

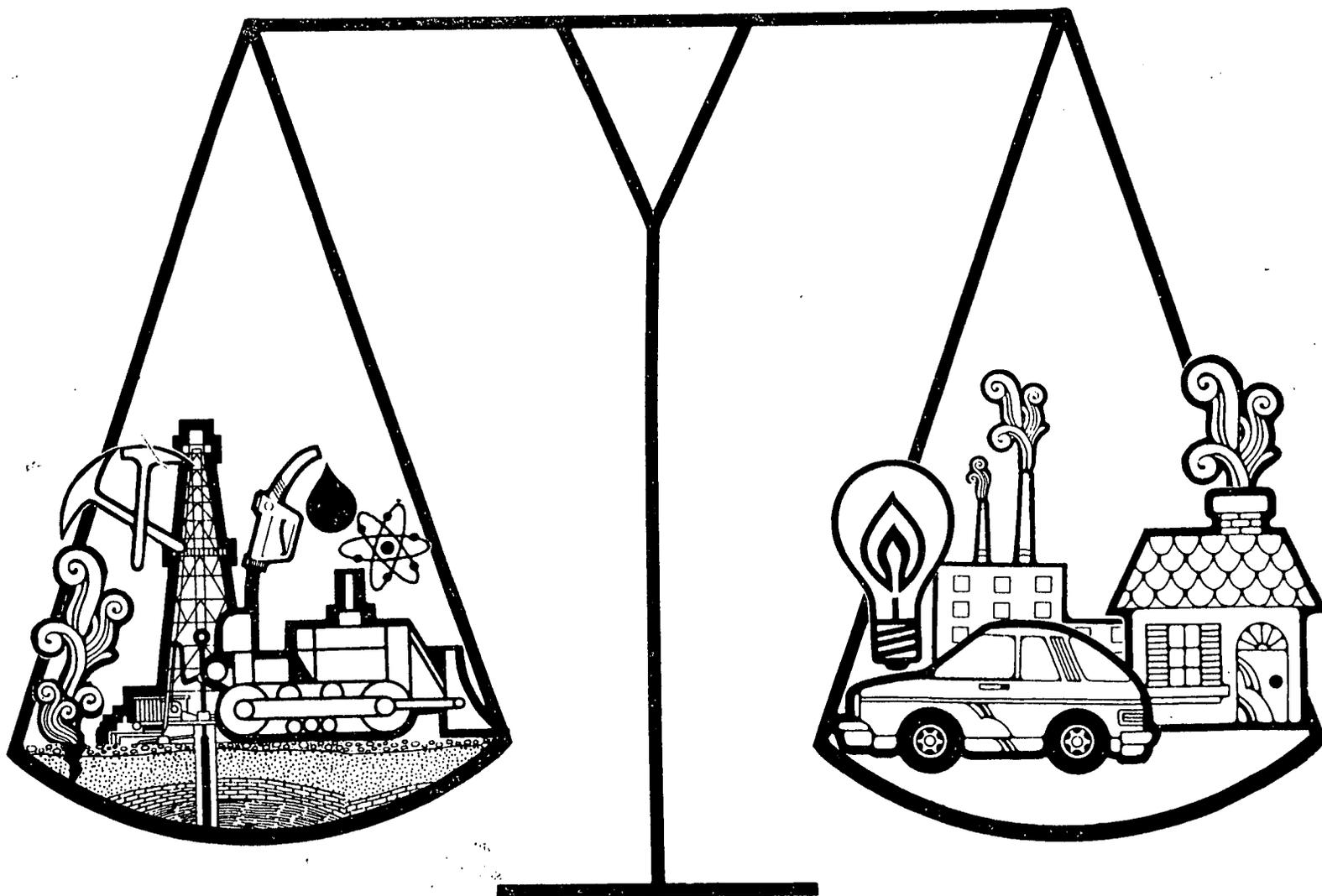
COLORADO ENERGY BALANCE -1981

Plate 1: Coal Production and Distribution and Electrical Power Generation

Plate 2: Oil and Gas Production, Movement and Consumption

Plate 3: Uranium, Oil Shale and Geothermal Production, Movement and Consumption

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Dr. John P. Byrden of the University of Denver, coordinator of the Energy Management Program directed these internships while L. R. Ladwig, Mineral Fuels Section Chief, Colorado Geological Survey, provided direction and technical assistance.

