



RIO GRANDE BASIN ROUNDTABLE



Photo Credit: Connor Born

WELCOME!

The RGBRT fosters cooperation in Colorado's Rio Grande basin through support of multi-purpose projects that help us manage, protect, and sustain water use for today and into the future. The Roundtable exists to make stuff happen! Check out our website: <http://rgbrt.org/>

Table of Contents

Page 1

- Upcoming Events

Page 2

- Recent Events Recap

Page 3

- Recent Events Recap
- Roundtable Member Highlight: Cary Aloia

Upcoming Events

July RGBRT Meeting

The July RGBRT meeting will be held on **July 11th** at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Office, located at 8805 Independence Way in Alamosa, from **2- 4 PM**, with an Executive Committee Meeting starting at **1 PM**. The Education Committee will meet at **10 AM** at the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District Office, located at 623 4th St. in Alamosa. Visit the [RGBRT website](#) for Zoom links to attend virtually!

CSU San Luis Valley Research Center Field Day – August 8

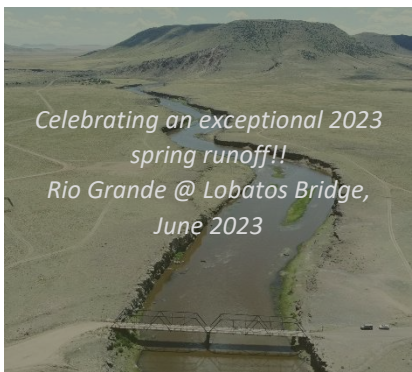
The 2023 San Luis Valley Research Center Field Day will be held on **Tuesday, August 8th**. More information to come.

Adams State University Water Education Opportunities Continue!

This fall, two courses – *Water Essentials: How Water Works in the West* and *Environmental Literature* – will be offered as part of Adams State's Water Studies Minor Program in partnership with the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center. These courses are open to both Adams State students and members of the community. Scholarship opportunities for enrolled students and additional info can be found [here](#), or send an email to salazarriograndecenter@adams.edu. Get registered!

Coors Farm Tour – July 18

Join the RGBRT on a tour of the MolsonCoors Farm on **Tuesday, July 18th from 9am-12pm**. Learn about their operation, barley varieties, water reduction trials, and more! RSVP [here](#) by *Friday, July 14th*.



Celebrating an exceptional 2023 spring runoff!!
Rio Grande @ Lobatos Bridge,
June 2023

The Roundtable and Education Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Visit rgbrt.org for meeting times and virtual attendance options.



Recent Events Recap: Rio Grande Basin Symposium, Southwest Basin Tour, Rio Trio, and More! *By Cassandra McCuen*

Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium

The fifth annual Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium took place on Saturday, May 6th at Adams State University. This year's theme was "The Future of Water." Attendees heard from over 10 speakers, proudly including some of our own Roundtable members, on topics like interstate issues, the valley's dwindling water supplies, and of course the future of water. Keynote speaker, author and naturalist Craig Childs, beautifully articulated our innate connection to water, how it influences and moves through the landscape of the arid southwest, and captured what it's like to live within scarcity. Despite the many water challenges, we face here in the Rio Grande Basin, water leaders in the valley and beyond are working tirelessly to make "The Future of Water" one of optimism and resilience.

There is always more to learn about water in the San Luis Valley and across the state- don't miss out!
Recordings can be accessed [here](#).



Photo Credit: Rio de la Vista

Southwest Basin Tour

The Roundtable went on a tour of the Southwest Basin May 11-12th. The first day of the tour was a visit to the [Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch](#) with Simon Martinez. The farm and ranch irrigate 7,700 acres under 110 center pivots, manages a cow/calf operation, and operates a corn mill for their Bow and Arrow Brand. Relying solely on the water from McPhee Reservoir, we learned about the high variability of their water allocations from year to year, and some of the changes they're making to their operation to meet unique challenges. Additionally, we visited one of their hydropower plants that generates electricity from their gravity-fed water system and toured the corn mill.

On day two we took it full circle too see the source of the Farm and Ranch's water. Ken Curtis of the [Dolores Water Conservancy District](#), along with members of the Southwest Basin Roundtable, gave us a tour of the [Dolores Project](#) and explained some of their operations. The Project develops water from the Dolores River and includes McPhee Dam, McPhee hydropower plant, the Great Cut Dyke, and miles of canals and tunnels to support irrigation, municipal and industrial use, recreation flows, fish and wildlife flows, and production of hydroelectric power.

A huge thank you to our hosts and all who attended!



Touring the corn mill. Photo Credit: Cassandra McCuen



The group overlooks McPhee Reservoir. Photo Credit: Cassandra McCuen



Recent Events Recap Continued

Rio Trio

The Roundtable was a sponsor of the third annual Valley Bottom Rio Trio that took place on May 27th. This year was a huge success with over 180 participants competing in the triathlon, nearly double last year's numbers. There were 6 states and 15 Colorado counties represented outside of the San Luis Valley. Results can be found by visiting the [Rio Trio website](#).

The race included a 2.75 mile paddle on the Rio. Photo Credit: InFocus Photo Company



Habitat Conservation Plan Tour

Members of the Roundtable gathered bright and early on June 5th to embark on a tour at the Higel State Wildlife Area. We heard from Cary Aloia and Jenny Nehring about the southwestern willow flycatcher and their habitat here in the San Luis Valley. Binoculars in hand and ears open, the flycatchers delivered, and we were able to hear their unique “fitz-bew” call from a patch of willows. The tour wrapped up with a discussion on the San Luis Valley Habitat Conservation Plan.

Listening for the unique “fitz-bew” call of southwestern willow flycatchers. Photo Credit: Cassandra McCuen



Roundtable Member Highlight:



Cary Aloia

Environmental Member at

Cary is a partner and Wetland Biologist with Wetland Dynamics, LLC, working in the SLV and throughout Colorado for over 20 years. Her work takes her to a wide range of sites partnering with diverse water users to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and riparian areas integral to the sustainability of water resources in the SLV. She currently also serves as the SLV Wetland Focus Area Committee Chair. She enjoys hiking, fishing, and traipsing through wetlands and rivers wherever she finds herself.

Water Views: Sustainable wetlands = sustainable water resources = sustainable agriculture

Want to stay up to date? Subscribe to our newsletter at info.rgbrt@gmail.com and follow us on our [Facebook Page](#)!

