

Climate Change Adaptation

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 DENVER WATER



Est. 1918

Serve
1.5
million
people



Less than
2%
of water
used in
Colorado

Water supply from snowmelt and
rain feeding South Platte and
Colorado Rivers

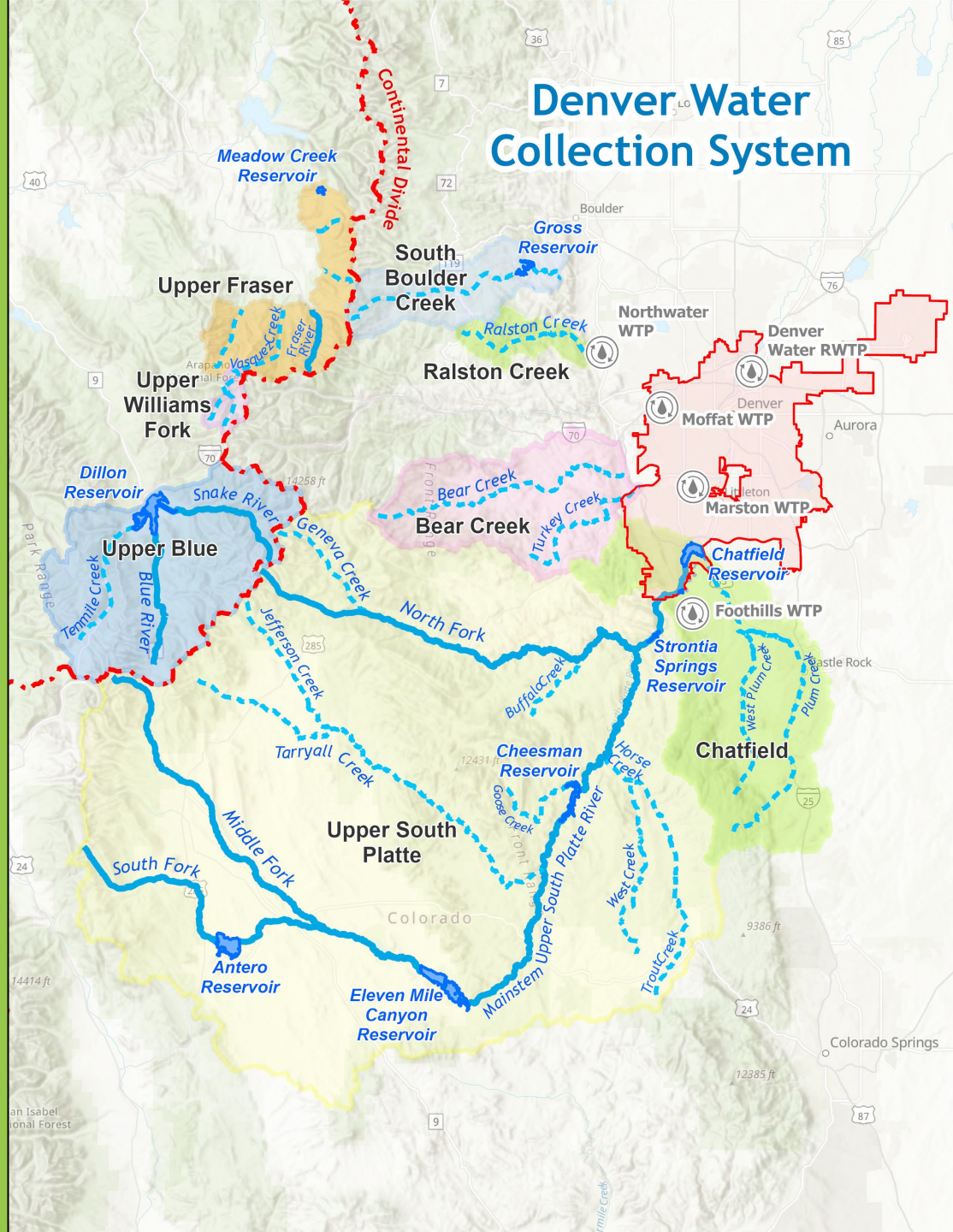


4,000 square miles
of watershed area

3,000 miles of pipe
3 potable treatment plants
1 non-potable reuse plant
12 reservoirs
20 dams



Denver Water Collection System



Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)



Mission

Collaboratively advancing
water utility climate
adaptation

Vision

Climate-resilient water
utilities supporting thriving
communities

Wake-Up Calls



Wake-Up Calls

Buffalo Creek (1996)



