ADMINISTRATION OF WATER RIGHTS AND TRANSACTION COSTS

NORTHERN WATER & THE C-BT PROJECT
Northern Water: Colorado-Big Thompson Project
Fundamental Framework

- Transbasin Water Right
- Water Conservancy Act
  - State of Colorado
- U.S. “Senate Document 80”
  - 75th Congress, 1937
- Repayment Contract
  - Northern Water/Reclamation, 1938
- Northern Water
  - Rules, Regulations & Guidelines
Evolution of the Region

- Changes in Population
  - 1957: 150,000
  - 2011: 850,000

- C-BT Ownership
  - 1957: 85% Agriculture, 15% Cities/Districts/Industry
  - 2011: 34% Agriculture, 66% Cities/Districts/Industry

- C-BT Deliveries
  - 1957: 98% Ag Use, 2% M & I Use
  - 2011: 67% Ag Use, 33% M & I Use
Colorado-Big Thompson Ownership

The graph illustrates the C-BT units for different categories of ownership from 1940 to 2060. The green line represents agricultural ownership, peaking around the mid-2000s and then declining. The blue line represents municipal and industrial ownership, which increases throughout the timeline, reaching a peak around 2040 and then stabilizing.

Northern Water
Unit Disposition

310,000 Total Units

Ag
104,000 Units

M&I
206,000 Units

Seasonal Transfers
≈ 100,000 units

Permanent Transfers
Remaining (Est.)
≈ 40,000 units
Transfer Considerations

- **Seasonal Transfers (no cost)**
  - Limited Involvement from Northern Water
  - Not Restricted to the Use Type Defined by Underlying Allottee Contract
  - By special request and approval, may be a supply to a Substitute Water Supply Plan (SWSP)
Transfer Considerations

- **Ownership (Permanent) Transfers ($200)**
  - Use within Northern Water Boundaries
  - Supplemental in Nature (i.e. Base Water Supply)
  - IF Transferred to Ag:
    - History of Irrigation
    - Total Supply (C-BT + Base) Limited to 3’ per Acre
  - IF Transferred to M&I:
    - Total C-BT Ownership Limited to Average Demand LESS Firm Base Supply
    - To date, no conditions requiring maintenance of return flows
Questions?

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