

ONE WATERSHED **MANY VOICES**



SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 42ND ANNUAL WATER SEMINAR

**MARCH
27TH**

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
RESERVATION

2026
swwcd.org

PROGRAM

AGENDA

Thank you for attending Southwestern Water Conservation District's 42ND Annual Water Seminar. The following agenda brings together diverse voices from across the Southwest Basin to explore the challenges, opportunities, and collaborative solutions shaping the future of water in our region.

8:00 a.m. Registration & Breakfast

8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Steve Wolff – General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Chairman Baker - Southern Ute Tribal Nation, Tribal Blessing & Welcome

Charlie Smith – Board President, SWCD

8:45 a.m.

From Scarcity to Strategy: The Future of Water Quantity and Quality in the Basin

Drought, wildfire, and development are tightening the connection between water quantity and water quality, making it clear these challenges can no longer be managed separately. Municipal providers, watershed managers, and agencies must respond to changing hydrology, post-fire impacts, and increasing demand while ensuring safe, reliable water for communities and ecosystems. This panel brings together regional experts to discuss how these pressures are affecting water systems across the San Juan and Dolores basins, and how science, operations, and collaboration are helping build more resilient and sustainable water futures.

Moderator – Peter Butler

Patrick Cummins - Director of Environmental Health and Protection - CDPHE

Scott Roberts - Aquatic Ecologist / Water Programs Director - Mountain Studies Institute

Laura Rieck – Assistant Public Works Director, Utilities - City of Durango

Jeff Derry – Executive Director - Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies

Katrina Grantz – Deputy Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region- Bureau of Reclamation

10:00 a.m.

**Keynote Session #1 – Heather Hansman – Journalist & Author
Downriver: Into the Future of Water in the West**

A compelling storyteller who humanizes complex water issues through travel, interviews, and lived experience across the Colorado Basin.

10:45 a.m. Coffee Break and Networking

AGENDA

11:15 a.m.

Recreation, Rivers, and the Local Economy

Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of the Southwest Colorado economy, tightly intertwined with the health, timing, and reliability of our rivers. From boating and fishing to tourism and quality of life for local communities, rivers are both ecological lifelines and economic engines. This panel explores how water management decisions, flow regimes, and river health directly impact recreation-based businesses, public access, wildlife, and rural economies.

Moderator: Shannon Mullane – Western Water Reporter – The Colorado Sun
Rica Fulton - Advocacy & Stewardship Director- Dolores River Boating Advocates
Ryan Unterreiner - Water Resources Specialist – Colorado Parks and Wildlife
David Moler - Owner - Durango Rivertrippers & Adventure Tours
Blake Mamich – Programs Director - Colorado Water Trust

12:40 p.m.

Announcements & Lunch

Visit display tables highlighting local success stories, innovations and funding.

1:45 p.m.

Updates from the Water Information Program

Elaine Chick – Water Information Program Manager- Quick update and Debut of Education Video – Lifelines of the Land: The CCC Ditch Story

2:00 p.m.

Keynote #2 - Water in the West – The Path Forward

A forward-looking perspective on post-2026 Colorado River operations, Colorado's leadership role, and how local watershed decisions ripple through the greater Basin.

Becky Mitchell – Colorado River Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission
Jason Ullman – Colorado State Engineer

3:00 p.m.

Coffee Break and Networking

3:15 p.m.

Diagnosis to Action: How Decisions Get Made

Water decisions affecting Southwest Colorado are shaped across multiple levels - from tribal governments and local boards to basin roundtables, state agencies, and federal funding processes. Understanding how these systems interact is essential to turning local priorities into lasting outcomes. The goal of this panel would be to move from diagnosis to action: how local stakeholders, agencies, and tribes can influence water policy, resource allocation, and public engagement in the coming decade.

