

# Straw Man: Northern Colorado River Conservancy District

- To achieve a healthier working river:
  - Establish a semi-regular forum for broad-based water discussions
  - Characterized by voluntary collaboration and adherence to the “That could work if ...” model
  - Targets success through a combination of agricultural, municipal, environmental and recreational outcomes and measures
  - Seeks input and advice of local governments, water providers and others, inviting new and mixing previous participants as necessary and productive

- Suggests and roughly prioritizes projects opportunistically
- Incubates one to three “projects” per year that integrate non-consumptive needs with consumptive needs
- Brokers at least one of these “projects” per year
- Interfaces with an engaged community (annual meeting, speakers bureau, website)
- Is not intended to restrict the ability of a water right holder to use their water right as permitted under Colorado law unless agreed by all parties

# Challenges:



- Straw men need brains
  - Securing knowledgeable, motivated and available leadership that can facilitate the discussion and actions over the long term
- Generating sufficient and sustainable public and private funding to achieve the mission
- Putting up with frustration and managing near-term expectations
- Not interfering with parallel but independent efforts
- Identifying when enough is enough

