

water system, Koger said, the master plan would have to be updated to include them. No plan currently is being discussed to connect the two entities, however.

Koger explained that water demand units are put in terms of single-family equivalents (SFEs), which is the water used in one year by a typical single-family home with a three-fourths-inch tap. An acre-foot of water is roughly equivalent to one football field covered in water one foot deep (325,851 gallons). Based on five years of demand data on Monument homes, this water master plan defined one SFE as one-third acre-foot per year. Annual water demands for commercial and industrial sites in Monument were converted into SFEs for the purpose of the projections.

In 2012, the town served 1,300 SFEs, with an average water demand of 0.4 million gallons per day (MGD). By 2035, projecting 3 percent growth per year, the plan reported that the town would have an estimated water demand of 2,560 SFEs. However, Monument's total build-out potential is 2,533 SFEs, so the water master plan used that number for its 20-year projections of water demand, which is about double the current demand, estimated at 0.78 MGD, or 874 acre-feet per year.

Background: Water law is very complicated in Colorado, so any short summary will be oversimplified and not include a complete list of exceptions and restrictions. Monument produces its water mainly from groundwater wells, described below, and also from some renewable surface water, both of which are strictly monitored by water court.

Renewable surface water used in the Tri-Lakes region generally comes from rain or snow and is typically drawn directly from local creeks or transported by water supply pipelines from surface water rights that are stored in regional reservoirs and/or lakes fed by the Arkansas River. Procurement of renewable surface water rights in Colorado is usually expensive and made more difficult by years of challenges in water court by renewable water rights owners who file challenges to ensure that their separate water rights will not be harmed by the planned use by other entities, such as the Tri-Lakes region.

For example, the Town of Palmer Lake, Town of Monument, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District have challenged each other's renewable surface

water rights in Monument Lake and/or Monument Creek while working together on a study of how to jointly transport and/or treat renewable water for reuse.

Groundwater in the OCN coverage area typically comes from water rights for alluvial wells or separate water rights for each of the four aquifers in the Denver Ba-

sin: Denver, Dawson, Arapahoe, and Laramie-Foxhills. A town, special water district, or homeowners association may own groundwater rights in more than one aquifer and have wells of different depths for different aquifers. Generally groundwater can only be used once and must then drain to the state river basin it came from, such as the

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