Moderator - Celine Hawkins – Colorado River Program Director - The Nature Conservancy
Christine Arbogast – President, Kogovsek and Associates/Colorado Water Congress
Lorelei Cloud – Chair, CWCB Board – Representing San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan Rivers
Marsha Porter Norton - La Plata County Commissioner
Peter Butler – SW Basins Roundtable Chair
Scott Clow - Director Environmental Programs - Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

AGENDA

4:20 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

4:30 p.m. **Happy Hour- Ballroom Hallway Sponsored by Colorado Water Trust and SGM!**
The first 100 people who visit the Colorado Trust and SGM tables and collect a ticket will receive a free drink!

SKY UTE CASINO
FRIDAY MARCH 27TH, 4:30PM



Join us after the **Southwest Water Seminar** for happy hour!

The **first 100** people to stop by our informational table will receive a **free drink ticket**.

Presenter Biographies

Alphabetical By Last Name

Christine Arbogast

Christine Arbogast is a native of Colorado with a degree in journalism and political science. She has dedicated her career to public policy and water resource advocacy, beginning her work with Congressman Ray Kogovsek in 1979. Since the founding of Kogovsek & Associates in 1985, Christine has played a key role in advancing resource and tribal issues, as well as supporting local governments, capital construction projects, and healthcare initiatives across the Western states.

A respected leader in the water community, Christine is an active member of the Water Congress Federal Affairs Committee and a past President of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA). She currently chairs NWRA's Federal Affairs Committee and is a member of the Colorado River Water Users Association and the Family Farm Alliance. Committed to fostering the next generation of water leaders, she is also the President and Founder of the Women in Water Scholarship Fund.

Christine's contributions to water policy and advocacy have been widely recognized. She was named the 2020 Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year and, most recently, received the National Water Resources Lifetime Achievement Award on October 1, 2024.

Presenter Biographies

Chairman Melvin J. Baker

Chairman Melvin J. Baker was re-elected in December 2023 to serve a second term as leader of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Baker previously completed four terms on the Tribal Council, totaling nine years of service. During his tenure, he has held multiple leadership roles, including Acting Chairman, Vice Chairman, Interim Executive Officer, and Council Member.

Born in Durango, Colorado, and raised on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Baker graduated from Ignacio High School before earning a certificate in Auto Body Repair from Haskell Indian Junior College in 1985. Prior to his work with the Tribe, he built a career as a Wildland Firefighter in Northern California, a role he remains proud of.

Throughout his years of service, Chairman Baker played a key role in the development and implementation of major projects such as the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. Baker served as the Director of Tribal Housing and worked under the Construction & Project Management Department. While on Tribal Council, he represented the Tribe on several committees, including the National Congress of American Indians, Southern Ute Elders Committee, Ten Tribes Partnership, and the North American Indigenous Games. Today, he continues to serve on the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority Board. Baker takes pride in maintaining and building upon the working relationship with the State of Colorado and the General Assembly.

As Chairman, Baker has focused on restoring teamwork within the Tribal organization and advancing cultural and language revitalization. Outside of his official duties, he enjoys spending time with his three children and five grandchildren, as well as caring for his buffalo and two dogs.

Elaine Chick

Elaine Chick is the Program Manager for the Water Information Program (WIP), a regional public education initiative supported by water districts, agencies, and organizations across the San Juan and Dolores watersheds of Southwestern Colorado. Through WIP, she develops and leads educational programs that help communities better understand water resources, policy, and stewardship in the Southwest. Her work includes producing the Southwestern Water Conservation District's annual Water Seminar, producing the annual Children's Water Festival for hundreds of fifth-grade students, organizing and co-facilitating teacher trainings and community workshops, and expanding partnerships that strengthen regional water education and outreach.

Elaine recently co-produced and directed the educational documentary *Lifelines of the Land: The CCC Ditch Story*, which highlights the history of irrigation, agriculture, and community in Western Colorado through the voices of local ranchers, historians, and farmers.

Prior to her work in water education, Elaine built an international career as a large-scale event producer and strategic consultant, managing complex projects and major public events including the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, multiple World Leader Summits, the Pan American Games, and the World Figure Skating Championships, to name a few. She spent many years in the music industry as a publicist, agent and promoter. Throughout her career she has overseen multi-million-dollar budgets, developed sponsorship and fundraising strategies, and produced conferences, festivals, and public events that bring people together around important ideas, education, and community engagement.

