



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources



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## Statewide Water Supply Initiative Update Technical Memorandum

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To: Colorado Water Conservation Board  
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## Section 1: Methodology Objectives

One of BBC's responsibilities under SWSI Task Order 2 is to develop a methodology for developing alternative population projection scenarios. Population projections, by basin and for the state as a whole, are the primary driver in the municipal and industrial demand projections which will be developed by Element Water. This memo provides BBC's recommendations regarding the development of alternative population projections for SWSI.

## Section 2: Background on Previous Methodologies

### 2.1 Overview of Methodologies used in SWSI 2010

As documented in Appendix H, "State of Colorado 2050 Municipal & Industrial Water Use Projections", alternative population scenarios through 2050 were also developed for the previous SWSI effort. That work, primarily conducted in 2008-09, required both extending the county and state population projections available at the time from the State Demography Office (SDO) from 2035 to 2050 and developing alternative high and low scenarios.

Harvey Economics, in collaboration with the SDO, essentially sought to extend the existing SDO projections using a similar approach to the methods the SDO used to develop their forecasts (which at the time covered the period of 2005 through 2035). Those methods included developing economic (e.g. employment) forecasts for the state and each county to develop estimates of future labor demand. Future labor demand was then compared to projected future labor supply based on an extended cohort component demographic model similar to the SDO's demographic model. In areas where labor demand was projected to exceed available labor supply, additional net in-migration was assumed to occur in order to balance the labor markets. In situations where labor supply was projected to exceed labor demand, net out-migration was assumed to occur to balance the labor markets.

The need to extend the SDO's projections from 2035 to 2050 also served as the basis for developing the alternative high growth and low growth scenarios. In the previous SWSI effort, the population scenarios all assumed the same growth (the SDO forecast) through 2035. However, the high growth scenario incorporated more aggressive economic/employment growth assumptions for the extension from 2035 through 2050, while the low growth scenario incorporated lower economic/employment assumptions from 2035 through 2050 compared to either the high scenario or the medium scenario.

### 2.2 Methodology Enhancements for SWSI Update

Two factors suggest it would be beneficial to modify the approach to developing the alternative population projection scenarios for this SWSI update:

- First, the SDO population projections are now available through 2050 (which remains the endpoint for this SWSI update). It is no longer necessary to extend the SDO projections in order to create the middle, or base case, population projections.
- During the scenario planning workshop held in early March 2017, CWCB (and other members of the SWSI team) suggested it would be beneficial to find a simpler approach for developing the alternative scenarios that would be easier to explain and involve fewer assumptions.

After further discussions with other members of the study team and the SDO, BBC recommends taking a more simplified approach to developing the alternative population scenarios for this SWSI update. While the previous approach was methodologically rigorous in producing an internally consistent set of employment and population forecasts, only the population numbers were actually used in deriving the future water demand forecasts. Moreover, development of alternative employment forecast scenarios for various sectors in all 64 counties in Colorado inevitably involved making numerous assumptions about conditions far in the future that were based almost entirely on judgment. By avoiding these types of judgment based assumptions, the methodology recommended herein also avoids “picking winners and losers” in developing alternative population scenarios for smaller areas such as the basins and individual counties.

## Section 3: Description of Recommended Methodology

After considering various options, BBC recommends that the alternative population forecasts be developed based on the existing SDO population forecasts that now span the entire SWSI study period and will provide the base case or middle projection, and probabilistic analysis of the potential variance around those forecasts to develop the high and low projections. The variance around the SDO projections can, in turn, be estimated from the historical population growth experience of the state, and each of its basins. As discussed later in this memo, these three sets of projections, with some modifications to the distribution of growth within the state, can be used to develop population forecasts consistent with the five planning scenarios developed in the State Water Plan.

### 3.1 Specific methodology

Under our recommended approach, only three pieces of information are required to develop probabilistic estimates of the potential range surrounding the “median” population projections produced by the SDO. Those information requirements are:

- The compound average annual growth rate implied by the SDO forecast. For example, for the State of Colorado as a whole, the SDO is forecasting a 2050 population of 8,541,540 residents. By comparing that projection to the 2010 population of 5,029,196, we can calculate the compound average annual growth rate over the 40 year period to be 1.333 percent per year.
- The historical standard deviation in population growth rates by decade. As shown in Table 1, from 1940 through 2010 the standard deviation in average annual population growth rates by decade for the State of Colorado was 0.634 percent.
- The historical compound average annual growth rate for the area being projected. As also shown in Table 1, from 1940-2010 the average annual compound growth rate for Colorado as a whole was 2.165 percent per year.

