

Alternative Water Supply Options

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The overall management of a water resources portfolio for any water utility includes balancing water supply with water demand. Any number of alternative water supplies may be available to a particular water utility depending on location, nature and character of their water rights, and the available market for water supply locally and regionally. Given the complex nature of water supply and water rights in Colorado, it will be incumbent on individual water utilities to evaluate their specific options and needs with respect to using and/or exploiting alternative water supplies.

The importance of alternative water supplies cannot be understated, especially in those communities with a growing customer base or diminishing available supplies. However, alternative water supplies have importance for all communities that are working to integrate the management of their water supplies and water demands, for excess water supply may be exchanged, leased or sold on an annual basis to members of the local or regional water community (or for organizations that are party to sharing of regional water supplies, local water demand reductions may support exchanges within the regional cooperative and/or reduce an operating expense). Alternatively, excess available water supply may be stored for carry-over from year to year, if adequate reservoir storage is available to a water utility. In this way, the benefits of water demand reductions and water use efficiency can be leveraged by creating more reliable water supplies in case of future water scarcity.

The specific types of alternative water supply options included in this Tool Box include:

- Raw Water Supplies
- Conjunctive Uses
- Reuse/Reclaimed/Recycled Water Use
- Interconnections
- Leases (e.g., super ditch)
- Exchanges

Development and use of alternative water supply will require legal and engineering support, from the water utility, its partners and potentially the District.

[Raw Water Supplies](#)

[Conjunctive Use](#)

[Reuse/Reclaimed/Recycled Water Use](#)

[Interconnections](#)

[Leases/Super Ditch](#)



Exchanges

Resources

[State Engineer's Office – Division 2 Arkansas River \(Pueblo\)](#)

[Lower Arkansas Water Conservancy District](#)

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