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February 2022

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# Hydrology Days

April 25 – 27, 2022

Lory Student Center

## Sign up for the Student Showcase and Competition!

*Cash prizes will be awarded to the top scoring lightning talks.*

*Student registration and abstract deadline:*

**March 1, 2022**

[hydrologydays.colostate.edu/student-showcase](http://hydrologydays.colostate.edu/student-showcase)



## Hydrology Days

Please consider participating in the AGU Hydrology Days [Student Showcase](#) at the CSU Lory Student Center April 25-27, 2022. This year the competition will feature 4-minute 'lightning talks', an engaging snapshot of student research, prepared for both academic and non-academic audiences. **Cash prizes** will be awarded to the top-scoring student presentations and select presenters will be **featured in a special issue of [Colorado Water!](#)** Competition details are attached, and more information is available here:

<http://hydrologydays.colostate.edu/student-showcase/>

The Abstract submission **deadline is March 1, 2022** and online Registration is open until April 1, 2022.

- *Note, a limited quantity of free student registrations are available on a first-come, first-served basis (priority will be given to students presenting at the meeting).*

## Abstract Submission

APPLY BY FEB 14TH, 8 AM MST



**COLORADO  
WATER CENTER**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### FY23 CoWC Student Water Research Grant Program

Are you an under/graduate student enrolled at a 4-year public higher education institution in Colorado, looking to fund water related research?

Then the Colorado Water Center Student Water Research Grant Program might just be for you!

For a chance to receive a grant of up to \$10,000, submit your Research Proposal to

**[nancy.grice@colostate.edu](mailto:nancy.grice@colostate.edu)**.

Here are some examples of priority research topics (for full list please follow the link in our bio):

Post-fire watershed recovery; Effective watershed modeling; Climate change impacts on municipal water use; Quantifying the effects of drought etc.

**Apply here for a \$10,000 Grant**

## Nebraska Proposes \$500 Million Canal Project to

## The Basic Facts

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Governor Pete Ricketts of Nebraska announced his plan to build a \$500 million canal system that would divert water out of the South Platte River Basin in Colorado and would extend several miles across the border. Nebraska is concerned about the river's future since Colorado's growing Front-Range population has led for continuously higher demand for water. Indeed, Colorado recently published a report that discussed over 280 new projects within the South Platte River Basin. These projects could potentially reduce flows into Nebraska by as much as 90% and could result in significant ecological and economic loss. Many Nebraska residents are apprehensive about the future of their water supply and are frightened by the impacts it could have on the power and agriculture industry.



Governor Pete Ricketts proposes a \$500 million plan to claim water from Colorado  
- Image courtesy of Nebraska TV

## The South Platte River Compact

In 1923, the South Platte River Compact was established to promote adequate water allocation between the two states. The compact entitles Nebraska to 120 cubic feet per second during the irrigation season and authorizes Nebraska opportunities to buy and build on private land to fulfill their water rights (the concept of [eminent domain](#)). Coloradoans have questioned Nebraska's authority to progress with the plan, yet many argue that the canal project is permissible according to the 99-year-old compact. State officials in Colorado want to comply with Nebraska but have voiced doubts about the feasibility of the project as the State of Colorado has been experiencing substantial water shortages in recent years. Additionally, there are ongoing concerns regarding climate change and its ability to alter the water cycle in the South Platte River Basin. Governor Jared Polis of Colorado has requested more information on the plan and has acknowledged that he is willing to attain a reasonable agreement with Nebraska but will do everything in his authority to defend the State's water rights.

## What are the potential outcomes?

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accommodates water demands for both states. Kathie Troudt Riley is an administrative law advocate and president of her own law firm, Kathie Troudt Riley, P.C. in Loveland, CO. Kathie is also an instructor at Colorado State University and has years of experience in agriculture and water law. In an interview with the Colorado Water Center, she explained the importance of finding a way to make the river sustainable for everyone and stated, “Currently, the project is in the preliminary stages which implies that there will be numerous meetings between state officials and water experts to discuss plans going forward. Optimistically, both states can come together and create a reasonable plan that is suitable for everyone.” She went on to mention that if agreements can’t be made, there could be years of ongoing legal battles between the two States and private landowners before any outcomes or decisions are determined.

