Colorado River water expert to present at the State of the Gunnison Basin in Montrose, May 31st

Eric Kuhn, the General Manager of the Colorado River District, will headline the Gunnison State of the River meeting on Wednesday, May 31st at the Montrose Pavilion.

As part of the annual series of public water education forums, the Colorado River District and the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District welcome interested public to learn what makes the Colorado River system ebb and flow, with a focus on the Gunnison River Basin and its North Fork and Uncompahgre tributaries. Light refreshments will be served starting at 5:30 pm with networking and informal discussions before the program begins at 6 pm; it lasts until 8 pm and is free to all.

In addition to Mr. Kuhn, a host of other water professionals and agricultural water users will explore the many issues that impact local streams and reservoirs for the upcoming season as well as those that affect the ‘big picture’ regional basin conditions, issues and concerns.

This will be Kuhn’s last Gunnison State of the River meeting in his capacity as General Manager as he is slated to retire in January 2018. Eric Kuhn started his employment with the Colorado River District in 1981 and assumed his current duties as General Manager in 1996. During his long and productive tenure protecting western Colorado water, he served two terms on the Colorado Water Conservation board and in 2006 was appointed by the Governor to the Colorado Interbasin Compact Commission. Most recently he was awarded the 2017 Diane Hoppe Leadership Award by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education. He has authored a number of papers and technical presentations on the Colorado River Basin and is widely recognized as a pre-eminent Colorado River expert scholar.

Additionally, representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Colorado Division of Water Resources will answer the question “What can you expect this water year” by describing in detail the projected operations at key Gunnison River Basin water projects. They will also explain the factors that drive such important decision making.

Rounding out the evening’s agenda will be presentations on western Colorado irrigated agriculture. This includes Dr. Perry Cabot of Colorado State University and a panel of agricultural experts asking and discussing intriguing questions: “Is Water Just Another Crop?” and “Beyond Water Conservation! How do we Conserve Agriculture?!”

These panelists will examine how and what agricultural producers and basin water users can do to make a difference and how to refine water use to increase productivity and profitability.

For more information, contact Martha Moore of the Colorado River District at 970-945-8522.

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