Upper Colorado Basin Water Education Training (WET) Center

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The Hutchins Water Center at CMU seeks to fulfill its mission of coordinating research, education and dialogue on water issues facing the Upper Colorado River Basin through the development of the Upper Colorado Water Education Training Center or WET Center, an interdisciplinary collaborative educator hub providing trainings, resources, workshops, and networking opportunities. The Hutchins Water Center is partnering with Wild Rose Education to develop and realize this vision.

WET Center Vision

Watershed place based education hub for educators of the Upper Colorado River Basin (CO, WY, UT, NM)

Goals

• Bringing together and build a community of teachers, non-formal educators and outreach professionals, from schools, non-profits, colleges, universities, private sector, and government to share best practices, resources, and learning opportunities across the Upper Colorado River Basin; serve as the glue between existing effective programs.

• Serve as clearinghouse of information regarding watershed educator workshops, resources, and best practices.

• Supporting formal teachers to attend watershed focused workshops with scholarships.

• Provide educator trainings and workshops periodically throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin.

• Work toward the goals of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan, Colorado’s Water Plan Section 9.5 education and outreach objectives, New Mexico’s Environmental Literacy Plan, the Utah Project for Excellence in Environmental Education, and Wyoming’s environmental education goals and objectives.

Membership - Free and Open to All Water Educators

• Watershed groups
• Water provider outreach and education staff and volunteers
• Teachers (pre-K-12 and higher education, and preservice)
• Non-formal youth educators (e.g. EE centers, park interpreters, 4-H Leaders, Boy Scout leaders, Girl Scouts leaders)
• Government agency outreach and education staff
Program Elements and Probable Deliverables

• Expand and extend existing Water Center programming to fit needs of educators
• Project WET Host Institution offering water education train the trainer workshops
• Support existing local basin teacher workshops (e.g. Western Rivers Teacher Workshop, Headwaters Teacher Workshop, San Juan Forests to Faucets)
• Support and sustain WET Center Communities of Practice in each Basin (e.g. Upper Green River, San Juan, Roaring Fork, Gunnison, Yampa, etc.)
• Correlate relevant existing water education curriculum to Colorado K-12 academic standards
• Design and teach watershed place based course for teacher education students at colleges and universities within Upper Colorado River Basin
• Facilitated dialogue, deliberation facilitator, and interpretation trainings

Probable Partners

• Colorado Water Conservation Board
• Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
• Colorado Basin Roundtable
• Gunnison Basin Roundtable
• Colorado River District
• Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
• John McConnell Math & Science Center of Western Colorado
• Colorado Mesa University Education Department
• One World One Water Center
• Utah Society for Environmental Education
• Environmental Education Association of New Mexico
• Wyoming Alliance for Environmental Education
• Colorado Parks and Wildlife Education Program

To receive updates and learn more:
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