



**RIO GRANDE
BASIN**
ROUNDTABLE

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!

Table of Contents

Page 1

- Upcoming Events

Page 2 & 3

- Event Recaps and Water Supply Forecasting

Page 4

- WSRF Grant Opportunity

Upcoming Events

June 6

Rio Trio Adventure Race

June 6-7

Alamosa RioFest

**June 2-4,
9-11**

Youth Conservation Camp

June 9

Roundtable Meeting
2pm; 8805 Independence Way

June 13

Waterwise Planting Day in Del Norte

June 27

Community Water Mural Painting Day
8:30am-3pm; Del Norte Public Library

July 11

Community Water Mural Painting Day
Time TBA; Alamosa

July 14

Roundtable Meeting
2pm; 8805 Independence Way



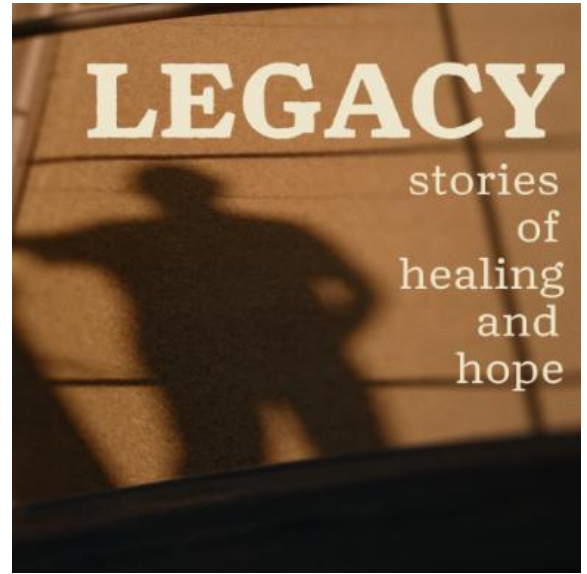
Legacy Film Showing

At the May 12 meeting, the Roundtable hosted a screening of *Legacy: Stories of Healing and Hope*, a film that shares the experiences of agricultural producers and strives to destigmatize mental health challenges in rural communities while highlighting the work of the Colorado Agricultural Addiction & Mental Health Program (CAAMHP) and others.

The screening was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Robert Sakata, farmer and Colorado Department of Agriculture Advisor; and featuring Tony Haas, Las Animas County Commissioner and rancher; Chad Reznicek of Colorado State University and the Colorado AgrAbility Project; and Kristina Daniel of Valley Wide Health Systems. Both Tony and Chad were featured in the film, making their participation especially meaningful.

One of the strongest takeaways from the discussion was the reminder to check in on each other. Not just with a quick “How are you?” but by taking the time to ask how someone is really doing and making space to listen. With drought and other stressors making this a particularly difficult year for many producers, support and connection are more important than ever.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, listed below are resources available in the San Luis Valley:



COMET: Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory	A facilitated 90-minute training focused on building conversation skills needed to approach positive discussions about mental health in rural communities. Contact Larry Brown with inquiries.
AgriStress Helpline: 833-897-2474	A crisis support hotline for agricultural communities. Free and confidential 24/7.
CAAMHP: Colorado Agricultural Addiction and Mental Health Program	A program that provides free virtual counseling sessions for rural Coloradans.
The Coffee Break Project	A community program using coffee breaks as a time to meet and share.
AgWell	A program of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union that seeks to create support systems and opportunities for social connection throughout rural regions.
Colorado Dept. of Agriculture Rural Mental Health	A webpage with a wide-ranging resource list.

Contact Information:

Robert Sakata: Senior Advisor to the Colorado Department of Agriculture
robert.sakata@state.co.us 720-512-6868

Chad Reznicek: Behavioral Health State Specialist, CSU Extension/CO AgrAbility Project
chad.reznicek@colostate.edu 970-744-9011

Larry N. Brown: Colorado State University Extension, San Luis Valley Area Ag Business Agent and Area Director
L.Brown@colostate.edu 719-852-7381





Photo Credit: Cassandra McCuen

Dust on Snow tour

On one of those hot and dry days that dominated the month of March, about seven folks met at Wolf Creek Pass with Jeff Derry of the Center for Snow & Avalanche Studies (CSAS) for a Rio Grande Basin Roundtable tour on dust condition monitoring with the Colorado Dust-on-Snow Program (CODOS). The group snowshoed about 10 minutes up to the CODOS sample site of 20 years, where the CODOS team (Jeff Derry and Ella Bump) takes field measurements such as snow water equivalent (SWE), depth, temperature, wetness, and grain structure; and dust presence, severity, and location in and on top of the snowpack.

The San Juan Mountains are the first and hardest hit by dust storms that typically originate in the Four Corners region. By darkening the surface of the snow, dust absorbs more solar radiation and melts the snow faster (and usually earlier) than normal. DOS events even reduce overall yield of the snowpack by exposing plants and soils and kickstarting evapotranspiration earlier in the season.

