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Abstract

Building Resiliency in the Cimarron Watershed

Oral Presentation

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Description

The Cimarron River, which includes the Little and Big Cimarron rivers, is a significant tributary to the Gunnison which joins the mainstem just below Marrow Point dam. The Cimarron and its many users face the same mounting water supply issues of shrinking supplies and increasing demands as other watersheds in the West. To best meet the many demands and support environmental attributes, a group of stakeholders led by Bostwick Park Conservancy District and Trout Unlimited are forwarding several initiatives.

In recent years partners in the basin have undertaken a suite of projects that range from water sharing agreements to irrigation infrastructure improvements using funding support from many agencies. Projects have included water sharing and shepherding, salinity projects, PL-566 watershed efforts, dam restoration, creation of a new watershed group, and innovative modeling and technological improvements. This presentation will describe how these projects and unique partnerships are building resiliency in the watershed and what lessons have been learned along the way.