



VIRTUAL PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Thursday, August 19

1:30 A Virtual Walk Through the Forest

with Deputy Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Jacque Buchanan *and Steve Lohr, U.S. Forest Service*
Moderator: Angela Boag, CO Department of Natural Resources

2:30 Colorado Statewide Climate and Water Supply Update

Brian Domonkos, NRCS

Kevin Rein, Colorado State Engineer

Russ Schumacher, Colorado State Climatologist

A review of the 2021 snowpack, runoff, and how Colorado's water supplies stand as we near the end of the water year.

3:30 NASA Airborne Snow Observatory

Measuring Spatial Distribution of Snow Water Equivalent and Snow Albedo

Moderator/Speaker: Laurna Kaatz, Denver Water

Emily Carbone, Northern Water

Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District

Jeff Deems, Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc

Page Weil, Lynker Consulting

Taylor Winchell Denver Water

The CASO stakeholder group is currently funded under a Water Supply Reserve Fund grant to develop a plan for providing annual statewide snowpack measurement coverage by the Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO). ASO flies fixed wing aircraft with Lidar instrumentation to take precise measurements of snow depth and surface conditions. Using these depths, and some assumptions around density, ASO provides high accuracy snow water equivalent measurements, in a way that no other snow product does. Over the last year, the CASO stakeholder group, representing dozens of Colorado water resources interests, has met monthly to discuss and understand the costs and benefits of regular ASO spring and wintertime flights to forecasting, planning and improved snowpack measurements throughout Colorado.

The premise of the plan is that regular ASO flights statewide have widespread benefits for water resources planners, reservoir operators, recreational and environmental groups, and will advance snow science throughout the state. In the face of climate change, high quality snowpack measurement will help stakeholders across Colorado manage an increasingly stressed resource. The CASO project team will provide an update on the status of the plan and stakeholder engagement efforts, some initial ASO findings in Colorado, and the path forward to a sustainable funding and governance plan for the program.

IN-PERSON CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Steamboat Springs

All sessions are in the Korbel Ballroom unless otherwise noted. Times are approximate.

Tuesday, August 24

- 12:00 BBQ Lunch Tent**
Sponsored by Ute Water
- 1:30 Opening Session**
Conference Welcome
Douglas Kemper, Colorado Water Congress
- 1:35 First Things First**
Introductory Remarks
Becky Mitchell, CWCB Director
Anne Castle (video), Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment
- 1:45 Clean Water for Tribal Communities**
Speaker/Moderator: Heather Tanana, University of Utah Law School
Jaime Garcia, University of Colorado Law School
- 2:15 Ecosystem Services**
Moderator: Kelly Romero-Heaney, CO Department of Natural Resources
Brendan Boepple, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
Michelle Carr, City of Steamboat Springs
David Primozich, The Freshwater Trust
Time to explore the landscape-changing approaches for environmental compliance strategies for communities. Creating markets for riparian-related ecosystem services. Spurring restoration to reduce both nutrient and heat loads to stream systems along with habitat-related co-benefits. Tools for quantifying riparian ecosystem services (innovative remote sensing, economic, and financial models).

Case study of Steamboat Springs, while facing temperature compliance issues, they hope to reduce temperature loads through non-point source controls and riparian reforestation and enhance climate resilience.

Benefits the agricultural community could see from an expansion of ecosystem markets. Launching an additive conservation program to bring more resources to ag producers while promoting riparian restoration and carbon-storing practices.
- 3:00 Break**
- 3:30 Lessons Learned from Colorado Experiences with Interstate Compact Administration**
Moderator: Hannah Holm, Colorado Mesa University
Lead Presenter: Kelsea Macilroy, Macilroy Research
- Discussion Panel
Deb Daniel, Republican River Water Conservation District
Heather Dutton, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
Jack Goble, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District
Jim Yahn, North Sterling Irrigation District
As water users who depend on the Colorado River grapple with how to forestall or prepare for the possibility of curtailment under the Colorado River Compact, it's worth remembering that this is not an entirely new dilemma for our state. The Rio Grande, South Platte, Republican and Arkansas Basins have all

experienced compact administration. While the hydrology and legal details are unique to each basin, these experiences have common threads that may be instructive to the Colorado Basin community.