Presenter Biographies

Lorelei Cloud

Lorelei Cloud (Southern Ute Tribe), the first Native American appointed to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, champions equitable solutions for her region. Her commitment to Tribal Sovereignty was shaped through three terms on the Southern Ute Tribal Council, including serving as Vice Chairman and Treasurer. Encompassing her influence beyond elected office, Cloud co-founded the Indigenous Women's Leadership Network to elevate Native voices, along with being a Board Trustee for The Nature Conservancy in Colorado, and as a founding member of the Engineer Advisor Council. Cloud also serves on the board for Native Love, advocating for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, and was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Native American Rights Fund. Her powerful vision for a just and sustainable future has earned her The Nature Conservancy's Nature Advocacy Award (2023), Water Education Colorado's Gregg Hobbs Next Wave Leadership Award (2024), and the 2025 Hydyo20 honor.

Patrick Cummins

Patrick Cummins serves as Director of Environmental Health and Protection at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment where he provides executive oversight for the Water Quality Control Division, the Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability, the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, and Colorado's environmental boards and commissions, including the Water Quality Control Commission. Patrick brings 40 years of experience working in Colorado and across the West on environmental policy, air quality, climate, and clean energy. He has served in leadership roles with the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, the Western Governors' Association, and the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University. Patrick lives in La Plata County and holds a BS in Chemistry from Fort Lewis College and an MPA in Environmental Policy from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

Scott Clow

Scott Clow is the Director Environmental Programs with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. He received a B.A. in Chemistry and Environmental Science from Lafayette College in 1992. He worked in the environmental testing industry for 4 years in the northeast U.S. After moving to Colorado in 1996 to work for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe as its Water Quality Specialist, he did that for 12 years and then became the Department Director for the program. The Environmental Programs Department addresses many of the environmental issues of the Tribe including water quality, air quality, hazardous material management, climate change resilience, and many other issues. He chairs the Tribe's Natural Resources Interdisciplinary Team and Renewable Energy Team. He enjoys outdoor recreation, music and the joyous company of his dear friends and family.

Jeff Derry

Jeff Derry is the Executive Director for the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies. He is originally from Colorado Springs and has a B.A. in Geography from University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and a M.S. in Watershed Science from Colorado State University with an emphasis in snow hydrology. Jeff's passion for the cryosphere led him to work in Antarctica and Greenland as a field camp manager and science technician for 10 years. As a consultant in Fairbanks, Alaska, he conducted applied research in the Arctic for 5 years. From there he was an air quality monitoring specialist working on projects around the world. The arc of Jeff's life brought him to the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies in 2015 where his work now focuses on long-term climate observation, applied research, and high-elevation snowpack monitoring in the San Juan Mountains and statewide.

Presenter Biographies

Rica Fulton

Rica Fulton is the Advocacy & Stewardship Director with the Dolores River Boating Advocates. She is a river and land conservation specialist with a decade of experience in the private and non-profit sectors. She has served as the Advocacy and Stewardship Director with Dolores River Boating Advocates (DRBA) since 2022, where she leads advocacy initiatives and participates in local collaborative efforts focused on the health of the lower Dolores River. Prior to joining DRBA, Rica worked as a coordinator for the Dolores River Restoration Partnership, helping implement restoration projects along the riparian corridor from McPhee Reservoir to the confluence with the Colorado River.

Rica lives in Mancos Colorado with her husband and toddler and enjoys rafting desert rivers with family and friends. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and GIS from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado and a Master of Arts in Geography with an emphasis in Water Resources and Environment and Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming. Her graduate research focused on collaboration and stakeholder values in the Dolores River watershed, deepening her understanding of the complex human relationships that shape river management.

Katrina Grantz

Katrina Grantz is the Deputy Regional Director, Interior Region 7: Upper Colorado Basin. She brings nearly 20 years of specialized experience in water management and hydropower with the Bureau of Reclamation. Throughout her career, she has performed complex reservoir operations and hydrologic modeling; she served as the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management program manager and the regional dam safety and security manager. In her current role, as the Deputy Regional Director she oversees programs focused on critical Colorado River issues. Grantz further deepens this expertise through her previous research aimed at improving water management across the American West. She holds both a doctorate and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Colorado.

