



SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S

40th ANNUAL SOUTHWEST WATER SEMINAR

FLUID HORIZONS:

NAVIGATING THE WATERS OF INNOVATION

March 27th, 2024

Sky Ute Casino and Resort

Ignacio, CO 81137

SEMINAR PROGRAM

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AGENDA AND PROGRAM

Four decades have passed since the Southwestern Water Conservation District held its first Annual Water Seminar. In the years preceding the first seminar, Lake Powell was at its highest water level in history and was spilling excess water. In the years preceding this 2024 seminar, there has been concern that the level could reach deadpool. This is a stark difference that reflects our current crisis. Please join us in thanking our speakers and moderators who have committed time and energy to share their knowledge and experience for a day full of engaging discussions. We will explore what innovative solutions exist, and how we might thrive in a drier future.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:30 a.m.

Steve Wolff – General Manager, SWCD

Chairman Melvin J. Baker - Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT), Tribal Blessing and Welcome

Jenny Russell – Board President, SWCD

Moving Forward on Interstate and Tribal Matters

9:00 a.m.

Moderator: Steve Wolff – General Manager, SWCD

Lorelei Cloud – Vice Chairman, SUIT, and Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Southwest Director

Becky Mitchell – Upper Colorado River Commissioner, Colorado

Estevan López – Upper Colorado River Commissioner, New Mexico

As we move closer to the expiration of the 2007 Interim Guidelines governing the operations of Lakes Powell and Mead, there's a buzz of activity as representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin States, the Department of Interior, and Basin tribes engage in discussions to craft new operating criteria. We will have the opportunity to hear from delegates representing Colorado, New Mexico, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. They'll provide updates on the progress of these negotiations, offering valuable insights into the ongoing efforts to establish the framework for water management moving forward.

Networking Break

10:15 a.m.



Innovative Solutions for Agriculture

10:30 a.m.

Moderator: Kate Greenberg – Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Greg Vlaming – Rocking V Soil and Water Conservation

Dr. Perry Cabot – Research and Extension Leader, Colorado State University

Greg Peterson – Executive Director, CO Agriculture Water Alliance

Eric Whyte – Hay Manager, Ute Mountain Ute Farm & Ranch Enterprise

Against the backdrop of varying climates and water scarcity, this panel brings together experts ranging from the research efforts of Colorado State University to the producers of Southwest Colorado. Together they explore cutting-edge technologies and strategies poised to revolutionize farming practices in the region. Addressing the hurdles and seizing opportunities within the agricultural community necessitates a blend of data-driven science, infrastructure updates, and enhanced efficiency measures.

Announcements and Lunch

11:45 p.m.

Water Information Program Introduction

1:00 p.m.

Elaine Chick - Program Manager, Water Information Program (WIP) and SW Basin Roundtable PEPO Liaison

Voices from Around the State

1:15 p.m.

Moderator: Steve Wolff – General Manager, SWCD

Robert Sakata - Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Andy Mueller – General Manager, Colorado River District

Lauren Ris – Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board

It's always insightful to broaden our understanding of water issues beyond Southwest Colorado. Our guests, as well-respected figures across the state will offer valuable insights into the significant water challenges they're currently addressing in their roles. We will hear from these knowledgeable representatives, and gain a deeper understanding of the diverse water issues affecting various regions across Colorado.



Networking Break

2:30 p.m.

Funding and Local Opportunities

2:50 p.m.

Monika Rock – Programs Coordinator, SWCD

Cole Bedford – Chief Operating Officer, CWCB

Laura Spann – Regional Grant Coordinator, CWCB

During an unprecedented time in available funding, navigating grants, programs, and various water-related opportunities can be overwhelming for anyone. Join us for a quick discussion about funding and opportunities you may be missing on the local, state, and federal levels.

Southwest Achievements and Initiatives

3:15 p.m.

Moderator: Monika Rock – Programs Coordinator, SWCD

Gretchen Rank – Managing Director, Mancos Conservation District

Al Pfister – Project Manager, Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

Jude Schuenemeyer – Co-Director, Montezuma Orchard Project

Sara Burch – Rivers Program Manager, San Juan Citizens Alliance

Dr. Bill Smith – Forest Program Director, Mountain Studies Institute

Adrian Bergere – Executive Director, San Miguel Watershed Coalition

In the final panel of the day, we're privileged to showcase a handful of local champions who embody the spirit of adaptability and perseverance. Our panel features individuals deeply rooted in their communities, including farmers, grassroots organizers, and conservation advocates. Together, they'll share their unique stories and practical insights into navigating the challenges of today while shaping a sustainable tomorrow. Join us as we celebrate their dedication and contributions to building a resilient future for the Southwest with discussions centered around the impactful projects they're spearheading in their respective fields.