Hayman (2002)



Climate Change Impacts All Utility Business Functions

Water Resources



People
Employee Safety
Customer Demand
Employee Recruitment

Engineering & Asset Management



Water Quality & Treatment



Supply Chains



Finances
Revenue Swings
Bond Ratings
Insurance



Climate Adaptation at Denver Water

Strategies & Approaches

Climate Adaptation Mainstreaming

Fostering a climate-informed organization

Long-range planning

Diversify water supply portfolio and raw water management operations

Support and encourage climate adaptive projects and programs

Integrate with organizational plans and programs

Develop effective decision support tools

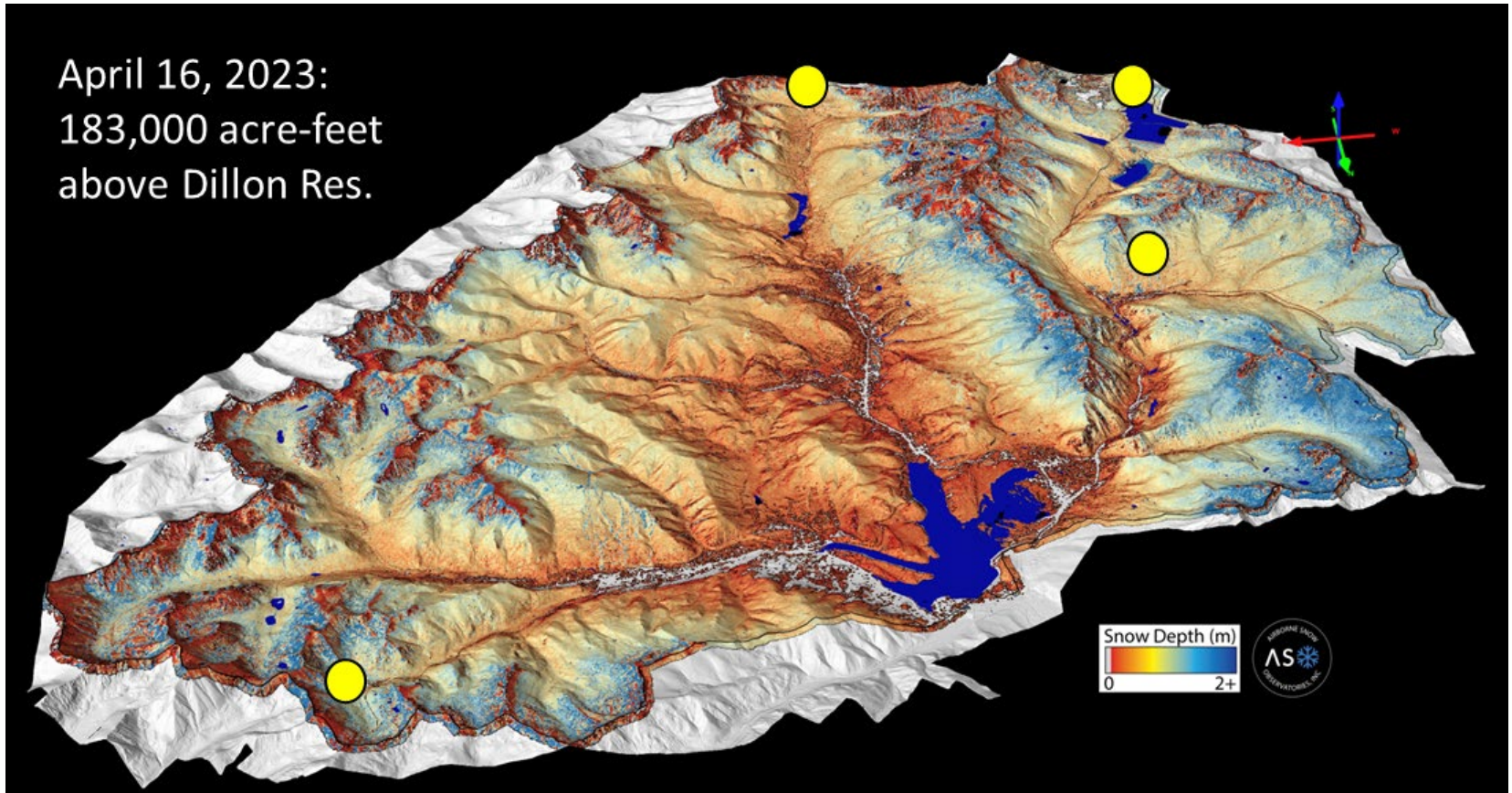
Facilitate important internal collaborations

