2021 Lower Arkansas River Basin Virtual Tour
June 3, 2021 8:45am-12pm

Virtual Tour Itinerary

Tour Part 1 – Welcome and Introduction to the Arkansas River Basin

8:45 a.m. Welcome to the Virtual Tour “Bus”

Speaker(s):
Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado
Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado

9:00 a.m. Sponsor Recognition and Speed Networking

9:10 a.m. Introduction: Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable

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, Colorado Water Conservation Board Arkansas Basin Representative
Mark Shea, Arkansas Basin Roundtable Chair

Thank you to our sponsors!

Scholarship sponsors:
Arkansas Basin PEPO, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District,
Palmer Land Conservancy
Itinerary Page 1 of 6
Tour Part 2 – Virtual Tour through the Lower Arkansas River Basin

9:20 a.m. Lower Arkansas River Basin Virtual Tour Video
Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado

#0 Pueblo Dam and Lake Pueblo State Park

Discussion Topic(s):
Big picture/Watershed overview.

Speaker(s):
Chris Woodka, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Discussion Topic(s):
Lake Pueblo State Park management and managing aquatic nuisance species.

Speaker:
Joe Stadterman, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

#1 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

#2 Pueblo Riverwalk

Discussion Topic(s):
Municipal water supplies and collaborations among entities around Pueblo.

Speaker(s):
Alan Ward, Pueblo Water

Thank you to our sponsors!

Scholarship sponsors:
Arkansas Basin PEPO, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Palmer Land Conservancy
Itinerary Page 2 of 6
#3 Bessemer Farmland Conservation Project

**Discussion Topic(s):**
Continued evolution of alternatives to agricultural buy and dry, conservation easements, lease-fallowing.

**Speaker(s):**
Ed Roberson, Palmer Land Conservancy

#4 Lower Huerfano River near confluence with Arkansas River

**Discussion Topic(s):**
Watersheds - pre-fire mitigation, post-fire recovery, and collaboration among multiple interested parties.

**Speaker(s):**
Carrie Adair, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

#5 Crowley County Heritage Center

**Discussion Topic(s):**
History of Crowley County, including water and economic impacts.
Local economic picture.

**Speaker(s):**
Matt Heimerich, Heimerich Farms

#6 Arkansas Valley Range Project and 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 Kienitz, Aurora Water

Thank you to our sponsors!

Scholarship sponsors:
Arkansas Basin PEPO, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District,
Palmer Land Conservancy
Itinerary Page 3 of 6
#7 Arkansas Valley Research Center - Agricultural irrigation water efficiency

**Discussion Topic(s):**
Water conservation in agriculture, irrigation efficiency, reducing soil evaporation, production practices, utilizing plant genetics, measuring evapotranspiration.

**Speaker(s):**
Michael Bartolo, Ph.D, Colorado State University - Arkansas Valley Research Center
Lane Simmons, Colorado State University - Arkansas Valley Research Center

#8 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, JUB Engineers, Inc. *Formerly with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District*

#9 Farm tour - Diamond A Farms

**Discussion Topic(s):**
Agriculture – soil health, water efficiency and maintaining agricultural productivity.

**Speaker(s):**
Phillip Chavez, Diamond A Farms

#10 Lower Purgatoire River near Confluence with Arkansas River

**Discussion Topic(s):**
Purgatoire River water rights, priorities and ongoing, multi-benefit efforts.

**Speaker(s):**
Julie Knudson, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership
Steve Kastner, Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District

---

**Thank you to our sponsors!**

---

**Scholarship sponsors:**
Arkansas Basin PEPO, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Palmer Land Conservancy

Itinerary Page 4 of 6
#11 John Martin Reservoir – Environment and Recreation

Discussion Topic(s):
Wildlife and fisheries, ecosystem benefits and services in John Martin Reservoir and the Lower Arkansas River. Environmental and recreational goals and recent successes in the Lower Arkansas River Valley.

Speaker(s):
Rena Griggs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

#12 John Martin Reservoir – Arkansas River Compact

Discussion Topic(s):
Background on the Arkansas River Compact and Colorado-Kansas negotiations. Compact compliance, rules and regulations.

Speaker(s):
Bill Tyner, Division Engineer, Division II and Operations Secretary, Arkansas River Compact Administration

Discussion Topic(s):

Speaker(s):
Don Higbee, Lower Arkansas Water Management Association

Thank you to our sponsors!

Scholarship sponsors:
Arkansas Basin PEPO, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District,
Palmer Land Conservancy
Itinerary Page 5 of 6
Tour Part 3 – Live Q&A with Tour Speakers

11:00 a.m. Sponsored Break
11:10 a.m. Speaker “Role Call”
11:20 a.m. Live Q&A in Break-out Rooms
A chance to join and switch “rooms” with different tour speakers.
12:00 p.m. Closing

Thank you to our sponsors!

Scholarship sponsors:
Arkansas Basin PEPO, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District,
Palmer Land Conservancy
Itinerary Page 6 of 6