Closing Remarks

4:15 p.m.

Monika Rock – Programs Coordinator, SWCD



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Steve Wolff – General Manager, SWCD

Steve Wolff became General Manager of the Southwestern Water Conservation District in June 2021. Previously he served as Interstate Streams Division Administrator in Wyoming's State Engineer's Office. He oversaw Wyoming's obligations under seven interstate water compacts and three decrees. Before that, he managed Aquatic Habitat and Water at the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Steve holds a B.S. in Fisheries Biology and an M.S. in Water Resources/Hydrology from the University of Wyoming, with additional studies in Public Administration at Virginia Tech University. Born in Los Alamos, New Mexico, he has much appreciation for southwest Colorado and northern New Mexico. Steve and his wife Teresa enjoy spending time with their six adult kids and partners, doing most anything outdoors.

Chairman Melvin J. Baker - Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Chairman Melvin J. Baker is serving his second term as Chairman and has previously served nine years on Tribal Council. Baker was born and raised on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Throughout his political career, Baker worked on the development and implementation of the new Sky Ute Casino Resort, Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum, and served on various tribal and state committees including the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority. He is passionate about advocating and safeguarding Tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Jenny Russell – Board President, SWCD

Jenny Russell serves as the President of the Southwestern Water Conservation District board. She was appointed by San Miguel County and has been a Director on the Board since 2014. She has long played an active role in regional water discussions. Ms. Russell was a member of the Southwest Basins Roundtable and sat on its sub-committee for non-consumptive uses. Previously, she represented the Southwest Basin on the Interbasin Compact Committee. Ms. Russell also serves on the board of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition. Ms. Russell recently retired from practicing law. Her past and present representation of water clients around the state includes water districts, developers, realtors, golf course owners, large and small landowners, ranchers and farmers, and large and small municipalities.

On April 16th the District will be 84 years old!



Moving Forward on Interstate and Tribal Matters

Steve Wolff – General Manager, SWCD (see bio on the previous page)

Lorelei Cloud – Vice Chairman, SUIT and CWCB SW Director

Vice Chairman Lorelei Cloud is a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and proudly serves the Tribal Membership. She also serves on the Water and Tribes Initiative, Tribes and States Dialogue, and The Nature Conservancy Board for the Colorado Chapter. Cloud is Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Indigenous Women's Leadership Network. In 2023, Governor Polis appointed Cloud to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, making her the first Native American to sit on a state water board for the State of Colorado. She is a true advocate for the Ute language, traditions, and culture, actively participating in cultural events and traditional gatherings. She is passionate about helping the Southern Ute youth, women, and elders.

Becky Mitchell – Upper Colorado River Commissioner, Colorado

Becky Mitchell was appointed by Governor Polis to represent Colorado in the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) in 2019. The UCRC includes one commissioner from each of the Upper Colorado River Basin states (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming) and one federally appointed commissioner who serves as chair, who work together on interstate collaboration for the Colorado River, which flows 1,450 miles across the Western U.S. and into Mexico. In her role as Commissioner, Mitchell works with a team of Colorado's water experts to develop positions of the state of Colorado in negotiations with other states. Commissioner Mitchell works with all Coloradans - from the Front Range to the West Slope - and uses this input to inform Colorado's positions and strategies. As compounded drought continues in Colorado and across the West, Commissioner Mitchell and the UCRC are exploring solutions to protect our state and its water users as we face drier conditions. Previously, Mitchell served as the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) as well as the Colorado Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. She is an accomplished water leader with over 20 years of experience in the water sector and is highly knowledgeable in Colorado water law. Mitchell played a significant role in developing the Colorado Water Plan, working with the state's nine basin roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and the public.

Estevan López – Upper Colorado River Commissioner, New Mexico

Estevan López is New Mexico's Upper Colorado River Compact Commissioner and Governor's Representative on Colorado River matters. He is a native New Mexican with 40 years of engineering experience including over 20 years in top-level water management. He served as *Commissioner of the US Bureau of Reclamation* from 2014-17. Before that, he served as *Director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC)* from 2003-14, during which he also served as New Mexico's Upper Colorado River Compact Commissioner and Governor's Representative on Colorado River matters.



