



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

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TO: Governance Committee, Water Advisory Committee, and Executive Director's Office of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

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Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

DATE: August 19, 2019

ITEM: South Platte Net Changes in Irrigated Agricultural Acreage
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program requires the State of Colorado to report on "net changes in irrigated agricultural acreage, using readily available data" (Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, Attachment 5, Section 9, Colorado's Plan for Future Depletions, October 24, 2006, Last Updated December 1, 2015, Section I.D.). This memo provides the required information. The following table is the result of the delineation of irrigated acres within the South Platte River Basin based on work associated with the South Platte Decision Support System (SPDSS) for the irrigation years when data is updated and readily available. The total irrigated acreage in 2015 decreased by -106,961 acres since 1997. The irrigated acreage in SPDSS is currently updated every 5 years. For more information on the technical approach to acreage delineation, see Technical Task Memorandum 93.2 located at:

<https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcb/0/doc/123659/Page1.aspx?searchid=5f99cfba-85ee-4b1c-be13-d2d3132a8cd7>

Table 1. South Platte River Basin Irrigated Acreage by Year

Basin	1956*	1976*	1987*	1997*	2001*	2005*	2010	2015
South Platte (acres)	977,604	1,012,133	980,501	916,218	908,925	829,475	857,733	809,257
Acreage Changes from previous updated year (acres)	0	34,529	-31,632	-64,283	-7,293	-79,450	28,258	-48,476

*The acreage values in Table 1 for 1956, 1976, 1987, 1997, 2001, and 2005 have been updated since the April 10, 2009 reporting due to ongoing corrections of field boundaries and irrigation status in the snapshot years and reflect the most accurate estimates.