The Colorado Geological Survey provided the drafting and printing for this set of maps.

L. R. Ladwig,
Colorado Geological Survey

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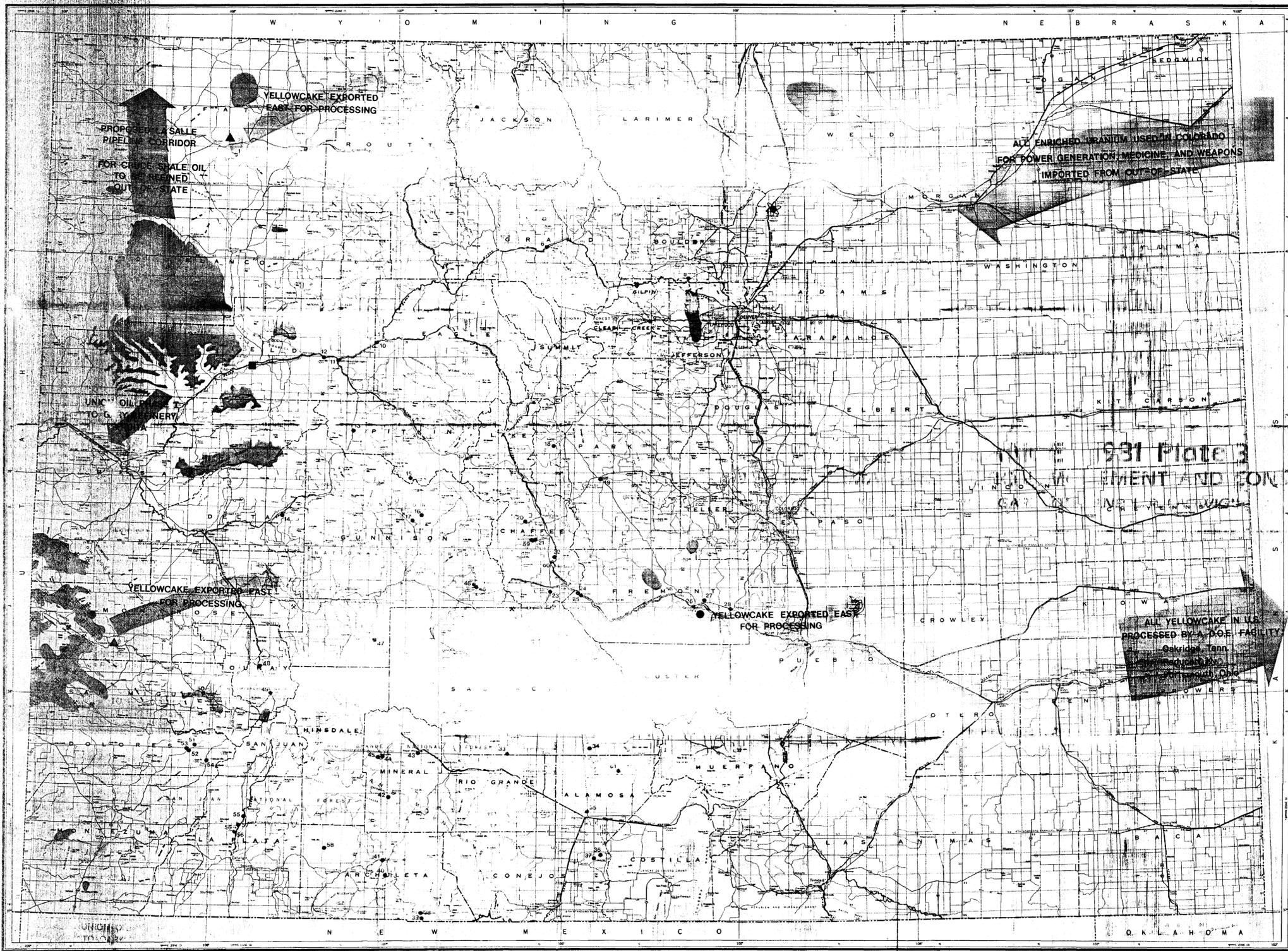
COLORADO ENERGY BALANCE - 1981 Plate 3

