



YAMPA BASIN RENDEZVOUS



The 8th Annual Conference
Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs
May 28-29, 2025

Organized by the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, Friends of the Yampa, Colorado Mountain College, Community Agriculture Alliance, River Network, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, Yampatika, The Nature Conservancy, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council, and Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation.

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

8:30 - Doors Open; Coffee, Tea and Mingle

9:00-9:25 - Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- Andy Rossi, *General Manager, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District*
- Marty Ralph, *Director, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes*

9:30-10:50 - Multi-scale observations of Upper Yampa snow for science-informed decision-making

In this panel, researchers at the cutting edge of snow science will present their perspectives on observing and modeling Colorado snow on scales ranging from snowflake nucleation physics to basin-wide snowpack dynamics.

Moderator:

- Deanna Nash, *Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes*

Speakers:

- Gannet Haller, *Director, Storm Peak Laboratory, University of Utah*
- Jeff Deems, *Co-Founder and Chief Technical Officer, Airborne Snow Observatories*
- Noah Molotch, *Associate Professor of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder*



For information on the Yampa Basin Rendezvous visit: yvsc.org/yampa-basin-rendezvous



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11:00-12:20 - Keeping it local: Restoring the Yampa Basin for natural resilience

This panel will explore the projects and partnerships seeking to build resilience throughout the Yampa Basin and will highlight ongoing floodplain, wet meadow, and stream restoration projects at the Yampa River-Walton Creek confluence and in California Park.

Moderator:

- Tim Sullivan, *Senior Director of Climate Resilience, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council*

Speakers:

- Julie Baxter, *Water Resources Manager, City of Steamboat Springs*
- Ryan Messinger, *Natural Climate Solutions Program Manager, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council*
- Brian Hodge, *Fisheries Scientist, Trout Unlimited*

12:20-1:20 - Lunch Break and Networking- boxed lunches provided for all registered attendees.

1:30-4:00 - Field Excursion: Examining the Spectrum of Stream Restoration Approaches (Tentative)

Location: Various project sites throughout the city of Steamboat Springs (Tentative)

5:00-7:00 - Community Showcase Happy Hour

Happy hour session featuring posters and other presentations that showcase projects throughout the Yampa and Colorado River Basins that are moving the needle for healthy, resilient landscapes. Drinks and snacks provided.

Location: [The Boathouse](#), 609 Yampa St, Steamboat Springs, CO.

Thursday, May 29, 2025

8:30 - Doors Open; Coffee, Tea and Mingle

9:00-10:15 - Plenary Welcome Keynote

- Emily Fairfax, *Assistant Professor of Physical Geography, University of Minnesota*

10:30-11:50 - Beyond the Yampa: Building resilience in the Upper South Platte, White, and Arkansas basins

Professionals from Denver Water, The Nature Conservancy, and Colorado Open Lands will discuss their efforts to address post-fire sedimentation, stream channelization and loss of wetlands, and wildfire risk mitigation.

Moderator:

- Megan Karschner, *Executive Director, Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition*

Speakers:

- Dirk Rasmussen, *Restoration Program Manager, Colorado Open Lands*
- Joseph Leonhard, *Riparian Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy*
- Alison Witheridge, *Watershed Planning Manager, Denver Water*

12:00-4:30 - Field Excursion: Natural Climate Solutions in Action

Location: TBC. Boxed lunches provided for all registered field trip attendees.



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