Innovative Solutions for Agriculture

Moderator: Kate Greenberg – Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Kate was appointed to serve as Colorado's first female Commissioner of Agriculture by Governor Jared Polis in December 2018. As Commissioner, Greenberg provides leadership and direction to the Colorado Department of Agriculture. She has served as president of the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association and the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture and as a board member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Before her role as Commissioner, Greenberg advocated for federal farm policy with the National Young Farmers Coalition out of Durango, CO, worked to restore Mexico's Colorado River Delta, and farmed on various operations across the West.

Greg Vlaming – Rocking V Soil and Water Conservation

Greg is the owner of Rocking V Soil & Water Conservation (RVS&W), administers funded conservation projects and provides technical assistance to farmers/ranchers in Southwest Colorado. After earning an M.S. in Soil Science (Colorado State University, 2005), he worked for both Colorado State University and Michigan State University as an Extension Educator, specifically on soil, water and organic/sustainable practices. Following a stint at High Desert Conservation District/NRCS, RVS&W was hatched to further pursue his passion for the environment. Greg also has farmed for over 20 years in SW CO, and owns/operates Rocking V Farm & Orchard in Lewis Colorado, a regenerative, irrigated 37-acre outfit, producing hay, cattle pasture and 5 acres of cider apples/pears. Greg is constantly humbled by the magnitude of what we have experienced in the last 25 years relative to water in the southwest.

Dr. Perry Cabot – Research and Extension Leader, Colorado State University

Dr. Perry Cabot is an Extension Professor at the Western Colorado Research Center, which is a unit of Colorado State University that comprises the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Office of Extension and Engagement. His research program focuses on innovative irrigation technologies, sustainable water resources management, alternative cropping systems and crop consumptive use evaluation. He is also the irrigation and water resources specialist for the CSU Office of Extension and Engagement in the Western Region of the state in the Upper Colorado River Basin. He leads and collaborates on numerous research efforts supported by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as non-profit charitable organizations. Dr. Cabot received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering and Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University. He considers himself lucky to call Grand Junction, CO his home.

Greg Peterson – Executive Director, Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance

Greg Peterson grew up in Littleton, CO, where he still lives after living around the world. He studied history and political economy. He has served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Ag Water Alliance for over eight years. Greg has been knee-deep in farmers and ranchers, learning more about water, agriculture, Colorado, and the digestive habits of cattle than he thought possible. He spends his free time growing vegetables on his small farm, learning to hate hail and bindweed.



Eric Whyte – Hay Manager, Ute Mountain Ute Farm & Ranch Enterprise

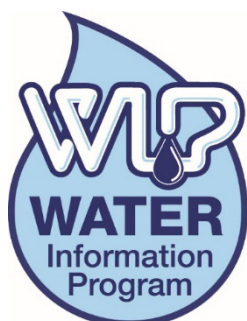
Eric was born and raised in Montezuma County, he is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT). He is a 3-generation cattle rancher. His work with the farming side of things started with his father, during his early years he used to help move and then cut the forage for the Mancos Creek Tribal farm and continued up the Montezuma Valley and over to other properties the UMUT owned above Mancos and into LaPlata County. Before working for the UMUT Farm & Ranch Enterprise he worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as an engineer surveyor, while the time there the Colorado Ute Water right settlement was getting closer to reality, it was then while getting to set the majority of the farms center pivots points, decided to change jobs and go and help build a viable farm & ranch tribal enterprise. 32 years later he is now the Hay Manager in charge of selling the Farms's forages and cornmeal products. Eric has seen the growth of the Farm & Ranch Enterprise and Bow & Arrow Brand, to become more sustainable and efficient with its water use, always looking to improve and develop, and maintain markets for its cattle, non-GMO corn and dairy quality alfalfa.

Water Information Program Introduction

Elaine Chick - Program Manager, Water Information Program (WIP) and SW Basin Roundtable PEPO Liaison

Elaine Chick has been the Water Information Program Manager for the past seven years. In her role, she oversees, coordinates and produces a number of educational programs, services, and water festivals developed for the public. Previously Elaine was a producer of events for many high-profile Fortune 500 companies, international sporting and entertainment organizations, concert touring shows, World Leader Summits, awards shows, International Expositions and non-profit sector agencies in Canada, the US and around the world. Born in Vancouver, BC, Canada, Elaine grew up in Los Angeles, CA. where she went to Cal State Northridge to receive her B.A. degree. She moved back to Vancouver for many years and while working full time went to Simon Fraser University and received a diploma in Applied Project Management and has her PMP designation. Elaine moved to Durango from the Pacific Northwest eleven years ago. As an avid horsewoman, the Southwest gives Elaine the opportunity to live her dream lifestyle.

