

2022 Water Leaders Class Bios and Photos

Tyler Benton - Senior Water Resources Engineer, Colorado Springs Utilities

Tyler is a fifth generation Colorado native with 12 years' experience working in water resources. He is part of the water resource planning team at Colorado Springs Utilities focusing on the Colorado River and long-term water supply planning. Tyler earned a B.S. degree in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and is a registered Professional Engineer.



Ty Bereskie - Lead Planner, Denver Water



Ty is a Lead Planner and certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA) at Denver Water. In this role, he focuses on technical research and policy development, specifically on projects falling under the umbrella of One Water. Ty is also an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Denver as part of the Environmental Policy and Management graduate program and serves as a Regular Member on the City of Englewood, Colorado Water and Sewer Board. Ty has a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia, an M.S. in Environmental Engineering Science from the Colorado School of Mines, a B.S. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Vermont, and will be completing an M.B.A. at the University of Illinois this June.

Daniel Boyes - Program Manager, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

Daniel Boyes works in the San Luis Valley as a Program Manager with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP). He manages a variety of river restoration and watershed planning projects with the goal of improving river health and achieving benefits for multiple water users and uses. While working with the RGHRP, he has facilitated the completion of the 2021 Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans, and multiple river restoration and irrigation infrastructure projects. He enjoys working with a diverse group of partners, including local, state, and federal agencies, water districts, ditch companies, nonprofits, and private landowners. He also serves on the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance Board of Directors as the Rio Grande Basin representative.



Kelen Dowdy - Water Resources Planning Manager, City of Greeley



Kelen graduated from Appalachian State University with an Environmental Science degree and subsequently obtained her master's degree in Applied Ecology from North Carolina State University in 2016. She began her career in Colorado working for the United States Geological Survey, Aquatic Systems branch in Fort Collins. There, she assisted in projects exploring the effects of management practices on aquatic systems. In that role, she honed her skill in aquatic insect identification, data analysis and database development. Kelen started working with the City of Greeley in 2018 supporting daily operations and transitioned to Water Resources Planning Manager in 2019. She currently supports the city with data analytics, water allocation modeling, and integrated resource planning.

April Hendricks - Attorney & Shareholder, Burns, Figa, & Will, P.C.

April Hendricks is a shareholder in the natural resources and water practice groups at Burns, Figa, & Will, P.C., located in the Denver Tech Center. In that capacity, she represents governmental entities, businesses, and individuals in acquiring, managing, and maintaining their water rights, including preparing sales and lease contracts, performing due diligence for water rights and land purchases, preparing conveyance documents, and protecting water rights by filing and participating in actions in Water Court. April grew up in Arkansas and Mississippi, where she attended the University of Mississippi School of Law. As a law student, she worked for two years with the National Sea Grant Legal Program, where she discovered her passion for water and natural resources. She moved to Colorado soon after her law school graduation and has been a practicing water attorney for almost a decade.



Tanya Ishikawa - Communications Director, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership



Tanya is the communications director for the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP), a nonprofit preserving and improving the upper Uncompahgre River watershed, focusing on Ouray County, Colorado. Tanya's work for UWP includes stakeholder outreach, fundraising, event planning, volunteer coordination, media relations, and digital communications. Having earned a degree, continuing education and dozens of awards as a journalist and public relations professional, she has worked for weekly and monthly newspapers, local and regional magazines, public relations firms, trade associations, and nonprofits. In addition to creating content for print and online media, she produces and edits videos for several clients.

Chris Kampmann - Water System Manager, City of Arvada

Chris has served the water and wastewater industry through a variety of opportunities. He has worked for the City of Longmont distribution and collection systems for over 21 years and is currently the Water System Manager for the City of Arvada since June of 2020. Chris has served the State of Colorado's Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Certification Board as the administration contractor of the certification program and is currently the Chair of the State's Underground Damage Prevention Commission. Chris holds a Distribution Level 4, Collection Level 4, Water Treatment C, and was one of the first Professional Operators in the country.



Diana Lane - Director of Sustainable Food and Water Programs, The Nature Conservancy - Colorado



Diana leads The Nature Conservancy's thriving rivers and sustainable water supplies strategy in Colorado, working with partners to create and implement water and watershed management solutions to increase resilience in the face of drought, climate change, and increased water demand. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, Diana had a career in public-sector environmental consulting, where she worked on large-scale ecological restoration projects for state, federal, and foundation clients, including work in the Gulf of Mexico to address ecological impacts caused by the 2010 BP oil spill. Diana has expertise in restoration ecology and planning, climate adaptation, and management of public funding. Her PhD research focused on the effects of tallgrass prairie restoration on soil carbon storage, water-holding capacity, and nutrient cycling.

Bailey Leppek - Glenwood Springs Water Resources Team Leader, SGM Inc.