**Table 1. State of Colorado Population Growth, 1940-2010  
(Compound Average Growth Rate and Standard Deviation in Average Growth Rate by Decade)**

<b>State of Colorado Population Growth 1940-2010 (Compound Average Growth Rate and Standard Deviation by Decade)</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Avg. Rate</b>
1940	1,123,296	
1950	1,325,089	1.67%
1960	1,753,947	2.84%
1970	2,207,259	2.33%
1980	2,889,964	2.73%
1990	3,294,394	1.32%
2000	4,301,261	2.70%
2010	5,029,196	1.58%
1940-2010 Compound Growth Rate <b>2.165%</b>		
Standard Deviation in Growth Rate by Decade <b>0.634%</b>		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017. Growth rates and standard deviations calculated by BBC.

Fundamentally, this approach relies on a couple of key assumptions:

- The compound growth rate for 2015 through 2050 derived from SDO population projections represents the median average annual growth rate forecast for each area. Out of a hypothetical million potential alternative futures, the future described in the SDO forecast would fall in the middle.
- The variability of growth rates in future decades (and corresponding potential variance around the SDO-based median forecast) can be estimated based on historical variability in growth rates by decade since 1940. However, BBC has further assumed that the “coefficient of variation” for the growth rates in each basin will remain the same in the future as they have been in the past. This means that the size of the standard deviation in each basin’s future growth rate will change in proportion to the ratio of their projected median growth rate in the future to their median growth rate in the past. For example, if the median future annual growth rate is projected to be ½ of the historical annual growth rate, the future standard deviation by decade is also assumed to be ½ of the historical standard deviation.

The second assumption described above is both logical, and supported by the historical data.

BBC calculated the historical compound average annual growth rates for each of Colorado's 63 counties (excluding Broomfield<sup>1</sup>) from 1940 through 2010, and the historical standard deviations in growth rates by decade for each county. There was a correlation of 0.50 between the absolute values of the compound average annual growth rates and the standard deviations across all of the counties.

We also sorted the counties into quintiles based on their compound average annual growth rates and reviewed average standard deviation across each quintile. In the fastest growing quintile of counties, the historical compound average annual growth rate from 1940 to 2010 averaged 3.7 percent per year, while the standard deviations in growth rates by decade averaged 3.1 percent. In the slowest growing quintile of counties, the historical compound average annual growth rate from 1940 to 2010 averaged 0.1 percent per year, while the standard deviations in growth rates by decade averaged 1.3 percent.

### 3.1.1 Steps to implement this analysis

The following sequence of steps will be used to implement the analysis.

1. Calculate median compound average annual growth rate for the state (as shown in Figure 1) and each basin based on the SDO projections through 2050.
2. Estimate the standard deviation in future growth rates by decade for the state and each basin based on the following calculation:  
$$\text{Future standard deviation} = \text{historical standard deviation (1940 - 2010)} \times \text{projected median compound growth rate in future (2010-2050)} / \text{historical compound growth rate (1940 - 2010)}$$
3. Use Monte Carlo simulation techniques to simulate alternative future populations for each area based on baseline compound average annual growth rate (from SDO projections) and estimated standard deviation in growth rates by decade. Each "run" for each geographic area will build to a 2050 population projection as follows:
  - a. 2020 population = 2010 population (estimate from SDO)  $\times (1 + X)^{10}$ , where X is a randomly drawn average annual growth rate from a normal distribution with its mean based on the compound growth rate from the SDO projections, and its standard deviation estimated based on step 2.
  - b. 2030 population = 2020 population estimate (from step 3a)  $\times (1 + X)^{10}$ , where X is another randomly drawn average annual growth rate from the distribution described in step 3a.
  - c. Repeat step 3b until we reach 2050.
4. Based on thousands of "runs", identify the estimated overall distribution of potential future population totals for the state and each basin in 2050.

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<sup>1</sup> Broomfield became a separate county in 2001. Prior to 2001 the City of Broomfield spanned four counties north of Denver. Given its relatively short history as a separate county, BBC did not include Broomfield in the analysis of historical correlations between county growth rates by decade and the standard deviation in those average growth rates across multiple decades.



To encompass a wide range of potential future population growth outcomes, BBC recommends using the 10% exceedance probability for the “high” projections and the 90% exceedance probability for the “low” projections. Based on these thresholds, we would estimate there is a 1 in 10 chance that the actual future 2050 population could be higher than the “run” with the estimated 10% exceedance probability, and a 1 in 10 chance the actual future 2050 population could turn out to be lower than the “run” with the estimated 90% exceedance probability.