Celene Hawkins

Celene Hawkins is the Colorado River Program Director at The Nature Conservancy. She is a conservation professional and attorney with experience in Colorado River and Tribal water and natural resource management. She serves as The Nature Conservancy's Colorado River Program Director, where she leads the Conservancy's work towards a Colorado River system where nature is restored and protected, and rivers have enough water – at the right times and places – for people and nature to thrive. Celene serves on the leadership team of the Water and Tribes Initiative and previously served two terms on the Colorado Water Conservation Board in her personal capacity. Celene enjoys living near the Animas River in Durango, Colorado with her family.

Blake Mamich

Blake Mamich is the Programs Director at Colorado Water Trust, where he leads a team advancing voluntary water transactions that restore streamflow and improve river health across Colorado. His work centers on developing instream flow agreements and coordinating implementation with agricultural producers, reservoir operators, local water districts, and state partners. Blake helps translate complex water-rights and operational constraints into practical, collaborative solutions that benefit both working lands and aquatic ecosystems. He holds a background in natural resources management and agricultural economics and previously worked for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe as a Water Resources Specialist, contributing to the Tribe's efforts to protect, conserve, and develop its water resources. Based outside Ignacio, Colorado, Blake works statewide to build durable partnerships and agreements that deliver measurable benefits for rivers and the communities that rely on them.

Presenter Biographies

Becky Mitchell

Rebecca Mitchell (Becky) is the State of Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. Mitchell took on this upgraded role in July 2023 to enhance the state's position in Colorado River interstate issues and negotiations on the operations of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. She is an accomplished water leader with over 20 years of experience in the water sector and is highly knowledgeable in Colorado water law. Mitchell was also appointed Director of the Inter-Basin Compact Committee (IBCC) in October 2023. Mitchell's appointment has strengthened and integrated water policy discussions happening across the state and the Colorado River Basin. Previously, Mitchell was the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and played a significant role in developing the Colorado Water Plan, working with the state's nine basin roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and the public. She has worked as a consulting engineer in both the public and private sectors. She received her B.S. and M.S. from the Colorado School of Mines.

David Moler

David Moler is the owner of Durango Rivertrippers & Adventure Tours and has worked as a guide and outfitter in the Southwest for over 20 years. He began guiding commercially in 2005 and has extensive experience and permits on the Animas, Piedra, San Miguel, Colorado, Dolores, San Miguel, and Rio Grande rivers, as well as Westwater Canyon and Ruby Horsethief Canyon. His operations serve guests in Durango, Moab, and New Mexico, providing regional perspective on water management, permitting, and safety standards across multiple watersheds. A Fort Lewis College alum, David has long been active in the local business and civic community. He has previously served on the boards of Young Professionals of Durango, Visit Durango, and the Durango Business Improvement District, as well as several regional steering committees. He remains committed to responsible growth, balancing recreation, conservation, and community interests while protecting the long-term health of regional waterways.

Shannon Mullane

Shannon Mullane writes about the Colorado River Basin and Western water issues for The Colorado Sun. She frequently covers water news related to Western tribes, Western Slope and Colorado with an eye on issues related to resource management, the environment and equity.

Born in East Tennessee, Shannon has been in Colorado for about a decade and is based in Durango in southwest Colorado. Before joining the Sun's team, she contributed award-winning reporting on government, environment, health and more as a staff writer for The Durango Herald and as an intern for the Colorado Independent. She has also contributed reporting and photography to High Country News, The Salt Lake Tribune, ProPublica and Collective Colorado.

During her master's program at the University of Colorado Boulder, she focused her studies on environmental issues in Colorado and the West. Shannon attained a conversational fluency in French while working as an English language teacher in southern France.

