

## Press Release

April 30, 2018

# Ouray State of the River free public meeting to highlight local water conditions; larger Colorado River Basin issues

**Andy Mueller, the new General Manager of the Colorado River District, will give the keynote talk at the inaugural Ouray State of the River free public meeting, set for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at the Ouray County 4-H Event Center in Ridgway. A free chili and salad supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.; program at 6:15 p.m. Local streamflow conditions will be discussed by Division 4 Engineer Bob Hurford and Tri-County Water Conservancy District Manager Mike Berry will address Ridgway Reservoir operations.**

---

In western Colorado, everybody is a snow farmer, whether they are tooth-brushers or working the land. Without high-mountain snowpack, the land could not hold the settlement we see today. Good citizens of the West need to know water.

This is why the Colorado River District and its partners are hosting the first Ouray State of the River free public meeting set for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at the 4-H Center in Ridgway. A free chili and salad supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.; program starts at 6:15 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be former Ridgway resident Andy Mueller, who now the new General Manager of the Colorado River District – taking over this past January for Eric Kuhn. The River District covers 15 counties in western Colorado, including Ouray. It is based in Glenwood Springs. Mueller will talk about how protecting irrigated agriculture in western Colorado is tied to the recreational use of water, environmental values and Lake Powell.

Division 4 - Gunnison Basin Engineer Bob Hurford of the Colorado Division of Water Resources will start the evening with a rundown of the poor snowpack of this past winter, predicted streamflows and the administration of water rights.

Mike Berry, Manager of the Tri-County Water Conservancy District, will detail how Ridgway Reservoir will operate this summer. Also speaking will be Steve Anderson of the Uncompahgre Water Users Association, Daris Jutten of the Ouray Water Users Association and Marti Whitmore, who will discuss the Upper Uncompahgre Stream Management Plan initiative of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. Whitmore is also the Ouray County representative to the Colorado River District Board of Directors.

For more information, contact Jim Pokrandt of the Colorado River District at 970-945-8522 or email [edinfo@crwcd.org](mailto:edinfo@crwcd.org).