

# NEWS

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## CMU Water Center to receive CWCB grant

Grand Junction - The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has voted to award the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University a \$29,700 grant over two years to inform the public about the work of the Colorado River Basin Roundtable and the issues surrounding the scarcity of water in Colorado. To arrange for a presentation to your organization, contact Water Center Coordinator Hannah Holm at [hholm@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:hholm@coloradomesa.edu) or 970-248-1968.

"It's essential that citizens and elected policy makers understand the seriousness of what is facing the residents of this State. There is simply not enough water to go around," says Greg Trainor, Water Center Advisory Council member and member of the Colorado Basin Roundtable. "The Basin Roundtables are trying to figure this out," he continued.

The CWCB grant will be combined with a \$58,900 grant from The Walton Family Foundation to coordinate community presentations and media stories across the Colorado River Basin in Colorado. In March, the CWCB will consider an additional Water Center grant request for similar work with the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, which is also supported by The Walton Family Foundation grant.

Denis Reich, Chair of the Water Center Advisory Council added, "While you'd be hard pressed to find a resident of the Colorado Basin ready to argue against the essential nature of water, convincing them that the state planning process for this essential resource is worthy of their attention is another matter. The Water Center at CMU is perfectly placed to bring this process to life in the public's mind and solicit their necessary participation."

The Colorado and Gunnison Basin Roundtables are among the eight basin roundtables across the state that were formed by the Colorado legislature in 2005 to engage a broad array of stakeholders in addressing their own river basins' water needs and planning to meet the water needs of the state as a whole. The legislation directed the roundtables to seek input from stakeholders and to serve as a forum for education and debate on methods for meeting water supply needs. The Water Center's work with the Colorado and Gunnison Basin Roundtables will help them fulfill these obligations.

Education and outreach on Basin Roundtable activities will be coordinated with more general water education activities organized as part of "Water 2012," a statewide celebration of Colorado's water, past, present and future. In addition to offering presentations to community groups and placing stories written by roundtable members in media outlets, planned activities include the following:

- On Thursday, February 16, Session 2 of the Water Course organized by the Water Center at CMU will focus on Water Supply and Planning, including the role of the basin roundtables. See [www.coloradomesa.edu/watercenter](http://www.coloradomesa.edu/watercenter) for details.
- On June 4, a celebration/commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking for Blue Mesa Dam, to be held in conjunction with the June meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable in Gunnison.
- On May 2, the Mesa County State of the River seminar, co-sponsored with the Colorado River District.
- On August 6, a celebration/commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Paonia Dam in the valley of the North Fork of the Gunnison.

You can find additional information on the Water Center at CMU and upcoming events at [www.coloradomesa.edu/watercenter](http://www.coloradomesa.edu/watercenter)

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