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WELCOME!

For more information on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, visit www.rgbrt.org

NEXT ROUNDTABLE MEETING: MAR. 9, 2021 @ 2 PM

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the next Rio Grande Basin Roundtable meeting will be held virtually. Community members are welcome to “attend” either on the phone or by computer. The agenda is available online at www.rgbrt.org. All comments and questions during the meeting should be directed to the facilitator through the “Chat” function to help us avoid confusion and extra noise. Attendees are also encouraged to keep microphones muted to prevent background noise.

TO JOIN MEETING BY COMPUTER:

[HTTPS://WWW.GOTOMEET.ME/RIOGRANDEROUNDTABLE](https://www.gotomeet.me/riograndeRoundtable)

TO CALL IN BY PHONE: (TOLL FREE): 1-866-899-4679 OR +1 (571) 317-3117 ACCESS CODE: 759-646-093

CONEJOS RIVER PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



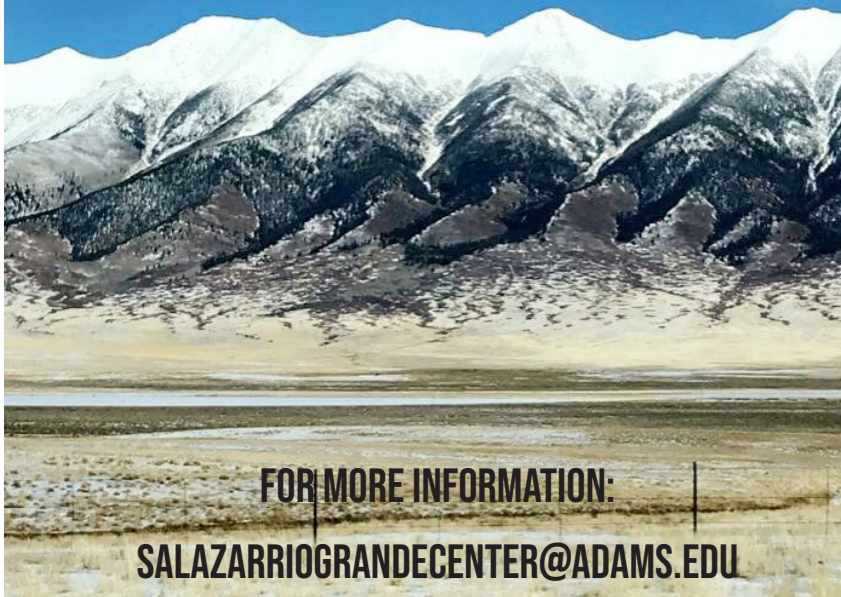
The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project has partnered with the Conejos Water Conservancy District and other local stakeholders to plan and implement the the Conejos River Partnership Project (CRPP), a multi-phased project focused on improving irrigation efficiency, stabilizing streambanks, and enhancing riparian and aquatic habitat along the Conejos River. Most of the irrigation diversion structures on the Conejos River are located between Mogote and the confluence with the Rio Grande. Some structures have difficulty diverting their decreed rates during low flow conditions, and very few have automated headgates.

In addition to impacting irrigators, degraded structures can negatively affect stream health and aquatic habitat connectivity by fragmenting habitat, altering sediment transport and impacting channel geomorphology through frequent instream maintenance. They can also impact ability to deliver water for the Rio Grande Compact.

Source Credit: Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project



SAVE THE DATE!
STATE OF THE BASIN SYMPOSIUM
MARCH 20TH 9AM -1PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SALAZARRIOGRANDECENTER@ADAMS.EDU

This symposium is for the people of the San Luis Valley, from all parts of the community.

- Learn about current threats like the latest water exportation scheme
- Discuss water challenges
- Hear from water experts
- Explore solutions and how to be part of them
- Gain valuable resources



Great Stories Begin Here

**SALAZAR RIO GRANDE
DEL NORTE CENTER**

After a successful start in 2019, the annual State of the Basin Symposium moved last year to a virtual format. This year's symposium will also take place online, but there is still a lot to look forward to. Keynote speaker Dan Gibbs is the Director of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources. Other guests will include speakers from the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and other highly regarded SLV water professionals.

ROUNDTABLE MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

We are proud of our Roundtable members. They are community members with an investment in water use, conservation, and beneficial projects. We feature a member in each issue so that our community can get to know us a little better. You can find a complete list of members at www.rgbrt.org.

