

## Press Release

April 27, 2018

# Colorado's new Climatologist speaking at Summit State of the River meeting May 2

**Russ Schumacher, Colorado's newly named State Climatologist, will keynote the Summit State of the River meeting set for 5:30 p.m. light food, 6 p.m. program, Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at the Silverthorne Pavilion. Bureau of Reclamation and Denver Water officials will discuss reservoir operations at Green Mountain and Dillon. New Colorado River District general manager Andy Mueller will address West Slope water priorities.**

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In western Colorado, this past winter was a fickle friend to snow lovers and water users watching the snowpack. Summit County did well, with snowpack peaking at about 95 percent of average in the middle of April. Not so much was the case in southern Colorado and elsewhere where numbers were in the 30s and 40s.

As a result, Colorado River Basin inflow into Lake Powell is projected to be 41 percent of average. What happened? Colorado's new State Climatologist, Russ Schumacher, will address these weather trends and more at the Wednesday, May 2, Summit State of the River free public meeting at the Silverthorne Pavilion. Light food will be available at 5:30 p.m. The program begins at 6 p.m.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Summit State of the River water education meetings. Sponsors are the Blue River Watershed Group and the Colorado River District.

Another featured speaker is the new general manager of the Colorado River District, Andy Mueller. The River District Board hired Mueller this past December to take over for longtime and well known water leader Eric Kuhn, who retired. Mueller will talk about how protecting irrigated agriculture in western Colorado is tied to recreational use of water, environmental values and Lake Powell. Summit County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier is Summit's representative to the River District board.

Summit County Water Commissioner Troy Wineland will discuss local water supply and streamflow predictions. Also, officials from the Bureau of Reclamation and Denver Water will

be on hand to detail operations this year at Green Mountain and Dillon Reservoirs, two key water bodies in Summit County.

For more information, contact Water Commissioner Troy Wineland at 970-355-4516 or Jim Pokrandt of the Colorado River District at 970-945-8522.