



2022 Upper Colorado River Basin Tour

June 15-17, 2022

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 - June 15, 2022

7:30am Meet at La Quinta Inn & Suites - Silverthorne

Check in and begin loading personal bags

7:45am Load Bus

7:54am Depart La Quinta Inn & Suites, Drive to Moffat Collection System

Bus on Day 1 sponsored by Denver Water

Discussion Topic

Introduction to Water Education Colorado and the tour itinerary

Speakers

Jayla Poppleton, Executive Director, Water Education Colorado

Scott Williamson, Education Programs Manager, Water Education Colorado

Discussion Topic

Orientation to Continental Divide; How Colorado depends on the Colorado River; Role of the Interbasin Compact Committee

Speaker

Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources and Director of Compact Negotiations for the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC)

9:05am **Moffat Collection System**

Discussion Topic

Denver Water Transbasin Diversions

Speakers

Nathan Elder, Manager of Water Supply, Denver Water

Tim Holinka, Source of Supply District Manager, Denver Water

9:45am **Load Bus, Drive to Headwaters River Journey and Center**



- 10:05am** **Headwaters River Journey and Center**
Bathrooms available
- Discussion Topic
Welcome and preview tour of the Headwaters River Journey
- Speakers
Holli Riebel, Executive Director, Headwaters River Journey and Center
Evie Guay, Headwaters River Journey Manager, Headwaters River Journey and Center
- 10:25am** **Panel: Law of the River**
- Discussion Topic
Colorado River Compact, the Law of the River, and administration of the Colorado River in Colorado
- Speakers
Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado's Upper Colorado River Commissioner and Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Lain Leoniak, First Assistant Attorney General Federal and Interstate Unit, Colorado River Subunit, Colorado Attorney General's Office
- Amy Ostdiek, Section Chief of Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Kevin Rein, State Engineer and Director, Colorado Division of Water Resources
- 11:35am** **Load Bus, Drive to Windy Gap Reservoir**
- Discussion Topic
Colorado's compliance with the Colorado River Compact and potential for future administration
- Speakers
Kyle Whitaker, Water Rights Manager, Northern Water
Kevin Rein, State Engineer and Director, Colorado Division of Water Resources
- 12:20pm** **Lunch at Windy Gap Reservoir**
Bathrooms available
Lunch sponsored by SGM and Aurora Water
- Lunch Sponsor Remarks
Angie Fowler, Water Services Sector Leader, SGM



- 12:40pm Windy Gap Reservoir - Northern Water Operations**
Discussion Topic
Northern Water operations, transbasin diversion systems and associated mitigation: Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Windy Gap
Speaker
Kyle Whitaker, Water Rights Manager, Northern Water
- 1:10pm Windy Gap Reservoir - Colorado River Connectivity Channel**
Discussion Topic
Colorado River Connectivity Channel
Speaker
Mely Whiting, Colorado Water Project Legal Counsel, Trout Unlimited
- 1:40pm Load Bus, Drive past Kremmling-area Ranches**
Discussion Topic
Research and Field Work, Irrigators of Land in the Vicinity of Kremmling
Speaker
Paul Bruchez, Reeder Creek Ranch and CWCB Board Director
- 2:30pm Kremmling-area Ranch**
Discussion Topic
Research and Field Work, Irrigators of Land in the Vicinity of Kremmling (continued)
Speakers
Bill and Wendy Thompson, Local Ranchers
- 3:00pm Load Bus, Drive to Pumphouse Recreation Area**
Discussion Topic
Watershed health and wildfire resilience
Speaker
Chris Sturm, Watershed Program Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- 3:30pm Pumphouse Recreation Area**
Discussion Topic
Colorado River Cooperative Agreement
Speakers
Travis Bray, Environmental Planner, Denver Water
Ed Moyer, County Manager, Grand County



4:15pm

Load Bus, Drive to Glenwood Springs

Discussion Topic

West Slope geology: role of the Colorado River in shaping the landscape, geothermal hot springs, availability and extraction of oil and gas resources

Speaker

Peter Barkman, recently retired hydrogeologist with the Colorado Geological Survey, Colorado School of Mines

Discussion Topics

Hydrologic contributions of sub-basins to the Colorado River Basin, including timing, variability, and storage

Climate change and Colorado River Basin hydrology within and beyond Colorado

Speakers

Marielle Cowdin, Director of Public Relations, Colorado River District
Brendon Langenhuizen, Senior Water Rights Engineer, Colorado River District

6:00pm

Dinner at Colorado River District headquarters' riverside "backyard"

