



24th Annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
Program
CONNECTIONS, CHALLENGES, CHOICES, and CHANGES
April 11 – 12, 2018
Otero Junior College Student Center, La Junta, CO

Wednesday, April 11

7:00 – 8:00 **REGISTRATION, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS**

8:00 – 8:15 **INTRODUCTION & WELCOME**
Location: OJC Student Center, Banquet Room
Keith Goodwin, Otero County Commissioner
Mr. Jim Rizzuto, Otero Junior College

8:15 – 9:10 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
David Robbins, Hill and Robbins, P.C.

9:10 – 10:10 **Arkansas Basin Climate Report**
How weather connects us all and what do future weather conditions look like for the basin and the state.

- Nolan Doesken, Retired State Climatologist
- Russ Schumacher, Incoming State Climatologist

10:10 - 10:30 **BREAK (coffee & refreshments)**



10:30 – 11:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 1: CONNECTIONS

Sessions provide information on ways to connect and work together

<p>Location: Humanities Building, Ed Stafford Theatre</p>	<p>Location: Student Center, Banquet Room</p>
<p>Water Quality Status of the Arkansas River and Tributaries</p>	<p>Internal and External Pressures on Agricultural Water Rights</p>
<p><i>The discourse on the possible future of the Arkansas River and its tributaries and how that could affect irrigators and municipalities.</i> <u>Moderator: Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Trust</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krystal Brown, US Geological Survey • Kenan Diker, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment • Andrew Neuhart, Brown & Caldwell 	<p><i>Mutual ditch companies water rights have been purchased and converted for well augmentation purposes and for export to municipalities. New rules and regulations are altering the way agricultural water can be used in the future. Ditch companies and their shareholders need to be informed about these changes and methods being developed to deal with a growing population and its need for water. The connection of water transfers to local land planning is an item of importance.</i> <u>Moderator: Mannie Colon, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Kahn, Lyons Gaddis • Alan Curtis, White and Jankowski • John Cyran, Confluence Water Law

11:45 – 12:00 Transition Break

12:00 – 12:15 2018 BOB APPEL “FRIEND OF THE ARKANSAS” AWARD
Location: OJC Student Center, Banquet Room

12:15 – 1:15 LUNCHEON



12:45 – 1:15 LUNCHEON SPEAKER - Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado

1:30 – 2:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 2: CHALLENGES
Sessions relate to challenges the Arkansas Basin is faced with now and in the future

<p>Location: Humanities Building, Ed Stafford Theatre</p>	<p>Location: Student Center, Banquet Room</p>
<p>Tackling Water Quality Problems while Keeping Agriculture Productive in the Lower Arkansas River Valley</p>	<p>Invasive Species are Becoming a Concern for Water Infrastructure</p>
<p><i>Irrigation plays a critical role in fueling agriculture in the Arkansas River Valley, but its impacts on regional water quality are less favorable. Ways to decrease selenium and nutrient pollution of groundwater and the river while lessening the damaging effects of salinity on crop production will be discussed. Economic and pollution tradeoffs, along with water rights constraints, are considered with a view toward implementation.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute and Colorado State University Extension Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tim Gates, Colorado State University • Dr. Dana Hoag, Colorado State University 	<p><i>Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil have potential to cause damage to water infrastructure. This potential is raising concerns across the State. The informative panel will present the issues and discuss the benefits of a pro-active approach.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Rena Brand, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Nehring, Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Ed Perko, Pueblo Water • Brett Ackerman – Colorado Parks and Wildlife



2:45 – 3:05 BREAK (coffee & refreshments)

3:05 – 4:30 CONCURRENT SESSION 3: CHOICES

Sessions that offer thoughtful, well-documented investigations into current and possible future challenges.

<p>Location: Humanities Building, Ed Stafford Theatre</p>	<p>Location: Student Center, Banquet Room</p>
<p>Scaling Up - State and Federal Involvement in Water Quality Issues in the Lower Arkansas River Basin.</p>	<p>Fire and Flooding - Not If, But When</p>
<p><i>State and Federal Programs that address water quality, voluntary vs. regulatory actions, and statewide perspectives.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute and Colorado State University Extension Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy Allen, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment • Judy Bloom, Environmental Protection Agency • Rachel Theler, Colorado Department of Agriculture 	<p><i>Wildfire and flooding are realities throughout the Arkansas Basin. With the likelihood of a high drought season, this panel will address community preparedness; the behavioral responses of residents experiencing disaster (often multiple disasters); and best management practices and treatments addressing post fire and pre-flooding. Focus will be on proactive and collaborative approaches to potential disasters.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Lisa Patton, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curt Drennen, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment • Steve Sanchez, US Forest Service • Danny Chavez, Otero County Office of Emergency Management



4:45 - 8:00 **PERCOLATION AND RUNOFF – SOCIAL EVENT
DINNER, AUCTION, AND ENTERTAINMENT
KOSHARE MUSEUM & TRADING POST, OJC CAMPUS
(SEE CAMPUS MAP)**

SPONSORED BY ARKANSAS RIVER OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

Join us for a refreshing cocktail or two, a delicious home-cooked prime-rib dinner, lots of laughs and conversation. Wait, it gets better - the Koshare Museum Dancers will perform! Participate and support our annual Scholarship Auction. Auction proceeds support scholarships for college students who are making a difference in the Arkansas Basin.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

Be There or Be Square!



