

As a community leader in Northern Colorado, what resonated with you from the *The Great Divide* film?

- Colorado is a leader in water policy historically and to this day. Collaboration and keeping the focus on the common good has been and continues to be central to water policy and management in our state. From the first ditch project in the San Luis valley in the 1850s to now, it is complex but clear that this is a shared resource and management needs to be done cooperatively. It seems like Colorado is approaching it that way as a state and incorporating all uses - from agriculture to industrial, municipal, environmental and recreational. The centrality and urgency of managing water resources is not new to our state and to the west. However, the increasing gap in water resources created by increasing demand (due to population growth and greater per capita use) and diminishing water resources (due to the effects of climate change) is a current pressing issue. Something that really stood out to me was the idea that clean and reliable water running from the tap is one of the greatest achievements of civilization. It's easy to take that for granted.
- Regardless of how ingenious we were in moving water to where it was/is needed, was that really the smartest thing and should we be perpetuating it? We've paralyzed our water usage with so much legal oversight that no one is sure how they can use their water. Can I have two rain barrels or three? Why can't we take the water from the stormwater pond and water the park? These are basic questions that are so difficult to answer in this state. How much are we really prepared to grow? The New Mexico State Engineer toyed with the idea of restricting growth until they had a 100-year water supply (their supply only had a 40-year lifespan in 2011), which would have stopped growth pretty much everywhere in the state except Albuquerque and Santa Fe. However, the point was that the State Engineer was looking at the problem from a supply perspective, not based on demand. It would have never moved forward though, because of the political turmoil it would have caused. We seem to be absorbing growth that we're unsure if we can support into the future. If water is going to become more scarce, are we only relying on human behavior and water conservation practices to improve? Why haven't there been any monumental scientific improvements in agricultural water use. The solar industry did a very good job of taking in subsidies to scale their industry to ag, industry and residential development – all very different sectors and they figured out how to get everyone to become more energy efficient. Why can't the same advances happen in the water conservation realm? If water is becoming more scarce, how do we ensure its not a "privilege" to live in this state? With a looming national housing crisis, our water policies appear to be contributing heavily to housing shortages. Is the government ready to subsidize the cost of water for the sake of affordable housing? This cost is typically wholly born by the buyer, so if you can't afford the cost of water, you can't afford to buy a home in this state.
- I greatly enjoyed learning more about the history of water management and utilization in Colorado from "The Great Divide" film. Personally, I found it interesting to learn about the Native Americans and original Coloradans who knew how to use this land and thrived on it for thousands of years prior to white settlers arriving, respecting the fact that water is sacred and the land is arid. Specifically, how the Ancestral Pueblo People of Mesa Verde valued water as a finite resource that was so precious and vital for their survival, that they strategically collected and harvested rain water, which allowed them to survive in this arid

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climate. I think looking back to how they respected the land and natural resources resonated with me so much because that is truly how we as modern day Coloradans are going to survive in this state.