Partner with other water utilities and organizations

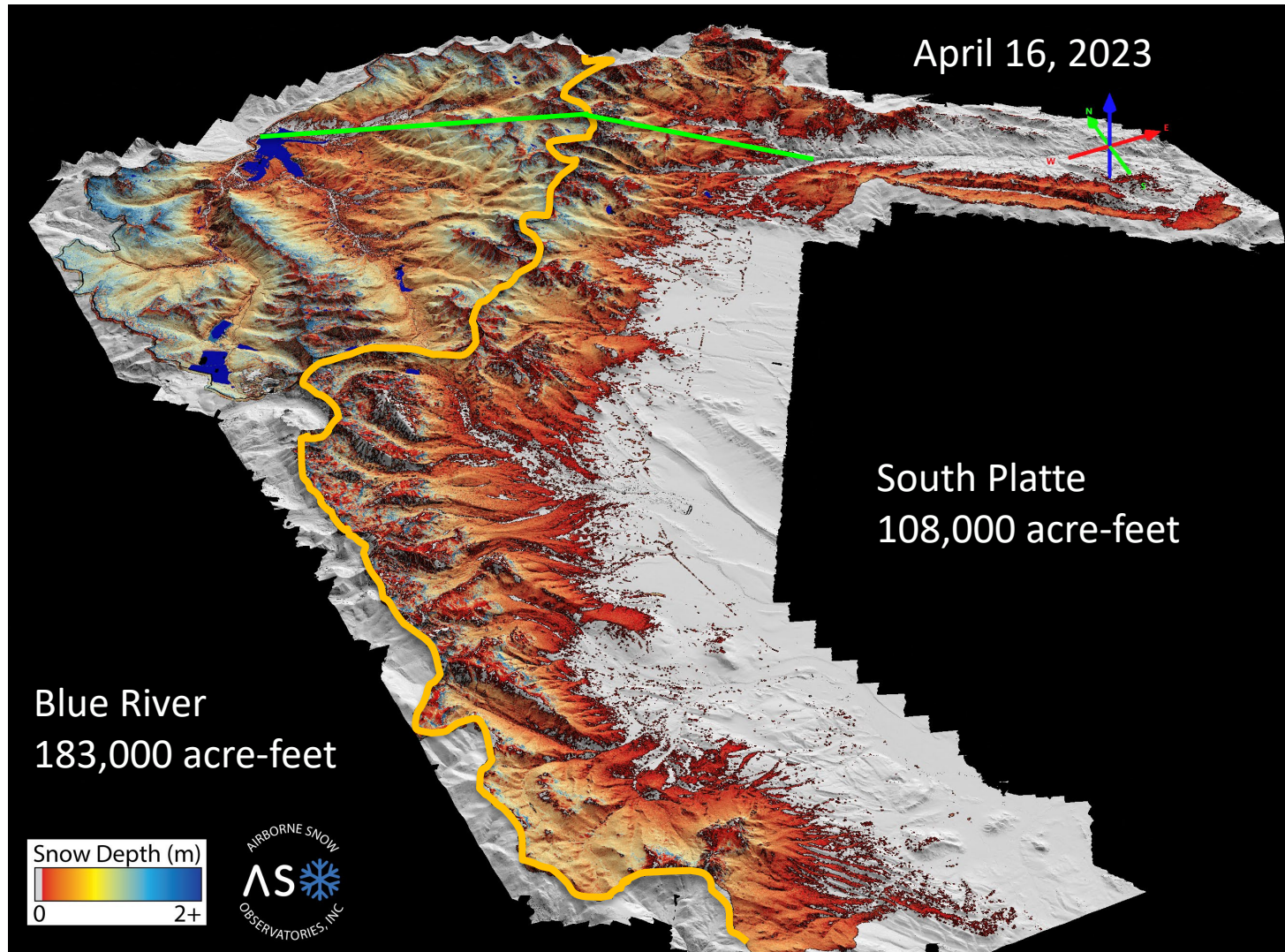
Partner with the climate science research community