### 3.1.2 Statewide Population Example

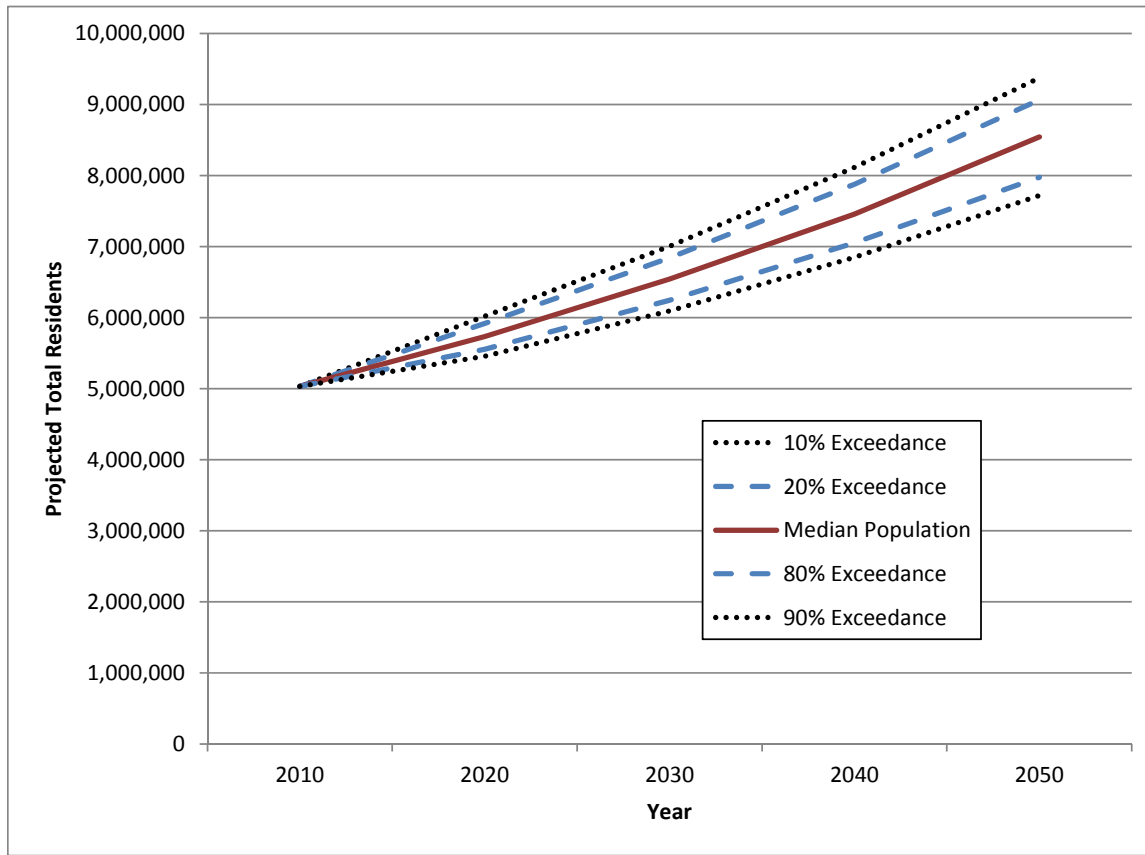
To more specifically illustrate the application of this methodology, BBC implemented the proposed approach for the State of Colorado as a whole. Figure 1 shows the resulting estimated range of possible future population totals for Colorado.

The SDO’s current population projection for Colorado in 2050 is 8,541,540 residents. That projection is represented in Figure 1 by the red line labelled “median population”, and would provide the middle or base case population scenario for SWSI.

Using the 10 percent exceedance probability for the high forecast, the 2050 population projection for that forecast would be 9,417,300. Using the 90 percent exceedance probability to represent the low forecast for future population, the low scenario would have a projected statewide population in 2050 of 7,742,773 residents.

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**Figure 1. Range of Potential State of Colorado Population Growth, 2010-2050 (Selected Exceedance Intervals)**



Note: For simplicity in calculation and illustration, this example uses the average compound growth rate from the SDO statewide projections over the entire period, and does not reflect the declining growth rates from decade to decade embodied in the SDO projections. Consequently, the median population line is lower than the actual SDO projections for all years before 2050.

### 3.1.3 Application to Basins and Counties

The same methodology can be readily applied to generate potential ranges of variance in the future population projections for each of the basins and counties, with a couple of caveats and potential refinements.

In general, the smaller geographic areas represented by the basins have larger coefficients of variation in their historical population growth rates than the state as a whole. This implies that their population projections, under the methodology proposed in this memo, will also have larger variance (on a relative basis) than the state as a whole. Carried further, the larger variance in the basin population projections would mean that the sum of the basin populations for the high set of projections (the 10 percent exceedance probability) is greater than the overall statewide population projection for the same exceedance probability. Correspondingly, the sum of the low population projections for the basins (the 90 percent exceedance probability) is lower than the 90 percent exceedance probability estimate for Colorado as a whole.

It could be argued that these discrepancies are actually logical. There is no reason to believe that a future high population growth scenario for Colorado as a whole necessarily means that



every basin will be simultaneously experiencing high growth, and vice-versa for the low scenario.

However, it would be problematic from a planning standpoint to deal with a set of high growth projections for the basins that collectively exceed the high growth projection for the State (or vice versa for the low projections). BBC recommends dealing with this issue by constraining the high and low projections for the basins to sum to the statewide total. The constraint will be imposed by proportionally reducing growth in each basin (under the high population projections) as needed to make the sum of the basin projections match the statewide total - or proportionally increasing growth in each basin (under the low population projections) so that the sum of the basin projections matches the statewide low projections.

