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December 2021

Welcome back to a new edition of The Current!

This month we highlight the incredible work of our own through our latest publications, Brad Udall talks Colorado River Basin, Hydrology Days is seeking abstracts for the 2022 Symposium, read a quick recap of the Water In The West Symposium, learn about the Colorado Water Center's programs, and listen to some podcasts over the winter break!

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[Mourning the loss of Justice Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr.](#)

The Colorado water community lost a legend on November 30th, 2021, with the passing of Justice Greg Hobbs. Greg, who would have turned 77 on Dec. 15, passed away peacefully with his family - wife Bobbie, son Dan and daughter Emily - by his side after suffering a pulmonary embolism.

For both the legal and water communities, and really all whose paths crossed his, the loss is heartbreaking. We not only lost one of our most knowledgeable legal minds but also lost one of our most able and accomplished speakers, teachers, writers and historians. Those who knew Greg understand.

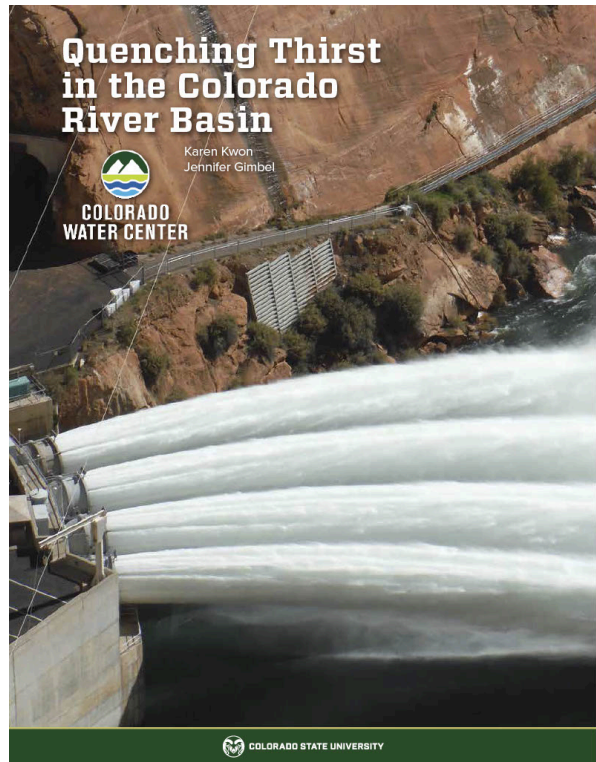
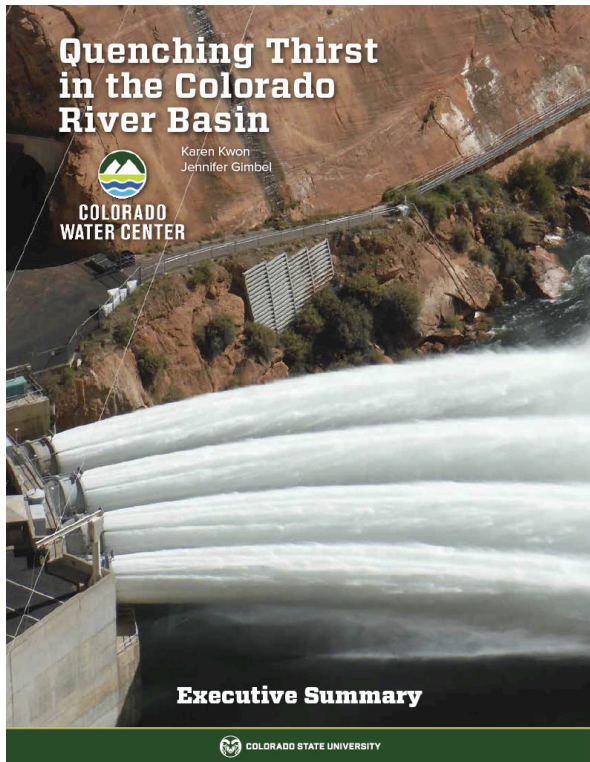
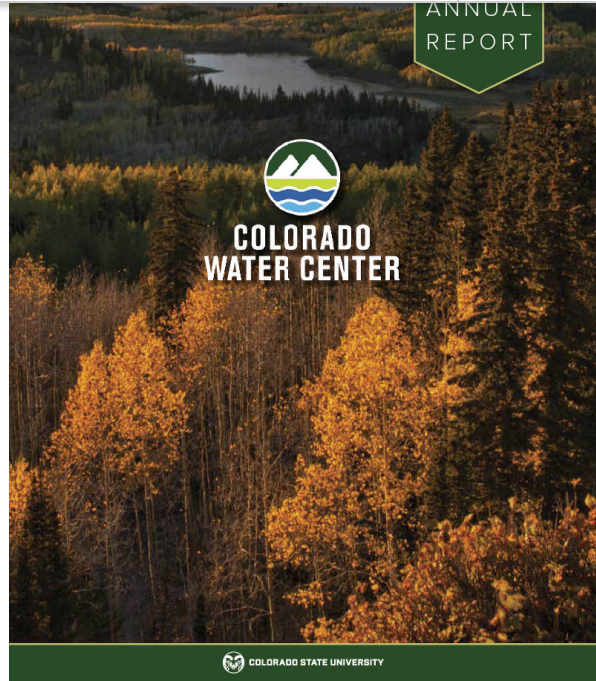
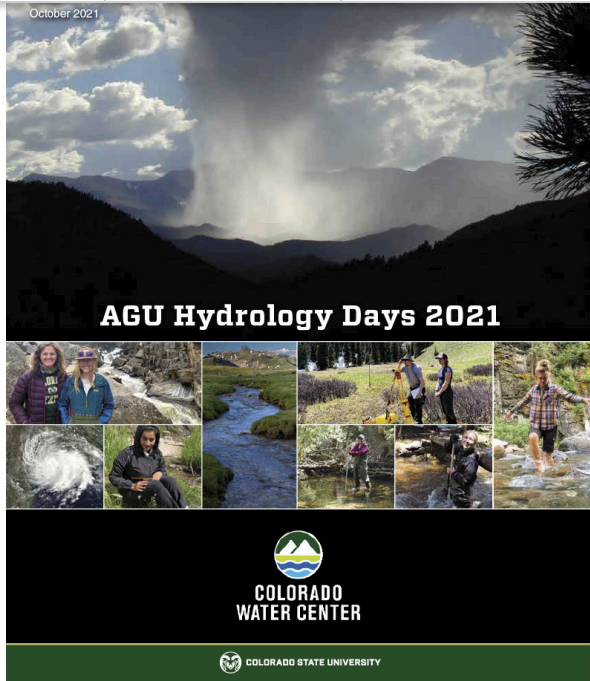
There will be a celebration of Greg's life at a later, more COVID-safe time. The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Water Education Colorado. You can donate in Greg's memory online at wateredco.org/greg-hobbs-memorial.

