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Western Water & Land

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PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 6

7:30 Registration and Breakfast

8:30 Welcome

Tim Foster, President, Colorado Mesa University

8:40 The Colorado River: What's so special about our little river?

Dr. Gigi Richard, Colorado Mesa University

9:00 – 10:00 Understanding and Using Water Supply and Streamflow Forecasts

Moderator: David Graf, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- CMIP5 vs. CMIP3 - Do the new Global Climate Model results give a different picture of future Colorado River streamflows?
Imtiaz Rangwala, Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado
- Colorado Dust on Snow Program
Chris Landry, Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies
- River forecast application for water management: oil and water?
Kevin Werner, NOAA

10:00 – 10:20 Break

10:20 – 11:20 Water Quality & Habitat Initiatives

Moderator: Shannon Hatch, Tamarisk Coalition

- Measures Taken at the Moab UMTRA Project Site to Address Suitable Habitat Migration in the Colorado River
Elizabeth Moran, S & K Moab TAC Team, Contractor for US Dept. of Energy
- Capturing Water in Ephemeral Streams within the Gunnison Basin Sage-brush Scrublands – A Visual Snapshot of One-Rock Dams (video)
Claudia Strijek, Strijek Design
- Pitkin County's Healthy Rivers and Streams Fund
Lisa MacDonald, Pitkin County

11:20 – 12:00 Permitting Canal Hydropower Projects: Effects of Recent Legislation

Moderator: Mel Rettig, Rettig Farms

- Legislative and regulatory changes affecting canal hydropower permitting
Ted Dunn, US Bureau of Reclamation
- Project permitting experiences in the Uncompahgre Valley
Steve Fletcher, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch, visit exhibits & open microphone session

Wednesday, November 6, continued:

1:30 – 2:10 Historical and Literary Perspectives on Western Water Challenges

Moderator: Dr. Steven Schulte, Colorado Mesa University

- History for the Future: Using History to Shape Resilience in Colorado's Headwaters Communities
Danielle Ryan Ph.D. Candidate, McMaster University, Adjunct Professor, Western State Colorado University
- Review of books that define the role of water in the arid West
Greg Trainor, City of Grand Junction

2:10 – 2:50 Water education: Reaching the General Public

Moderator: Dr. Jeffrey Sellen, Western Colorado State University

- On Air with Connecting the Drops: Engaging all of Colorado in Water Education through Mass Media
Nicole Seltzer, Colorado Foundation for Water Education
- Gunnison Basin "Handbook for Inhabitants"
George Sibley, Gunnison Basin Roundtable

2:50 – 3:10 Break

3:10 – 4:10 What Pressures are Agricultural Producers in the Colorado River Basin Experiencing in Regard to Environmental Issues and How Are They Dealing with Them?

Moderator: Dr. Pete Taylor, Colorado State University

- John Ott, Animas Consolidated Ditch, CO
- Larry Hicks, Little Snake River Water Conservation District, WY
- Bill Brandau, Farmer on the Gila River, AZ

4:10 – 5:00 Finding Common Ground between Agricultural and Conservation Stakeholders: Participant report from a 6-month dialogue sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association

Moderator: Hannah Holm, Water Center at Colorado Mesa University

- Cary Denison, Trout Unlimited
- Randy Carver, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company

5:00 – 6:30 Reception with Appetizers, Beer and Wine & a showing of short films from the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project "Powell to Powell: Portraits of the Upper Colorado."

Filmmaker David Spiegel will be present take questions.

Thursday, November 7

7:30 – Registration and breakfast

8:30 – 8:40 Welcome

8:40 – 10:00 After the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study: What's next?

Moderator: Ted Kowalski, Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Brief Review of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study
Eric Kuhn, Colorado River District
- Municipal and Industrial Conservation and Water Reuse Workgroup
Marc Waage, Denver Water
- Environmental and Recreational Flows Workgroup
John Sanderson, The Nature Conservancy
- Agricultural Conservation, Productivity and Water Transfers Workgroup
Dave Kanzer, Colorado River District

10:00 – 10:20 Break

10:20 – 11:00 Urban Conservation Tools

Moderator: Greg Trainor, City of Grand Junction

- Working together to conserve
Kate Gardner, Center for ReSource Conservation
- Where's the water going? An analysis of factors contributing to outdoor residential water use
Dan Stellar, Center for ReSource Conservation

11:00 – 12:00 Planning for and adapting to water shortages

Moderator: Chris Treese, Colorado River District

- Arizona prepares for reduced Powell releases
Tom Buschatzke, AZ Department of Water Resources
- Colorado Drought Plan
Taryn Finnessey, Colorado Water Conservation Board

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch & Keynote Speaker

James Eklund, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board

1:30 – 3:00 Panel Discussion: Are changes in inter-state water administration needed to allow cross-state water marketing, banking or other allocation tools?

Moderator: Mark Hermundstad, Williams, Turner & Holmes, PC

- Dan McCool, University of Utah
- Eric Kuhn, Colorado River District
- Tom Buschatzke, AZ Department of Water Resources
- John McClow, CO Representative to the Upper Colorado River Basin Commission

3:00 – 3:30 September's Extreme Weather: How the weather system that flooded Colorado's Front Range affected the Upper Colorado River Basin

Jeff Lukas, Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado

3:30 – 3:45 Concluding Remarks