ABOUT THE WATER INFORMATION PROGRAM



The Water Information Program (WIP) is dedicated to offering information and educational resources covering a spectrum of topics such as current events, water issues, water law, and history, as well as educational workshops. This program thrives through the collaboration of water districts, commissions, private organizations, and government agencies within the San Juan and Dolores watersheds of southwest Colorado. Their collective support makes the WIP a valuable educational initiative in our community.



Voices from Around the State

Moderator: Steve Wolff – General Manager, SWCD *(see bio on the previous page)*

Robert Sakata - Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Robert started January 2, 2024, as the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Ag Water Policy Advisor, a new position approved by the 2023 legislature, as a liaison to other water agencies, water organizations, and the agricultural community. Born in Colorado, raised and now managing his family's farm, he has served on mutual ditch company boards, the Agriculture Groundwater Advisory Board, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, the Colorado Foundation for Water Education Board (now known as Water Education Colorado), Colorado Water Congress Board of Directors, Interbasin Compact Committee, and Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). While serving as the agricultural representative on the Metro Basin Roundtable he helped form the Colorado Ag Water Alliance. Robert has been active in numerous farm organizations including the Adams County Farm Bureau, American Farm Bureau Federation National Horticulture Advisory Committee, Colorado Onion Association Board of Directors, National Onion Association Board of Trustees, and the Western Growers Association. In 2013, with the help of dedicated CSU Cooperative Extension staff, he helped form the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association serving as the founding president until his appointment to the CWCB. Because of his parents' inspirational example of the importance of community service, Robert feels blessed to be able to serve Coloradoans in this new role, especially since food and water connect us all.

Andy Mueller – General Manager, Colorado River District

Andy Mueller is the General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Prior to taking the helm at the Colorado River District he spent 23 years in private law practice on the West Slope of Colorado. His work ranged across the breadth of critical western Colorado topics: water, natural resources, land use and community issues. For nine years from 2006-15, he was Ouray County's Director on the Colorado River District Board, his last two as Board President. His combined experience prepared him to lead the River District, whose work is to lead in the protection, conservation, use and development of the waters of the Colorado River for the residents of the West Slope and to safeguard for all of Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled. Andy also serves on the advisory board of the Family Farm Alliance and as an ex-officio member of the Water for Tribes Initiative Advisory Board. Andy earned his law degree from University of Colorado in 1995 after earning his BA in history from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. When he is not delving deep into Colorado River issues or spending time outdoors with his daughters, he is actively engaged with his community, serving on various community boards.



Lauren Ris – Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Lauren Ris is the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. As a water policy expert focused on water resilience, Ris' priorities include continuing the momentum of the Colorado Water Plan and collaborating with partners across the state to find creative solutions to water challenges. Ris holds a Bachelors in English and Environmental Science from Willamette University and a Masters in Natural Resource Policy and Conservation Biology from the University of Michigan. She previously worked as a Committee and Policy Staff Fiscal Analyst for the Colorado Legislative Council, a Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Assistant Director for Water in the DNR, and the Deputy Director of the CWCB.

Funding and Local Opportunities

Monika Rock – Programs Coordinator, SWCD

Monika "Mo" Rock, was appointed Programs Coordinator at Southwestern Water Conservation District in February 2023. She previously coordinated programs at Conservation Legacy, facilitating year-long internships for young adults with agencies like the National Park Service. She also worked in the NASA DEVELOP Program, helping connect various stakeholders with processed satellite data and scientific narratives. Mo's career spans roles at Teton County Weed and Pest in Jackson, Wyoming, and Aquatic Life Divers in Kona, Hawaii. She holds a double major from Rocky Mountain College in Environmental Management & Policy and Environmental Science. Mo grew up along the Entiat River in Washington, a tributary to the Columbia River, which fostered a deep appreciation for water. Alongside her fiancé Aaron and husky Naka, she enjoys hiking, climbing, skiing, and all the outdoor activities Southwest Colorado has to offer.

