



2022 SUMMER CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

- 9:00-Noon** **Fire, Forests, and Funding Workshop**
Shared Stewardship in Action
Korbel Grand Ballroom
Co-Moderators: *Travis Smith, National Wild Turkey Federation*
Kelly Romero-Heaney, CO Dept of Natural Resources
This workshop provides attendees with an opportunity to hear directly from various entities about the power of shared stewardship. Leaders throughout the community will showcase how to access these programs and dialog with attendees about lessons learned in a collaborative setting. We will share opportunities for wildfire risk mitigation and post-fire watershed recovery with the water community, seek feedback on state, federal, and non-profit programs, and share lessons learned on cross-boundary forest and watershed management under the umbrella of shared stewardship.
- 9:00-9:20** **Welcome and Shared Stewardship Update**
Dan Gibbs, CO Dept of Natural Resources Executive Director
Frank Beum, USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Forester
- 9:20-10:00** **Fuels Mitigation Program Updates and Q&A**
Facilitator: *Angela Boag, CO Dept. of Natural Resources*
Alison Lerch, CO Dept. of Natural Resources
Weston Toll, CO State Forest Service
James White, USFS Rocky Mountain, Cooperative Fire Specialist
- 10:00-10:45** **Examples of Shared Stewardship: RMRI & Forest Health Collaboratives**
Facilitators: *Kate McIntire, National Wild Turkey Federation and Tara Umphries, USFS Rocky Mountain RMRI Program Manager*
Jason Lawhon, USFS SW Colorado
Greg Felt, Envision Chaffee County
Molly Pitts, CO Timber Association, RMRI Workforce and Biomass Subcommittee
- 10:45-10:55** **Break**
- 10:55-11:20** **Watershed Mitigation and Recovery Programs**
Wildfire Ready Watersheds
Chris Sturm, CO Water Conservation Board
- 11:20-12:00** **Federal and State Funding for Post-fire Restoration & Lessons Learned**
Facilitator: *Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek and Associates*
Sarah Beck, USFS, Arapaho-Roosevelt NF, Pawnee NG Post-Fire Coordinator
Chris Sturm, CO Water Conservation Board
Sean Chambers, Greeley Water
Esther Vincent, Northern Water

8:00-10:00 Northwest Colorado Water Community "Speed Dating" Event

(Open to the Public)

Steamboat Grand Tent

This networking and information-sharing opportunity will bring together 20 organizations that live and work in Northwest Colorado's water community. It will provide a facilitated but informal "speed-dating" event so you can spend a few minutes meeting with an organization and learn about their current projects/programs that they are working on, then move on to the next table.

SUMMER CONFERENCE PROGRAM

All sessions in the Korbel Grand Ballroom unless otherwise indicated.

All times are subject to change.

11:45-1:15 BBQ Lunch

Sponsored by Ute Water Conservancy District

Tent

Reconnect with your colleagues at our annual BBQ lunch.

1:30-1:40 Conference Welcome from Yampa Basin

Gary Suiter, Steamboat Springs City Manager

1:40-2:00 The Headwaters of the Colorado Project

Pat O'Toole, Family Farm Alliance and Ladder Ranch

The Headwaters of the Colorado is an agro-forestry project that will coordinate efforts to create a healthy forest, produce food, and ensure the viability of communities around the Routt and Medicine Bow Forests. In today's changing world, a healthy forest generates significant water, enhances biodiversity and brings stability to rural communities.

2:00-2:30 Republican Senate Candidate Joe O'Dea

2:30-3:00 Governor Jared Polis

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30-4:00 Senator Michael Bennet

4:00-4:30 Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Heidi Ganahl

4:30-5:00 Water Professionals' Guide to the 2022 Election Season

Floyd Ciruli, Ciruli and Associates (remote presentation)

Tying themes from the day's speakers together with current trends, our speakers will highlight key points of relevance to the water community.

5:30-8:00 POND Reception

Co-Sponsored by MolsonCoors Beverage Company

Tent

Drinks and light snacks provided.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

- 9:00-9:40 Forest Health**
Moderator: *Travis Smith, CWC Vice President and National Wild Turkey Federation*
Frank Beum, USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Forester
Dan Gibbs, CO Dept. of Natural Resources Executive Director
Shared Stewardship in action, shared goals, shared investment, shared responsibility in responding to and preparing for wildfire in Colorado by willing partners!

Dan Gibbs, Colorado DNR Executive Director and Frank Beum, Region 2 Forester will showcase the success, challenges and opportunities for stakeholders, Federal, State and local partners by working together to address our wildfire crisis!
- 9:40-10:05 Colorado Attorney General Candidate John Kellner**
- 10:05-10:30 Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser**
- 10:30-10:45 Break**
- 10:45-11:05 Senator John Hickenlooper**
- 11:05-12:00 Rapid Topics**
Moderator: *Kelly Romero-Heaney, CO Dept of Natural Resources*
- Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Species Program**
Julie Stahl, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Group**
Taylor Winchell, Denver Water
- Water '22**
Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado
- Eliminating Lead in School Drinking Water Facilities**
Mike Beck, CO Water Quality Control Division
- 12:00-1:00 Box Lunch**
Sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Development Authority
Tent
- 12:00-5:00+ POND Activities (grab lunch and go to pre-event gathering in Spring Creek)**
Emerald Group Mountain Bike Ride
Fish Creek Falls Hike
Fishing Day at Stagecoach State Park
Golf at Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club
Mountain Tap Brewery