The vast majority of what is known about the effects of dust-on-snow (DOS) comes out of CSAS's Senator Beck Study Basin near Red Mountain Pass (about 12 miles the way the crow flies from the Rio Grande Basin). Including Senator Beck, a total of 11 locations throughout Colorado are visited during the spring months.

This winter season was an anomaly in many ways. We had record-breaking high temperatures and record-breaking low snowpack. We also had record-breaking *low* dust-on-snow conditions. We received very few storms out of the Southwest which resulted in not only very little snow but very little dust. Typically, the San Juan Mountains receive around eight dust events any given winter. This year, we *might* have received one.

Water Supply Forecasting

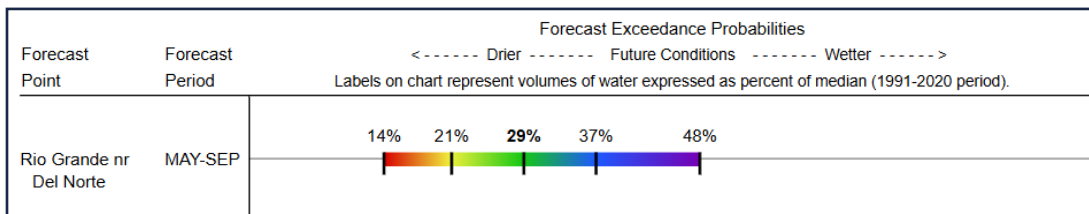
The NRCS [Water Supply Outlook Report](#) is an excellent resource for summaries of snowpack, precipitation, reservoir storage, and streamflow forecasts (comes out monthly).

- o **How to find it:** Go to the Colorado Snow Report home page (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/colorado/snow-survey>) > find "Colorado Water Supply Outlook Reports" partway down the page.
- o Current Rio Grande Streamflow Outlook - % of median (May 1, 2026)

Colorado
Water Supply Outlook Report
Latest Report



REMEMBER: We are collecting field work photos from the field again this year. Each month we will post one to grace the cover of this report. Please include information on where, when and if you/your group was taken.



WATER SUPPLY RESERVE FUND (WSRF) GRANT INFO

Second Cycle of WSRF Grant Starts Now

The application timeline for the second cycle of the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant from Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is fast approaching. This grant supports projects that help to meet goals in the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and the Colorado Water Plan (CWP). BIP priorities generally focus on agricultural water efficiency, environmental and watershed health, water infrastructure and storage, recreation, and community resilience.

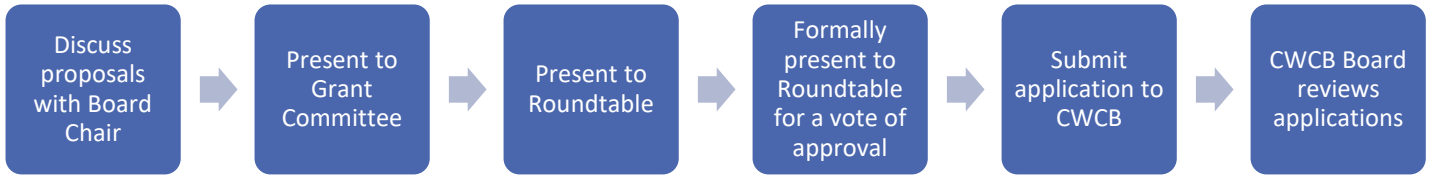


COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Projects seeking WSRF funding must be approved by the Basin Roundtable. Interested applicants should reach out to Roundtable Chair Amber Pacheco *no later than June 1* to discuss project proposals. The Roundtable receives \$300,000 per year (across two grant cycles) and will apportion funds strategically to best support basin goals. The progress timeline for Roundtable approval and application submission follows:



For further information please review the [RGBRT Guidelines](#) and the [CWCB webpage for the WSRF grant](#). Contact Amber Pacheco (RGBRT Chair; amber@rgwcd.org) or Ben Wade (CWCB Grant Section; ben.wade@state.co.us) with questions.

RGBRT WSRF Grant Application Steps	Cycle 1 Funding Deadlines	Cycle 2 Funding Deadlines
Contact Roundtable Chair with proposal	ASAP but no later than February 1st	ASAP but no later than June 1st
Submit materials to Grant Committee for preview	1 week before	1 week before
Grant Committee preview	March	July
Submit materials for RGBRT preview presentation	2 weeks before meeting	2 weeks before meeting
RGBRT preview presentation	2 nd Tuesday of April	2 nd Tuesday of August
Submit materials for final presentation to RGBRT	2 weeks before meeting	2 weeks before meeting
Final presentation and RGBRT vote	2 nd Tuesday of May	2 nd Tuesday of September
Submit application to CWCB Portal	by June 1st	by October 1st
CWCB Board Meeting	September	January
CWCB contracting	45-60 days	45-60 days
RGBRT final report presentation (Contact RGBRT Chair for date)	At completion of Project	At completion of Project

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