Marsha Porter-Norton

Marsha Porter-Norton is the La Plata County Commissioner. She grew up on a cattle ranch and farm north of Cortez. Growing up, she helped irrigate, played in rural ditches and lived through several big droughts. This gave her a deep appreciation for water, natural environments, agriculture and the many other ways that people use, consumer and conserve. Previous to serving as a Commissioner she was a public issues facilitator. She worked a lot in water and natural resources on projects such as the Dolores River NCA, River Protection Workgroup, Hermosa Creek Special Management Area and Wilderness, and other efforts. She and her husband moved back to southwest Colorado in 1994. She graduated from CSU and the University of Denver with studies in community development, social work, and mediation. Areas she is focusing on as a Commissioner now in her 6th year include climate resilience, watershed health and wildfire preparation and wise use of water in land use planning.

Presenter Biographies

Laura Rieck

Laura Rieck is the Assistant Public Works Director/Utilities Manager for the City of Durango, Colorado, and has been a significant figure in the City of Durango's Public Works Department, particularly noted for her role in addressing the city's aging water infrastructure. Her background is in water/wastewater management and operations, water resource management, environmental consulting and engineering, and public education and outreach related to public works and hydrology. She is a certified operator with Water Treatment A, Distribution 4, Wastewater Treatment C, Collections 2, Backflow Tester and Backflow Testing proctor certifications. She is an educator at heart, helping the public learn about what public works does and why it's so important. She is also an operator advocate, striving to help all operators achieve their professional development goals by providing training opportunities to operators throughout Southwest Colorado and the Four Corners region.

Scott W. Roberts

Scott Roberts is the Aquatic Ecologist / Water Programs Director at Mountain Studies Institute (MSI). He has led MSI's Water Program for the past ten years. His research explores how landscape-scale disturbance and climate (including drought, wildfire, legacy mining, etc.) alter water quality, hydrology, and aquatic life. At MSI, Scott has implemented a decade-long benthic macroinvertebrate research program including establishing an in-house benthic macroinvertebrate identification laboratory. He has served as lead scientist for a variety of projects in the San Juan Mountains region since 2014.

Scott participates in several local and state-wide groups including the Animas Watershed Partnership (Steering Committee); Colorado Parks and Wildlife Aluminum Workgroup; and the CDPHE Policy 10-1 (Aquatic Life) Technical Advisory Committee. Scott was trained as a geographer at Appalachian State University (B.S.) and University of Tennessee (M.S.). Scott spent five years with the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab where he explored how changing sediment, salinity, and climate regimes shape aquatic habitat and benthic macroinvertebrate communities; and investigated watershed-scale spatial variability of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains

Charlie Smith

Charlie Smith was appointed by San Juan County, has been a Director on the Board since 2017. Mr. Smith was elected as board president in February 2025. Mr. Smith came to Southwest Colorado for a climbing trip in 1992 and has been living here ever since. Mr. Smith served as General Manager of the Lake Durango Water Authority from July 2009 to January 2022. He is currently a director for the Pine Ridge Ditch Company. After graduating from Washington University in Saint Louis with a degree in Applied Science and Engineering, he worked as a researcher and managed a chemical plant in the Midwest. After moving to Colorado, Mr. Smith learned to ski, worked in the oil and gas industry, and then was Vice President of Trimble Hot Springs for 11 years. He spends his free time hiking, climbing, and backcountry skiing with his wife Amy and their two dogs.

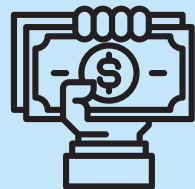
Need Funding?

SWCD runs an in-house grant program. This program funds water projects, education, and studies in our District. Last year, SWCD provided our area with over \$170,000 in grant funding. If you are interested in the SWCD Grant Program, check out our 2026 Guidelines on the SWCD website. Need other local sources of funding? Contact the Southwest Basin Roundtable (Peter Butler) or Colorado Water Conservation Board (Laura Spann).