Bathrooms available

Dinner sponsored by Colorado River District

Sponsor Remarks

Andy Mueller, General Manager, Colorado River District
Wendy Huber, Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Program
Rick Lofaro, Roaring Fork Conservancy

Bus or walk to hotels:

7:45pm

Arrive at Best Western Antlers - Glenwood Springs

Unload personal bags as needed

8:00pm

Arrive at Holiday Inn Express - Glenwood Springs

Unload personal bags as needed

Tour adjourns for the day

Optional post-dinner visit to Iron Mountain Hot Springs (10% discount with code from hotel)



Day 2 - June 16, 2022

7:30am **Load Bus at Holiday Inn Express**
Load personal baggage, depart at 7:45am

7:50am **Load Bus at Best Western, Drive to Grand Valley Diversion Dam**
Load personal baggage, depart at 8:00am
Bus on Day 2 sponsored by Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Program

Discussion Topic:

Water administration along the mainstem of the Colorado River, including monitoring, measurement and compliance

Speaker

James Heath, P.E., Division 5 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Bathroom available on bus or portable toilet at next stop

9:25am **Load Mini-buses for Canal Road Tour**

Discussion Topic

Tour of facilities along Canal Road, including diversion infrastructure and fish screen

Speakers/Bus Leaders

Mark Harris, General Manager, Grand Valley Water Users Association
Kevin Conrad, Operations Manager, Grand Valley Water Users Association
Nick Emmendorfer, Project Engineer, JUB Engineers

10:00am **Grand Valley Diversion Dam (A.K.A. Roller Dam)**

Discussion Topic

Tour of the Roller Dam and discussion of pre-compact Grand Valley diversions

Speaker

Mark Harris, General Manager, Grand Valley Water Users Association

10:55am **Grand Valley Diversion Dam - Fish Ladder**

Discussion Topic

Tour of the fish ladder at the Roller Dam and introduction to the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Speakers

Dale Ryden, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Travis Francis, Deputy Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



- 11:50am** **Load Mini-buses, return route tour of Canal Road infrastructure**
- 12:20pm** **Load Bus, Depart for Colterris at the Overlook**
- 12:45pm** **Lunch at Colterris at the Overlook**
Bathrooms available
Lunch sponsored by SGM and Roaring Fork Conservancy
- Lunch Sponsor Remarks
 Alex Nees, Senior Consultant – Grand Junction, SGM
- 1:05pm** **Lunch Speaker**
- Discussion Topic
 Orchard and vineyard operations and the importance of Colorado River Basin water to agriculture in the Grand Valley
- Speaker
 Bo Felton, Head Winemaker, Colterris Winery
- 1:45pm** **Load Bus, Drive to CSU Western Colorado Research Center - Grand Valley**
- 2:40pm** **CSU Western Colorado Research Center - Grand Valley**
Bathrooms available
- 2:45pm** **Load Trailer for Tour of the Research Center**
- Discussion Topics
 Research and field work in conserved consumptive use in western agriculture, lower water needs with specialty crops
- Speaker
 Perry Cabot, Research and Extension Leader, Colorado State University
 Western Colorado Research Center
- 3:25pm** **Load Bus, Drive to Sprinkler Installation Site (Bus does not unload)**
- Discussion Topics
 Advanced irrigation technology for water savings
- Speaker
 Ray Hedgecoke, Central Irrigation



- 3:40pm** **Continue to Uncompahgre Valley**
Proposed Discussion Topic
History of tribal connections to land and water resources in the Upper Colorado River Basin, tribal water settlements, and implementation of tribal water settlements

Proposed Speakers
Speaker(s) to be confirmed
- 5:00pm** **East Canal Lining Project - Salinity and Selenium Control**
Discussion Topic
Salinity and Selenium Control

Speakers
Raquel Flinker, Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, Colorado River District
Paul Kehmeier, Salinity Program Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture
- 5:40pm** **Load Bus, Drive to Montrose**
- 6:00pm** **Dinner at Riverbottom Park**
Bathrooms available

Presenting Sponsor Remarks
Steve Wolff, General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District
Nora Flynn, Senior Agricultural Specialist – Water Supply Planning, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Bus to hotels:*
- 7:45pm** **Arrive at Holiday Inn Express - Montrose**
Unload personal bags as needed
- 8:05pm** **Arrive at Super 8 - Montrose**
Unload personal bags as needed