- This is the second or third time I have watched *The Great Divide*, so pulling takeaways is a bit more challenging. However, I will admit that while watching this film, I never caught the information provided on the Fry-Ark Project. Most of my career has been spent in NoCo and focused on water resources in this area, and I had no idea that a similar project to CBT was created in the South for Colorado Springs and Pueblo. The other item that I am always amazed at after watching this film is the architectural feats that were achieved so many years ago with the available technology.
- This is obviously a difficult topic, but we are going to be in a position soon where we will ALL need to be thinking about our water resources, and striving to make smart, impactful and decisions about water management and conservation. We are close to the point that kicking the can down the road will no longer be an option, we won't be able to sit back and ignore the problem. The problem is going to come front and center sooner than later, and the only reason it has been able to "hide" in the minds of everyday citizens is because of large, ambitious projects of the past.
- What resonated with me was that every Colorado water stakeholder (group) had valid points based on their values, the history and current uses. I could be an ally to any and all of these people. Key takeaways are that water is a finite resource, 2/3 of our water comes from snowfall, with climate change and a warming planet, we will have less water in the future than now. Also, Colorado's unique approach to linking ground water to river water is interesting to me. Finally, the main takeaway is we have an obligation to manage our water situation with an eye on future generation's ability to thrive.
- A compelling case was made that meeting the competing demands of population growth, agriculture, and preservation of natural resources requires a delicate and deliberate balancing act. It is likely though that very real changes are in store for the West and Colorado concerning water usage (potable use for irrigation), water distribution (fewer dams and West Slope diversion) and more sustainable systems such as reuse and affluent recycling. I also think the concept of beneficial use is likely to come under intense scrutiny as it currently disincentives efficient distribution of resources. The concept of "statewide concern" is likely to play a much greater role in allocation.
- I really enjoyed the Great Divide film. It's a great production, filled with information and intriguing history. From the perspective of a community leader, my first reaction is that Colorado has done a remarkable job developing its water resources. I grew up in Southeastern Colorado and remember the impact of the Frying Pan Arkansas project on our region. Other parts of the movie that resonated with me were:
85% of Colorado's water is used in Agriculture - what will that percentage be in 20, 40, 50 years? In 2013 Colorado began the development of a "water plan". 25-35% of Colorado's future water needs can be supplied due to conversation efforts. Status of the Water Plan?. CBT, Dillon Reservoir and the Frying Pan Arkansas projects bring Colorado water to the Front Range from the Western Slope. Another potential trans basin project(s) possible? I recall from the film that California appears to have preferential treatment in the Colorado River compact among the 7 states. Alternative transport systems of water could improve efficiency. i.e., Thornton/Water Supply & Storage water or Aurora/Rocky Ford Ditch water. These do not seem to be very efficient.
- A key takeaway for me was to realize that water scarcity is an issue as old as time, and stewardship is paramount. Self-restraint, discipline and wholistic water management policies need to become a part of daily life and planning policies for our inevitable future growth.
- The Great Divide-wow, what an incredible piece of work! I learned so much just from that short film! My key takeaways:

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1. Continued Growth-how are we going to continue to have enough water to sustain all of the predicted growth? Being on the real estate side, I see all of these developments going up and people moving in and wonder how we sustain it all?
 2. Conservation-this can be such a difficult topic, how do we make it palatable to most AND get buy in from folks to actually TAKE ACTION?
 3. Storage-watching how much work was done in just that 100 years.....I fear we are not moving fast enough now and are so behind on projects, how do we move these faster?
 4. Compromise-given the nature of some of the past laws/policies passed, compromise seemed to be a big part of what those worked. I fear our current environment does not foster that kind of "working together" attitude....how can we work towards making compromise look "good" again to folks?
- Key takeaways from The Great Divide:
Water rights have been (and will continue to be) a major issue as we move forward and population in CO and elsewhere grows
The various water needs (agriculture versus other commercial versus municipal versus personal etc etc) are somewhat at odds, and the need for cooperation will only grow as population increases (as well as the need to avoid antagonistic relationships between these entities!)
Our community/communities need to work together to figure out how to support our growing population (not just in water we drink, but in the many other needs that we have for water - supporting industry, keeping our environment healthy, etc)
 - First, water is an incredibly complex issue in Northern Colorado that's involved in almost every aspect of our lives. Secondly, water is an incredibly complex issue in Northern Colorado that's involved in almost every aspect of our lives. Thirdly, water is an incredibly complex issue in Northern Colorado that's involved in almost every aspect of our lives. The line that stuck with me perhaps the most was regarding the amount of engineering and legal negotiation that has taken place to make Colorado is what it is currently insufficient to continue to maintain Colorado's projected growth. The roots of our water system in capitalism seem to have gotten us this far, but perhaps no further as water scarcity increases. Solutions in terms of conservation and relocation of usage must be sought instead of inventing new ways to move water from other locations.
 - I was impressed to learn about the Cache la Poudre and our Northern Colorado communities' place in water history.
How precious water is here in our arid state and how we've come to take it for granted.
Water policy is complicated and so is the way we move water across the state.
The scope and scale of the current population that relies on the river and expected growth is amazing.
 - Being a small community that depends on water rights for to supply water it was helpful to understand the history of water in Colorado. Water has historically been grabbed by the people/companies with the greatest need/growth regardless of where it must come from and the impacts taking it has on those areas.
Water use is complicated. The balance between agricultural, municipal and recreational are barely there after years of advocacy and the strong grass roots movements that occurred in the last 60 years seem less likely to take root in the society of today to illicit large policy changes.
Having lived in both the western slope and front range, water is treated very different just crossing the divide especially on the municipal use side and available water. Shares are required to be brought in with new development causing the buy and dry on the front range and the western slope functions within the available shares existing not requiring additional dedications as that is literally the only water available - grow with in your means.