Josh Brooks - SWCD Grant Program - jbrooks@swgcd.org

Peter Butler - Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair - contact@swbasinsroundtable.org

Laura Spann - CWCB Regional Water Plan Grant Manager - laura.spann@state.co.us



Presenter Biographies

Jason Ullmann

Jason Ullmann was appointed as the 23rd State Engineer and Director of the Division of Water Resources (DWR) on March 21, 2024. He has over 20 years of experience in water resources engineering, including 14 years at DWR. During those 14 years, he served as Assistant Division Engineer in Water Division 4 and Deputy State Engineer. Previously, he was the City Engineer for the City of Montrose and a consulting engineer for ditch and reservoir companies across Colorado. DWR, within Colorado's Department of Natural Resources, administers water rights, issues well permits, ensures Colorado meets its compact obligations under interstate water compacts, monitors streamflow and water use, regulates dams and well construction within Colorado to protect public safety, and maintains numerous nation-leading databases of publicly available Colorado water information. Jason leads DWR in addressing the increasing challenges of water management in Colorado.

Ryan Unterreiner

Ryan Unterreiner is Colorado Parks and Wildlife Southwest Region Water Resources Specialist and has worked at the intersection of wetland and riverine ecology and water resources planning and development for more than 25 years. At Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Ryan shepherds the water rights portfolio in the Southwest Region to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state. Ryan's accomplishments at CPW are not his own. Those can only be shared with others, when good ideas and trust from local champions manifest into partnerships, water sharing agreements, and coordinated actions that create access or protect riverine health to meet multiple objectives from multiple parties. To increase our impact in this space, CPW created an Outdoor Recreation and Lands Branch to support outdoor recreation and land stewardship in ways that Coloradans experience the outdoors today. These experiences include growing pressures from population growth, recreational trends, and changing conditions in our riverscapes due to climate change.

Steve Wolff

Steve Wolff currently serves as the General Manager of the Southwestern Water Conservation District. The District is comprised of nine counties covering southwest Colorado. The District's statutory authority is to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basin for the welfare of the District, and safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. Steve also serves as the Chair of the Upper Colorado River Commission's Engineering Committee. Prior to this position, Steve served as the Interstate Streams Division Administrator in the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. The Interstate Streams Division provides primary oversight for Wyoming's rights and responsibilities relative to the seven interstate water compacts and three interstate water decrees the State is signatory to. While in Wyoming, Steve also served as Chair of the Management Committee of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

Water Education in Southwest Colorado



SWCD has a longstanding commitment to water education in our region. We match every dollar donated to the Water Information Program and administer the program, contribute to Water Education Colorado, and support local organizations in their outreach efforts through our Grant Program. If you need water education materials, are seeking a partner, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to SWCD! See 'Our Programs' for more information on WIP.

About the District

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was created on April 16, 1941 by the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill #795 (Statute 37-47-101).

The District is comprised of nine counties: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel, and parts of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Montrose. Each Board of County Commissioners appoints a representative to the District Board of Directors, which meets bi-monthly.

SWCD's statutory authority is to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basin for the welfare of the District, and safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. Following this mandate, the District has assumed a broad strategic role on behalf of its diverse constituents. District representatives advocate for southwestern Colorado's water interests at the local, state and regional level.