Alternative population scenarios for the state's individual counties will also be used in developing the SWSI municipal demand forecasts. The potential issues regarding consistency between the statewide population projections and projections for the smaller areas would be even greater at the individual county level. Consequently, we do not recommend developing probabilistic population forecasts for the individual counties. Instead, we recommend apportioning the basin population projection scenarios to their component counties based on each county's share of the median, SDO projections for its basin.

## Section 4: Developing the Five SWSI Population Scenarios

During the previous SWSI process, and the creation of the State Water Plan, five alternative future scenarios were developed. These scenarios were entitled "business as usual", "weak economy", "cooperative growth", "adaptive innovation", and "hot growth."

As described in the State Water Plan, each of the five scenarios includes distinctive assumptions regarding future demographic growth. The following are excerpts from the descriptions of each scenario specifically related to population growth, and the manner in which BBC recommends that the population projections be produced for each scenario.

### 4.1 Business as Usual Scenario

- Excerpts from State Water Plan description:  
*"Recent trends continue into the future. Few unanticipated events occur. The economy goes through regular cycles, but grows over time. By 2050, Colorado's population is close to 9 million people. Single family homes dominate, but there is a slow increase of denser developments in large urban areas."*
- Recommended implementation:  
Use the current SDO state and county projections for 2050. BBC met with the SDO on 5/30/2017 and confirmed that this scenario is consistent with the assumptions embodied in their forecast. As noted in Section 2.1 of this memo, the SDO projections are based on a sophisticated combination of a cohort component demographic model and regional employment forecasts throughout the state. Further, the SDO projections are regularly reviewed with local governments and planners, and modified (as necessary) based on local input. The SDO projections are also the "official" population projections for the State of Colorado and are used for a variety of purposes, including the distribution of funds to local governments.

## 4.2 Weak Economy Scenario

- Excerpts from State Water Plan description:  
*“The world’s economy struggles, and the state’s economy is slow to improve. Population growth is lower than currently projected, slowing the conversion of agricultural land to housing... Many sectors of the state’s economy, including most water users and water-dependent businesses, begin to struggle financially.”*
- Recommended implementation:  
Use the statistically-derived low growth projections. These projections are consistent with an overall reduction of future growth in Colorado. Based on the methods used to develop the low growth projections, areas with the most consistent growth histories (through booms and busts) would see the smallest reductions in their projected growth relative to the SDO forecasts, while areas that have historically been the most vulnerable to economic busts would see larger reductions in their projected growth.

## 4.3 Cooperative Growth Scenario

- Excerpts from State Water Plan description:  
*“Environmental stewardship becomes the norm. Broad alliances form to provide for more integrated and efficient planning and development. Population growth is consistent with current forecasts. Mass transportation planning concentrates more development in urban centers and mountain resort communities, thereby slowing the loss of agricultural land and reducing the strain on natural resources compared to traditional development.”*
- Recommended implementation:  
Constrain overall growth to statewide SDO projections. Define mountain resort communities and urban centers. Increase projected 2015-2050 BAU population growth in mountain resort communities by 20%, increase projected 2015-2050 BAU population growth in urban centers by 10%. Adjust other areas (basins and counties) to maintain overall state totals from SDO projections.
- Recommended definitions of mountain resort communities: Grand, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, Routt, Pitkin, Gunnison, San Miguel, and La Plata counties.
- Recommended definitions of urban centers: Denver, El Paso, Pueblo, Boulder, Larimer, Weld, and Mesa counties.

## 4.4 Adaptive Innovation Scenario

- Excerpts from State Water Plan description:  
*“A much warmer climate causes major environmental problems globally and locally... Colorado is a research hub and has a strong economy. The relatively cooler weather in Colorado (due to its higher elevation) and the high-tech job market cause population to grow faster than currently projected... The warmer climate reduces global food production, increasing the market for local agriculture and food imports to Colorado. More food is grown locally, increasing local food prices and reducing the loss of agricultural land to urban development... More compact urban development occurs through innovations in mass transit.”*

- Recommended implementation:  
Use statewide forecast from high growth projections. Use unconstrained<sup>2</sup> high growth forecast for urban center counties (see definitions recommended for Cooperative Growth Scenario) and reduce forecast as needed in other areas to balance to state totals.

## 4.5 Hot Growth Scenario

- Excerpts from State Water Plan description:  
*“A vibrant economy fuels population growth and development throughout the state... A much warmer global climate brings more people to Colorado with its relatively cooler climate. Families prefer low-density housing and many seek rural properties, ranchettes, and mountain living. Agricultural and other open lands are rapidly developed... Communities struggle unilaterally to provide services needed to accommodate the rapid business and population growth.”*

Recommended implementation:

Use statistically-derived high growth projections, which project disproportionate population increases in the state’s more rural areas (due to their greater historical variability in population growth and their higher growth rates during boom periods).

