

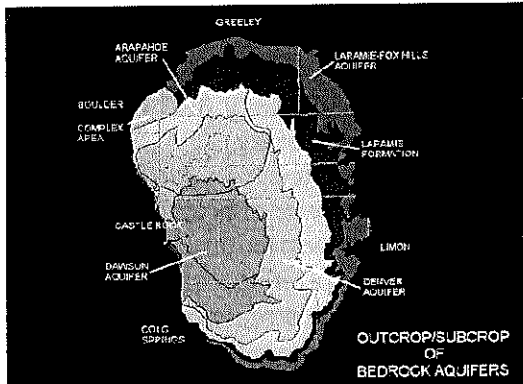
Denver Basin Legislation

**Postpone Modified
Ground Water Modeling
for the Denver Basin**



Background and History

Denver Basin

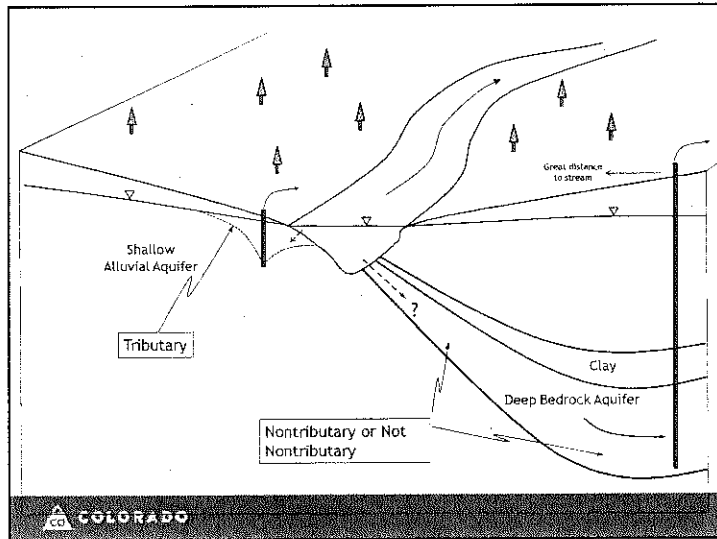
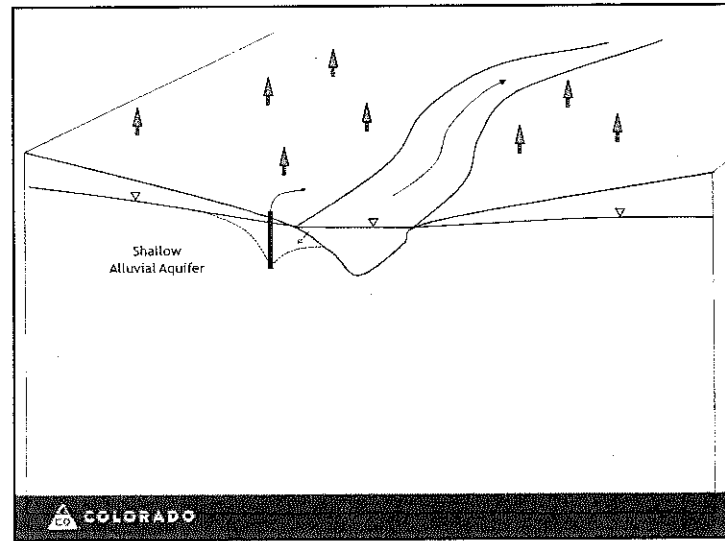
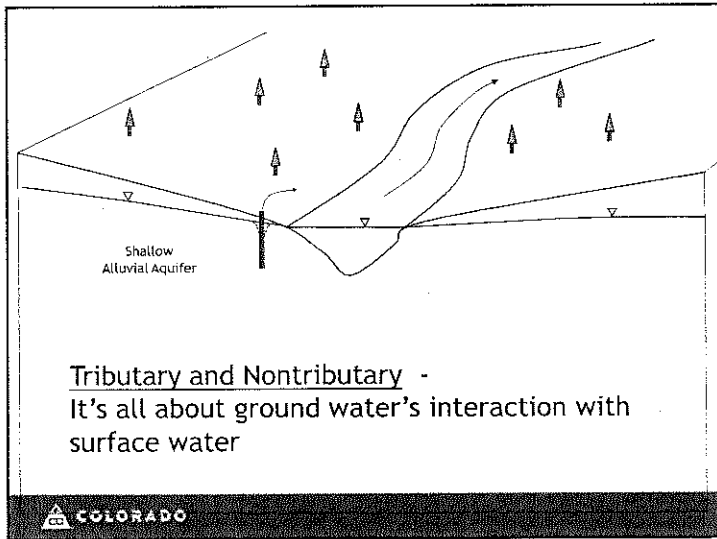


