



MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT: [Dave Kanzer](#) – 970.945.8522 x224

Snow Science Experts to Host Cloud-Seeding Workshop in Aspen

Public forum on Friday, May 24 will highlight ongoing efforts to enhance snowfall

Aspen, CO – Regional snow science experts will host a public cloud-seeding brown-bag lunch workshop on Friday, May 24, 2019, from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Pitkin County Board of Commissioners office (530 E. Main Street) in Aspen. Lunch is at noon; program starts at 1 p.m.

Friday's workshop will provide educational information on longstanding cloud-seeding operations in the central Rockies and recent proposals to expand the practice as a component of drought planning efforts in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Specific topics of discussion will include public and ecological safety, increasing local and regional Colorado River water supplies, and the economics of snowfall enhancement.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend to learn more and to seek answers to any questions they may have about the practice.

Cloud-seeding operations use propane-fired generators to send tiny particles of silver iodide into moisture-laden cloud formations where they attract water vapor and form snowflakes. Independent scientific studies have shown silver iodide to be environmentally safe for seeding operations.

“We are optimistic that these efforts can make a positive difference for water users on the West Slope,” said Dave Kanzer, Deputy Chief Engineer for the Colorado River District. **“This workshop presents a great opportunity for elected officials and members of the general public to learn more about the science behind these efforts.”**

“More than 100 cloud-seeding generation sites are dispersed throughout Colorado, including two sites in Pitkin County that have been operating for almost a decade.

The Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is considering the funding of an expanded cloud seeding program to include the four Aspen ski areas that are currently not being seeded. If Commissioners choose to fund the expansion, additional public meetings and formal public comment periods would be required as part of the state's permitting process.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/472770040162821/>

DRAFT Agenda

Noon – Bring Your Own Brown Bag for the lawn, street tacos available for purchase at the nearby Corner Store, light refreshments provided

1 pm – Welcome - Introductions and Objectives of Day – Dave Kanzer, Colorado River District

1:05 – Pitkin County Perspective - Why we are here today – Greg Poschman, Pitkin County Commissioner

1:15 pm - Cloud Seeding 101 – What is Cloud Seeding anyway? Eric Hjermsstad, cloud-seeding expert and contractor

Eric will cover the basics related to the conceptual models that describe how seeding works and overview of activities across Colorado, the west with a mention of other global efforts and techniques: manual, remote and airborne. Also briefly introducing the process for permitting and requirements such as suspension criteria.

1:30 pm - Cloud Seeding 201 – Is it Safe? Where does it go? Addressing Questions and Concerns – Dr. Tom DeFelice, retired atmospheric scientist from NASA Ames Lab and CU Boulder

Tom will cover research that has been performed that address potential environmental impacts and extra area affects, describing the materials used, introducing significant studies that are the basis for standard cloud seeding practices and related regulations

2:15 pm - Using cloud seeding research to design, optimize and evaluate cloud seeding programs? – Dr. Sarah Tessendorf, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder

Sarah will address previous and on-going research results and what the research tells us about the effectiveness of cloud seeding and what are some of the site-specific lessons we are learning from the Wyoming Pilot Study and SNOWIE

3 pm - Learning from Others - The Idaho Experience – Dr. Shaun Parkinson, Idaho Power Company

Shaun will expand upon previous discussions to explain how research has been used to guide implementation for the Idaho Power Company programs and how partnerships have been created to leverage funding, expand efforts and to regionalize benefits

Break

3:30 pm – Blowing in the Wind – Where, When and Why to Seed in Pitkin County? – Daniel Breed, NCAR (retired)

4 pm Roundtable Discussion with reactions from local natural resource planners, emergency managers, others (invited: Fire protection staff, water and forest planners, AGCI, SkiCo)

4:25 pm - Closing remarks

4:30 pm - Adjourn to Tap Room for FAC and additional networking and follow up

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