## References

- Harvey Economics, 2050 Population Projections for the State of Colorado Municipal and Industrial Water Use Projections, Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2010.
- Colorado Division of Local Governments, State Demography Office. Preliminary Population Forecasts by Region and County, 2010 - 2050. 2016.
- Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado’s Water Plan, 2015. Chapter 6.

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<sup>2</sup> Unconstrained high growth projections refers to projections for these areas based on their basins’ probabilistic high growth projections, prior to downward adjustments to force the sum of all of the basins’ high growth projections match the statewide high growth projection.

## Appendix A: Illustration of SDO and Statistically-derived Projections for Selected Basins

As described in the Recommended Methodology for Developing SWSI Population Scenarios memorandum, population projections for the five SWSI planning scenarios were derived from the current SDO population projections and statistically-derived high growth projections and low growth projections for each basin.

The following charts illustrate the SDO projections and the statistically-derived high growth projections and low growth projections for three basins. One of the basins (the Arkansas Basin) is an example of an area which has historically experienced comparatively low variability in terms of its growth trajectory. The second example is the Colorado River Basin, which has historically experienced medium variability in terms of its growth trajectory. The final example is the Gunnison Basin, which has historically experienced high variability in its growth trajectory. The high growth and low growth projections shown in these figures reflect the unconstrained statistical projections for each basin, prior to adjustments to make the sum of the basin projections match the overall state high growth and low growth projections.

**Figure A-1. Arkansas Basin SDO and Statistically-derived Low and High Growth Projections (Example of basin with low historical growth variability)**

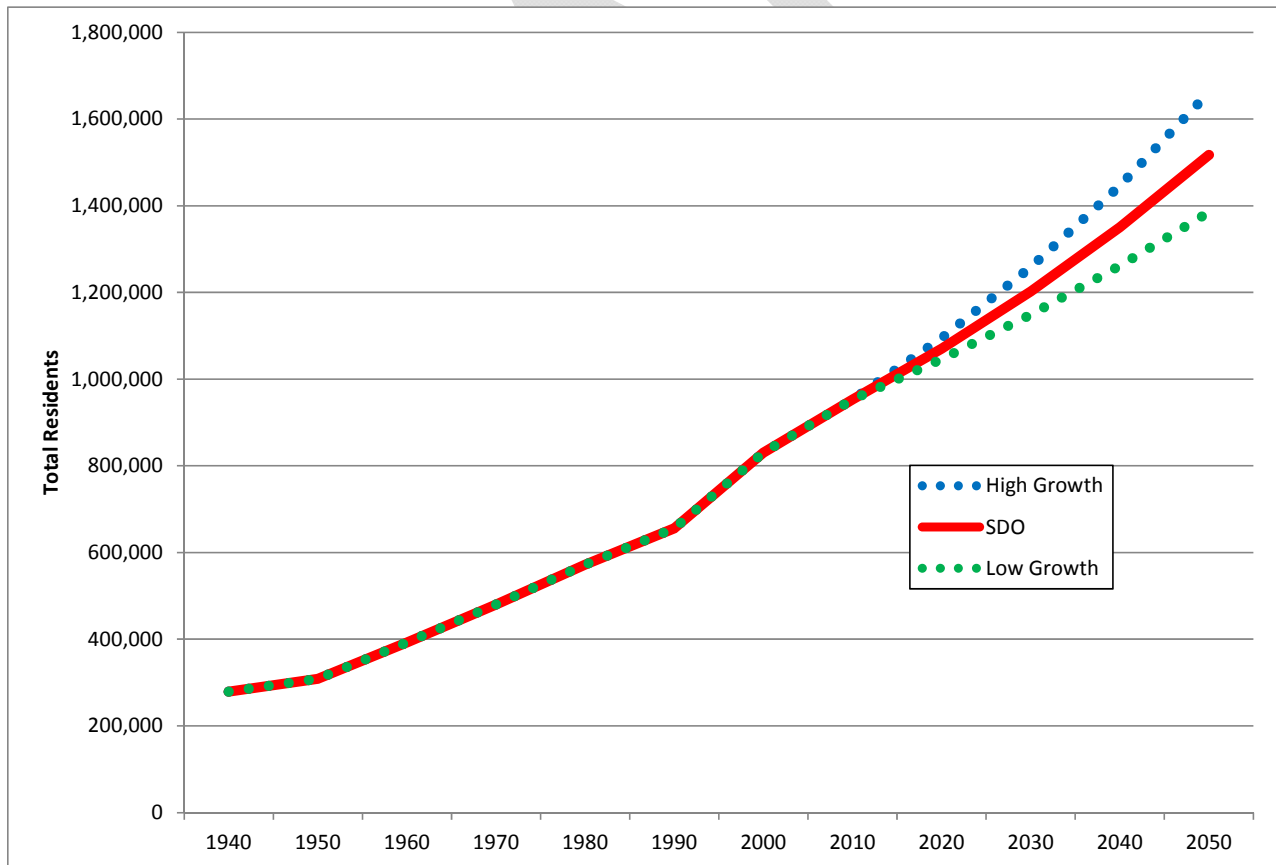


Figure A-2. Colorado Basin SDO and Statistically-derived Low and High Growth Projections (Example of basin with medium historical growth variability)

