



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

April 9th- Roundtable Meeting

April 26th – Rio Grande Compact Meeting (Texas/virtual)

May 14th- Roundtable Meeting

May 17th- Baca Wildlife Refuge Tour

May 25th- Alamosa Rio Trio Adventure Race

June 7th – Alamosa Wildlife Refuge Tour

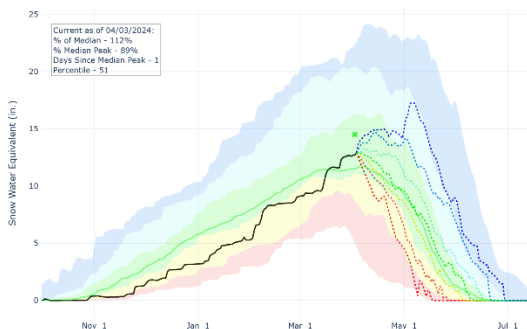
June 4-6th & 11-13th – Youth Conservation Camp

June 11th- Roundtable Meeting

June 13th-14th - Colorado River Basin Tour

Snowpack Update

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT PROJECTION IN UPPER RIO GRANDE



After a slow start, the snowpack in the Upper Rio Grande Basin is ramping up. Prior to March 17, the snow water equivalent (SWE) for the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado was significantly below average, and the Rio Grande Basin lagged far behind all other Colorado basins in terms of snowpack. But the recent snowstorms have brought our SWE number up to the current 112% of average and we are no longer the lowest snowpack basin in Colorado. It is hoped that the basin will continue to receive significant additional snowfall accumulation over the next several months that will raise our SWE even higher.



Recent Events Recap – Congreso; State of the Basin Symposium; Monte Vista Crane Festival

On Saturday March 9th the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association (SdCAA) welcomed over 135 acequia irrigators, partners, and community members to the 12th annual Congreso de Acequias to celebrate Colorado's cherished acequia heritage through a day of learning, music, ceremony, and food. Workshops included a panel discussion on how to rebuild a robust local food system, expert advice on ways to manage rangeland for drought resilience, tips on how to preserve and protect acequia water rights, and a host of funding opportunities for parciantes. Students from Centennial, Sierra Grande and South Conejos Schools also joined in celebrating land, water, and community through a poster contest and sharing their experience growing up in the San Luis Valley. The SdCAA would like to thank all their presenters and partners who made this event a success, including the generous sponsors of the event: the Trinchera Blanca Foundation, the Gates Family Foundation, the Acequia Institute, the San Luis People's Market, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. ¡Viva las acequias!



Photo Credit: Joel Nystrom

As we plan for the future of water in the Rio Grande Basin, we must look to our past. The State of the Basin Symposium was filled with a variety of Perspectives on Historical Challenges including the Rio Grande Compact, Colorado and New Mexico's acequias, tribal and pueblo water rights, and water exportation.

Attendees on March 30th heard engaging presentations and panel discussions from speakers including State Senator Cleave Simpson, San Luis Farmer Arnie Valdez, Senior Advisor with Micheal Bennet's Office Erin Minks, Manager of the Conejos Water Conservancy District Nathan Coombs, and keynote speaker David Robbins.

An inspiring film by Aracely Chapa focusing on New Mexico's acequias was also shown, and can be found by searching "Acequias: The Legacy Lives On," on PBS.org



Photo Credit: Cassandra McCuen



Recent Events Recap Cont.

Visitors from around the country have flocked to the Monte Vista Crane Festival for 41 years, and it keeps getting bigger and better. Despite the snow, cranes were out dancing in full force and visitors enjoyed a variety of tours, speakers, and vendors at the Craft and Nature Fair with nearly 2,000 tickets sold. If you missed out, you can look forward to the next Crane Festival on March 7-9, 2025. Keep your eyes peeled in the fall during a lesser-known crane migration through the San Luis Valley.

Photo Credit: Cary Aloia



Grant Supporting Roundtable Media Wraps Up

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's education efforts have grown over the years, thanks to the ongoing support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and American Rivers. Recently, the Roundtable Education Committee completed their "Media and Communications Outreach Project", which resulted in the creation of 6 topical video vignettes, a new Roundtable website, and quarterly newsletters, like this one! The Roundtable worked with local partners and funders to develop 6 video vignettes on a wide range of topics related to the many different uses of water in the Rio Grande basin. These films include:

1. [San Luis Valley Radar Project](#)
2. [Recreation and Our Waterways](#)
3. [Finding Balance: Agriculture in the San Luis Valley](#)
4. [Wetland Conservation and Restoration in the San Luis Valley](#)
5. [Colorado Water Administration - Augmentation 101](#)
6. "What We Stand For" Video Series: (Coming Soon)



Each film is also archived on the Roundtable's new website www.rgbrt.org, which was developed through this project. In addition to the films, the Roundtable's website provides a wide range of resources and articles on water resources in Colorado's Rio Grande Basin. Take some time to check out these great and informative videos, as well as our website. We greatly appreciate CWCB and American Rivers for their ongoing support of the Roundtable and our education efforts!

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

