24th ANNUAL
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
WATER FORUM PROGRAM

April 11 – 12, 2018
Otero Junior College Student Center, La Junta, CO
OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS HAVE MADE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE. WE THANK YOU!

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River Sponsor $250

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Colorado Chapter Soil Water Conservation Service
CONNECTIONS, CHALLENGES, CHOICES, AND CHANGES
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM PROGRAM

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 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.

Water Quality Status of the Arkansas River and Tributaries
LOCATION: HUMANITIES BUILDING, ED STAFFORD THEATRE
MODERATOR: Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Trust
• Krystal Brown, US Geological Survey
• Kenan Diker, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment
• Andrew Neuhart, Brown & Caldwell
SYNOPSIS: The discourse on the possible future of the Arkansas River and its tributaries and how that could affect irrigators and municipalities.

Internal and External Pressures on Agricultural Water Rights
How farmers are adapting to increasing pressure on agricultural water supply.
LOCATION: STUDENT CENTER, BANQUET ROOM
MODERATOR: Mannie Colon, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District
• Jeff Kahn, Lyons Gaddis
• Alan Curtis, White and Jankowski
• John Cyran, Confluence Water Law
SYNOPSIS: 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.
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 will face now and in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tackling Water Quality Problems while Keeping Agriculture Productive in the Lower Arkansas River Valley</th>
<th>Invasive Species are Becoming a Concern for Water Infrastructure</th>
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<td>MODERATOR: Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute and Colorado State University Extension Service</td>
<td>MODERATOR: Rena Brand, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</td>
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<td>• Dr. Tim Gates, Colorado State University</td>
<td>• Josh Nehring, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</td>
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<td>• Dr. Dana Hoag, Colorado State University</td>
<td>• Ed Perko, Pueblo Water</td>
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<td>SYNOPSIS: Irrigation plays a critical role in fueling agriculture in the Arkansas River Valley, but its</td>
<td>SYNOPSIS: Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil have potential</td>
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<td>impacts on regional water quality are less favorable. Ways to decrease selenium and nutrient pollution</td>
<td>to cause damage to water infrastructure. This potential</td>
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<td>of groundwater and the river while lessening the damaging effects of salinity on crop production will</td>
<td>is raising concerns across the State. This informative</td>
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<td>be discussed. Economic and pollution tradeoffs, along with water rights constraints are considered with</td>
<td>panel will present the issues and discuss the benefits of a</td>
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<td>a view toward implementation.</td>
<td>pro-active approach.</td>
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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.

### Scaling Up – State and Federal Involvement in Water Quality Issues in the Lower Arkansas River Basin

**LOCATION:** HUMANITIES BUILDING, ED STAFFORD THEATRE

**MODERATOR:** Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute and Colorado State University Extension Service
- Tammy Allen, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Judy Bloom, Environmental Protection Agency
- Rachel Theler, Colorado Department of Agriculture

**SYNOPSIS:** State and Federal Programs that address water quality, voluntary vs. regulatory actions, and statewide perspectives.

### Fire and Flooding – Not If, But When

**LOCATION:** STUDENT CENTER, BANQUET ROOM

**MODERATOR:** Lisa Patton, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
- Curt Drennen, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Steve Sanchez, US Forest Service
- Danny Chavez, Otero County Office of Emergency Management

**SYNOPSIS:** 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.

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!**
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

8:55 - 9:50A  CONCURRENT SESSION 4: CHOICES
Sessions focus on the solutions that represent the leading edge of water management today.

Watershed Restoration on the Plains
LOCATION: HUMANITIES BUILDING, ED STAFFORD THEATRE
MODERATOR: John Knapp, Retired Natural Resources Conservation Service
• Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute and Colorado State University Extension Service
• Chris Sturm, Colorado Water Conservation Board
• Shelly L. Simmons, Tamarisk Coalition
SYNOPSIS: 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.

Projects that are Making a Difference
LOCATION: STUDENT CENTER, BANQUET ROOM
MODERATOR: Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Trust
• Garrett Markus
• Chris Woodka
SYNOPSIS: 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.

10:15 - 10:35  BREAK (coffee & refreshments)
Stream Management Planning: What is Changing?

LOCATION: HUMANITIES BUILDING, ED STAFFORD THEATRE

MODERATOR: Kim Gortz, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Bill Tyner, Division of Water Resources
- Taryn Finnessey, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Katherine Morris, Grand County
- Nicole Seltzer, River Network

SYNOPSIS: 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.

A New Direction for Agriculture

LOCATION: STUDENT CENTER, BANQUET ROOM

MODERATOR: Mike Weber, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District
- Glenn Hirakata, Hirakata Farms
- Phillip Chavez, Diamond A Farms
- Ryan Hemphill, Fort Lyon Canal Farmer

SYNOPSIS: 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.

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.

3. Innovative Water Technologies Plant, Rocky Ford
   Host: Jack Barker, Owner
   IWT is dedicated to researching and developing products for water treatment and purification. IWT’s products are in use around the world, in commercial applications, humanitarian initiatives, as well as disaster relief efforts. The IWT UF Series Packaged Plants provide high-quality potable water by physically removing pathogens, particulates and turbidity from virtually any fresh water source. The treatment systems are a microbiological water purifier that is self-cleaning, efficient, and easy to maintain.

4. The Arkansas River – From Leadville to Lamar, PBS Documentary – OJC Theatre,
   Host: Jean Van Pelt, Arkansas Basin Roundtable, Public Education, Participation, & Outreach Coordinator
   The Arkansas Basin Roundtable and CSU Pueblo have partnered to produce an hour-long Rocky Mountain PBS documentary featuring the Arkansas River. The documentary explores the economic value and social benefits of the Arkansas River from Leadville to Lamar. The film features stunning cinematography of the river and an interesting look at the many roles that the river and water play in the basin.
### GUIDE TO CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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### CAMPUS MAP

![Campus Map Image]
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