Fryingpan-Arkansas Facts

- A trans-mountain, trans-basin water diversion, storage, and delivery project
- Signed into law by President Kennedy in 1962
- Construction period: 1964-1982
- Five major reservoirs (Ruedi, Turquoise, Mt. Elbert Forebay, Twin Lakes, and Pueblo)
- Five major dams and seventeen diversion dams and related structures
- Twenty-two tunnels and other conduits covering 87 miles
- Sixteen diversion structures and related tunnels and conduits are located above the 10,000-foot elevation mark in the Colorado Rockies.
- One hydroelectric reverse-pumped storage powerplant (Mt. Elbert Powerplant)
- Two privately operated powerplants (one at Ruedi Dam and one at Sugarloaf Dam on Turquoise Reservoir)
- Water right allows for diversion of up to 120,000 acre-feet of water a year
- Diversions are not to exceed 2,352,800 acre-feet in a consecutive 34-year period
- Average annual diversion over life of project is 48,500 acre-feet
- Mt. Elbert Powerplant generates 200 MegaWatts of electricity—enough to supply 35,000 households with energy for a year
- Provides water to 12 Colorado counties, including 200,000 irrigated acres and a population of 650,000

Southeastern Water Conservancy District boundaries served by the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project

FRYINGPAN–ARKANSAS
WEST SLOPE
FACILITIES
(*NON–PROJECT)

FRYINGPAN–ARKANSAS
EAST SLOPE
FACILITIES
(*NON–PROJECT)