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Register for 60th Anniversary Events



Registration is open for the [Colorado Water Center's 60th Anniversary events](#) on **Thursday, March 26, 2026!**

Join us for two special opportunities to celebrate 60 years of water research, education, and outreach at Colorado State University:

- **4-6:00 p.m. - Colorado Water Center Reception** featuring the 60th Anniversary Celebration Program. This event is free and open to the public ([RSVP encouraged](#)), with light appetizers provided.

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water experts as table hosts, with proceeds going to support the Colorado Water Center and the Water Resources Archive.

Your Water Tables event ticket gives you the opportunity to dine and converse with western water experts from across Colorado and the nation! [Learn more about 2026 Water Table hosts on the event page.](#)

RSVP for 60th Anniversary Events

NEW 2025 Annual Report



The Colorado Water Center's **2025 Annual Report** is now published, featuring highlights and analysis of the Center's impact and efforts across water education, research, outreach, engagement, and more. [Read the report here on our website](#) or via the button below.

You can find an [archive of all Colorado Water Center publications](#) in Colorado State University's digital collections here.

Read the CoWC 2025 Annual Report

Water-Focused Funding Opportunities

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2026-27 Water Funding RFPs

**End of March
Deadline**



Every year, the Colorado Water Center and partner organizations provide funding to catalyze innovative water research, education, and engagement. The following water-related funding opportunities are now accepting proposals:

- [CWCB Water Research Seed Grants](#)
 - Established by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, this program supports the development of water resources research, outreach, and education programs that aid CWCB in fulfilling its missions.
 - **Deadline: March 27, 2026**
- [USGS Graduate Student Research Grants](#)
 - Funded by the US Geological Survey and National Institutes for Water Resources, the program encourages and supports graduate student research in water resource issues and assists Colorado institutions of higher education in developing student research expertise and capabilities.
 - **Deadline: March 31, 2026**
- [Colorado Water Center CSU Grant Program](#)
 - This grant program invests in transdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships that ultimately lead to a more holistic understanding of water resource issues, and to integrate translation of this understanding into the water resource profession, as well as educate the future water workforce.
 - **Deadline: March 31, 2026**

Learn more about all [current water funding opportunities via the Colorado Water Center website](#) or via the link below.

[Explore 2026-27 Water Funding RFPs](#)

Project WET Facilitator Training Returns in March

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Calling all environmental educators, community outreach leaders, and water resource professionals: Colorado Project WET will be hosting a [Facilitator Training](#) at the **Poudre Learning Center in Greeley, CO, on Friday, March 13, 2026!**

This free, hands-on training equips educators, outreach professionals, and water enthusiasts to lead impactful water education workshops across the state. Spots are limited, [sign up for the Project WET Facilitator Training today](#).

Project WET Facilitator Training RSVP

2026 Water Workforce Events



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On February 12-13, the Colorado Water Center hosted the **2026 Water Workforce Summit and Career Fair** at CSU Spur in Denver and welcomed **over 200 attendees** across these two events!

Launched in April 2024, the [Center's Water Workforce events](#) serve to convene students, water industry professionals and employers, water-related educators and trainers, workforce development specialists, and other stakeholders to discuss and address water workforce needs across the state.

The **February 12 Summit** showcased a keynote from **American Water Works Association CEO David LaFrance**, panels on AI and machine learning, attracting and transitioning talent to the water workforce, and progress, successes, and lessons learned since the 2024 Summit. Table discussions and breakout sessions furthered collaborative engagement across the day's topics. Takeaways and action items from the 2026 Summit will be released in an upcoming Colorado Water Center report.

The **Career Fair on February 13** hosted **29 exhibitors** from across the water education and industry sectors and connected **over 100 students** to professionals - including high school students from the LPS Explorative Pathways for Innovative Careers "EPIC" Campus in Littleton!

Thanks to everyone who joined us and helped make the 2026 Water Workforce events a great success!

Learn More About Water Education & Workforce Programs

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2026 Colorado Water Fellows Convening



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([Colorado State University](#), [Colorado Mesa University](#), [Fort Lewis College](#), [Metropolitan State University](#), [University of Colorado Boulder](#), [University of Denver Sturm College of Law](#)) for two days of learning, connection, and professional development under a theme of **collaboration**.

