



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

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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

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#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 Kientz, Aurora Water

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#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

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#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):

Meeting compact obligations. Water sharing agreements. Supporting the water future of the Lower Arkansas River Valley.

Speaker(s):

Don Higbee, Lower Arkansas Water Management Association

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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

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