Do you have more questions regarding the projected canal? You are encouraged to contact your Governor's office or your State Representative. Don't who that is? Find out [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about Western US Water Law [click here](#).

We will link the South Platte River Compact [here](#) if you'd like to read through it.

We would also like to invite you to do your own research on the topic so that your understanding of this issue and any other Western Water Law issue grows. I sure know ours is!

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## Black History Month

We would like to acknowledge that Black History should be taught, learned, and celebrated every day of the year and that it is still being written.



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A free virtual event co-hosted by [Outdoor Afro](#) and [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) celebrating Black connections to nature in Colorado past and present. It will take place on **Feb. 12th between 1-4pm.**

Join them for an agricultural reunion to acknowledge and amplify the Centennial State's Black urban and rural farming communities.

Colorado's deep roots in agriculture are intrinsically linked to our watersheds, in order to gain a better understanding of water issues in our state, we must strive to gain an intersectional perspective which includes recognizing the rich past and present of Black urban and rural farming communities.

[Register HERE.](#)

# Uniting the Diaspora



## Black History Month 2022

Join the Black/African American Cultural Center of CSU to celebrate Black History Month 2022. They have done so through a great deal of collaborations with their wonderful students, student organizations they support, on-campus faculty/staff, CSU departments, alumni, and Northern Colorado community members. This year's Keynote Speakers include [Sybrina Fulton](#) (mother of the late Trayvon Martin) and Nicole Lynn Lewis (founder and CEO of [Generation Hope](#)).

[Click here to access the incredible program they have for this month!](#)

### Internship Highlight with the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

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# INTERNSHIP

## Native American Water and Land Intern

Phoenix, Arizona

The hourly range for this role is \$15-\$20/hour depending on level of education and years of experience. This is a part-time position @ up to 19 hours/week reporting to the Senior Program Manager. This is a four to six month internship to start. We will also consider hiring summer interns.

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, seeks to advance the integration of land and water management to secure a sustainable water future in the West, throughout the U.S., and the world.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A nonprofit private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges. Through education, training, publications, and events, we integrate theory and practice to inform public policy decisions worldwide. With locations in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Washington, DC; Phoenix; and Beijing, we organize our work around the achievement of six goals: low-carbon, climate-resilient communities and regions; efficient and equitable tax systems; reduced poverty and spatial inequality; fiscally healthy communities and regions; sustainably managed land and water resources; and functional land markets and reduced informality.

11010 N. Tatum Boulevard  
Suite 2101  
Phoenix, AZ 85028



**BABBITT CENTER**  
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

### POSITION OVERVIEW

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is seeking a Native American Intern with an interest in exploring water and land management within communities across the Colorado River Basin, including Indigenous communities, to join our team for a summer and/or academic semester internship. This internship will contribute to Babbitt Center's integrated land and water planning efforts, focused on policy, research, and practice.

### WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Conduct policy research and write memos or reports on varied subjects associated with Babbitt Center's land and water policy work as it relates to Colorado River communities and stakeholders, including Indigenous communities
- Research and analyze existing or proposed laws, regulations and policies, and data that impact Babbitt Center's mission and its work with Indigenous communities
- Data collection and visualization
- Participate in stakeholder engagement activities and staff meetings and related activities as appropriate
- Conduct outreach to and communicate with Babbitt Center partners, constituents and Colorado River stakeholders
- Present findings to Babbitt Center staff and partners at other organizations as appropriate
- Regularly attend conferences, workshops, and meetings to represent the Babbitt Center
- Work on existing Babbitt Center programs: Water & Tribes Initiative, Growing Water Smart, and Sustainable Agricultural Futures
- Revise the Colorado Basin Story Map in ArcGIS
- Propose and develop new projects that are closely aligned with Babbitt Center's mission and contribute to the land and water management needs of Colorado Basin Indigenous communities

602.393.4300  
lincolninst.edu  
babbittcenter@lincolninst.edu

# INTERNSHIP

## Sustainable Agricultural Water Futures Intern

Phoenix, Arizona

The hourly range for this role is \$15-\$20/hour depending on level of education and years of experience. This is a part-time position @ up to 19 hours/week reporting to the Senior Program Manager. This is a four to six month internship to start. We will also consider hiring summer interns.

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**BABBITT CENTER**  
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

### POSITION OVERVIEW

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy seeks an intern to assist in research related to sustainable agriculture within the seven Colorado River Basin states.

