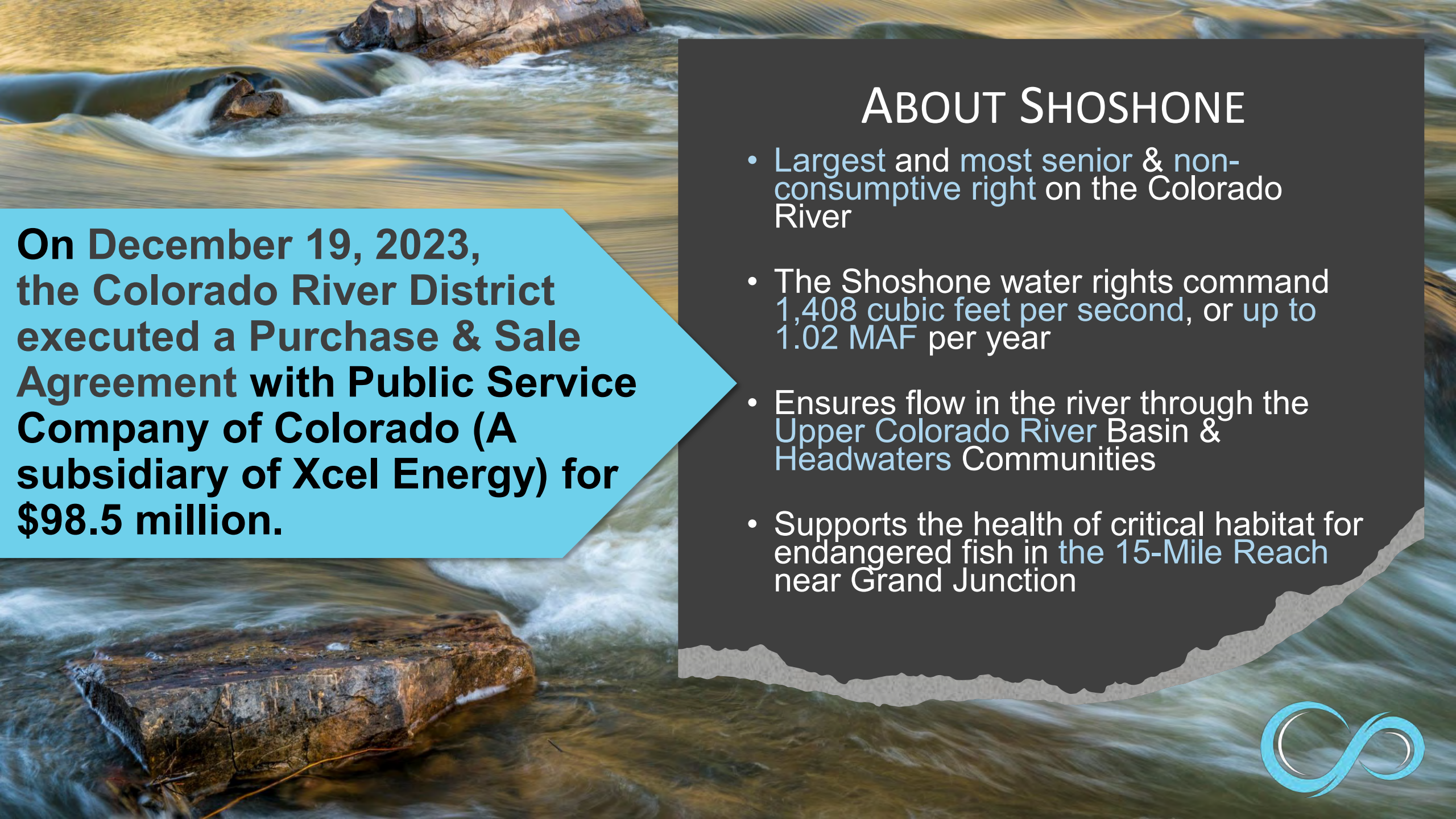# Keep Shoshone Flowing

Peter Fleming
General Counsel, Colorado River District

SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION

On December 19, 2023, the Colorado River District executed a Purchase & Sale Agreement with Public Service Company of Colorado (A subsidiary of Xcel Energy) for $98.5 million.
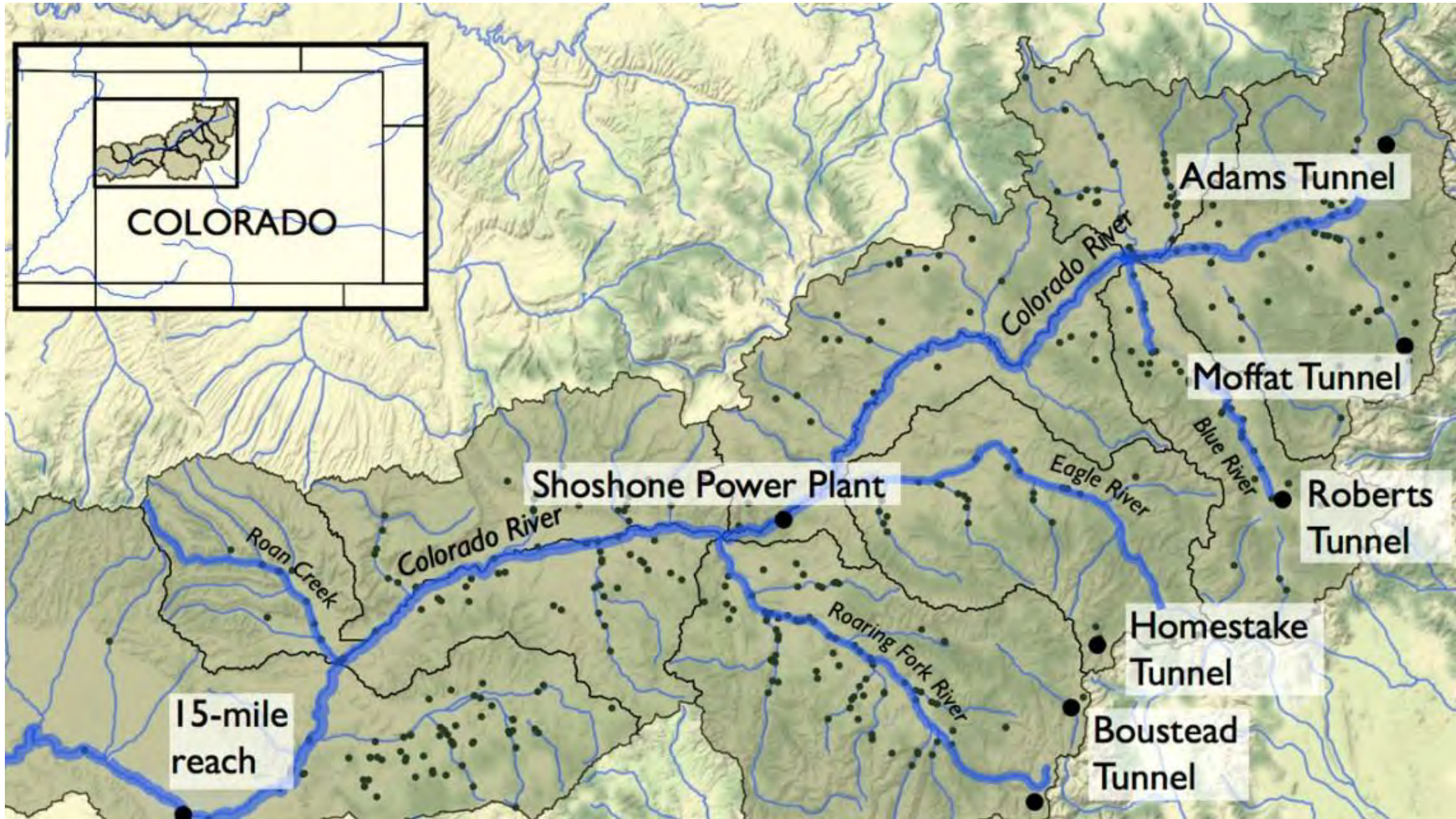
ABOUT SHOSHONE

- Largest and most senior & non-consumptive right on the Colorado River

- The Shoshone water rights command 1,408 cubic feet per second, or up to 1.02 MAF per year

- Ensures flow in the river through the Upper Colorado River Basin & Headwaters Communities

- Supports the health of critical habitat for endangered fish in the 15-Mile Reach near Grand Junction

Shoshone Location

Multiple Benefits for Colorado and the West Slope

Water Quality

Agriculture

Environment

Recreation Economy

15-Mile Reach

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program supports four endangered and threatened fishes

Over 1,250 water projects in Colorado depend on a successful-15-Mile Reach for continued ESA compliance

Shoshone flows are critical for sustaining temperature and water level targets

In dry years, the Shoshone call can deliver up to 41,000 acre-feet under current demand conditions and up to 86,000 AF under future demands

WHY NOW?

- 20 years, 20 western Colorado governments and water entities.

- A willing partner in Xcel Energy.