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I always looked to the lower basin states developing large scale cities in the desert as creating the challenges along the Colorado River without recognizing the development of Denver/Front Range had the same implications on the River. It made me a little disenfranchised at eastern Colorado's easy of taking water from over the divide in many communities even understanding that they would not exist today.

- Water history in Colorado is extensive. It is built on community and collaboration principles. Over the years those communal principles have been beneficial and proven the test of time. However, they have also been taken advantage of. The deep divide between the two slopes illustrates this to this day. Collaboration is the absolute key in this whole thing.
- From my perspective, what resonated with me the most is the VAST amount of economic activity that is tied to and depends on water supply. Further, the absolute dependence on water in the West – where demand continues to rise and supply continues to become limited – is a nerve-wracking reality that carries a deafening cry for some real solutions. A key takeaway, for me, is the importance of both initial and continuing education regarding water.
- What resonates with me the most is how water impacts all facets of our daily lives, but many of us don't even realize or acknowledge that fact. We don't acknowledge all the hard work that came before us that allows us to have clean water for our personal use. The food we eat, the energy we use, the clothes we wear, etc., etc. – all of these utilize water in some form or fashion, and we need to work together to improve efficiencies while maintaining standards of living and affordable costs.

What questions do you have after watching the film? Any areas you want to explore further?

- I am curious to understand more about the Prairie Waters Project and the renewable water loop: what exactly is it, how does it work and why have we not used this approach in Colorado before? I'd like to become familiar with the 2013 Colorado Water Plan; it seems important to know the contents and components of this plan. I realized that I don't know what goes into a statewide water plan. I would like to know about the current status of the Windy Gap Diversion Project.
- Regardless of how ingenious we were in moving water to where it was/is needed, was that really the smartest thing and should we be perpetuating it? We've paralyzed our water usage with so much legal oversight that no one is sure how they can use their water. Can I have two rain barrels or three? Why can't we take the water from the stormwater pond and water the park? These are basic questions that are so difficult to answer in this state. How much are we really prepared to grow? The New Mexico State Engineer toyed with the idea of restricting growth until they had a 100-year water supply (their supply only had a 40-year lifespan in 2011), which would have stopped growth pretty much everywhere in the state except Albuquerque and Santa Fe. However, the point was that the State Engineer was looking at the problem from a supply perspective, not based on demand. It would have never moved forward though, because of the political turmoil it would have caused. We seem to be absorbing growth that we're unsure if we can support into the future. If water is going to become more scarce, are we only relying on human behavior and water conservation practices to improve? Why haven't there been any monumental scientific improvements in agricultural water use. The solar industry did a very good job of taking in subsidies to scale their industry to ag, industry and residential development – all very different sectors and they figured out how to get everyone to become more energy efficient. Why can't the same advances happen in the water conservation realm? If water is becoming more scarce, how do we ensure its not a "privilege" to live in this state? With a looming national housing crisis, our water policies appear to be contributing heavily to housing shortages. Is the government ready to subsidize the cost of water for the sake of affordable housing? This cost is typically wholly born by the buyer, so if you can't afford the cost of water, you can't afford to buy a home in this state.
- I am particularly interested to learn more about how the Colorado Water Plan has been implemented since this film was created and what successes and changes have already been implemented. I would love to learn more about the Denver Water – Gross Reservoir project they discussed in the film and see how that has been working in recent years.
- I have no additional questions at this time. As for further exploration, I am currently engaging with residents and builders on non-potable systems in Town and the use of xeriscaping and new turfing ideas (Tahoma 31).
- I am very interested in the legal side of the water discussion. How the disputes are handled, what rights the owners have and how the government agencies play a part in this.
- I have several questions I'd like to ask beginning with what is the difference between Conservation districts, Conservancy districts, water congress, ditch districts and other water districts? Also, Gross (sp?) Reservoir and Windy Gap will divert ¾ quarters of the CO headwaters to the front range, but don't Denver and Northern Water already "own" the water that will fill those reservoirs? Finally, how can 25%-35% of our future water needs be

