



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, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, Friends of the Yampa, the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, River Network, Yampatika, and Community Ag Alliance

The Yampa River is one of the wildest remaining major tributaries of the Colorado River and supports a rich ecosystem, local agriculture and ranching, and a robust recreation industry. It also provides crucial water supplies to local stakeholders and all those downstream. However, warming temperatures, rising snowlines, and increased drought occurrence and severity pose serious risks to the water-reliant ecosystems of the Yampa River Basin. ***How are we, as a community, stewarding our watershed amidst historic climate extremes to ensure our own water resilience?*** This question will be at the forefront of the 2024 Yampa Basin Rendezvous. This 2-day event will provide an overview of the record weather and water extremes that continue to define our present and future in the Yampa River Basin, and showcase the current water and riparian land management policies and practices that can lead us to the resilient future we desire. The overarching goal is to provide a venue that encourages a science-based, community-centered approach to create informed, adaptive, proactive, and science-based management strategies and policies for the Yampa Basin's natural resources and communities.

During the seventh-annual Yampa Basin Rendezvous, participants will examine the Yampa River Basin with a focus on climate and weather, water policy, watershed management, and community engagement strategies. The Rendezvous will include morning discussion panels with regional experts, water managers, scientists, and leaders, afternoon field learning, and an evening community showcase happy hour event.

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



YAMPA BASIN RENDEZVOUS

Building a resilient water future in the Yampa Valley requires deep, meaningful connections with people who live, study, work, and steward rivers in the West. This event is part of ongoing efforts by the YBR partner organizations to develop and strengthen those connections.

YBR Mission: The YBR strives to be an opportunity for shared exploration, reflection, communication, appreciation, and collaborative learning about the Yampa Basin ecosystem, environment, weather, climate, people, and culture and their intersections, for members of the Yampa Basin community as well as all the communities downstream who rely on the Yampa's water.

YBR Goals: Connect students, researchers, institutions, and community members who live and work in the Yampa River Basin to share knowledge regarding climate variability and change that has impacts on the environment, people, and economy. Build community and encourage collaborative problem-solving and planning, and provide an opportunity for citizens and visitors to be informed about the state of the Yampa Basin and the people and plans in place and in process to protect it.

The 2024 YBR Steering Committee:

Garrett McGurk, co-chair, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego

Jenny Frithsen, co-chair, Friends of the Yampa

Jacob Morgan, co-chair, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego

Emily Burke, co-chair, Friends of the Yampa

Madison Muxworthy, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council

Nathan Stewart, Colorado Mountain College

Ellen Knappe, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego

Halie Cunningham, Yampatika

Holly Kirkpatrick, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

Andy Baur, The Nature Conservancy

Patrick Stanko, Community Ag Alliance

Brian Murphy, River Network

Silas Axtell, Colorado Mountain College



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