



**2021-2022 HUP KICKOFF**

**15-MILE REACH PROJECT**

**COLORADO WATER TRUST**

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3/8/22





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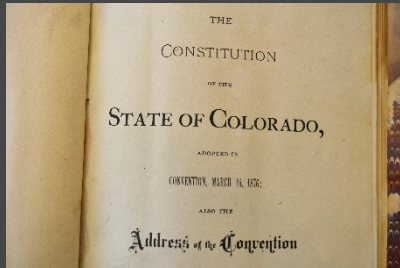
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- 💧 Denver-based non-profit working **statewide** to restore flows to Colorado's rivers in need
- 💧 Formed in **2001** to partner with Colorado's Instream Flow Program and amplify its work, which began in **1973**
- 💧 Work with water users to put together **voluntary** transactions to benefit the environment
- 💧 Transactions are **flexible** - temporary or permanent, split-season, ATM
- 💧 Work within the prior appropriation system and **compensate** water users at fair-market value or provide opportunity for tax benefits or donations



# Super Brief History of Environmental Water in Colorado



1876



1878



Cache La Poudre Conflict



1903

...70 years...



1973

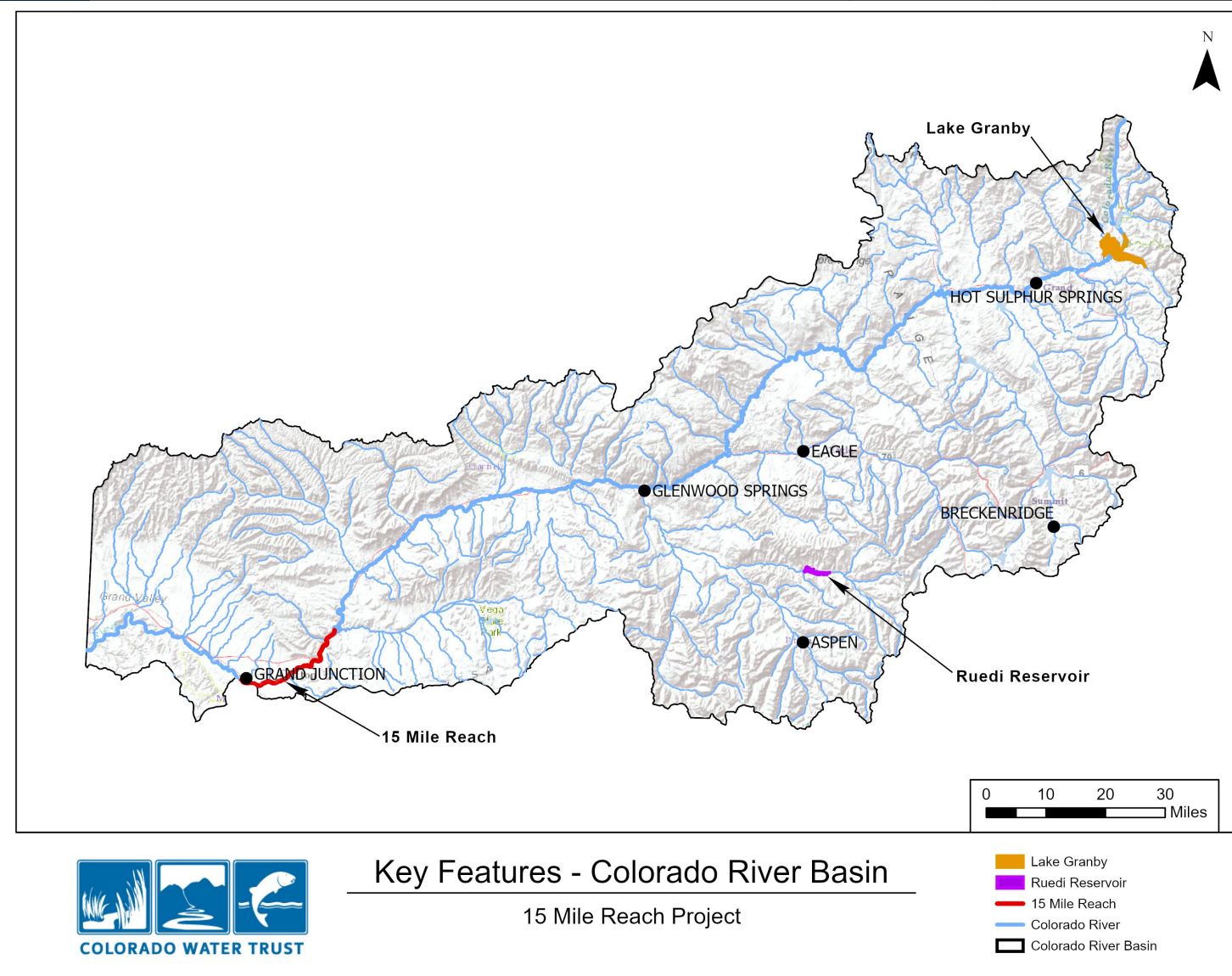


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Photos: Denver Post, Colorado Encyclopedia, Fort Collins History Connection, Colorado Virtual Library, Rocky Mountain News (L>R).

# 15-MILE REACH PROJECT

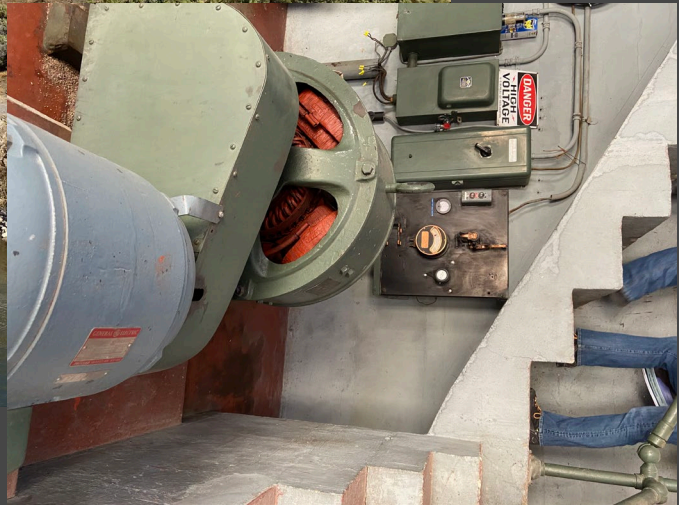
Collaboration with Grand Valley Water Users Association and Orchard Mesa Irrigation District to deliver water to the Grand Valley Power Plant when it benefits endangered fish in the 15-Mile Reach



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**Agreement enables  
CWT, GVWUA and OMID  
coordinate deliveries up  
to 5000 AF/year**



**In exchange, CWT provided  
\$425,000 to OMID and GVWUA  
for New Vinelands Power Plant**



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# 2019 – 2021 OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021
Amount of CWT Water Delivered	328 AF	1200 AF	4500 AF

## 2021 RECAP:

- Release rate of 50-100 c.f.s.
- Volume limited to 5000 acre-feet
- Releases in July-September
- Water acquired from:
  - Town of Palisade (200 AF)
  - River District (1000 AF)
  - Caerus (2000 AF purchased, 1300 AF donated)



# 2022 Capacity



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- Operations limited awaiting completion of New Vinelands Power Plant
- Up to 5000 AF available for acquisition and delivery when 15-Mile Reach flows below Recovery Program flow targets
- Significant interest from corporate donors
- Beyond 2022: Finding sources within and beyond Ruedi Reservoir







# THANK YOU

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💧 Financial support from CocaCola, Intel Corporation, Coors Seltzer, Major League Baseball, Caerus Piceance LLC, Walton Family Foundation

💧 <http://coloradowatertrust.org/project/15-mile-reach>