Tour adjourns for the day



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Day 3 - June 17, 2022

- 7:30am** **Load Bus at Super 8**
Load personal baggage and passengers, depart at 7:40am
- 7:45am** **Load Bus at Holiday Inn Express, Drive to West Portal Gunnison**
Load personal baggage, load bus and depart at 8:00am
Bus on Day 3 sponsored by Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association
- Discussion Topic
Storage and major diversions in the Gunnison/Uncompahgre
- Speakers
Steve Pope, Manager, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association
Bob Hurford, Division 4 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources
- 8:20am** **West Portal Gunnison Tunnel**
Discussion Topic
Uncompahgre Project
- Speakers
Steve Pope
- 9:05am** **Load Bus, Drive to Ironstone Canal Diversion**
Discussion Topic
Play-by-play of Uncompahgre water systems and features along the route
- Speakers
Steve Pope and Bob Hurford
- 9:40am** **Ironstone Canal Diversion**
Discussion Topic
Measurement and administration of diversions
- Speakers
Bob Hurford
- 10:20am** **Load Bus, Drive to Hotchkiss**
Proposed Discussion Topic
Play-by-play of Uncompahgre water systems and features along the route
- Proposed Speakers
Bob Hurford and Steve Pope (*Steve departs in Delta*)



- 11:05am Hotchkiss - Delta County Fairgrounds bathroom stop**
Bathrooms available, 15 minute stop, load bus at 11:20am
- 11:20am Load Bus, Drive to Hermits Rest Picnic Area**
Discussion Topic
On-farm salinity control
- Speaker
Paul Kehmeier, Salinity Program Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture
- 12:10pm Lunch at Hermits Rest Picnic Area**
Toilets available
Lunch sponsored by Pueblo Water and Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
- Lunch Sponsor Remarks
Holly Kirkpatrick, Public Information and External Affairs Manager, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
- 12:30pm Lunch Speaker**
Discussion Topics
Black Canyon of the Gunnison, its layers of ancient rock, the charismatic wildlife to be found in the park, and Upper Gunnison River Valley including Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Reservoirs.
- Speaker
Dr. Laurie Householder, Ranger, U.S. National Parks Service
- 12:55pm Load Bus, Drive to Blue Mesa Dam**
- 1:30pm Blue Mesa Dam**
Discussion Topic
Reservoir operations and connections to the broader Colorado River Basin
- Speakers
Eric Langley, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Power Office
Susan Behery, Hydraulic Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Office



2:10pm

Load Bus, Drive along Blue Mesa Reservoir

Discussion Topic

Drought Response Operations Agreement, including responsibilities of Colorado and impacts to Colorado within the Agreement

Speaker

John McCloy, Upper Colorado River Commission Alternate Commissioner and General Counsel, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

2:25pm

Elk Creek Visitors Center - Bathroom Stop

Bathrooms available, 15 minute stop

2:40pm

Load Bus, Drive to Twin Lakes Mt Elbert Power Plant via Monarch Pass

Discussion Topic

[Continued] Drought Response Operations Agreement, including responsibilities of Colorado and impacts to Colorado within the Agreement

Speaker

John McCloy, Upper Colorado River Commission Alternate Commissioner and General Counsel, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Discussion Topic

Upper Gunnison water uses and vulnerabilities with regards to Colorado River Basin supplies

Speaker

Kathleen Curry, Colorado River District Board Member, former Gunnison Basin Roundtable Chair, and ranch owner

Discussion Topic

Municipalities sourcing water supplies from transbasin diversions to the Arkansas Basin, potential vulnerabilities of transbasin diversions in the case of reduced supply in the Colorado River system, and proposed new storage

Speaker

Richard Vidmar, Integrated Basin and Ecosystems Services Manager, Aurora Water
Alan Ward, Division Manager of Water Resources, Pueblo Water



5:00pm

Mt Elbert Powerplant - Bathrooms stop only

Bathrooms available, 15 minute stop, 10 people at a time

Discussion Topic

Overview of transbasin diversions to the Arkansas Basin/East Slope and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation role

Speaker

Anna Perea, Public Affairs Specialist, USBR Eastern Colorado Area Office

5:15pm

Load Bus, Drive to Silverthorne

Discussion Topic

Transbasin diversions to the Arkansas Basin, potential vulnerabilities of transbasin diversions in the case of reduced supply in the Colorado River system, and proposed new storage

Speaker

Anna Perea, Public Affairs Specialist, USBR Eastern Colorado Area Office
Richard Vidmar, Integrated Basin and Ecosystems Services Manager, Aurora Water
Alan Ward, Division Manager of Water Resources, Pueblo Water

Discussion Topic

Environmental priorities and the future of collaborative efforts in the Colorado River Basin

Speaker

Taylor Hawes, Colorado River Program Director, The Nature Conservancy and Colorado River District Board Member from Summit County

6:30pm

Tour ends at the La Quinta Inn & Suites in Silverthorne