Denver Basin

Review:

- Nontributary and Not nontributary,





Denver Basin

Review:

- Nontributary and Not nontributary,
- Nontributary,
 - isolated from surface water,
 - no prior appropriation administration,
- Not nontributary,
 - no prior appropriation administration but,
 - some stream connection, therefore,
 - augmentation plan required

COLORADO

Denver Basin

Review:

- Nontributary and Not nontributary,
 - Nontributary,
 - isolated from surface water,
 - no prior appropriation administration,
 - Not nontributary,
 - no prior appropriation administration but,
 - some stream connection, therefore,
 - augmentation plan required



Denver Basin

SB85-5

Among other things...

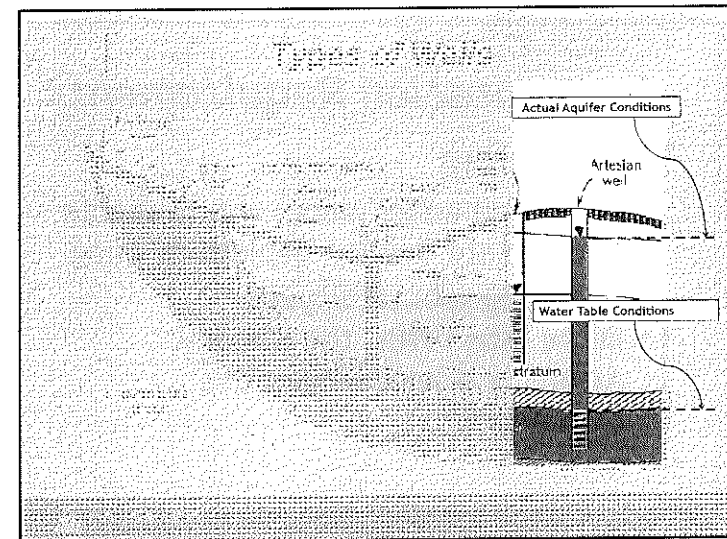
- Authorized Denver Basin Rules,
 - delineated nontributary areas
- Set approach to augmentation requirements for not nontributary withdrawals



Augmentation Requirements

Statutory Approach (SB5-85)

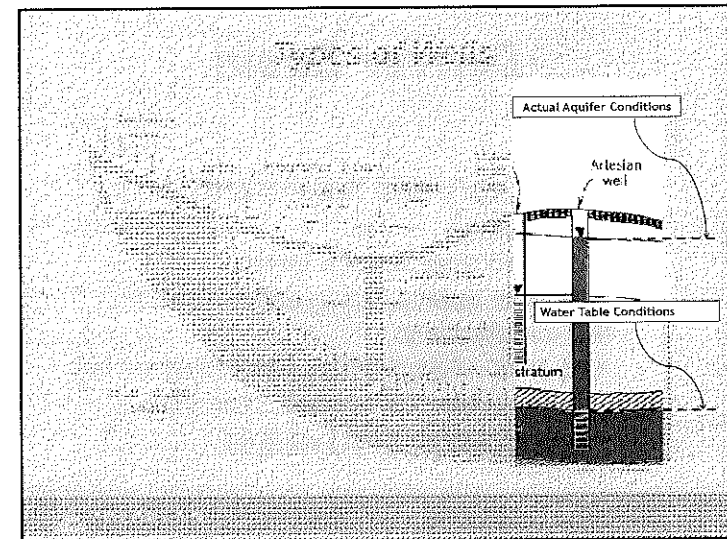
- “...Dawson aquifer...plans for augmentation...prevent any injurious effect based on actual aquifer conditions.”
- What does actual aquifer conditions mean?