Cole Bedford – Chief Operating Officer, CWCB

Cole Bedford is the Chief Operating Officer of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. In his role, he oversees CWCB's Water Plan Grant Program and Technical Assistance Grant Program and supports the budgeting, accounting, and procurement processes for the agency. Previously, he was a project manager for CWCB's Water Project Loan Program administering the funds for construction projects across the state. Before coming to CWCB, Cole worked in consulting engineering, designing water infrastructure in New Mexico, Wyoming, and Colorado and served in the Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan. Cole is an engineer by training, having a BS in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and an MS in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University.

Did you know that SWCD has a Grant Program and provides over \$200,000 in funding for local projects?



Laura Spann – Regional Grant Coordinator, CWCB

Laura Spann works for the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) as Regional Water Plan Grant Manager for the Southwest and Rio Grande Basins. Laura assists local water proponents navigate CWCB's funding opportunities, and particularly the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program. Laura's first water management experience was at the end of an irrigation shovel on her family's cattle ranch in Gunnison, Colorado. She has a B.A. in Government and International Relations from Claremont McKenna College. After working in Washington, D.C. for two years and Peru for another four years after college, Laura worked nearly 10 years for the Southwestern Water Conservation District where she learned about local and statewide water issues. Laura feels fortunate to serve the State of Colorado, call Durango home, and raise her son in the San Juan Mountains.

Southwest Achievements and Initiatives at the Community Level

Moderator: Monika Rock – Programs Coordinator, SWCD *(see bio on the previous page)*

Gretchen Rank – Managing Director, Mancos Conservation District

Gretchen Rank was born in South Carolina and spent her early childhood years in Mexico, Ecuador, and Peru. During those years she developed a love for people of diverse cultures and recognized the need for farming and natural resource education worldwide. Gretchen moved to Mancos, CO with her family in 2004. She and her husband enjoy spending time outdoors, birding and backpacking. Maintaining 35 acres of dry land hay has helped her appreciate water and soil conservation techniques and the importance of noxious weed control. Gretchen has over thirty years of experience in financial administration and business management for a variety of businesses, nonprofits, and government entities. She has worked for the Mancos Conservation District for nine years and in that time, she has worked closely with stakeholders and partners on multiple natural resource projects and future planning. She looks forward to a future with the Mancos Conservation District and further positive impact for natural resources in the Mancos Watershed.

Al Pfister – Project Manager, Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

Al retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2011. His efforts focused on aquatic and terrestrial endangered animals, plants, and invertebrates in Colorado, Nevada, and California, with additional time implementing the Clean Water Act. Since then, he has worked as a consultant involving endangered species Habitat Conservation planning and species conservation banking efforts. He was the President of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (2015-2023), a SW Basin Roundtable member, as well as one of the Roundtable's representatives on the Inter-basin Compact Committee. He also served on the Weminuche Audubon, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, and Pagosa Pickleball Boards. He has been involved with the Upper San Juan WEP since its inception in 2018.



Jude Schuenemeyer – Co-Director, Montezuma Orchard Project

Jude Schuenemeyer is Codirector of Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project (MORP) which works to restore an orchard culture and economy to the southwestern region. For over a decade MORP has helped growers benefit from Colorado's endangered heritage apple trees. In the face of climate change, drought, and agricultural water deficits, MORP believes there is an urgent need to help area farmers plan for future water shortages, and a timely opportunity to demonstrate resilient orchard management practices as we rebuild a fruit economy based on the legendary quality and diversity of Montezuma Valley Fruits.

Sara Burch – Rivers Program Manager, San Juan Citizens Alliance

Sara joined San Juan Citizens Alliance in September 2022 as the Rivers Program Manager. In this position, Sara advocates to improve the integrity and protection of waterways throughout the Animas River Basin. Projects that Sara works on fall under three main categories being watershed function & water quality, water policy & management, and river-based recreational stewardship. Sara's passion for rivers and streams began during her time at Fort Lewis College where she studied Geosciences and worked as a professional river guide during summer months. After undergrad, Sara completed an MS in Hydrogeology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ, and soon returned to Southwestern Colorado to further explore and protect the waterways within the landscape she calls home.

Dr. Bill Smith – Forest Program Director, Mountain Studies Institute

Bill Smith is an ecosystem ecologist and ecophysiological specializing in the study of western US ecosystems. Bill is the Director of the Forest Program at Mountain Studies Institute and lives in Durango, Colorado. He received his MS in the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Colorado State University and his PhD in the Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group at the University of Montana, and he maintains a research appointment in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona. Bill has published over 80 research papers in peer-reviewed literature.

