

PRESS RELEASE

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Rifle State of the River

6-8pm Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the Ute Theater in Rifle, CO

The Colorado River District and the Middle Colorado Watershed Council are hosting the Middle Colorado State of the River free public meeting, Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the Ute Theater. The State of the River is an annual public information meeting, held as an opportunity for the community to come together and learn more about the challenges facing the health of the Colorado River, in addition to the initiatives and projects aimed at addressing those challenges.

The Colorado River and its numerous industrial, agricultural, environmental and recreational users thrive on a deep snowpack which continues to thaw through the summer. Following a below-average snowfall year, it's only fitting that the meeting start with presentations regarding regional reservoir conditions from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and a snowpack report by Wendy Ryan of Colorado River Engineering.

Other presentations include Laurie Rink of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council and Liz Chandler representing the Mount Sopris, Bookcliff, and South Side Conservations Districts. The pair will discuss their multi-year studies on consumptive and non-consumptive water use in the Middle Colorado River watershed. Jim Pokrandt of the Colorado River District will discuss the integration of the studies, and Andy Mueller, new General Manager for the Colorado River District, will wrap up the meeting by addressing basin-wide challenges facing the Colorado River.

"This annual spring event has become a favorite for water managers and members of the public to talk about the state of the Colorado River and what kind of water year we can expect," explained Laurie Rink, Executive Director of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council.

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council's mission is:

"To evaluate, protect, and enhance the health of the middle Colorado River watershed through the cooperative effort of watershed stakeholders."

The middle Colorado River watershed extends from Glenwood Canyon to De Beque and includes all the streams that flow into the Colorado.

The Colorado River District's mission is:

“To lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River basin for the welfare of the District, and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.”

For more information please visit www.midcowatershed.org or www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org.