

Arkansas Basin Tour to the Rio Grande

[TOUR MAP](#)

Day 1: October 12

- **9:00am-10:30am (Cary Aloia, Taylor Applewhite) – Merkt Creek Zedyk Structures (Villa Grove area):** Partnership project with the BLM to install Zedyk and other processed based structures to improve habitat for the San Luis Valley's only, genetically unique population of Gunnison Sage Grouse. *This road is a little rough, we should have enough room to squeeze everyone in but if anyone in your group has a high clearance/4WD vehicle I would recommend having at least one.*
- **10:30am-11:30am (Chris Ivers) – Peachwood Farms (Villa Grove area):** The first groundwater conservation easement in the country. This easement keeps groundwater in the aquifer, and is a tool to help San Luis Valley subdistricts reach sustainability while helping farmers get paid for retiring their water rights. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District and Colorado Open Lands are responsible for revegetating these retired circles with native vegetation, which has been a unique challenge.
- **12:00pm-1:00pm – Lunch @ Ruby Rose (Hooper)**
- **1:10pm-2:10pm (Morgan Neely)– Rye Resurgence Project (Mosca):** The Rye Resurgence Project is an innovative project supported by the RGBRT and CWCB to build the market for San Luis Valley rye to reduce water use and keep farmers farming in the face of drought and growing aquifer sustainability pressures. Rye not only saves water while remaining profitable for farmers, as a cover crop, rye also improves soil health and helps prevent Dust Bowl conditions. With support from RGBRT WSRF funds, this processing facility will be expanded to provide increased capacity to process and clean rye, in addition to other low water-use crops, which addresses a current bottleneck in the San Luis Valley.
- **2:30pm-3:30pm (Amber Pacheco) – Subdistricts and Aquifer Conditions (Alamosa)**
- **Hotel:** Comfort Inn and Suites Alamosa, book [here](#).
- **TBD – Dinner & Social (TBD, Alamosa)**

Day 2: October 13

- **7:45am–** Meet at the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District office to caravan (623 Fourth St, Alamosa).
- **8:00am-8:45am (Daniel Boyes, Darius Allen) – Independent Ditch (Alamosa Area):** Multi-benefit restoration project including headgate replacement, automation, streambank stabilization, and riparian habitat improvements. Partnership project between the City of Alamosa and RGHRP.
- **9:30am-10:15am (Susan Storm, Nate Reynolds) – Closed Basin Project Outlet (Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge):** The Closed Basin Project in the San Luis Valley extracts shallow, unconfined groundwater in Subdistrict 1 and pumps it into a 42 mile canal to flow into the Rio Grande on the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. This salvaged water helps Colorado meet its downstream delivery requirements to New

Mexico and Texas under the Rio Grande Compact. While providing many benefits to the basin, there is some contention surrounding the project as Subdistrict 1 struggles to reach aquifer sustainability.

- **10:30am- Whenever (Daniel Boyes) – Streambank stabilization project (Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge):** Streambank stabilization and riparian restoration project completed in partnership with RGHRP and the National Wildlife Refuge. Attendees can have some free time to walk around if desired.
- **Free time**
- **2:00pm~4:00pm – RGBRT Meeting (Rio Grande Water Conservation District)**