

Colorado and Gunnison Basin Roundtable Education Projects:

Progress and Lessons Learned

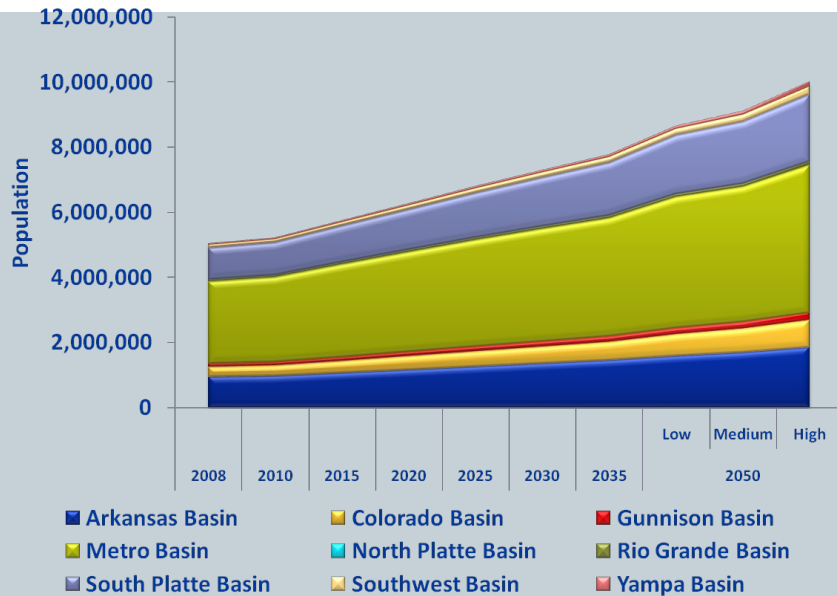


Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference
October 9-11, 2012



Hannah Holm, Coordinator

Why bother/ Key messages



Population is increasing but there's no "new" water

- Water supply planning matters to everyone (trade-offs)
- Roundtables have the opportunity and responsibility to inform & engage citizens (it's in the law)
 - Go to the public, instead of just organizing events.

Project Overview: Media & Presentations



- Coordinate media stories (68 so far)
 - 100/ 2 years with the Colorado BRT
 - 50/ 2 years with the Gunnison BRT
- Coordinate civic outreach (22 so far)
 - 60-100 over 2 years with the Colorado
 - 30-50 over 2 years with the Gunnison BRT
- Ongoing Contact via e-newsletter (monthly)

Project Overview: Related Work



- Organize events (water course, “state of the river,” film, tour, seminars)
- Create a Gunnison Basin overview publication for outreach & newspaper insert (in progress)
- Coordinate with Water 2012 wherever possible (Speakers Bureau, libraries, media)
- Website development & social media:
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - linked-in



Water Center at
Colorado Mesa University

History

Initiatives

People

News

Events

Support

Resources and Links

Upper Colorado River Basin
Water Forum

**Basin Roundtables &
Statewide Water Planning**



Colorado and Gunnison Basin Roundtable Education Projects

The Water Center is working with the Colorado and Gunnison Basin Roundtables in Colorado to increase public awareness of the roundtables' role in needs assessment, planning, and financing projects to meet future water needs. The project includes coordinating presentations to community groups.

General Resources on Colorado Statewide Water Planning & Roundtables

[Statewide Water Supply Initiative Study](#) - identifies **"the gap"** state will face by 2050

[Trade-off & portfolio tool](#) - developed by the state to **assess options** to fill the gap

[Colorado Water Planning Roadmap](#) (updated 5/1/12; see schedule on p. 2) + [ppt presentation](#)

[Memo on Risk Management from Gunnison BRT](#)

[Metro Roundtable Conservation Strategy Memo](#)

[Filling the Gap](#) - Paper from environmental groups arguing that new projects are unnecessary
Study: Water and Its Relationship to the **Economies of the Headwaters Counties** - [summary](#), [full report](#)

Assessing **environmental & recreational water needs**: [Fact sheet + maps](#)

Sign up for e-updates [here](#).