CHARLES SPIELMAN - INDUSTRIAL & DOMESTIC MEMBER AT LARGE



Charles Spielman has been a member of the Roundtable since its inception in 2006, and represents industrial water interests, and some municipal water users. As Chair of the M&I Committee in 2015, Charlie coordinated the compilation of the M&I section of the Rio Grande Basin Action Plan. He is a geological engineering graduate of the Colorado School of Mines and has worked throughout the western US and Australia in the mining industry. A fourth-generation Valley native, Mr. Spielman has interests in both mining and real estate in Colorado, serves as President of the Monte Vista Economic Development Corporation, and is involved in several other community organizations in Rio Grande County, where he resides. Charlie enjoys landscape painting, traveling into the high country, and watching the cranes come in at sunset at the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WATER EXPORTS



The San Luis Valley is no stranger to outside entities attempting to grab water.

1986

Canadian businessman **Maurice Strong** used his company, American Water Development, Inc., to file a proposal to export 200,000 acre feet by pumping groundwater out of the aquifer.

1991

The judge of **Division 3 Water Court** ruled against AWDI as they weren't able to prove that groundwater is non-tributary



1994

The ruling was upheld by **Colorado's Supreme Court**

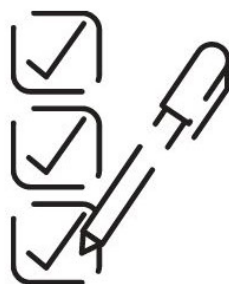
1996

Gary Boyce, owner of **Stockman's Water**, proposes pumping 150,000 acre feet from his confined aquifer wells. It is blocked in the courts.



1998

Boyce & his partners put legislative **Initiatives #15 & #16 into the statewide ballot**. The measures tried to regulate only San Luis Valley wells and tax the Closed Basin Project. Both failed to pass.



2014

Gary Boyce comes back with **Sustainable Water Resources** to export 35,000 acre feet pumped from confined aquifer wells.

2016

Rancho Rosado is deeded to Renewable Water Resources after Boyce's death. Sean Tonner owns the company and property in Saguache County.



2018

Renewable Water Resources proposes piping 22,000 acre feet from the aquifers for export to the Front Range.



Not Headed in the Right Direction

Two examples of opposing social media posts on the proposed water export by Renewable Water Resources. Above, RWR's claim about SLV community members' feelings about the Valley via a cold call survey. Below, Protect San Luis Valley Water notes the determination of agriculture's water users for sustainability.



Setting the record straight.

ProtectSanLuisValleyWater.com



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out the bonus episode "A Brief History of Exports" now available on the Big River Podcast: **Stories of the Rio Grande**. And check out the websites discussed: renewablewaterresources.com protectsanluisvalleywater.com

This and other episodes are available to download on www.rgbrt.org, Apple iTunes, Stitcher, and Spotify!

BASIN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

<p>CWCB Board of Directors Meeting March 11- 12</p>	<p>Water Project Loans Secure a great interest rate for your next project! Lauren Miremont lauren.miremont@state.co.us.</p>
<p>PEPO & IBCC Meetings PEPO February 22 1 - 3 pm IBCC February 23 8 am - 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Help the Water Plan Update process with your thoughts on four action areas at engagecwcb.org</p>


The Roundtable approved use of the tiering matrix to assess projects. All proposals must use the approved project sheet found at www.rgbrt.org. Due to changes in the CWCB approval process, proposals are requested to preview at the March 2021 meeting if possible.

For more information, contact Daniel Boyes, Local Expert
daniel@riograndeheadwaters.org

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

The 2021 Water Leaders class has extended their application deadline! This is an amazing opportunity to meet leading water professionals across Colorado and gain a better understanding of your own personal leadership style as well as hone your abilities.


Rio Grande Water Leaders Alumni



Colorado Water Leaders 2021

Apply by February 22, 2021

<https://www.watreducationcolorado.org/programs-events/water-leaders/>



Like what you're reading? Sign up for future editions of the RGBRT Newsletter at info@riograndeheadwaters.org
 Want to share news about your water projects, organizations, or events? Email your information to Bethany Howell, Public Education Participation & Outreach Liaison at bethany@rgwcei.org