URANIUM, OIL SHALE, AND GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION, MOVEMENT AND CONSUMPTION

COMPILED BY WILLIAM A. BRACKETT*, RODNEY C. GARRISON*, AND L. R. LADWIG**

pg 3 of 3 SW-A-004659

RESOU



OIL SHALE

The Piceance Basin of western Colorado contains some of the richest oil shale deposits in the world. These oil shales were deposited in ancient lakes during Eocene time—some 50 to 60 million years ago. The Green River Formation oil shale is technically a sedimentary marlstone composed of dolomite, calcite, clay minerals, feldspar, and quartz containing syngenic kerogen, a solid organic material which yields shale oil, hydrocarbon gases, and carbon when heated to 900°F.

Colorado oil shale resources are placed at a total of 1200 billion barrels in beds at least 100 feet thick that contain over 30 gal/ton and 840 billion barrels in lesser deposits 15' feet thick and at least 15 gal/ton. This makes the Piceance Basin, slightly more than 1500 sq. miles, one of the richest single hydrocarbon deposits in the world.

Associated with the Green River Formation are sodium-carbonate minerals. In Colorado these are nahcolite (NaHCO₃), a potential source of dry industrial stack gas sulfur scrubbing agent, and dawsonite (NaAlCO₃OH), a potential source of alumina. Estimated resources of these minerals in Colorado is 29 billion tons of nahcolite and 19 billion tons of dawsonite.

Development of these resources during 1981 indicated commercial production by mid 80s to late 80s, but recent changes in world oil prices and demand have generally set back most of these schedules.

During 1981 approximately 196,000 bbls of oil was produced by Occidental at Logan Wash, and 26,320 bbls by Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

URANIUM

Current uranium ore production in Colorado comes from two major geologically distinct areas, the Central City area and the Uravan Mineral Belt. Other areas of uranium mineralization include portions of Moffat, Saguaque, and Weld Counties, which have produced or may produce in the future.

The Schwartzwalder Mine, about eight miles northwest of Golden, in the Central City uranium area, is the largest uranium mine in Colorado and is a prime example of vein-type uranium deposits in North America. Uranium from this mine occurs as veins of pitchblende associated with sulfide minerals.

The Uravan mineral belt is an arcuate belt extending from western Montrose and San Miguel Counties through southwestern Mesa County and into eastern Utah. Ore bodies are contained in continental sandstones with the mineralized rock forming elongate, podlike masses and irregular bodies called "rolls." Numerous small mines produce ore in this area.

After the uranium ore is mined, it is shipped to either the Cotler Corporation mill in Canon City or the Union Carbide Corporation mill in Uravan. A small amount of ore is purchased by General Electric at its buying station in Naturita and shipped to Blanding, Utah. Also, one company ships ore from another state to be milled in Colorado and two mines export ore to be milled in another state. At these mills, uranium concentrate called "yellowcake" is produced from uranium ore. Concentrate is also produced using the heap-leaching process, extracting uranium from old uranium tailings. Two plants in Colorado use this method and produce a very small amount of concentrate. From both types of plants, the uranium is shipped to a federal enrichment plant.

After the ore is processed into enriched uranium, most is used as fuel for nuclear power plants. Colorado has one such plant at Platteville (Fort St. Vrain), a high temperature helium cooled reactor, utilizing thorium as well as uranium as feed stock. During 1981 this plant generated 750,480 kwh of electricity.