What do you think? Let the roundtables know by sending an [email](#).

Colorado Basin Roundtable

[Colorado Basin Roundtable](#) - official website

[Membership List](#)

[Presentation on Statewide & Colo Basin Water](#) - short

[Presentation on Ag Water Use in Colorado Basin](#)

Gunnison Basin Roundtable

[Gunnison Basin Roundtable](#) - official website

[Membership List](#)

[Presentation on Statewide & Gunni Basin Water](#) - Short

[Presentation on Gunnison Basin Water](#) - detailed

News Clips

Water Lines: [All of Colorado still in drought -outlook for next year uncertain](#) - Grand Junction Free Press, 10/5/12

[Water concerns for the western slope](#) - KKCO Channel 11, 10/2/12

E-Newsletters



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Water Center @ CMU E-Newsletter - 8/27/12

News

EVENTS & TRAININGS AROUND

Local and regional opportunities coming up. Highlights include the Montrose workshop for small water & wastewater systems Aug 29, the Colorado River District's annual seminar 9/13, and "Water Law in a Nutshell," an 8-hour intro to water law, of September 21st and a Water Roundtable in the Uncompahgre Valley on Sept 25. Details on all these and more in the column to the right.

NEW E-W WATER ACCORD NEAR?

The Colorado River District reports the near-completion of staff-level negotiations between West Slope interests and the Northern Water Conservancy District over the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project to increase diversions from the Colorado River drainage to serve Northern's customers on the East side of the continental divide.

For a map & descriptions of Northern's diversion & supply projects, click [here](#).

Preliminary provisions of the accord include water for Grand County and the Middle Park Water Conservancy District, agreement by Northern not to initiate additional water projects in Grand County, and support for instream flow rights on the Colorado. For details, scroll down to p4 of the River District's latest [newsletter](#).

For a description of environmental conditions on the section of the Colorado River most impacted by the

Upcoming Events

FROM THE WATER CENTER

Fall seminar series: Natural Resources of the West: Water & Drought, 4:00 - 5:15pm, Mondays, Wubben Science, room 141 (Saccamano Lecture Hall), Colorado Mesa University. This seminar series is open to the general public, as well as students. Upcoming presentations include: **8/27 - What is drought?** by Dr. Gigi Richard, CMU geology professor; **9/10 - Drought as Disaster**, Dr. Tim Casey, CMU political science professor; **9/17 - Water issues in Australia & Afghanistan**, Denis Reich, CSU Extension; **9/24 - Managing reservoirs in response to drought** - Dan Crabtree & Jennie Hamilton, Bureau of Reclamation; **10/22 - Drought in CO water law + new tools to address environmental needs** - Amy Beatie, Colorado Water Trust; **10/29 - Drought and the Colorado River Compact** - Eric Kuhn, Colorado River District. Series website will be updated regularly as new speakers are scheduled. For campus & parking maps, click [here](#).

Water Law in a Nutshell, Sept 21, 2012, 8am - 5pm, Colorado Mesa University. Taught by attorney Aaron Clay, pre-approved for 8 general CLE credits.

Uncompahgre Valley Water Tour, featuring a visit to the South Canal Hydro Project, September 25. Learn about the history of the Uncompahgre Valley Project, the South Canal Hydro Project and current irrigation issues and practices. Co-hosted by the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users, the Delta-Montrose Electric Authority and the Water Center @ CMU.

Student-Professional Networking Event, October 25, 5:00pm, Kannah Creek Brewery, Grand Junction. This will be an opportunity for students and others interested in water careers to learn about how to access these careers and interact with practicing water professionals. Free food, cash bar, [email to RSVP](#).