- Historic amounts of funding at the state and federal level.

- Increased impacts from climate change.

Bolinger, R.A., J.J. Lukas, R.S. Schumacher, and P.E. Goble, 2024: Climate Change in Colorado, 3rd edition. Colorado State University, https://doi.org/10.25675/10217/237323.

Shoshone Water Right Preservation Coalition

Summit County – Grand County – Eagle County
Garfield County – Mesa County

- Clifton Water District
- Clinton Ditch and Reservoir Company
- Colorado River District
- Eagle Park Reservoir Company
- Eagle River Water and Sanitation District

- City of Glenwood Springs
- Grand Valley Irrigation Company
- Grand Valley Water Users Association
- Mesa County Irrigation District
- Middle Park Water Conservancy District

- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District
- Palisade Irrigation District
- City of Rifle
- Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority
- Ute Water Conservancy District

www.KeepShoshoneFlowing.org

TIMELINE

Negotiating an Instream Flow Agreement between seller, CRD, and CWCB

Successful completion of a change case

Approval from Colorado's Public Utility Commission

Ongoing fundraising with support from local, state and federal partners

Anticipated Closing in 2027

SHOSHONE
WATER RIGHT PRESERVATION

Get Involved

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Instagram @KeepShoshoneFlowing

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Sign up for the newsletter

www.KeepShoshoneFlowing.org