



MEDIA ADVISORY
Wednesday, May 29, 2018

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River District to Host “State of the Rivers” Meeting Thursday Evening in Carbondale
Free public forum to feature expert presenters on local, state, and national water issues.

Carbondale, CO – The Colorado River District will host the Roaring Fork Valley State of the Rivers meeting this Thursday, May 31, at the Third Street Center (520 South Third Street) in Carbondale. The River District will provide complimentary food and beverages starting at 5:15p.m, and the program will begin at 6:00p.m.

Free and open to the public, the State of the Rivers meeting is an annual River District event intended to increase public awareness of current snowpack and runoff conditions, intrastate and interstate water issues, and the challenges facing water users across the Western Slope.

Presenters for the State of the Rivers meeting include:

Luke Runyon, a state and national journalist covering Colorado River Basin and Western water issues, will keynote the evening’s program. Runyon’s presentation, “Tales from the Colorado River”, focuses on the human dimensions of water management throughout the Colorado River Basin.

Runyon’s stories are frequently featured on NPR’s Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Weekend Edition, Here & Now and APM’s Marketplace.

Andy Mueller, General Manager of the Colorado River District –Mueller will present on the importance of irrigated agriculture on the Western Slope, the link between local water use and Lake Powell, and “Big River” challenges presented by population growth and prolonged drought conditions throughout the Colorado River Basin.

Mueller took over as head of the Colorado River District this past January after the retirement of longtime GM and statewide water leader, Eric Kuhn.

Stephen Saunders, President of the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, will present the findings of a recent study, Climate Change in the Headwaters: Water and Snow Impacts. Saunders is a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, where he oversaw the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Representatives from **Roaring Fork Conservancy**, **Aspen Valley Land Trust**, and **American Rivers** will also present on local challenges and success stories in the Roaring Fork and Crystal River watersheds.

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