Upper Colorado River Basin Water Conference, November 8-9, 2012 Colorado Mesa University campus in Grand Junction, CO. Call for presentation proposals, registration & sponsorship info now posted!

River Crossings: Linking River Communities, March 11-15, 2013, Colorado Mesa University campus in Grand Junction: a week of presentations, panels and field trips highlighting recent advances and emerging issues in riparian restoration and river



Water Center @ CMU E-Newsletter 6-1-2012

News

DROUGHT GETS EVEN WORSE

Last newsletter, it was big news that drought levels were looking as bad as in 2002. Since then, the drought has intensified further, bringing unprecedented fire restrictions and impacts to [farms](#) and [fish](#). Recent rains have eased fire danger & water demands, but not made a major dent in the drought. See the latest state drought map [here](#); the table accompanying the map shows how the drought has deepened over the past year.

WATER PLANNING SCENARIOS

Work on a statewide water plan for Colorado continues, with the [Inter-basin Compact Committee](#) looking at different possible future scenarios.

This [memo](#) from Eric Kuhn to the Colorado River District Board, which includes analysis by the Metro Basin Roundtable, discusses strengths and weaknesses of the IBCC's approach.

RIVER EXPEDITION IN GJ

On July 11, members of the Colorado College State of the Rockies "Down the Colorado" expedition stopped in Grand Junction to do interviews with local stakeholders and participate in a screening (hosted by the Water Center) of their movie about last year's source to sea expedition down the Green & Colorado Rivers, as well as this year's follow-up. You can follow their expedition, which includes a map and will include video clips from their interviews, on the [expedition website](#).

Upcoming Events

FROM THE WATER CENTER

Upper Colorado River Basin Water Conference, November 8-9, 2012 Colorado Mesa University campus in Grand Junction, CO. [Presentation proposals due Aug 1](#), registration & sponsorship info now posted.

River Crossings: Linking River Communities,

March 11-15, 2013, Colorado Mesa University campus in Grand Junction. Several organizations are collaborating to provide a week of presentations, panels and field trips highlighting recent advances and emerging issues in riparian restoration and river management practices.

AROUND THE REGION

For events across the state associated with "Colorado Water 2012," a statewide celebration of water, click [here](#).

Grand Junction Weed Rodeo, July 17-21. Mesa County Fair. First 150 people to bring one garbage bag full of pulled weeds each will get a free ticket to the Mesa County Fair. Opportunity to learn about weed identification, impacts & control.

Water Law in a Nutshell course by Atty Aaron Clay July 17-18, Gunnison, CO (in conjunction with conference below).

Colorado Water Workshop: Water Taboos, Addressing our Most Challenging Issues, July 18-20, Gunnison, CO.

Yampa-White Basin Roundtable, July 18, 6pm, Craig.

Grand Valley Anglers annual picnic, July 18, 5:30pm, Sherwood Park, Grand Junction.

Lake Appreciation Day, July 21, 10am - 3pm, Ridgway State Park.

Colorado Basin Roundtable, July 23, 1-4pm, Glenwood Springs Community Center.

Reudi Reservoir, Dam & Powerplant Tour, July 24, 5pm, Basalt Town Hall.

Events/ Media

Water Course

Feb 9, 16 & 23, 2012

The Public is invited to this evening seminar series on how water is managed in our region.

Water Law and Roles of Local Managers

February 9, 6pm – 9pm

- Learn from attorney Mark Hermundstad how Colorado's "first in time, first in right" system of water law works and how a pair of "public trust" initiatives could change it.
- Meet the people responsible for providing water to faucets and fields and managing drainage in the valley.

Water Supply and Planning

February 16, 6pm – 9pm

- Learn about the tradeoffs policy makers are wrestling with as they seek to fill an anticipated gap in the state's municipal and industrial water supply.
- Hear local perspectives on the Grand Valley's water supply situation and potential impacts on agriculture and the environment as competition for water increases.