In each of these experiences, choices made by water users and regulators impacted how required adjustments in water use impacted people and communities. Through interviews with people who lived through the experience of compact administration and reviewing their stories alongside a timeline of key events, we have distilled hard-won lessons and their relevance for the Colorado River Basin.

- 5:00 POND Reception Tent**
Co-Sponsored by Molson Coors Beverage Company
Drinks and light snacks provided.

Wednesday, August 25

- 8:45 Day 2 Overview and Announcements**
Travis Smith, National Wild Turkey Federations and CWC Vice President
- 8:50 The Importance of Investing in Water Infrastructure**
Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General
Colorado has an unprecedented opportunity to utilize federal and state funds for water infrastructure. State revenue forecasts have rebounded, the American Rescue Plan Act provides. Colorado with money to recover from the pandemic, and other funding sources may be available. It is critical that we prioritize water infrastructure and prepare for a future where we will need greater resilience and adaptive management of our water resources.
- 9:20 Colorado River Update**
Becky Mitchell, CO Water Conservation Board Director
- 9:50 50th anniversary of the Colorado Water Projects Construction Fund (video)**
Kirk Russell, CO Water Conservation Board
- 10:00 Break**
- 10:30 Demystifying Shared Stewardship**
Session Speaker/Moderator: Travis Smith, NWTF and CWC Vice President
Frank Beum, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Forester
Dan Gibbs, CO Department of Natural Resources Executive Director
Tom Spezze, National Wild Turkey Federation
- 11:15 Case Study: City of Greeley**
Managing Drinking Water Supplies Through Forest Fire and Floods
Adam Jokerst, City of Greeley
- 11:30 Colorado Forest and Water Alliance Update**
Keith McLaughlin, Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority and CWC Treasurer
- 11:35 Advanced Water Technologies Survey**
Dr. Evan Thomas
- 11:40 Recognition of Mayor Jeni Arndt**
- 12:00 Wednesday Box Lunch Tent**
Sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority
- 1:00 Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper**
Discussion Moderator: Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek and Associates

2:00 Interim Water Resources Review Committee

We are honored to host the Interim Water Resources Review Committee's first meeting of the 2021. Topics of discussion are TBA.

2:00 Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority Board Meeting Spring Creek

POND Events Offsite

- Craig Power Station
- Fly Fishing on the Yampa
- Golf at Rollingstone Ranch
- Mountain Biking on Howelsen Hill
- Storm Peak Brewery Tour
- Strawberry Hot Springs Tour
- Uranium Mine Hike

5:00 Water Buffalo Reception Korbel Foyer

Sponsored by the Colorado Bar Association Water Law Section
Reception continues after the Induction Ceremony.

5:30 The 2021 Induction Ceremony

Ancient and Honorable Order of the Water Buffalo

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.

7:00 Mountain Jam III Tent

Sponsored by the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District
Bring your voice and musical instruments and let's jam! Open to all experience levels (including no experience). Please note this is an informal musical gathering and not a performance.

Thursday, August 26

7:00 Aspinall Brunch Tent

Food service from 7:00 to 8:30
Sponsored by Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

8:40 Day 3 Overview and Announcements

Co-Moderators: Lisa Darling, South Metro Water Supply Authority and Alan Searcy, City of Lakewood

8:45 Re-Presentation of the 2021 Aspinall Award to Jim Broderick (live, this time)

with host Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek and Associates and CWC Board

9:05 Everything You Need to Know Now About WOTUS and PFAS

(without PowerPoints)

Session Moderator/Speaker: Mark Pifher, Independent Consultant and CWC Board
Shaun McGrath, Director of Environmental Health and Protection at CDPHE
Gabe Racz, Vranesh and Raisch and CWC Water Quality Chair
Nicole Rowan, Director CO Water Quality Control Division

9:50 So Exactly What Does "Environmental Justice" Mean?

with CO Deputy Attorney General Amy Beatie

- 10:15** **As a Matter Fact, Everything Does Begin with Agriculture**
Kate Greenberg, CO Commissioner of Agriculture
- 10:45** **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**