Adrian Bergere – Executive Director, San Miguel Watershed Coalition

Adrian moved to Telluride in the summer of 2016 to pursue a life in the West after graduating from State University of New York at Geneseo with a bachelor's degree in geosciences. Adrian grew up an avid fly angler and guided professionally from 2016-2022. This passion for rivers and time on the water gave him an awareness of environmental issues and insight into the San Miguel basin. In 2019 he was hired by the San Miguel Watershed Coalition to develop the State of the Watershed Report. In 2021 Adrian was promoted to Executive Director. In this role he works on multi-benefit environmental projects, water quality monitoring and education about the San Miguel. Adrian was elected to the Southwest Basins Roundtable in 2023 where he advocates for San Miguel issues and collaborates on basin-wide initiatives.



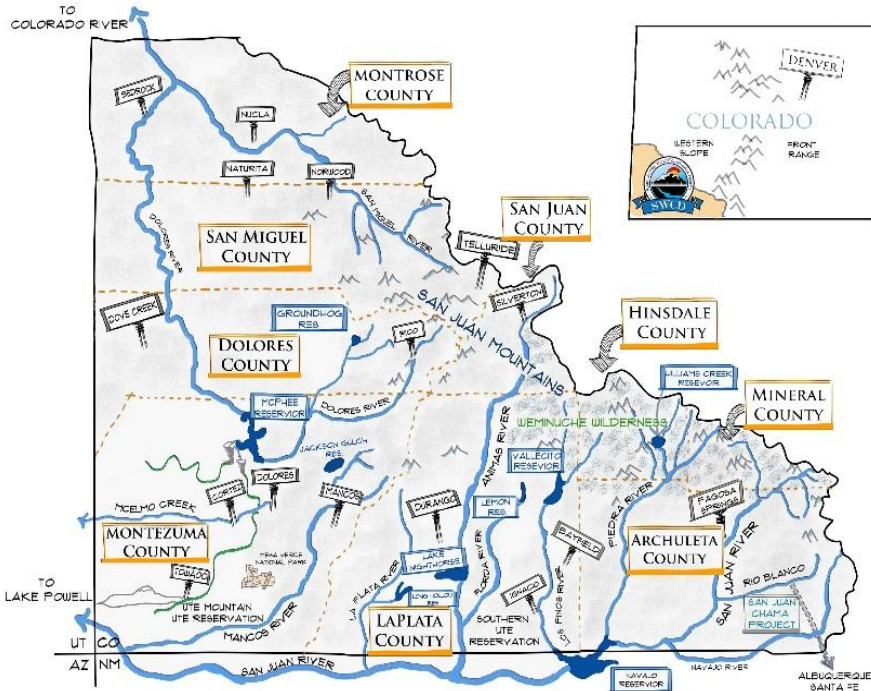
ABOUT THE DISTRICT



The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was created on April 16, 1941 by the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill #795 (CRS 37-41-101 *et seq.*). SWCD is comprised of nine counties: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel, and parts of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Montrose. Each Board of County Commissioners appoints a representative to the SWCD Board of Directors, which meets every other month.

SWCD's charter is to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basin for the welfare of SWCD, and safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. Following this mandate, SWCD has assumed a broad strategic role on behalf of its diverse constituents. SWCD representatives advocate for southwestern Colorado's water interests at the local, state and regional levels.

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Jenny Russell - President, San Miguel County

JR Ford - Vice-President, Archuleta County

Charlie Smith - Secretary-Treasurer, San Juan County

Dagan Chadd - Dolores County

David Guilliams - Hinsdale County

Rusty Hinger - Mineral County

Kenny Heldman - Montrose County

Amy Huff - La Plata County

Gerald Koppenhafer - Montezuma County



Staff

Steve Wolff - General Manager

Monika Rock - Programs Coordinator

STAY ENGAGED

Join our Newsletter – The Nine Basin Bulletin

Stay up to date on water events, news, legislation, the Water Information Program, and so much more that is happening in our District. Newsletters are sent out Monthly, so we won't flood your inbox. Email morock@swwcd.org if you'd like to be added to the Newsletter, or scan the QR code above!

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer for the 26th Annual Children's Water Festival – May 15, 2024
Please contact Elaine Chick at elaine@waterinfo.org