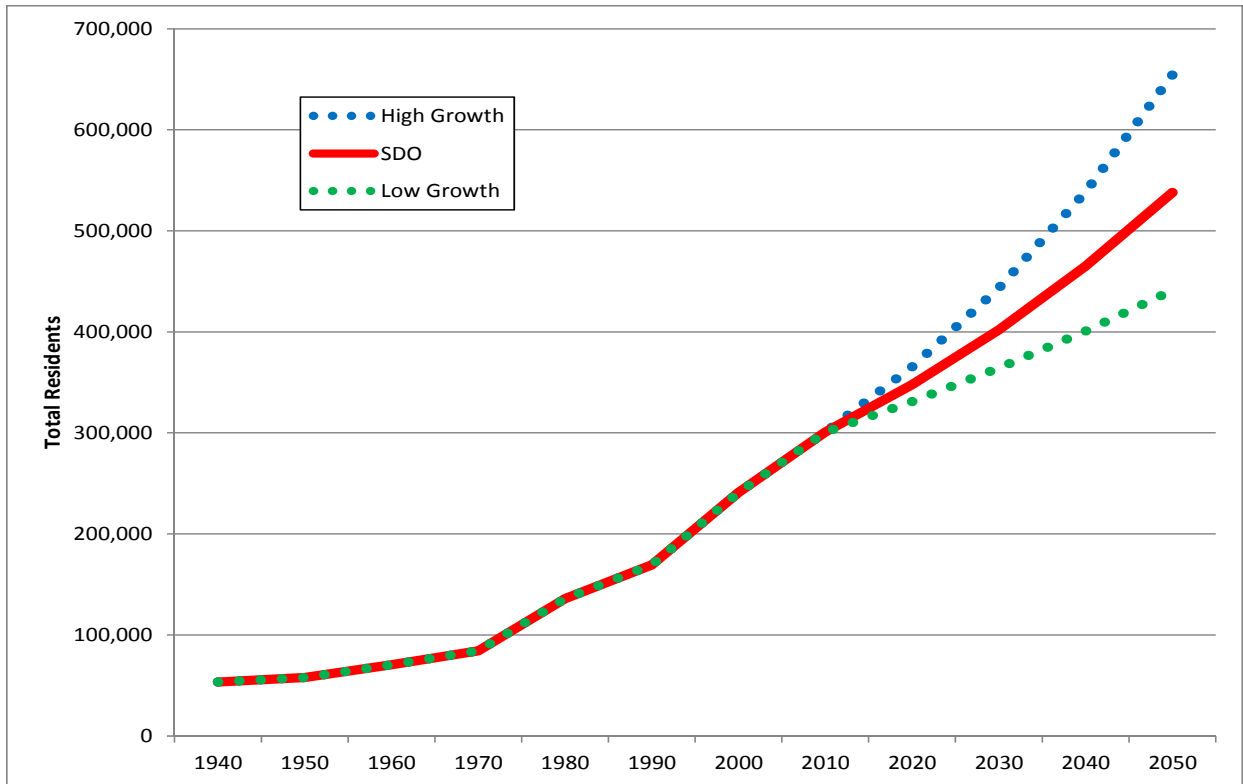
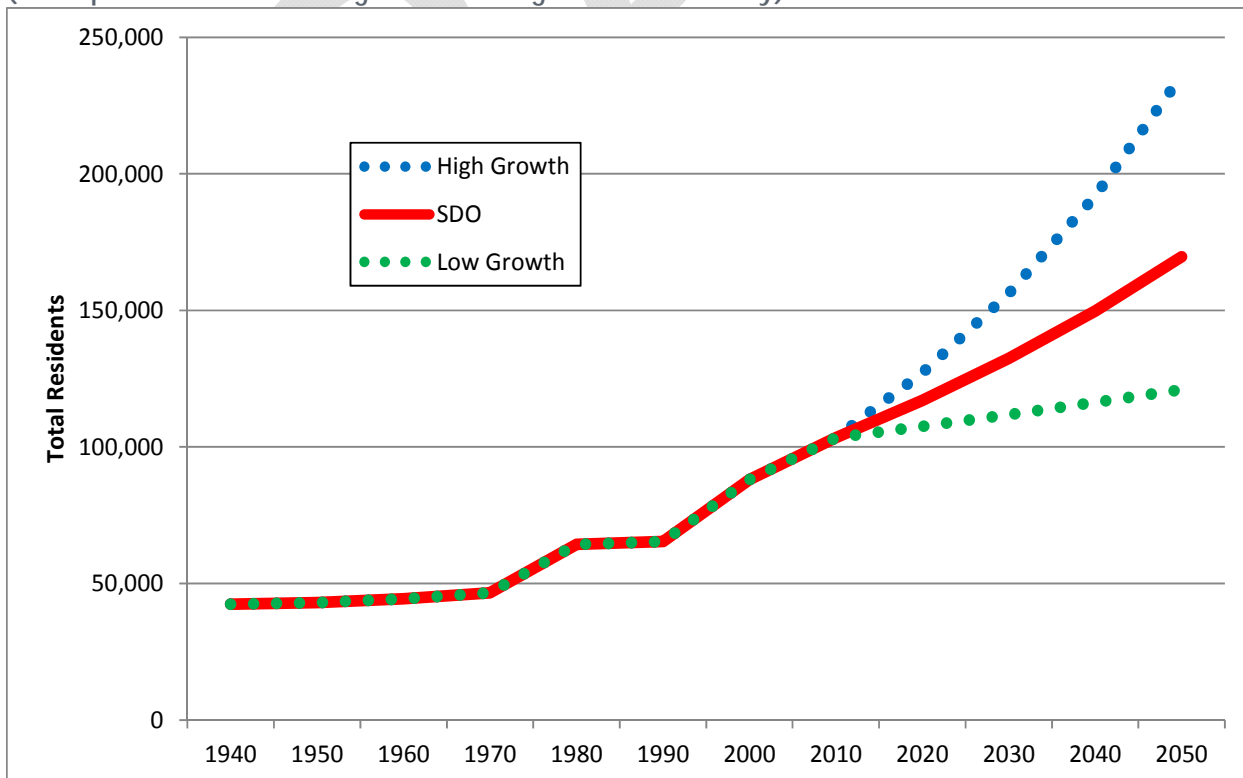