Water Quality

February 23, 6pm – 9pm

- Learn about water quality and ecological health in local waterways.
- Learn about efforts to reduce salt and selenium levels in the river.
- Learn about how the Bureau of Land Management is responding to water quality concerns related to proposed oil drilling on the Grand Mesa slopes.
- Learn about why the state is engaging rulemaking on nutrients in waterways and regional perspectives on the costs and benefits of this initiative.

All sessions will be held at Ute Water (22 Road & H ¼)
Cost is \$45 for the whole series or \$20/session* (refreshments & materials included)



*Scholarships available for high school and university students and K-12 teachers.

For more information:
www.coloradomesa.edu/WaterCenter
watercenter@coloradomesa.edu
970-248-1968

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Natural Resources of the West: Water and Drought
Fall 2012

4-5:15 pm, Mondays – Wubben-Science, Room 141 (Saccomanno Lecture Hall)
Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO

8/10 – Introduction

8/27 – What is drought?

Prof. Gigi Richard, Colorado Mesa University

9/10 – Drought as Disaster

9/10 – Drought as Disaster: the Political Challenges of Managing Drought through Traditional Disaster Response

Methods
Prof. Tim Casler, Colorado Mesa University

9/17 – How water access and scarcity challenges outside of North America inform planning for the Western US's

water future
Dent, Reid, Water Resources, Spec. Topics, CSU Extension

9/24 – Managing Reservoirs in Response to Drought

Dan Crabtree & Jennie Hamilton, Water Management Group, Western Colorado Area Office of the US Bureau of Reclamation

10/1 – Mitigating drought impacts in a headwaters community

Linn Brooks, General Manager, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District

10/8 – Drought and Climate Change in Colorado: What Can We Expect?"

Jeff Lukas, Senior Research Associate, Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado, Boulder

10/15 – Fall Break – No Guest Speaker

10/22 – Drought in CO water law + new tools to address environmental needs

Amy Beattie, Executive Director, Colorado Water Trust

10/29 – Colorado River Compact and Drought

Eric Kuhn, General Manager, Colorado River Water Conservation District

11/5 – Hot Spots for Trout program + monitoring other impacts of drought

Heather Tattersall, Land Conservation & Policy and Sharon Clarke, Roaring Fork Conservancy

11/12 – In the Ski Industry Drought is the Least of our Worries in a Climate Constrained World

Matthew Hamilton, Director of Sustainability, Aspen Skiing Company

11/19 – Panel on Drought and Grand Valley Water Supply

11/26 – Drought History in Colorado

Nolan Doesken, Colorado State Climatologist

12/3 – Panel on Drought and Agriculture

All presentations are free and open to the public, no registration necessary.

For more information please contact Prof. Gigi Richard, 970.248.1689, gRichard@ColoradoMesa.edu

Presented with support and cooperation from the Water Center at CMU, www.coloradomesa.edu/watercenter



Events/ Media



Uncompahgre Valley Water Tour 9/25/12



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Events/ Media

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Conditions at Grand Junction, CO
 out the door with the 11 News Morning Show weekdays from 5 to 7 a.m.

Posted: Wed 6:07 PM, Jul 11, 2012
 AA Reporter: Andie Adams
 Back to Local News

From source to sea: CO river expedition

A Colorado River expedition is helping people stay current on how the flow affects their lives.

Living on a diet of mainly rice and beans, four researchers are floating down the river on a raft or kayaks to learn more about the issues that affect each section of the Colorado.

Their expedition is called "Down the Colorado."

"Whether you're here in Grand Junction or down in the Mexican delta or over in Denver, you're still drinking the same water from the same river," said expedition manager Zak Podmore.



CMU Water Center to Host Water Management Meeting

by KREX News Room, by John Dias
 Story Created: May 2, 2012 at 9:30 AM MDT Story Updated: May 2, 2012 at 7:58 PM MDT

MESA COUNTY, Colo.- After a historically low snowfall this past winter, a difficult summer may be in store for water management companies in Mesa County.

