



2021 Lower Arkansas River Basin Virtual Tour

June 3, 2021 8:45am-12pm

Draft Itinerary – 4/26/2021

Contact: Scott Williamson, Education Programs Manager, scott@wateredco.org

Goals:

- Illustrate strategies from the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and their broader application to statewide issues in Colorado's Water Plan;
- Showcase the nexus between water and local priorities (e.g. for agricultural viability, energy development, recreation, water quality, and environmental restoration);
- Convey the importance of partnerships and collaborations in water resource management, water supply planning, and habitat restoration;
- Help elected officials, community leaders and interested citizens gain a well-rounded, objective look at regional water management considerations so they leave feeling more equipped to engage in local and statewide water conversations and to approach leadership and decision-making roles with confidence.

Registration: limited to 60 participants to ensure all participants opportunities to engage in the Q&A session. Register now: <https://www.wateredco.org/2021-arkansas-river-basin-tour/>

Cost: \$125 WEco Member/\$150 Non-member. Scholarships available.

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Part 1 – Welcome and Introduction to the Arkansas River Basin

Welcome to the Virtual Tour “Bus”

Speaker(s):

Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado
Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado

History of the Arkansas Basin

Big Picture/Overview Watershed Tour

Speaker(s):

Chris Woodka, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Participant Introductions and Brief Networking

Welcome to the Virtual Tour “Bus”

Discussion Topic(s):

Colorado Water Plan and the importance of collaboration and multi-benefit solutions.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) and Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Priorities

Speaker(s):

Greg Felt, CWCBC Representative from the Arkansas River Basin
Mark Shea, Arkansas Basin Roundtable Chair

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Part 2 – Virtual Tour through the Lower Arkansas River Basin

#1 Pueblo’s City Park - Pedestrian Bridge over Arkansas River

Discussion Topic(s):

Municipal water supplies and collaborations among entities around Pueblo.

Speaker(s):

Alan Ward, Pueblo Water

#2 Southern Delivery System (SDS) Juniper Pump Station

Discussion Topic(s):

Sourcing municipal water supplies. Southern Delivery System project history, location choice, and current service.

Speaker(s):

Abigail Ortega, Colorado Springs Utilities

#3 Lower Huerfano River near confluence with Arkansas River

Discussion Topic(s):

Watersheds: Fire and Flood.

Speaker(s):

Carrie Adair, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

#4 Crowley County Heritage Center

Discussion Topic(s):

History of Crowley County, including water and economic impacts.
Local economic picture.

Speaker(s):

Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Conservancy

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#5 Rocky Ford Highline Lease

Discussion Topic(s):

Learning from early projects and the “birth” of Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs).
Alternatives to permanent dry-up of irrigated agriculture.

Speaker(s):

Rick Kientz, Aurora Water

#6 Bessemer Project *(circle back to this tour stop)*

Discussion Topic(s):

Continued evolution of alternatives to agricultural buy and dry, conservation easements, lease-fallowing.

Speaker(s):

Ed Roberson, Palmer Land Conservancy

#7 Water Quality - Polyurea lateral lining project in Swink

Discussion Topic(s):

Water quality - nonpoint sources, water quality issues in the valley, best management practices.

Speaker(s):

Mike Weber, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

#8 Farm tour - Diamond A hemp and alfalfa

Discussion Topic(s):

Agriculture - hemp, alfalfa, soil health and maintaining agricultural productivity

Speaker(s):

Phillip Chavez, Diamond A Farms

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#9 Water-efficient sprinkler installation site TBD

Discussion Topic(s):

Agriculture - efficiency. Rule 10 and water efficiency legal issues.
Agriculture - augmentation water.

Speaker(s):

TBD

#10 Lower Purgatoire River near confluence with Arkansas River

Discussion Topic(s):

Purgatoire River priorities and ongoing efforts; Tamarisk removal.

Speaker(s):

Julie Knudson, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership

#11 John Martin Reservoir: Environment and recreation

Discussion Topic(s):

Environmental and recreational goals. Lower Arkansas River Watershed Plan. Fish and wildlife, ecosystem benefits and services in the Lower Arkansas.

Speaker(s):

Rena Griggs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

#12 John Martin Reservoir - Arkansas River Compact

Discussion Topic(s):

Compact Compliance and monitoring; Permanent pool in John Martin.

Speaker(s):

Bill Tyner, Division Engineer, Division II and Operations Secretary, Arkansas River Compact Administration

Discussion Topic(s):

Meeting compact obligations. Water sharing agreements.

Speaker(s):

Don Higbee, Lower Arkansas Water Management Association

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Part 3 – Live Q&A with Tour Speakers

Arkansas River Compact

Live Q&A in Break-out Rooms

A chance to join and switch “rooms” with different tour speakers.

Closing

Optional Additional Networking and Q&A

DRAFT

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