Check out our latest publications!

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Click on the images to download and read our publications.


Southwest states facing tough choices about water as the Colorado River diminishes

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Brad Udall, the Colorado Water Center's Senior Water & Climate Scientist, was featured on CBS 60 Minutes to discuss the current situation of the Colorado River Basin. At this time, water flows & levels are at record-breaking lows which can be attributed to climate change and population growth. Seven states and 40 million people rely on the Colorado River which provides an abundance of services such as hydroelectricity, drinking water, recreation, and irrigation.

When asked about the basin's future, Brad stated, "We have fully utilized this system. We have overallocated it and we now need to think about how to turn some of this back because the only lever we control right now in the river is the demand lever. We have no control over the supply." A solution is still not apparent; however, it was acknowledged that with optimism and changes in water efficiency, the West's current water crisis could find a constructive and positive outcome.


Click the image above to take a boat ride on Lake Powell and learn more about the Colorado River Basin crisis.

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Participate in the 2022 Hydrology Days

Students, faculty, and staff from the College of Liberal Arts are encouraged to submit abstracts for the Annual AGU Hydrology Days event. Seeking abstracts from students, faculty and staff for events

April 25-27, 2022.

Presentations are welcome on all topics in hydrology, including Economics of Water, Food-Energy-Water Nexus, Social Equity & Environmental Justice, Socio-Ecological Systems, Western Water Law, etc.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 1ST, 2022.

RECAP of Water In The West Symposium

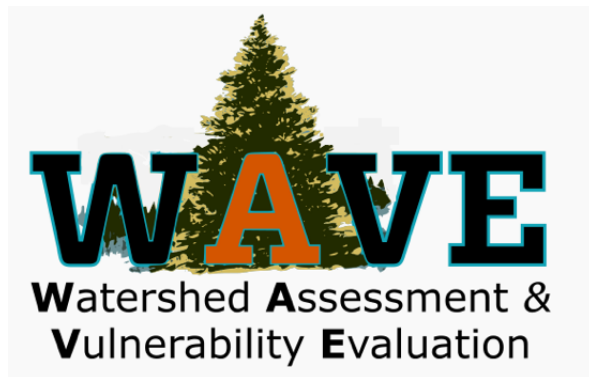
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Symposium made one thing clear, that is that the water situation is alarming - more than ever before. However, the symposium gathered experts from across the country and we got to learn from one another's successes, highlighting solutions at scale to water issues.



Click on the image for a full recap!