Measuring the snowpack

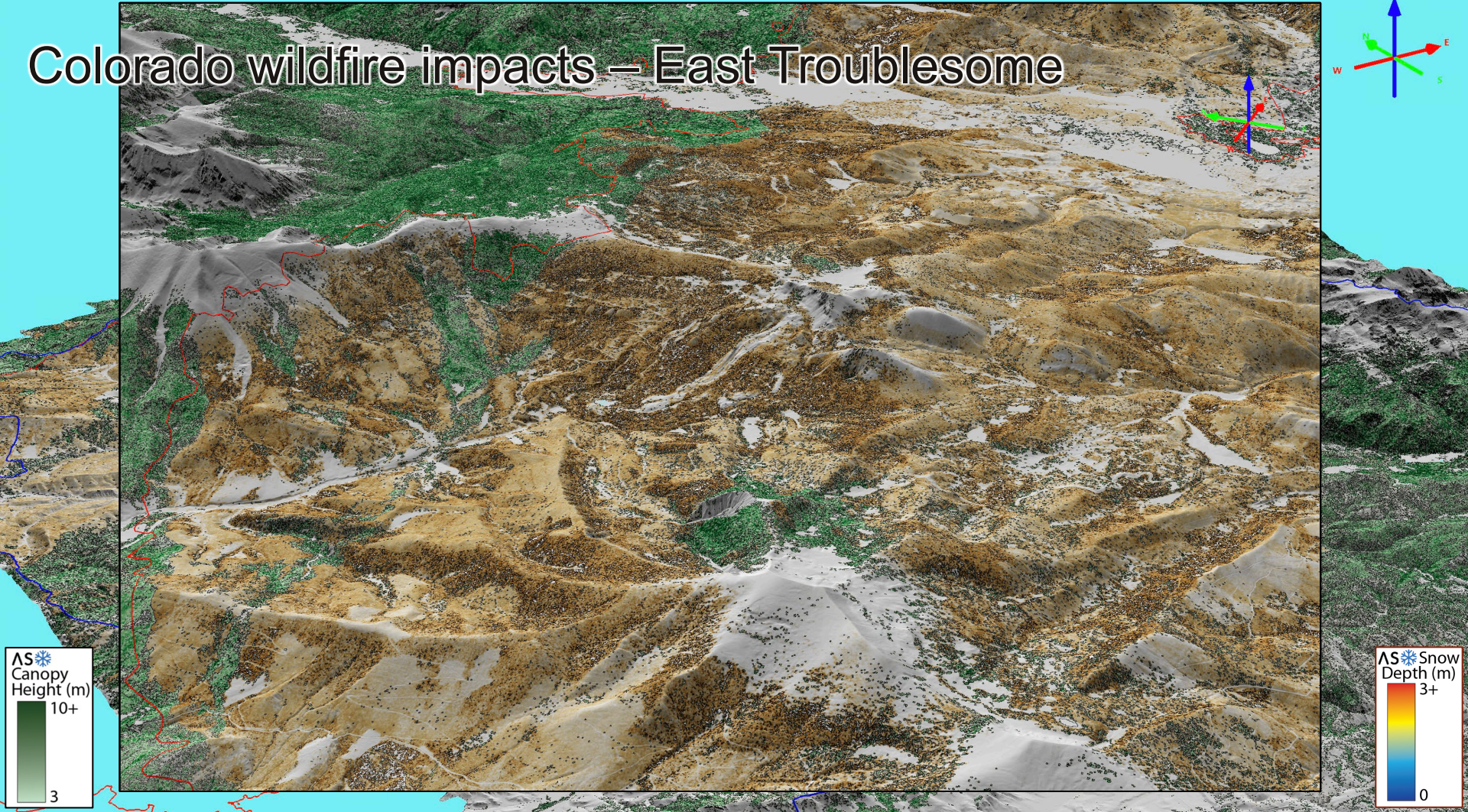
April 16, 2023:
183,000 acre-feet
above Dillon Res.



Measuring the snowpack



Colorado wildfire impacts – East Troublesome



Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)

2024 Planned Projects

- Climate Resilient Engineering Design Guidance
- Advancing Water Equity and Climate Resilience
- IRA Guide for GHG Mitigation
- CMIP6 FAQs for Water Managers
- Climate Resilience Training
- Making the Case for Climate Resilient Water Infrastructure
- Water Demand Forecasting Subgroup
- Webinars

What is Needed for Adaptation?

1. Change management training
2. Collaboration & partnerships
3. Leadership courage
4. Climate adaptation policies
5. Good data for making good decisions
6. Lots of other things

thank you

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