Denis Reich: Moving water from farms to cities

Guest commentary
 JUNE, 22 2012
 BY DENIS REICH
 WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST, CSU EXTENSION

The Colorado and Gunnison Basin Roundtables meet monthly to discuss basin and statewide water issues. These are eclectic groups, comprising engineers, county commissioners, hydrologists, recreationists, environmentalists, policy wonks, farmers and ranchers. While water may be for fighting, these sometime adversaries, sometime allies, brought together by the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act in 2005, have learned to get along. While they often disagree, they unanimously agree on one thing: The state can't continue growing as it has without suffering water shortages that will irreparably damage local economies, the environment and agriculture.



WATER LINES: 2012 - The 'Year of Water'

MAY, 3 2012
 GEORGE SIBLEY
 WATER LINES



Editor's note: Introducing Water Lines, a weekly series of informative columns to educate readers on our current water issues — management, conservation, challenges, etc. It's a subject we feel deserves attention, especially given that the lifeblood of the West and Southwest — the Colorado River — flows through the Grand Valley.

The Grand Junction City Council, Mesa County Commissioners and the governor have all declared 2012 to be the "Year of Colorado Water" — a year which has begun with an alarming absence of that "guest of honor."

Value of the Colorado River

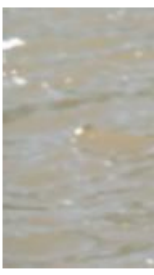
GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (KKCO) - There is no doubt to the importance of water to commerce.

"The river is huge for the economic impact on the valley. Without a river, half of our business wouldn't be here," said Rondo Buecher, co-owner of Rapid Creek Cycles.

For us in the Grand Valley, that's the Colorado River.

"Not just the Colorado River but also the Gunnison, major tributaries to some of our major economic sectors as well," said Hannah Holm, the coordinator of the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University.

One of which would be tourism, and rafting will be a focus at a [forum](#) to local economies. With a number of companies offering different ways levels of the Colorado has a mixed effect on local businesses.



Lessons Learned: Media



- **Small media markets are good!**
 - If you are organized and useful, reporters will keep coming back.
- **Deadlines are good!**
 - Weekly column obligation keeps me generating stories.
- **Events & Media feedback loop.**
 - I had 5 people at one library presentation, but I got on TV!

Lessons Learned: E-Newsletters



- Capturing emails at every opportunity pays off
 - If you get reporters on your list, you sometimes get coverage without any extra effort.
- Be clear & concise:
 - Let them see the main points at a glance.
- Outsource the distribution
 - Mass emails from your personal email will get even your personal messages dumped as spam.

Lessons Learned: Civic Presentations



- **Coordination is complicated**
 - You can't expect other organizations to jump on your bandwagon.
- **Even “wonky” stuff can engage if you cut to the chase**
 - But that requires figuring out what “the chase” really is.
- **A conversational approach keeps people engaged**
 - Let your audience guide how much detail you provide.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER CONFERENCE

November 8-9, 2012 • Grand Junction, CO

How can communities that depend on
Upper Colorado River Basin water resources prepare
for the possibility of future water shortages?

Remarks by John Stulp, Special Policy Advisory to the Governor of Colorado on Water

Program
Highlights

Colorado River Basin Study: Where do we go from here?

Carly Jerla, US Bureau of Reclamation
Kay Brothers, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Ted Kowalski, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Upper Colorado River Basin compact issues and perspectives

Jennifer Gimbel, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Dennis Strong, Utah Division of Water Resources
Estevan Lopez, New Mexico Interstate Stream Comm.

Also featuring panels on response to water scarcity and local water planning efforts, regional environmental influences on Colorado River hydrology, understanding and managing streamflow, and different approaches to agricultural and municipal water conservation.

For more information or to register please visit the website below.





COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

WATER CENTER



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