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met by water conservation measures? What are those measures and how do retrofit existing landscape/neighborhoods to fit in with these principles?

- No questions
- One of the many questions posed by the film was "should the complex legal system governing the use of water be revised from the original First in time, First in right approach. I am a believer in storage - what new technologies are developing that can improve the efficiency of storage? As a northern Colorado resident, what steps are being taken to protect our region's water supply from the Denver Metro area? When Two Forks was defeated, Denver Water took alternative approaches to water development - what could the rest of the state learn from what Denver has done? Are there studies that have been completed over the past 100 years that either support or argue against the amount of water available in Colorado due to climate change concerns? Are the variations in snowfall, rain and therefore water availability simply cyclical or is a man-made change in the climate causing the variations? What has changed since The Great Divide was produced in 2015?
- With water being finite resources and people coming still in droves – how much more efficient can we become? How thin can we stretch this resource before we need to change our ways of life?
- Being in Weld County, I see how important it is to Agriculture and the need for ranchers/farmers to have it...we planned well on this side, how can we show others a "blueprint" of planning that might work well in their communities versus getting caught up on legal battles all of the time? I also see it as protecting our local communities and our state from too much diversion to areas that are NOT using it wisely. I look forward to learning so much more on this topic!
- I'm really interested to learn more about what efforts exist (or can be started) to educate our population about the huge draw of water used by lawns/maintaining the "green" I'd like to learn more about the history of water rights, and how the rights from long ago are enforced/written
I found the discussion of anti-dam sentiment really interesting (and somewhat surprising) - I would like to learn more about the history of dams in CO and what various municipalities are planning for moving forward
- I'd love to dive further into the technologies of indigenous peoples and how they've been treated by the establishment of water law. Water law is in its infancy compared to the cultures of people who lives in this area for thousands of years and I'm curious how they navigated some of these similar challenges. I'd also be very interested in examining the origins of the "first in time, first in right" provisions, as well as the "buy and dry" practices around usage and agriculture. Also, incentivizing populations to reduce usage and what programs exist in this space.
- Water law developed in the 1800s is still governing how we use water today. I am interested to learn more about the updates that have been made in more recent years (changing the definition of beneficial use to include recreation, for example).
How can we encourage more conservation at all levels of water use?
Interested in doing a deeper dive on the proposed Glade Reservoir and the complexities of that project -- arguments pro and con.
I am interested to learn more about how population growth is impacting rural areas and agriculture in our state (Also, the strategy of Thornton to purchase agricultural land in Northern Colorado for water rights...is that common?)
I wonder what responsibility the east side of Colorado has in the trans basin transfers and the impacts that has on spurring climate change and irreversible changes to the West?
Is Water Law holding us back from making large scale change in the use of water in Colorado?

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How do I use my position in a small community to be a better steward of the water resources?

Regionalization and how to make everyone win not just the water rights holding communities.

- None
- After watching the film, I have many high-level questions surrounding the current water situation – how did we get here, where do we go, how do we make a difference, and what that looks like..
- I think top of my list would be efficiencies. Coming from a farming background, I've seen many efficiencies over the years with irrigation. Regardless of that, what else can be done not just for farming, but for municipal and industrial uses as well.