Figure A-3. Gunnison Basin SDO and Statistically-derived Low and High Growth Projections (Example of basin with high historical growth variability)



## Appendix B: Population Projections under Five SWSI/CWP Scenarios

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As described in Section 4 of the Recommended Methodology for Developing SWSI Population Scenarios memorandum, the population projections for each basin and county in Colorado were derived from the SDO projections and the statistically-based high growth projections and low-growth projections for each basin.

The following table presents the 2015 population estimates for each basin and county, and the projected 2050 population for each area under the five SWSI scenarios.

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Table B-1. Draft Population Projections by Basin for the Five SWSI Scenarios

Basin Forecasts	2015 Population	Business as Usual	Weak Economy	Cooperative Growth	Adaptive Innovation	Hot Growth
Arkansas Basin	1,009,357	1,517,107	1,469,171	1,552,643	1,636,373	1,577,567
Colorado Basin	308,746	537,943	470,864	576,102	605,377	609,713
Gunnison Basin	103,265	169,581	124,908	165,922	210,143	218,873
Metro	2,773,563	4,113,982	3,857,703	3,968,391	4,224,973	4,382,394
North Platte Basin	1,352	1,146	711	1,090	1,455	1,546
Rio Grande Basin	46,097	58,663	45,658	55,791	67,031	71,220
South Platte Basin	1,062,682	1,882,412	1,609,018	1,951,658	2,315,507	2,177,271
Southwest Basin	108,038	195,243	125,714	201,276	264,487	281,016
Yampa Basin	43,485	65,458	39,028	68,663	91,953	97,700
Basin Totals	5,456,584	8,541,536	7,742,773	8,541,536	9,417,300	9,417,300

Table B-2. Draft Population Projections by County for the Five SWSI Scenarios

Forecasts by County	2015 Population	Business as Usual	Weak Economy	Cooperative Growth	Adaptive Innovation	Hot Growth
<u>Arkansas Basin</u>						
Baca	3,596	3,225	3,123	3,067	3,156	3,354
Bent	5,841	6,639	6,429	6,314	6,498	6,904
Chaffee	18,604	28,763	27,854	27,355	28,150	29,909
Cheyenne	part 701	594	575	565	581	618
Crowley	5,539	7,440	7,205	7,076	7,281	7,737
Custer	4,464	7,553	7,314	7,183	7,392	7,854
El Paso	677,022	1,077,643	1,043,593	1,117,705	1,180,214	1,120,590
Elbert	part 7,655	21,196	20,526	20,158	20,744	22,041
Fremont	46,559	59,169	57,299	56,273	57,908	61,527
Huerfano	6,474	5,856	5,671	5,569	5,731	6,089
Kiowa	1,391	1,336	1,294	1,271	1,308	1,389
Lake	7,483	9,179	8,889	8,730	8,983	9,545
Las Animas	14,038	13,206	12,789	12,560	12,925	13,732
Lincoln	part 4,495	6,830	6,614	6,496	6,684	7,102
Otero	18,288	16,837	16,305	16,013	16,478	17,508
Prowers	11,893	11,596	11,230	11,028	11,349	12,058
Pueblo	163,348	223,706	216,638	229,742	244,999	232,621
Teller	part 11,965	16,339	15,823	15,539	15,991	16,990
<u>Colorado Basin</u>						
Eagle	53,580	106,459	93,184	117,035	113,565	120,662
Garfield	58,082	112,684	98,633	123,604	120,206	127,718
Grand	14,615	28,069	24,569	30,760	29,943	31,814
Mesa	part 134,325	211,136	184,808	218,817	256,755	239,305
Pitkin	17,845	24,311	21,280	25,604	25,934	27,554
Summit	30,299	55,284	48,390	60,281	58,974	62,660
<u>Gunnison Basin</u>						
Delta	29,950	45,154	33,259	42,944	54,851	58,279
Gunnison	16,145	23,575	17,365	25,061	28,638	30,427
Hinsdale	767	1,514	1,115	1,440	1,839	1,954
Mesa	part 14,924	23,459	17,279	24,312	32,640	30,277
Montrose	part 36,820	70,218	51,720	66,780	85,297	90,627
Ouray	4,658	5,662	4,170	5,385	6,878	7,308