Bailey grew up in the Front Range and studied environmental engineering at University of Colorado at Boulder, where she discovered her passion for water resources. She worked for LRE Water in Denver for three years. In 2016 she followed her passion for the Colorado River, at SGM in Glenwood Springs. Bailey supports a wide range of clients with water supply planning, watershed planning, water rights acquisition and agreements, water court applications, changed water rights, plans for augmentation and exchange, water rights portfolio management, and other water resources needs. Her professional highlights include co-authoring the 2021 Colorado Basin Implementation Plan Update and assisting CWCB with evaluating the feasibility of a demand management program in Colorado.



Emily Lowell - District Engineer, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District



Emily is the District Engineer at the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District. She graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a degree in Civil Engineering and spent the first ten years of her career working for URS/AECOM in consulting. She then moved to the public sector where she managed a large water rights acquisition and water supply project as well as overseeing a large capital improvement program. In her current position, Emily oversees the safe operations of two high hazard dam facilities as well as technical work will involving computer modeling, engineering associated with dam design and maintenance, design of agricultural irrigation system improvements, river restoration, and management of related construction projects.

Lauren Nance Maggert - Water Resources Project Manager, Aurora Water, City of Aurora

Lauren is a water resources project manager working for the City of Aurora on long-term water master plans and reservoir projects. She has a Civil Engineering degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master's in water resources engineering from Colorado State University. Lauren's passion for water resources began in college through her involvement with Engineers Without Borders working in Cameroon Africa and El Salvador on water distribution and water quality issues. Lauren started working for the City of Aurora in 2018, where she is currently the project manager of Wild Horse Reservoir, Box Creek Reservoir, Aurora's Drought Action Team Coordinator, and the water resources lead for Aurora's Integrated Water Master Plan.



Kirstin Neff - Manager, Southwest Rivers Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Kirstin is a collaborative, public service-driven hydrologist working to conserve water resources in the western U.S. for people and nature. She is Manager of the Southwest Rivers Program at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, where she builds public-private partnerships and directs grantmaking for watershed restoration and species conservation in Colorado and throughout the Southwest. A native of Tucson, Arizona, she earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in hydrology from the University of Arizona and a B.A. from Wellesley College.

Blake Osborn - Research Scientist & Scholar I, Colorado Water Center at CSU

Blake serves as a research scientist for the Colorado Water Center, a water research and outreach group at Colorado State University. He manages water resource projects that help local water users and water managers make better management decisions to meet multiple beneficial objectives for our scarce water resources. Most of his research and outreach activities center on post-wildfire hydrologic stabilization, helping farmers/ranchers make efficient uses of water, improving water equity and diversity, and creating coalitions to improve water quality. Blake has a BS in Natural Resources Management from Colorado State University and a MS in Hydrology and Watershed Management from the University of Wyoming.



Danielle Snyder - Senior Staff Water Resources Scientist, Brown and Caldwell



Danielle grew up in Fort Collins and received undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado - Boulder. During her time at CU, she participated in a snow hydrology internship which required her to backcountry ski tour to remote alpine sites to collect snow for data and water supply analysis. Through this internship, Danielle realized the important relationship between healthy watersheds, snow, and water supply which piqued her interest in water resources. She started her career at the City of Greeley as a water resources analyst where she honed her skills in water operations with

Greeley's diverse water portfolio. To broaden her technical skills, she moved to consulting and has since worked on a variety of water resource projects including technical water rights analyses, water supply planning, and water quality and compliance work.

Hally Strevey - Executive Director, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

Hally is a Colorado native, with a great love of the West. Fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing in the Poudre watershed helped to fuel her passion for a career path in restoration ecology and watershed management. Hally has a diverse background in both wildlife and ecology. She has a Bachelor's of Science in wildlife biology from Colorado State University and a Master's of Science in restoration ecology from Montana State University. Hally has also worked for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, the Restoration Ecology lab at Colorado State University, and an ecological consulting firm. Hally has been with CPRW since 2015.



Derek Turner - Assistant City Attorney, City of Loveland



Derek grew up in Fort Collins and obtained a degree in Philosophy and History at CU-Boulder. Derek attended University of Colorado Law School and focusing on natural resources and American Indian law. Derek then clerked for Justice Gregory Hobbs, Jr. on the Colorado Supreme Court before beginning a career as a water rights attorney in public service with the Colorado Attorney General's water resources and water conservation units. There, Derek represented state agencies in all seven water courts and at the Colorado Supreme Court. Derek is now an Assistant City Attorney at the City of Loveland, advising the Loveland Department of Water and Power on any legal and policy issues that impact the operation of the water, sewer, and electric utilities. Derek also represents Loveland in water court and other matters and assists the City Attorney's Office on general municipal law matters.