Thursday, April 12

7:30 – 8:00 REGISTRATION, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS

8:00 – 8:10 INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Location: OJC Student Center, Banquet Room

Keith Goodwin, Otero County Commissioner

8:10 – 9:00 FEATURED PROJECT

Connecting People to the Purgatoire Watershed: Trinidad River Walk Project

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable convened stakeholders to develop management priorities on a 4.5 mile stretch of the Purgatoire River. Through a collaborative process, a project plan was created that takes into consideration a diverse set of interests. The panel will discuss the opportunities and challenges of cooperative management in river planning.

Moderator: Sam Wallace, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership

Tom Verquer, Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District

Gil Ramirez, City of Trinidad

Howard Lackey, Trout Unlimited

9:00 – 9:15 Transition Break



9:15 – 10:15 CONCURRENT SESSION 4: CHOICES

Sessions focus on the solutions that represent the leading edge of water management today

<p>Location: Humanities Building, Ed Stafford Theatre</p>	<p>Location: Student Center, Banquet Room</p>
<p>Watershed Restoration on the Plains</p>	<p>Projects that are Making a Difference</p>
<p><i>The panel will discuss the Lower Arkansas Watershed Restoration Plan, stream management plans, private property participation, reclaiming agricultural lands for water quality improvements and/or for invasive species removal and/or for wildlife habit improvements.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: John Knapp, Retired Natural Resources Conservation Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute and Colorado State University Extension Service • Chris Sturm, Colorado Water Conservation Board • Shelly L. Simmons, Tamarisk Coalition 	<p><i>Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District staff will explain the following: If it's so dry, then why is the level of the Arkansas River rising? Explaining the ins and outs of water management at Pueblo Reservoir. Communities in the Lower Arkansas Valley have waited more than 50 years for a new source of clean water to arrive. Last year, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District decided to have them wait another 10 years was unacceptable and developed a New Concept for the Arkansas Valley Conduit.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Trust</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garrett Markus • Chris Woodka

10:15 – 10:35 BREAK (coffee & refreshments)



10:35 – 11:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 5: CHANGES

Description: Sessions recognize the imperatives to address the evolving changes around water supply and use

<p>Location: Humanities Building, Ed Stafford Theatre</p>	<p>Location: Student Center, Banquet Room</p>
<p>Stream Management Planning: What is Changing?</p>	<p>A New Direction for Agriculture</p>
<p><i>The Colorado Water Plan calls for 80% of the State’s important rivers to be covered by stream management plans by 2030. These plans aim to examine river health and flow-related management strategies to protect or enhance these waterways and their uses. The panel will discuss how river health is examined, the latest scientific considerations, why stakeholder engagement is essential, and lessons learned.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Kim Gortz, Colorado Springs Utilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Tyner, Division of Water Resources • Taryn Finnessey, Colorado Water Conservation Board • Katherine Morris, Grand County • Nicole Seltzer, River Network 	<p><i>Local farmers give their experiences & recommendations on reduced tillage, cover crop usage, food safety, water quality, irrigation management, and new farming techniques on their operations.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Mike Weber, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Hirakata, Hirakata Farms • Phillip Chavez, Diamond A Farms • Ryan Hemphill, Fort Lyon Canal Farmer

11:45 – 12:00 Transition Break



12:00 – 12:30 **Summation and Where We Go from Here**
Location: OJC Student Center, Banquet Room
John Stulp, Governor’s Advisor on Water

12:30 – 1:30 **Lunch**
Recognition of ARBWF 2017 Scholarship Recipients

1:30 – 2:00 **Proceed to Tour Destinations**

2:00 – 3:30 **TOURS**
All tours are drive yourself or car pool to the location. Tour maps are available at the registration table. Tour lengths are approximately one hour but ending times may vary on the destination.

1. City of La Junta Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant

Host: Tom Seaba, Administrative Director of Water and Wastewater

A guided tour of the design features and operation of the reverse osmosis water supply treatment plant and discussions of addressing water quality issues facing a municipality.

2. Historical Hanagan Farms, Arkansas Valley

Host: Eric Hanagan, Owner

The tour will review the history of this Colorado Centennial Farm, reviewing evolution of state of the art irrigation and farming technology. Eric and his father Gary will examine the Rocky Ford area melon industry, retail and wholesale, and give an overview of the Rocky Ford Growers Association.