

2017 Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum: Stories from the Field

Draft Program (v. 9/21/17)

November 1

8:15 Keynote – Brian Richter, President, Sustainable Waters

9:15 Building a Better Understanding of Snow and Water Supply

- NASA's SnowEx Campaign in the Upper Colorado
Edward Kim, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- Assessing the robustness of spring snowpack as a drought indicator in the Upper Colorado River Basin under future climate change
Ben Livneh, Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering and Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder

10:00 Historical Perspective: How did first generation Colorado River negotiators understand hydrology?

Eric Kuhn, Colorado River District

10:30 Break

10:45 Bridging Science and Decision Making on Water Supply: Managing for Drought

- Characterizing drought risk management, information use and response strategies of West Slope water managers
Rebecca Page and Lisa Dilling, Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado Boulder
- How and why Upper Colorado River Basin water, land and fire managers choose to use drought tools (or not)
Amanda E. Cravens, US Geological Survey

11:30 Water Supply Vulnerabilities to Climate Change

- Central Utah Water Conservancy District Climate Study
Speaker TBA
- Climate change implications for Denver's water supply
Laurna Kaatz, Denver Water

12:10 Lunch/ Poster Session

1:40 Beyond Snow: Vegetation Interactions with Water Supply

- River-connected mountain meadows: Assessing resilience and ecosystem services of headwater wetlands across a disturbance gradient
Tristan Weiss, Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
- Assessing the potential impacts of invasive species water use on the Lower Colorado River
Tom Ryan, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Riparian plant guilds along the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers
Erin Cuble, Department of Ecology, Colorado State University

2:45 Panel: Orchard Mesa Ditch Improvements to Benefit Endangered Fish and Water Users

- *Tom Chart, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program*
- *Brett Uilenburg, US Bureau of Reclamation*
- *Max Schmidt, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District*

3:30 Break

3:45 Panel: Revitalizing and Reconnecting Riverside Communities through Art, Civic Engagement and Commerce

- *Stacy Beough and Shannon Hatch, Tamarisk Coalition*
- *Traci Wieland, City of Grand Junction*

- *Thadd Schrader, Bonsai Design*
- *Cindy Enos-Martinez or other representative from Rio Initiative and Riverside Community Center*

4:45 Head to Edgewater Brewing or community room at the Botanical Gardens for Reception (Sunset is 6:30)

November 2

8:00 Keynote: John Fleck, Director of the University of New Mexico's Water Resources Program and author of *Water is for Fighting Over and Other Myths about Water in the West*

9:00 Panel: State of the Colorado River and Implications for Upper Basin States

- *Rebecca Mitchell, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board*
- *Steve Wolff, Administrator, Interstate Streams Division, Wyoming State Engineer's Office*
- *Eric Millis, Director, Utah Division of Water Resources*
- *Tom Blaine, P.E. , New Mexico State Engineer*

10:20 Drought Contingency Planning: Connections between the Upper and Lower Basins and Mexico
Amy Haas, Deputy Executive Director and General Council, Upper Colorado River Commission

10:45 Break

11:00 Innovations in Agricultural Water Use

- **Efficient Irrigation and the Myth of Water Conservation: Misconceptions from the Field**
Paul Kehmeier, Farmer and Field Trial Cooperator
- **Eagle County Conservation District's Irrigation Asset Inventory Program: an innovative approach for engaging the agricultural community**
Brendon Langenhuizen, SGM
- **Grand Valley Pilot Project**
Luke Gingerich and Mark Harris, Grand Valley Water Users Association
- **System Conservation Projects on the Price River**
Jordan Nielson, Trout Unlimited

12:20 Lunch

1:30 How experiences on rivers can influence water policy

- **Experiencing Echo Park**
Sara Porterfield, History Department, University of Colorado
- **Recreation Advocates' role in water policymaking today**
Nathan Fey, American Whitewater

2:15 Having it all: trying to meet diverse needs on shared streams

- **A Rancher, a Scientist, and Angler and a Conservationist Walk into a Room.... How the Crystal River Management Plan is moving from paper to project**
Heather Lewin, Roaring Fork Conservancy
- **Watershed Management Planning in the Upper Gunnison Basin**
Frank Kugel, Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District
- **Assessing the results of a planned spill on the Dolores River**
David Graf, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- **"Learning by Doing" on the Upper Colorado**
Jason Turner, Colorado River Water Conservation District and Kristina Wynne, Bishop-Brodgen Associates for the Middle Park Water Conservancy District

3:35 Closing Remarks

Posters (still accepting proposals for poster presentations)

- Assessing the Impacts of Drought and Wildfire on the Colorado Front Range
Aaron Heldmyer, Dept of Civil, Environmental & Architectural Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder
- The Protracted Dispute Over the Edwards Aquifer: Revisiting and Reframing Multiparty Stakeholder Conflicts in Management, Regulation, Allocation, and Property Rights
William Gene Adams, Jr., Colorado Mesa University
- Mid-Elevation Snowpack Study
Gigi Richard, Colorado Mesa University
- Changes in streamflow related to climate change
Chris Pack, Colorado Mesa University