## RIVER MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

## 2013 RIVER (RANGER) RENDEZVOUS

# COLORADO RIVER:

# WILD, SCENIC AND ENDANGERED ECONOMIC GENERATOR

According to the Bureau of Reclamation’s Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (December 2012), there is not enough water in the Colorado River to meet the Basin’s current water demands, let alone support demand increases from growing populations in an era of climate change.

According to research into the economic impact of recreational activities along the Colorado River and its tributaries across six western states, [*Colorado River, Inc.: The $26 Billion Recreation Resource Employing a Quarter Million Americans*](http://protectflows.com/creating-jobs/)*,* the Colorado River is the 19th largest employer on the Fortune 500, and a major economic powerhouse fueling economies in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Float the 2013 River Management Society River (Ranger) Rendezvous where the people who are managing the river for recreation and the people who are protecting water for instream flow will get together for unique and engaging discussions and hands-on practices.   Learn about issues and the innovative solutions that are currently being implemented by Federal, state, local and quasi-governmental agents, first hand.

This year's R(R)R will take place during a float on the upper Colorado River in Eagle County, Colorado where river recreation and water demand are growing to the point of collision.   This reach of river is currently under review for Wild and Scenic designation. Its ‘outstanding remarkable values’ include recreation, and Eagle County Openspace has been actively acquiring and improving lands to increase river access. Grand County (immediately upstream) is pounding out implementation strategies to keep water in the Colorado River and state leaders address its non-consumptive water use. Ongoing mitigation for the four endangered fish species is also centered on instream flow in this reach. At the same time, western and eastern water developers are massaging an ongoing Cooperative Agreement that identifies how they’ll share its water.

Speakers will offer unique insight and firsthand knowledge and experience with these many river management issues.

## Schedule

### Monday –Wednesday, September 9-11

### Swiftwater Rescue Technician Course – Day 1

### Thursday September 12

8:00 – 10:00 am **BLM Pinball Put-in: River Recreation on the Upper Colorado River**

Hanna Schecter, Recreation Specialist BLM Kremmling: 60,000 users and growing.

Toby Sprunk, Eagle County Openspace: 42 Miles with no use, Openspace goals

10:00 am – 12:00 pm **Float to Red Dirt**

Discussion topic - exporting lessons learned from federal and state recreation programs to county and local managers. Federal, local partners

Red Dirt: Cooler packed lunch (teams)

1:00 – 4:00 pm Red Dirt Primitive Campsite Workshop

Troy Schnurr: Red Dirt Primitive Campsite Planning exercise

4:00 – 5:30pm **Setup Red Dirt Camp**

5:30 pm Cooler packed dinner (teams)

### Friday September 13

8:00 – 10:00 am **Red Dirt: Wild and Scenic**

Red Dirt: Cooler packed breakfast (teams)

Roy Smith, Colorado State BLM Water Rights Specialist: Wild and Scenic Outstanding Remarkable Values

Nathan Fey, American Whitewater: Support

Matt Rice, American Rivers: Most Endangered Rivers

10:30 am - 12:00 pm **Float to middle Colorado River Ranch**

12:00 pm Catered Lunch

12:00 - 4:00 pm **Instream Flows on the Colorado River**

Chris Treese, CRWCD: Mechanisms for current flow, cooperative agreement, 10825

Lurline Curran/ Jason Carey: Grand County Instream flows

4:00 - 5:30 pm **Colorado River Ranch Activities**

Tour of Colorado River Ranch Boat Ramp Construction Site

BLM Archeologist and Geologists Nature Hikes

Geocaching exercise

6:00 pm Catered Dinner - Middle Colorado River Ranch

Kevin Fedarko: Colorado River Lore

### Saturday September 14

8:00 - 9:30 am **Middle Colorado River Ranch: Natives and Invasives**

Cooler packed breakfast (teams)

Randy Mandel - Native Plants

Steve Elzinga - Tamarisk control efforts

BLM Archeologist/Geologist

10:00 am -12:00 pm **Float to BLM Cottonwood Island**

12:00 pm Shuttle to airport or vehicles

Cooler-packed takeout lunch - BLM Cottonwood Island

2:00 - 5:00 pm Shoshone Whitewater

NOTE: Red dirt, accessible by **extreme 4wd only**. Colorado River Ranch Middle Camp has a gravel driveway.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**Rob R. Buirgy** - Colorado River Wild and Scenic Project Manager

**Lurline Underbrink Curran** - County Manager, Grand County (CO)  
Lurline has been a tireless warrior on the front lines of water diversions out of the Colorado River Basin. She has been pounding out implementation strategies to keep water in the Colorado River and on the Western Slope. Lurline has lead Grand County’s goal to make rivers and streams better than they are today, and put in place procedures that would, to the greatest extent possible, preserve and protect our water resources for the future.

**Kevin Fedarko** - Author, Grand Canyon River Guide

In addition to his travel narratives in *Outside*, where he worked as a senior editor, Fedarko’s work has appeared in *Esquire* and *National Geographic Adventure* and has been compiled in *The Best American Travel Writing* in 2004 and 2006. Fedarko was a staff writer at *Time* from 1991 to 1997, where his work helped garner an Overseas Press Club Award for a story on the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

**Nathan Fey** - Colorado Stewardship Director, American Whitewater

An active paddler in Colorado and the West since 1990, Nathan grew up in the Boulder area and began his boating career racing C-1 slalom and OC-2 downriver. Nathan began guiding and instructing in 1993 in Colorado before relocating to Oregon where he received his degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Nathan continued to teach and guide around the Northwest until he returned to Colorado in 1999 and turned his focus towards collaborative river conservation and watershed protection.

**Matt Rice** - Director, Colorado Conservation American Rivers

Matt works to engage communities in the Colorado area to protect river health by reconnecting people to their local rivers through blue trails. He also works to improve recreation, fisheries, water quality, and safety on hydropower dams through Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) dam re-licensings.

**Hanna Schecter** - BLM Recreation Specialist

**Troy Schnurr** - Park Ranger, BLM Grand Junction – 2009 River Manager of the Year

**Roy Smith** - BLM Colorado Water Rights Specialist – 2012 Contribution to River Management Award

**Toby Sprunk** - Director, Eagle County Openspace

Openspace funds were limited to purchases only and extremely restricted from maintenance or improvement. Toby was instrumental in convincing the County that open spaces should not only avoid "going to weed" but could also be enhanced for the benefit of recreation and community stewardship of our rivers.

**Chris Treese** - External Affairs Manager, Colorado River District