- 1:15-1:45** **The Municipal Water Conservation Puzzle
What Are the Next Pieces?**
Facilitator/Moderator: *Laura Belanger, Western Resource Advocates*
Representative Marc Catlin
Frank Kinder, Northern Water
Catherine Moravec, Colorado Springs Utilities
Over the past two decades, water conservation has proven a reliable way to manage water demands in Colorado. Reduced per capita water use has enabled some communities to serve growing populations with even less water. Much progress has been made on indoor and outdoor water savings through local retrofits, rebate programs and legislation that prohibits the sale of high water use plumbing and irrigation fixtures. But more can be done.
- When it comes to efficient use and reducing municipal water waste, what will move the needle the most for our growing cities and towns? What are the broader policies and programs that will continue to drive water efficiency? These are big questions for water conservation across Colorado. In this session, our expert speakers will share how the State and local communities are taking important steps to implement landscape transformation approaches and focus on broad policies and programs that will ensure a resilient water future for Colorado communities.
- 2:00-5:00** **Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee**
Colorado Water Plan Update
Emerging Water Technologies
Stream Rehabilitation
Watershed Restoration
Colorado Airborne Snowpack Measurement Program
- 2:00-5:00** **Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority Board Meeting**
Burgess Creek
- 5:30-7:00+** **Water Buffalo Reception**
Sponsored by the Colorado Bar Association Water Law Section
Co-Sponsored by MolsonCoors Beverage Company
Mountain View Foyer and Terrace
Reception continues after the Induction Ceremony.
- 6:00** **Water Buffalo Presentation**
Burgess Creek
For decades, the Colorado Bar Associations Water Law Section has recognized retired individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of water law through induction into the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Water Buffalo. Nominees to this distinguished group are selected by the Executive Committee of the Water Law Section and honored at this ceremony celebrating their careers. The inductees this year are:
Linda Bassi (introduced by Becky Mitchell)
Casey Funk (introduced by Dan Arnold)
Mark Hermundstad (introduced by Larry Clever, Ute Water)
- 7:00-9:30** **Mountain Jam IV**
Tent
Bring your voice and musical instruments and let's jam! Open to all experience levels (including noexperience). Please note this is an informal musical gathering and not a performance.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

- 7:00-8:45** **Water for Breakfast**
(Food service continues until 8:30)
Sponsored by Brown and Caldwell
Tent
- Colorado Water Plan Forum**
Russ Sands, CO Water Conservation Board
Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell
The draft Colorado Water Plan is out and open for comment. Throughout this session (and the conference itself), attendees will have opportunities to share their thoughts on the updated CWP.
- 8:45-9:00** **Break**
- 9:00-9:20** **2022 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award**
(Postponed from the 2022 CWC Annual Convention)
Each year, the Colorado Water Congress presents the prestigious Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award to a Coloradan who has long demonstrated courage, dedication, knowledge and strong leadership in development, protection, and preservation of Colorado water.
- 9:20-9:45** **San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP)**
Tim Quinn, Stanford University, Executive Officer of CAP
In addition to the technical challenges of water management in the 21st century, water leaders need to focus systematically on governance – that is, how to structure decision-making processes that are more likely to produce “good water policy”. Tim Quinn focused on the issue of governance during his fellowship at the Stanford University, Water in the West Program, following his 2018 retirement from a 40+ year career in California water management. This presentation summarizes the lessons learned in that research, especially the importance of relying on collaborative decision-making processes, and how those lessons are being applied “on the ground” in the San Joaquin Valley of California today. The paper can be found at:
https://stacks.stanford.edu/file/druid:dj435dw5816/Forty%20Years%20of%20California%20Water%20Policy_Timothy%20Quinn.pdf
- 9:45-10:15** **Colorado River Modeling Results**
Jim Prairie, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental System
Reclamation’s Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions use a suite of models for annual, mid-, and long-term planning. The models contain “rule sets” that simulate operation of major reservoirs in the Colorado River basin including how water is delivered under various hydrologic conditions. Projections show the future state of the Colorado River system on a monthly basis. The models help policy makers understand hydrology, sources of uncertainty, impacts of key modeling assumptions, and likely outcomes of policy decisions. Following the Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Agreement that was triggered in January 2021, the Probable Minimum and Probable Maximum inflow scenarios are run every month. Jim will provide an overview of what the current modeling is telling us.
- 10:15-10:30** **Break**
- 10:30-11:00** **Wayne Pullan, USBR Upper Colorado Basin Regional Director**

11:00-12:00 The Colorado River Panel

Moderator: *John McClow, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

Speakers

Tom Buschatzke, Dept. Director, Arizona Dept. of Water Resources

Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission

Gene Shawcroft, Colorado River Commissioner of Utah

Our speakers will review the latest thinking regarding policy decisions on the Colorado River.

12:00 (or so) Conference Conclusion