Water sustainability in the southwestern U.S. is inextricably connected to the future of agriculture in the region. Irrigated agriculture utilizes nearly three quarters of the water supplies in the Colorado River Basin, occupies over four million acres of land, and provides food and fiber for the 40 million residents of the Basin and for global agricultural exports. However, irrigated agriculture throughout the Basin faces a future with less water, more expensive water, and less reliable supplies. Projected climate change and impending reductions in available water of 20 percent or more and continued urban growth competing for water supplies are all impacting agricultural communities.

The Babbitt Center is initiating an agricultural water futures research effort. The intern will collect, analyze, manage, and summarize data about agricultural land use changes within the Colorado River Basin.

### WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Conduct research on agricultural land and water use throughout the Colorado River Basin, including land ownership, crop type/operations, new and emerging water efficiency irrigation technologies, changes in hydrologic factors, climate change drivers and impacts, and water markets
- Expand and synthesize literature review on ag producer attitudes and perspectives
- Produce geospatial datasets and visualizations based on above research
- Write blogs, reports, StoryMaps, and/or working papers summarizing findings; present the final product to the Babbitt Center staff and partner organizations as appropriate
- Other duties as assigned

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lincolninst.edu  
babbittcenter@lincolninst.edu

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is seeking a Native American Intern with an interest in exploring water and land management within communities across the Colorado River Basin, including Indigenous communities, to join our team for a summer and/or academic semester internship. This internship will contribute to Babbitt Center's integrated land and water planning efforts, focused on policy, research, and practice.

Apply [HERE](#).

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy seeks an Intern to assist in research related to sustainable agriculture within the seven Colorado River Basin states. To aid in a sustainable agricultural future, the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is initiating an agricultural water futures research effort. The Intern will collect, analyze, manage, and summarize data about agricultural land use changes within the Colorado River Basin.

Apply [HERE](#).

**Where is our Water Flowing? Water Conservation in Colorado w/ Jayla Poppleton (Water Education Colorado) & Kate Ryan (Colorado Water Trust)**

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Virtual Event:  
**WHERE IS OUR WATER FLOWING?  
 WATER CONSERVATION IN COLORADO**  
 w/ Water Education Colorado &  
 Colorado Water Trust



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • 12:30PM - 1:30PM MST  
 VIA ZOOM

FREE FOR MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS  
 RSVP: WOMENINSUSTAINABILITY.ORG

our water come from? In the State of Colorado, our main water supply comes from the western slopes (aka snow pack) and has a long, complex history.

Unfortunately, as climate change accelerates and water demands for Colorado increase, we are in the beginning stages of water scarcity and potential water shortages.

So what can we do? A lot! On **February 16**, join us along with our nonprofit partners for a webinar featuring panelists Jayla Poppleton with Water Education Colorado and Kate Ryan with Colorado Water Trust to learn about the history of water in Colorado, where we are today and what we need to do now for the future.

[Register here.](#)



**Know Your Snow: Rising Expectations**  
**Noon to 1:15 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, February 22**  
**on Zoom**




**WATER  
 WITH YOUR  
 LUNCH**



The current snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin sits above seasonal averages, but our big reservoir levels hover below 30%. We see flakes in the sky and skiers on the slopes but historically low streamflow and dry soils.

How do these factors add up? What do current conditions tell us and how does it compare to the past? Can we make a difference through cloud seeding? And what is happening with our climate? Is there such a thing as a 'new normal'?

Join for some water with your lunch on **Tuesday, February 22** to hear experts weigh in on the answers to these questions and more.

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## **2022 Rivers Edge West Annual Conference**

**FEB 23 - 25, 2022**



Join Rivers Edge West for their 20th Anniversary Riparian Restoration Conference and help them celebrate 20 years of innovation, collaboration, and restoration!

Located at the [Grand Junction Convention Center](#) in Downtown Grand Junction, CO - February 23-25, 2022.

Connect with others in your field who are managing or studying riparian lands and stream environments and discover novel techniques, scientific findings, and lessons learned that make restoration successful.



## **SWIM Student Graduation Spotlight**

### **Morgan Effrein (she/her)**

Join us in congratulating Morgan for her Graduation from the Sustainable Water Interdisciplinary Minor (SWIM)!

