extremely Important	Extremely/ Very Important	Extremely Important
Protecting drinking water supplies for Western Colorado Communities	92%	61%	88%	49%
Protecting water supplies for West Slope farmers and ranchers in order to sustain local food production	88%	50%	87%	48%
Fighting to keep water on the West Slope	89%	55%	85%	46%
Ensuring water security for current and future water users on the West Slope	87%	50%	85%	44%
Maintaining river levels and water quality for fish and wildlife on the West Slope	82%	49%	82%	40%
Ensuring adequate water to support recreation and the businesses who rely on rafters, fishermen, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts	65%	31%	59%	26%

*I am going to read a list of projects that could continue to be funded if voters approve this proposal. Please indicate for each one how important it is to you personally that each project be funded:
Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important to you that funding is dedicated to that purpose?*

Financial challenges

In 2018, three key issues came to light:

- **Declining tax revenue from the energy industry**
- **Revenue ratcheting down due to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights**
- **The Gallagher Amendment's reduction in assessment rates**



In July 2020, the Colorado River District's Board of Directors adopted a resolution to ask voters in November to support a property tax increase to 0.5 mills.

To ultimately..... debruce and create a grant program



2020 Ballot Initiative Language

“Shall the ...Colorado River District taxes be increased by an amount up to \$4,969,041 in 2021 (which increases amounts to approximately \$1.90 in 2021 for every \$100,000 in residential home value)..... by:

- **Fighting to keep water on west slope**
- **Protect adequate water supplies for west slope farmers and ranchers;**
- **Protecting sustainable drinking water supplies for West Slope Communities; and**
- **Protecting fish, wildlife, and recreation by maintaining river levels and water quality;.....”**



Colorado River District
Published by Sprout Social · September 21 at 10:45 AM ·
The Colorado River District's mission is to keep water flowing on the West Slope - to the farms, ranches, towns, reservoirs, rivers and all the people who depend on them. We've been giving Western Slope water a voice since 1937.
#COWater #coloradoriver #westernslope #COriver



Colorado River District @ColoradoWater · Jul 26

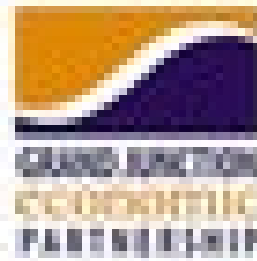
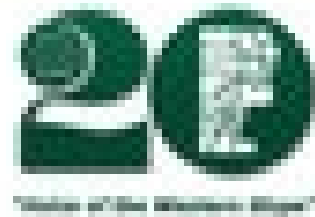
#waterwithyourlunch is back!

On August 5th, join CRD for a free, lunch-hour Zoom webinar focusing on rapidly declining water levels in Lake Powell and on the impacts of prolonged drought on West Slope water users. Register for this event here -> bit.ly/WWYLPowell



YES ON QUESTION 7A

ENDORSED BY



**COLORADO RIVER
DISTRICT**
COMMUNITY
FUNDING PARTNERSHIP



72%

**River District voters in support of
Ballot Question 7A.**



15-COUNTY REGION

Small to large projects

COMMUNITY

Locally-Developed

COLLABORATION

Multi-Purpose

CATALYST

Leveraging source for other funding



Productive agriculture



Conservation and efficiency



Healthy rivers



Watershed health and water quality



Infrastructure



Community Funding Partnership

Over \$22.4 million

125+ projects

Leveraging over
\$93 million
For West Slope Water





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Colorado River District



@ColoradoWater



ColoradoRiverDistrict



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