1981 COLORADO OIL SHALE ACTIVITY

1981 COLORADO URANIUM STATISTICS

ORE PRODUCTION FROM 67 MINES	480,000 TONS
CONCENTRATE PRODUCTION (YELLOWCAKE)	900 TONS
CONSUMPTION (EQUVALENT TO YELLOWCAKE)	20 TONS
NET EXPORT (YELLOWCAKE)	880 TONS

*Equal to 1200 tons of yellowcake at 25 U₃O₈

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

COLORADO URANIUM RESOURCES (1977)

Tons U ₃ O ₈ Yellowcake*			
Probable	Possible	Speculative	Total
101,000	82,000	37,000	220,000

* At forward cost of \$30/bbl U₃O₈
** An estimated 3750 tons of U₃O₈ reserves were delineated along the Front Range of Colorado since this estimate.

Source: Colorado Energy Resource Handbook, Volume 3, Uranium, Colorado Energy Research Institute, December 1977
Donna Collins, Colorado Geological Survey

1982 - COLORADO OIL SHALE PROJECTS

Project	Index No.	Technology	Estimated Production	Current Update (April 1982)
Ca Tract Rio Blanco Oil Shale Co. Occidental	1	Original plan was modified. Presently developing plans for an open pit with surface leaching.	No estimate of future production. Produced 26,300 Bbls oil in-situ during 1981.	Completing a large hot plant in Hannville, PA and trying to obtain 6400 acres for off-tract disposal.
Cb Tract Cathedral Bluffs Oil Shale Co. Occidental, Tennessee	2	Original plan was modified. Presently developing plans for an open pit with surface leaching.	12,500 Bbls/day by 1985. Present plan is modified in-situ and surface leaching.	Applied to U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corp. for loan guarantee. Contribution of project depends upon the funding.
Clear Creek Shale Oil Project Chevron Shale Oil Co. (Standard California), Conoco	3	Underground and open-pit mining with surface leaching and upgrading. Staged tubular reactor.	Ultimate 100,000 Bbls/day. Phased development of 10,000 Bbls/day (25,000 Tons-shale/day).	Plan first phase construction to start in 1985. Production by mid-1990s. Currently building a 350 ton/day steamworks at Salt Lake City.
Colony Shale Oil Project Exxon	4	Underground mining, surface leaching using TOSCO II RETORT.	Between 1965-72 produced 182,000 Bbls oil at a demonstration mine. Proposed 450,000 Bbls/day by mid-1980s.	May 1983 Exxon phased out entire project. Retaining a work force for maintenance and reclamation.
Logan Wash Occidental	5	Location of modified in-situ experiments.	During early 1982 retorts 7 and 8 were burned producing 196,000 Bbls oil.	Research winding down with only retort monitoring and reclamation work continuing.
Mahogany Shale Project Phillips	6	No specifics as to process type.	No announced plans.	Site exploration and offsite studies being conducted.
Pacific Shale Project Sonic, Cleveland, Curtis, Superior	7	112,600 acres of state land, room and pillar mine above ground. Superior Circular Grate Retort.	100,000 Bbls/day by late 1990s; startup by 1986. Uses 164,760 TPD raw shale.	In planning stage with a Draft EIS due in late 1983.
Horse Draw Multi-Mineral Corporation	8	Underground mine for recovery of shale oil, nahcolite and dawsonite.	Research in conjunction with USBM. Company research largely 85% complete in Grand Junction. No specific plans for production.	Project on hold.
Parachute Project Mobil Oil	9	Hold 10,000 acres. Underground room and pillar mine, surface retort.	Projected 100,000 Bbls/day (160,000 TPD raw shale) by late 1990s.	In planning stage with a Draft EIS due in late 1983.
Parachute Creek Shale Oil Program Union Oil	10	Underground mine with surface retort. 20,000 acres of shale, 10,000 acres valley land.	Phase I-10,000 Bbls/day in late 1983. First commercial shale oil project in U.S. Phase II - 90,000 Bbls/day by 1984.	Construction proceeding with start-up late in 1983. Ten-year contract with DOE for 33 million barrels military diesel and jet fuel. Seeking Synthetic Fuels Corp. assistance for Phase II.