Our Board of Directors

Charlie Smith - President
San Juan County

Steve Garchar
Dolores County

Rusty Hinger
Mineral County

JR Ford - Vice President
Archuleta County

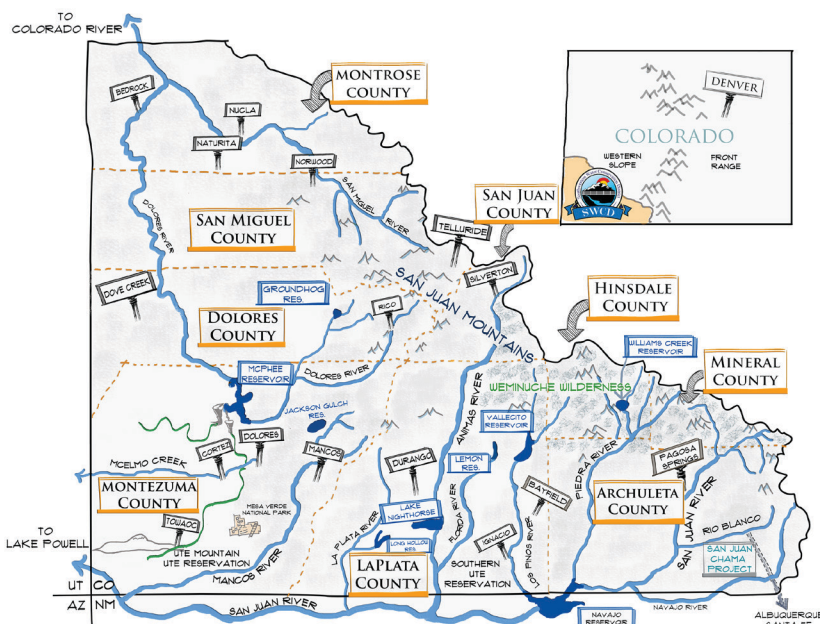
David Guilliams
Hinsdale County

Gerald Koppenhafer
Montezuma County

Amy Huff - Secretary/Treasurer
La Plata County

Kenny Heldman
Montrose County

Jenny Russell
San Miguel County



Staff

Steve Wolff
General Manager

Monika Bardier
Programs Coordinator

Josh Brooks
Accounting and Grants
Coordinator

Contact Us:

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SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
**WATER CONSERVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP**

In the Summer of 2023, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) proposed the development of a water conservation and infrastructure partnership to pursue and implement projects identified in SWCD strategic priorities, SW Basin Implementation Plans (BIP), and other community-engaged processes. SWCD and regional partners planned to request federal, state, and other funding to support the Water Conservation and Infrastructure Partnership (Partnership), which included developing a Priority Project Pipeline and creating a Community Navigator position. Additionally, as part of developing the federal funding application, SWCD and partners identified the additional capacity needed to implement such a program.

This ongoing program identifies, funds, and coordinates watershed-scale, multi-benefit infrastructure and water conservation projects requiring complex regional partner collaboration and larger monetary investments. Ultimately, the program seeks to leverage funding to increase SWCD's capacity to assist regional partners and stakeholders in developing and implementing local projects. These projects aim to address the goals and needs of multiple stakeholders in the San Juan and Dolores River basins within southwest Colorado.

Stay Engaged

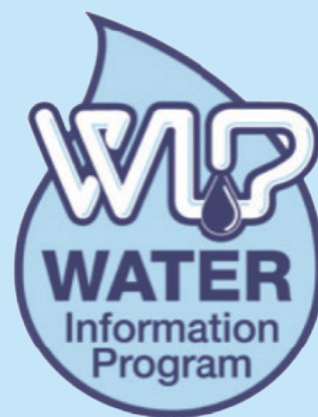
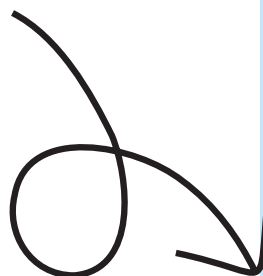
Volunteers Needed!

Be a part of SWCD's 28th Annual Children's Water Festival on May 13th, 2026! We need Presenters (teach groups of 5th graders throughout the day) and Guides (follow a class to all their presentations throughout the day & help guide them through the event).



Join our Mailing List!

Click 'join mailing list' to stay in touch with the District! The Nine Basin Bulletin is a quarterly newsletter with water news, legislation, jobs, and events.



The **Water Information Program (WIP)** is dedicated to offering information and educational resources covering a spectrum of topics such as current events, water issues, water law, and history, as well as educational workshops.

WIP is sponsored by the water districts, organizations and agencies in the San Juan and Dolores watersheds of Southwestern Colorado. The purpose of the WIP is to provide information to the public and community on water topics and water related issues.

WIP hosts a variety of workshops and events, including Water Law in a Nutshell Course, the Forest to Faucets Teacher Training Program, the annual Children's Water Festival, and produces the SWCD annual Water Seminar.

Stay Connected with WIP:

www.waterinfo.org
Contact: Elaine Chick
elaine@waterinfo.org