Morgan graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in December 2021. She kept busy during her degree with 2 minors, SWIM and Global Environmental Sustainability Minor. Currently, she will continue to work as a Research Associate for the Agriculture Water Quality Program here at CSU.

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**my undergrad, I sincerely wanted to develop my knowledge base around water management through systems thinking to build a sustainable future. This minor offered me various courses to accomplish just that."** Morgan's favorite classes were GR 204 Sustainable Watersheds and NR 320 Natural Resource History and Policy. Here's Morgan again sharing about these courses **"These classes were not only taught by amazing professors but were also incredibly engaging. I was able to walk away from each course with useful skills and information."**

Overall, Morgan told us that the value of the SWIM minor laid in the wide variety of courses offered and the flexibility of the process allowing her to comfortably complete this minor alongside her major. She now has meaningful courses on her resume as well as impactful connections to continue producing innovative solutions to the many challenging questions we face concerning water in the West.

[Learn more about SWIM here.](#)

## Staff Spotlight

### Nora Flynn (she/her)

Ce n'est qu'un au-revoir Nora!

We are sad to see one of our valuable team members go, but we are equally happy in celebrating her success in becoming the newest Agricultural Water Planning Specialist at the Colorado Water Conservation Board this month. Nora will be a part of the Water Supply Planning Team and is looking forward to forming new relationships with agricultural water users around the state and diving into work on the Colorado Water Plan update. Congratulations!



Let's look back at some of Nora's greatest hits!

From Minnesota, Nora received her BA in Biology and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College. She then pursued her Ph.D. in Soil and Crop Science here at Colorado State University and will be graduating Spring 2022. She studied deficit irrigation and that is how she got involved with the Colorado Water Center.

Here's Nora reflecting on her time with us **"I am so thankful for all the opportunities that the graduate school and the Colorado Water Center provided during my 7 years at CSU. And I will cherish having had the opportunity to bring CSU students (see picture: Left to right: Sofia Palermo, Nora Flynn, Swee Tee, Thomas**

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[this professional meeting."](#)

We can't wait to see what you accomplish on the team of the Colorado Water Conservation Board Nora and look forward to collaborating with you in the future!

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## Upcoming Event Highlights

### [February 9: Managing the Planet: What's biodiversity got to do with it? Nature-based solutions to the climate crisis](#)

Biodiversity loss and the climate change crises must be tackled together or neither will be resolved, according to experts of two intergovernmental science-policy bodies ([IPBES-IPCC](#)). Nature-based solutions such as restoring carbon and species-rich ecosystems can be cheap and effective to implement, with positive benefits to habitat, biodiversity, water quality, and societal impacts of jobs and the economy. Panelists will discuss how biodiversity and nature-based solutions are key to climate change solutions.

### [February 19: Rain Barrels: Conserving Water in the Garden](#)

Rain barrels are the perfect way to take the next step in rainwater harvesting at your home. In this class, Jessica Thrasher, Education and Outreach Manager for Colorado State University's Colorado Stormwater Center will provide an introduction to rainwater harvesting and step-by-step instructions on how to install your own rain barrel. You will even have an opportunity to win a rain barrel for your home!

### [March 2: 2022 Colorado Agricultural Forum](#)

Beyond just production and profit, what really drives agriculturists is possibility. The 2022 Colorado Ag Forum zeroes in on this innate quality, with a program full of dynamic speakers and presentations, featuring the latest in innovation, collaboration, and glimpses into what the possibilities of Colorado agriculture holds not just in the present, but the future. The Colorado Agriculture Leadership program is pleased to once again host the Colorado Ag Forum, with this year's theme, Agriculture Our Wisest Pursuit, promising a day full of networking and discovering what lies ahead for our state's second-largest economic driver.

### [March 7-10: Colorado Rural Water Association Conference](#)

Join us at the Colorado Rural Water Show! You can find us in the Exhibit Hall ready to answer your questions! We hope to see you there.

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## Featured Resources

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## Employment and Internships

Explore opportunities for a water-related career in diverse sectors from entry-level to expert.

[<< COMMUNITY JOB BOARD](#)



## KEEP UP WITH CoWC

### What's New

We highlight the latest research, scholarships, and other activities sponsored by the Colorado Water Center.

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Stay connected with the Colorado Water Center! We share even more water-related news, events, educational opportunities, and more on these channels.



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