CoWC PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



The W.A.V.E. program provides field-based, post-wildfire watershed assessments for willing private landowners to help with wildfire recovery. This program will work with landowners to identify threats to resources that have private and public benefits and recommend restoration strategies. This program benefits landowners by giving them personalized recovery plans to meet their land management goals. These goals may include forest regeneration, infrastructure protection, water quality protection, wildlife habitat recovery, erosion control, flood mitigation, etc. What makes WAVE unique from other post-fire assistance is the ability to provide post-wildfire restoration technical assistance to landowners quickly and at various scales. The program and assessments are flexible to reflect landowner priorities.

WATER LITERATE

LEADERS



The Water Literate Leaders (WLL) Program is for those who hold or aspire to hold political office, or other roles, including boards and commissions, which can impact regional water policy. The Colorado Water Center, in cooperation with the [Community Foundation of Northern Colorado](#) and the [Hach Center for Regional Engagement](#), launched this non-partisan Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado program in September 2017.

WLL program participants actively learn about complex Northern Colorado water issues from all angles including agriculture, urban, environmental, recreation, and business via presentations, dialogue, and field trips; they interact and dialogue with regional water leaders for an inside view of issues affecting Northern Colorado's water future—and participate in visioning activities all the while building active connections with key stakeholders in the region and state.

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work our 2021 cohort has been doing [here](#).

Water Podcasts to keep you company this break!



Heading home for the Winter Break?

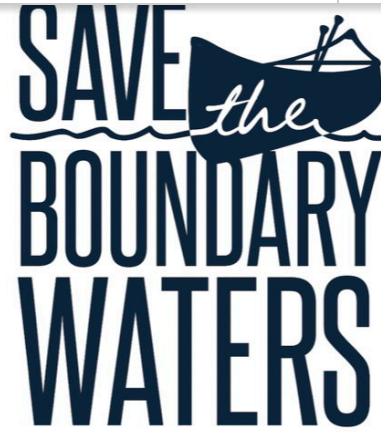
Have a long trip ahead of you or want some cool water knowledge to wow your family with at gatherings?

Here are some water-related podcast episodes to get you started!

Click on the images to access their audio files.

Need even more podcast suggestions? Click [HERE!](#)



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Water and Ski Resorts...

What is happening?

Every year across the State of Colorado, ski resorts use an abundance of water to keep their operations stable and running. During these last couple of years, the state has dealt with severe droughts and an ongoing water crisis that is impacting supply across the entire Western US.

Many resorts across the state are acknowledging the impacts that they have placed upon the water supply and have begun taking sustainable initiatives to reduce the impacts. Examples include upgrades to snowmaking equipment that uses less energy and water, dirt-based superpipes, and reduced carbon emissions which can be traced to renewable energy systems. These impacts have saved millions of gallons of water across the state and ski resorts are continuing to find more viable options which lead to better outcomes for our future.

So as you head into ski season, let's reflect together on the environmental impacts our activities may have and how you and I might be agents of change.

[In case you missed our GRAD592 seminar, click on the image to access all the recordings and readings from our incredible guest speakers!](#)

Sharing Visions for a Sustainable Water Future

Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar

GRAD592

Fall 2021 | Mondays | 4:00 - 5:00 PM | Virtual

August 23

Introduction to Western Water Law and Sustainability

Jennifer Gimbel, Interim Director, CoWC

August 30

Federal, State, and International Water Law

Jennifer Gimbel, Interim Director, CoWC

September 6 – No Class

September 13

Water Quality Sustainability

Jill Oropeza, Water Quality Services Manager, Ft. Collins Utilities

September 20

Ecosystem Sustainability

Carmen Farmer, Conservation Project Manager, Colorado Open Lands

September 27

Land and Water Planning

Anne Castle, Senior Fellow, Getches-Wilkinson Center

October 4

Local Water System Challenges

Sean Chambers, Director of Water and Sewer, City of Greeley

October 11

Privatization of Water and Speculation

Peggy Montaño, Partner, Trout, Raley Law Firm

Faculty, students, and off-campus guests are welcome.

October 18

Special Presentation

In-person class for registered students only, Lory Student Center Room 376-78

October 25

One Water Sustainability

Mazdak Arabi, Professor, Borland Chair in Water Resources, CSU

November 1

Agricultural Water Sustainability

Greg Peterson, Executive Director, Colorado Ag Water Alliance

November 8

Water Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Rio de la Vista, Director, Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center, Adams State

Ronda Lobato, Board Member, Costilla County Conservancy District

November 15

Wildfire and Water Sustainability

Esther Vincent, Director of Environmental Services, Northern Water

November 22 – No Class

November 29

Climate Challenges to Sustainability

Brad Udall, Senior Water & Climate Scientists/Scholar, CoWC

December 6

Sustainability and Water

Jennifer Gimbel, Interim Director, CoWC

December 13

Final Papers Due and Presented



Learn more
watercenter.colostate.edu/grad592



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Featured Resources

WORK IN WATER

Employment and Internships

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

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What's New

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

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