

## **Steamboat State of the River Forum to review snowpack, Yampa River challenges**

**What:** Steamboat State of the River Forum

**When:** 5:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 20; free chili supper served at 5:30; program at 6

**Where:** Steamboat Springs Community Center, 1605 Lincoln Avenue

Speakers representing Colorado River District, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado Water Trust, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, Colorado Climate Center and the Yampa-White-Green River RoundTable will address water leasing and banking programs, current snowpack conditions, water administration, Colorado and Yampa River conditions and Round Table issues.

**Info:** 970-879-4370

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Want to know what weather patterns have caused the substandard snowpack this winter? Then come to the Steamboat State of the River free public forum, 5:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 20 at the Steamboat Springs Community Center. A free chili supper will be served starting at 5:30, prepared by the Master Gardeners. The program starts at 6.

Retired State Climatologist Nolan Doesken will discuss how this winter unfolded and talk about the weather patterns that have created a low snow year on par with the record drought year of 2002. As attendees will hear, the Steamboat zone is actually in a more fortunate position than many others in Colorado.

The meeting is sponsored by the Community Agriculture Alliance, the Colorado River District, the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and the Yampa-White-Green River Roundtable.

Also speaking will be Andy Mueller, the new General Manager of the Colorado River District. Mueller is the new face of the River District, replacing the well-known water leader Eric Kuhn, who retired. Mueller will highlight River District priorities surrounding irrigated agriculture and Lake Powell, as well as talk about operations of Wolford Mountain and Elkhead Reservoirs.

Other presenters include:

- Kevin McBride, Manager of the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District who will talk about snowpack and reservoir operations;
- Zack Smith of the Colorado Water Trust who will discuss the Yampa River water leasing program;
- Erin Light, the Division 6 Engineer, who will address water administration; and
- Jackie Brown, Chair of the Yampa-White –Green River Roundtable who will give an update on water resources planning and actions.