



YAMPA BASIN RENDEZVOUS

Yampa Basin Rendezvous 2024: *Connecting the Drops: Linking Weather, Watersheds, and Communities for a Resilient Water Future*



May 29-30, 2024, Colorado Mountain College Steamboat Springs

*Organized by the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E),
Colorado Mountain College, Community Ag Alliance, Friends of the Yampa, River Network, Upper
Yampa Water Conservancy District, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, The Nature Conservancy,
and Yampatika*

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

8:30 am – Doors Open; Coffee, Tea and Mingle

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

Carrie Besnette Hauser, *President and CEO of Colorado Mountain College*

9:30-10:50 am – Panel: “State of the Science & Policy: Looking Ahead to a Sustainable Water Future”

Here we will explore recent developments in climate science and upcoming policy in Colorado and describe their potential application to and impacts upon the Yampa Basin.

Moderator: Jackie Brown, *Senior Water & Natural Resource Policy Advisor, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association*

Speakers:

- Becky Bolinger, *Assistant State Climatologist, Colorado Climate Center, CSU*
- Deanna Nash, *Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E)*
- Kelly Romero-Heaney, *Deputy Policy Director, CO Department of Natural Resources*

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



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11:00-12:20 pm – Panel: “Building Water Resilience Through Connected Land-Water Planning”

Here we will explore the projects and partnerships seeking to build land-water resilience and the realities facing local landowners and water managers leading this work in the Yampa Basin.

Moderator: Brian Murphy, *Healthy Rivers Program Director, River Network*

Speakers:

- Chris Sturm, *Watershed Program Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board*
- Andy Rossi, *General Manager, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District*
- Kyle Monger, *5th Generation Yampa Valley Rancher, Routt County, CO*

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

1:30-4:30 pm – Field Excursion: “Monitoring the Yampa Valley for Sustainable Water Management”

Location: Yampa Basin Atmosphere & Soil moisture Integrated Network (Y-BASIN) monitoring station, Yampa River Valley

5:00-7:00 pm – Community Showcase Happy Hour: *Happy hour with conjoined poster session showcasing projects throughout the Yampa and Colorado River Basins that are moving the needle for healthy, resilient landscapes. Drinks and snacks provided. Location [The Boathouse](#).*

Thursday, May 30, 2024

8:30 am – Doors Open; Coffee, Tea and Mingle

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

F. Martin Ralph, *Director, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E)*

9:30-10:50 am – Panel: "Creating the Confluence: Merging the Currents of Knowledge and Action"

Here we will explore creative and novel strategies for engaging communities in climate and sustainability.

Moderator: Kristen Jespersen, *Executive Director, Yampatika*

Speakers:

- Jessica Counts, *Executive Director, Yampa Valley Partnership for Students, Stewardship, and Sustainability*
- Cody Perry, *Co-Founder, Rig to Flip and Advocacy Campaign Manager, Western Slope Conservation Center*
- Luke Runyon, *Co-Director, The Water Desk at University of Colorado - Boulder*

10:50-11:20 – Break, mingle, box lunch distribution for registered field trip attendees only, meet at vans at 11:30 sharp for field excursion departure

11:30-4:30 pm – Field Excursion: “Natural Climate Solutions” Location: Working ranches along Deep, Trull, and Salt Creeks (Elk River tributaries)



Center for Western Weather
and Water Extremes



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