With **67 attendees**, including **42 students**, the event opened with employer engagement at the Colorado Water Center Career Fair, followed by a Welcome Dinner featuring the Fort Lewis Tribal Water Media Showcase, where students presented personal films exploring water through their lived experiences. On February 14, the gathering embraced a unifying theme of “love of water,” reinforcing participants’ collective commitment to Colorado’s water future.

Panel discussions addressed negotiating the future of the Colorado River, AI’s impact on the water workforce, and effective stakeholder engagement. Together, the convening reinforced a shared commitment to collaboration, leadership development, and building a resilient, connected water workforce for Colorado’s future.

Learn More About Colorado Water Fellows

Joel Schneekloth Honored by Irrigation Council



Congratulations to the Colorado Water Center's Joel Schneekloth who was honored with the **Colorado Headgate Award** from the [Four States Irrigation Council](#) on January 15!

As the northern region water resources specialist for the Colorado Water Center and CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension, Joel has worked at Colorado State University for over 25 years, conducting research and educational programs related to

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Meet the Colorado Water Center Team



The Colorado Water Center welcomed two new team members at the start of 2026 - get to know Rianne and Mindy!

- **Rianne BeCraft (they/them)** is the new **Program Coordinator** supporting CoWC's [Water Quality & Access](#) and Water Workforce programs. Rianne will be helping to run the [Colorado Water Fellows Statewide Program](#) and ongoing efforts with mobile home park water quality.
- **Mindy Bridges (she/her)** is the Colorado Water Center's new **Stakeholder Engagement Specialist** supporting stakeholder engagement on projects related to [South Platte River Basin salinity](#) and more! Bringing over 12 years of expertise working at national organizations on public policy and facilitating dialogue, Mindy is looking forward to bringing her skills to serve the communities in her home state of Colorado.

[Learn More About CoWC Work & Staff](#)

Colorado River & Colorado Water Center in the News

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If you're tuned in to Colorado River issues, you've probably seen a quote from the **Colorado Water Center's Senior Water Scientist and Scholar Brad Udall**.

Brad's expertise on climate change, hydrology, and Colorado River policy has made him a go-to resource for both the press and the public on these critical and complex issues. Get up to speed on Colorado River news with Brad Udall via the latest articles:

- [KUNM: Poor Colorado River snowpack will put pressure on New Mexico](#)
- [The Guardian: Western US states fail to negotiate crucial Colorado River deal](#)
- [Alamosa Citizen: Feds will finalize operating guidelines for Colorado River reservoirs](#)
- [The Atlantic: The West's Winter Has Been a Slow-Moving Catastrophe](#)
- [WNYC Science Friday: What A Snow Drought In The West Means For The Rest Of 2026](#)
- [Grist: The Colorado River is nearing collapse. It's Trump's problem now.](#)

ICYMI: If you're looking for a deeper dive, check out Brad Udall and Jonathan Overpeck's chapter in the Getches-Wilkinson Center's recent report, '[Colorado River Insights, 2025: Dancing with Deadpool](#)' or find more information on the [Colorado River Science Wiki](#), a resource maintained by Brad Udall for the public, media, scientists, students and decision makers about scientific matters pertaining to Colorado River.

Republican River Groundwater Curtailment Report



In 2025, with funding provided by the Colorado Water Center via the Colorado State Legislature, CSU's [Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics](#) conducted an economic analysis of groundwater curtailment in Colorado's Republican River Basin to determine potential impacts of interstate compact non-compliance.

The findings highlight the importance of compliance to avoid significant economic disruptions to agricultural producers, local businesses, and regional economies.

[Read the Executive Summary and the full report on the Center's website here](#) or via the link below.

Explore the 2025 Republican River Groundwater Report

Upcoming Water Events



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- **March 6:** [Poudre River Forum](#) in Greeley, CO
 - **March 9:** [Colorado River District State of the River Meetings](#) begin in Steamboat Springs, CO
 - **March 13:** [Project WET Facilitator Training](#) in Greeley, CO
 - **March 26:** [Currents of Change: The Colorado Water Center's 60th Anniversary Celebration & Water Tables Fundraiser](#) in Fort Collins, CO
 - **March 28:** [Rio Grande Basin Symposium](#) in Alamosa, CO
 - **April 7:** [Northern Water Symposium](#) in Loveland, CO
 - **April 10:** [Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education Conference](#) in Grand Junction, CO
 - **April 22-23:** [Arkansas River Basin Water Forum](#) in Salida, CO
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