Table B-2. Draft Population Projections by County for the Five SWSI Scenarios (continued)

Forecasts by County	2015 Population	Business as Usual	Weak Economy	Cooperative Growth	Adaptive Innovation	Hot Growth
<u><i>Metro</i></u>						
Adams	490,829	885,859	830,675	842,494	888,152	943,656
Arapahoe	630,564	1,070,837	1,004,130	1,018,416	1,073,609	1,140,703
Broomfield	64,788	98,122	92,010	93,319	98,376	104,524
Denver	683,096	833,221	781,316	848,234	935,719	887,584
Douglas	322,017	481,315	451,332	457,753	482,561	512,718
Jefferson	565,230	697,449	654,002	663,307	699,255	742,953
Elbert <i>part</i>	17,039	47,179	44,240	44,869	47,301	50,257
<u><i>North Platte</i></u>						
Jackson	1,352	1,146	711	1,090	1,455	1,546
<u><i>Rio Grande</i></u>						
Alamosa	16,008	23,344	18,169	22,201	26,674	28,341
Conejos	8,050	9,595	7,468	9,125	10,964	11,649
Costilla	3,578	4,406	3,429	4,190	5,035	5,349
Mineral	728	925	720	880	1,057	1,123
Rio Grande	11,475	12,915	10,052	12,283	14,757	15,680
Saguache	6,258	7,478	5,820	7,112	8,545	9,079
<u><i>South Platte</i></u>						
Boulder	319,177	434,556	371,443	446,094	540,635	502,624
Cheyenne <i>part</i>	1,145	969	828	922	1,055	1,121
Clear Creek	9,328	13,913	11,892	13,232	15,146	16,092
Gilpin	5,819	6,914	5,910	6,576	7,527	7,997
Kit Carson	8,239	8,794	7,517	8,364	9,573	10,171
Larimer	332,832	544,241	465,197	565,382	677,095	629,490
Lincoln <i>part</i>	1,054	1,602	1,369	1,523	1,744	1,853
Logan	22,112	30,181	25,798	28,704	32,855	34,909
Morgan	28,275	43,106	36,845	40,996	46,926	49,858
Park	16,659	24,977	21,349	23,754	27,190	28,889
Phillips	4,331	4,648	3,973	4,420	5,060	5,376
Sedgwick	2,376	2,420	2,069	2,302	2,634	2,799
Teller <i>part</i>	11,496	15,698	13,418	14,930	17,089	18,157
Washington	4,839	5,106	4,364	4,856	5,558	5,906
Weld	284,876	733,719	627,156	778,603	912,826	848,648
Yuma	10,125	11,568	9,888	11,002	12,593	13,380
<u><i>Southwest</i></u>						
Archuleta	12,384	27,463	17,683	26,119	37,203	39,528
Dolores	1,953	2,407	1,550	2,289	3,261	3,464
La Plata	54,907	95,188	61,290	103,244	128,947	137,005
Montezuma	26,139	43,749	28,169	41,607	59,265	62,968
Montrose <i>part</i>	4,091	7,801	5,023	7,420	10,568	11,229
San Juan	705	777	500	739	1,053	1,118
San Miguel	7,859	17,858	11,498	19,858	24,191	25,703
<u><i>Yampa</i></u>						
Moffat	12,923	13,083	7,801	12,443	18,379	19,527
Rio Blanco	6,459	7,265	4,332	6,909	10,206	10,843
Routt	24,103	45,110	26,896	49,311	63,369	67,329

Table B-2. Draft Population Projections by County for the Five SWSI Scenarios (continued)

Forecasts by County	2015 Population	Business as Usual	Weak Economy	Cooperative Growth	Adaptive Innovation	Hot Growth
<i>Multi-basin Counties (complete totals by county)</i>						
Cheyenne County	1,846	1,563	1,404	1,487	1,636	1,739
Elbert County	24,694	68,375	64,766	65,028	68,045	72,298
Lincoln County	5,549	8,432	7,983	8,019	8,428	8,955
Mesa County	149,249	234,595	202,087	243,130	289,395	269,582
Montrose County	40,911	78,019	56,743	74,200	95,865	101,856
Teller County	23,461	32,037	29,241	30,469	33,080	35,147

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