

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!

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Upcoming Events

January RGBRT Meeting

The January RGBRT meeting will be held on **Jan 9th** 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**.

2024 Education Committee Retreat

The Roundtable Education Committee will be meeting from 12am-3:30pm on Jan 11 at Trinchera Ranch to coordinate outreach and education efforts for 2024. Lunch will be included. If you're interested in attending, contact cassandra@riograndeheadwaters.org before 3pm on Dec 5th.

Events Recap – Potato Harvest and Quinoa Processing Tour



Photo Credit: Cassandra McCuen

On October 6th, The Roundtable Education Committee led a tour that began out in the field during the peak of potato harvest in the Valley. Attendees rode in tractors and on harvesters to get an up-close experience of harvest. The tour then visited Colorado Quinoa's new quinoa processing facility, which stores, cleans and sorts SLV grown quinoa. Finally, the group visited White Rock Specialties warehouse to watch potatoes get cleaned, sorted, and bagged.

Thanks to Moe Bond and Sheldon Rocky



Recent Events Recap Cont. – Colorado C9 Summit, Denver/Aurora Tour! *By Connor Born*

Colorado C9 Roundtable Summit

A gathering of the nine Colorado Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) was held on November 14th in Westminster Colorado. The event, which was last held in 2019, included opening statements from Colorado DNR director Dan Gibbs, newly appointed CWCBC director Lauren Ris, and Governor Jared Polis. Next, attendees participated in a breakout workshop and listened to several panel discussions framed around highlighting roundtable accomplishments and Colorado River discussions. Becky Mitchell provided additional context to Colorado River discussion before being joined by Russ George, the former lawmaker behind the roundtable legislation.



Photo Credit: Moxiecran Media

Denver/Aurora Tour

Just before the C9 Summit, Roundtable members visited the Denver Federal Center and Aurora Prairie Waters facility. At the Federal Center, the tour group first visited the NSF Ice Core Facility, where ice core samples from Antarctica and Greenland are stored and processed in a room cooled to -40 F. Staff at the facility presented on the methods for extracting the cores, as well as the cores' value to science. The tour next visited the USGS National Water Quality Lab and Sediment Core Lab, where they learned about ongoing research involving testing of sediment cores for historic human presence and plant communities, as well as examining tree rings to construct past fire regimes.

The tour ended their day at the Prairie Waters facility outside of Aurora, which houses one of the most advanced water purification systems in the country. The facility captures a portion of the non-native transmountain water that flows down the South Plate that has already been used once by upstream municipalities. The result of this process is an additional potable water source without the appropriation of new water rights.

A huge thank you to our tour guides and all who attended!



Photo Credit: Rio de la Vista



2023 Year in Review – Project Showcase *By Connor Born*

Each year the Roundtable supports a host of great water projects throughout the San Luis Valley. This Year, 10 projects were given funding through the Roundtable designated Water Supply Reserve Fund. We're always looking for compelling water projects to fund. For more information on how to apply, contact us at info.rgbrt@gmail.com. Below you'll find information on what we funded this year.



Roundtable Funding –
\$204,000
Total Project Cost –
\$329,500

Culebra Watershed Partnership

Funding this project helped create a program manager position to implement projects identified in the Culebra Watershed Assessment. This new role paired with the hard work to complete the assessment will greatly facilitate future infrastructure, stewardship, and restoration projects.

Divide District Toilet Replacement

This Project addresses aging vault toilet infrastructure within the Divide District of the Rio Grande National Forest. These leaky and outdated structures have the potential to contaminate nearby streams and dissuade use by recreators, leading to more widespread human impacts.

Roundtable Funding –
\$281,750
Total Project Cost –
\$392,365



Roundtable Funding –
\$34,541
Total Project Cost –
\$344,495

Guadalupe Sanchez Ditch

The 170-year-old Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia is in need of repairs and improvements. The project addresses frequent blowouts and accelerated erosion near the diversion that impairs water delivery and deposits excessive sediment into both the ditch and Culebra River.

Trinchera Irrigation Levy Diversion

The Levy ditch diversion is aging and experiencing a loss of function, with water rights on the ditch often impacted after high flow events. Funding went towards the planning and design for a new diversion structure.

Roundtable Funding –
\$16,500
Total Project Cost –
\$22,000



Roundtable Funding –
\$40,000
Total Project Cost –
\$80,000

Sheep Creek Fire Pond

This project helped fund infrastructure costs to designate a pond on sheep creek for use in the Fire Wise program. The ability to use the pond for fire fighting will help protect the homes and surrounding forest in a forest fire scenario.



2023 Year in Review – Project Showcase Cont.

Monte Vista NWR Improvements

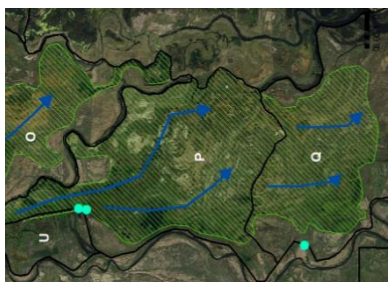
With Ducks Unlimited as project lead, these improvements within the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge will remove water control structures to restore sheet flow within the project area. Restored sheet flow will create higher quality habitat for wildlife.

Roundtable Funding –

\$68,750

Total Project Cost –

\$687,500



Roundtable Funding –

\$33,125

Total Project Cost –

\$331,250

Alamosa NWR Improvements

Ducks Unlimited is also leading efforts at the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge to reconfigure water control areas, concentrating available water into historic wetland areas. This will create higher quality wetland habitat and reduce invasive weed species present within the project area.

Beaver Reservoir Seepage Study

The Beaver Park Dam is currently affected by significant seepage, negatively impacting management of water rights. Funding went towards phase one of this project, which will investigate the seepage and identify potential remedies.

Roundtable Funding –

\$50,000

Total Project Cost –

\$209,800



Roundtable Funding –

\$23,000

Total Project Cost –

\$227,700

Independent Ditch Improvements

This Project will see the replacement of the Independent Ditch headgate, which is functioning poorly. The new headgate will include automation and a woody debris deflector, improving overall efficiency and ease of use for the ditch company.

CAWA Drought Resiliency

Funding for this project will be regranted to Colorado agriculture producers to assist them with profitability experiments involving alternative cropping, efficiency, hay/forage, livestock, and soil health. Put simply, the funding provides producers otherwise limited by the risk of losing profitability with the ability to explore new ideas.

Roundtable Funding –

\$75,000

Total Project Cost –

\$988,750



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