Augmentation Requirements

Statutory Approach

- Calculating depletions using *actual aquifer conditions* gives a different result in terms of the pumping's effect on the rivers



Augmentation Requirements

The problem

- No ground water model was available to calculate Dawson depletions using *actual aquifer conditions*
- In the late 1990s, the General Assembly acknowledged this disconnect



Augmentation Requirements

The solution

- Statutory extension
 - Delayed use of *actual aquifer conditions*
- What did the extension allow?
 - The use of *water table conditions*



Proposed Legislation

Current extension

- Ends July 1, 2015
- Without further extension,
 - development of a new ground water model will be required
 - new and ongoing data collection will be necessary



Proposed Legislation

New extension

- Delay until July 1, 2018
- This has been the typical proposed legislation



Alternate Proposal

- Eliminate the pending need for a new model entirely



Alternate Proposal

Currently

- Either we develop the new model or,
- We continually delay.



Alternate Proposal

Pros of developing and using a new model

- Theoretically, more accurate depletion modeling



Alternate Proposal

Cons of developing and using a new model

- Extensive development; \$100,000+
- Extensive and ongoing data collection



Alternate Proposal

Revisit the Pros of developing and using a new model

- Limited benefits:
 - Applies to a limited area of the Denver Basin,
 - The area of applicability has questionable reliance on the resource,
 - Increased accuracy is only theoretical.

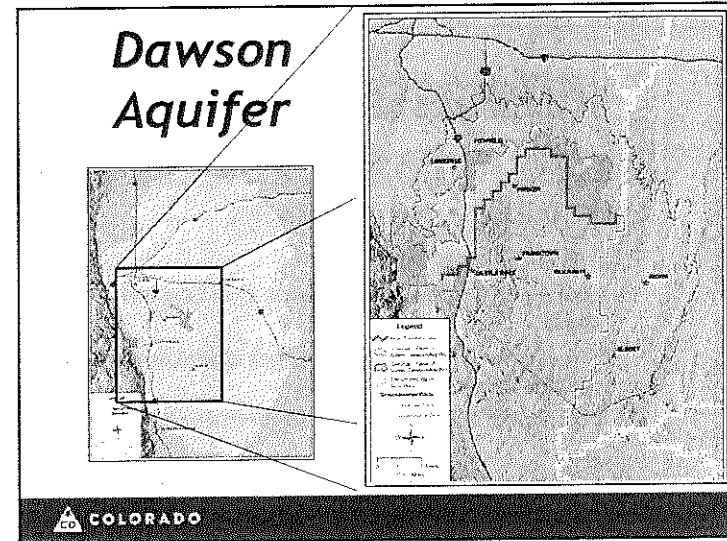
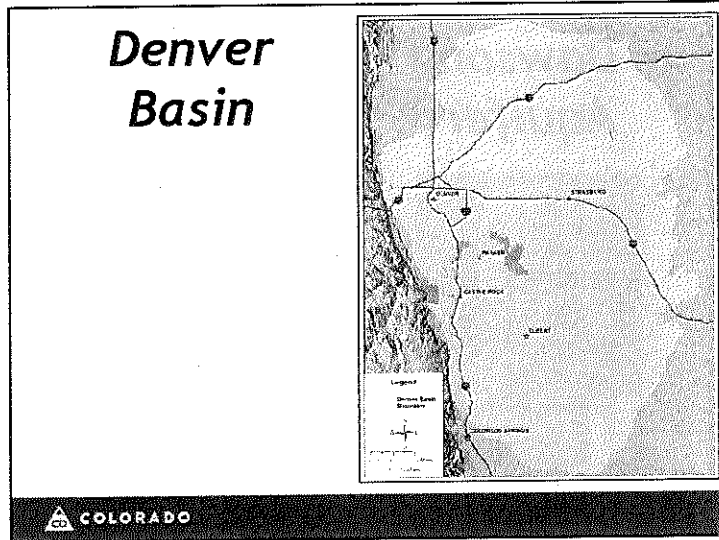


Alternate Proposal

Revisit the Pros of developing and using a new model

- Limited benefits:
 - Applies to a limited area of the Denver Basin,
 - The area of applicability has questionable reliance on the resource,
 - Increased accuracy is only theoretical.





Alternate Proposal

Revisit the Pros of developing and using a new model

- Limited benefits:
 - Applies to a limited area of the Denver Basin,
 - The area of applicability has questionable reliance on the resource,
 - Increased accuracy is only theoretical.

COLORADO