Base from U.S. Geological Survey
Drafted by Anne Magee

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Scale 1:1,000,000

*Graduate Student, University of Denver Graduate School of Business, Energy Management Program
**Chief, Mineral Fuels Section, Colorado Geological Survey

<p>OIL SHALE</p> <p>Oil shale occurrence area</p> <p>Product movement</p>	<p>GEOTHERMAL</p> <p>Geothermal spring or well and site no.</p>	<p>URANIUM</p> <p>Uranium mine</p> <p>Uranium processing mill</p> <p>Vanadium processing plant</p> <p>Nuclear power plant</p> <p>Uranium occurrence area</p>
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1981 COLORADO URANIUM AND NET EXPORT

County	Mines	Net Export
Fremont	1	
Canon	1	
Jefferson	14	
Mesa	14	
Montrose	35	
Saguaque		
San Miguel	15	

Source: Colorado Division of Mines

GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

The geothermal resources represented by the 61 thermal areas throughout the western part of Colorado, which can be hydrothermal resources, range from 70°F to a high of 180°F. The complexity of western Colorado geology can be made more difficult by the fact that all the areas appear to be associated with rocks of Precambrian to Recent age.

Preliminary evaluation of geothermal resources indicates that the 61 thermal areas contain 4,880,000,000,000 B.T.U.'s of heat energy. Exploration work by major oil companies has been directed to locate areas of geothermal resources with characteristics suitable for electricity.

While the hydrothermal resources scattered throughout western Colorado are found in close proximity to the thermal waters could be used for direct application uses. For example, geothermal resources developed in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, are used for other uses as:

- Space heating
- Greenhouses
- Fish farming
- Recreation

Development of Colorado's geothermal resources has shown a steady increase in economy and prices of energy since the late 1970s showed that Colorado could play a major role in the energy needs of local areas.

Source: Colorado's Hydrothermal Resources: An Assessment, Resource Series 3, Colorado Geological Survey

COLORADO GEOTHERMAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Site

- Antelope Warm Springs
- Birds Warm Springs
- Brand's Ranch Well
- Brown's Canyon Warm Springs
- Brown's Grotto Warm Springs
- Canon City Warm Springs
- Cedar Creek Warm Springs
- Cement Creek Warm Springs
- Clark Artesian Well
- Copple Creek Well
- Comdorum Hot Springs
- Cottonwood Hot Springs
- Craig Warm Water Well
- Dexter Warm Springs
- Don K. Ranch Well
- Dotterer Warm Springs
- Dunton Hot Springs
- Dutch Crowley Well
- Florence Springs
- Edell Well
- Ferros Artesian Well
- Fremont Natatorium Spg
- Fulwider Warm Springs
- Geysers Warm Springs
- Glenwood Hot Springs
- Hartsel Hot Springs
- Haystack Butte Well
- Haystack Hot Springs
- Hot Sulphur Springs
- Hot Springs
- Jumper Hot Springs
- Lemon Hot Springs
- Maceo State Well # 32
- McIntyre Warm Springs
- Mescal Hot Springs
- Mt. Princeton Hot Spgs.
- Orvis Hot Springs
- Curry Hot Springs
- Pagosa Springs
- Paradise Hot Springs
- Paradise Hot Springs
- Penitentiary Hot Springs
- Piedra River Warm Spgs.
- Pinkerton Hot Springs
- Poncha Hot Springs
- Rainbow Hot Springs
- Ranger Warm Springs
- Reynolds Warm Springs
- Rico
- Rout Hot Springs
- Sand Dunes Well
- Shaves Warm Springs
- South Canyon Hot Spg
- Splashland Well
- Steamboat Springs
- Stinking Springs
- Stratton Warm Springs
- Sweetwater Warm Springs
- Tripp/Triple Hot Spgs
- Valley View Hot Springs
- Wagon Wheel Gap Spgs.
- Lower and Upper Waukena Hot Springs
- Weslake Warm Spgs.

*Currently developed for western Colorado