

Yampa Basin Rendezvous 2022: ***Enhanced Observations for Water Resilience in the Yampa River Basin***

22-23, September 2022, Colorado Mountain College Steamboat Springs Campus

Organized by the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E), Colorado Mountain College, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, Friends of the Yampa, the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, and Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation

The Yampa River is one of the wildest remaining major tributaries of the Colorado River and supports a rich ecosystem, local agriculture and ranching, and robust recreation industry. It also provides crucial water supplies to local stakeholders and locations as far removed as Arizona and Southern California. However, warming temperatures, rising snowlines, and increased drought occurrence and severity pose serious risks to the boreal, alpine, and riverine ecosystems of the Yampa River Basin. **How are we, as a community, observing changes in our water cycle and working to build resilience in the face of those changes?** This question will be at the forefront of the 2022 Yampa Basin Rendezvous. This 2-day event will provide an overview of the current state of, and future planning for, water resources in the Yampa River Basin. It will also include a discussion of the role of economic, environmental, and cultural factors that influence water cycle observations for resource and resiliency planning. The overarching goal is to provide a venue that encourages a science-based, community-centered approach to creating informed, adaptive, proactive, and science-based management strategies for Yampa's natural resources and communities.

During the fifth-annual Yampa Basin Rendezvous, participants will examine the Yampa River Basin with a focus on enhanced observations for water resilience. The Rendezvous will include morning talks by regional experts, discussion panels, afternoon field learning, and a community event. Options for virtual participation will be provided when possible. We will explore new water cycle observation tools, technologies, and partnerships with the goal of building sustainable water futures in the Yampa River Basin. Through this dialogue with the local community, we hope to pair CW3E's research directions with the community's expertise on the challenges and successes of resource management and conservation practices in the Yampa to identify how additional information and research may be beneficial.

This event is an ongoing effort to connect graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, researchers, staff, and faculty from the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E; cw3e.ucsd.edu) to river basins throughout the west. CW3E is based at the University of California San Diego's (UCSD) Scripps Institution of Oceanography and is building a regional community of scientists and engineers to work on western weather and climate problems. Building deep, meaningful connections with people who live, work, and steward rivers in the west is essential and it is preferable that this happens at an early career stage.

YBR Mission: The YBR strives to be an opportunity for reflection, communication, appreciation, and collaborative, interactive learning about the Yampa Basin ecosystems, environment, weather, climate, people, and culture and their intersections, for members of the

Yampa Basin community as well as all the communities downstream who rely on the Yampa's water.

YBR Goals: Connect students, researchers, institutions, and community members who live and work in the Yampa River Basin to share knowledge regarding climate variability and change that has impacts on the environment, people, and the economy. Build community and encourage collaborative problem-solving and planning and provide an opportunity for citizens and visitors to be informed about the state of the Yampa Basin and the people and plans in place and in process to protect it.

2022 YBR Steering Committee Members:

Madison Muxworthy, Co-Chair, *Yampa Valley Sustainability Council*

Nathan Stewart, Co-Chair, *Colorado Mountain College*

Jenny Frithsen, *Friends of the Yampa*

Sarah Jones, *Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation*

Holly Kirkpatrick, *Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District*

Kerstin Paulsson, *Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego*

Marty Ralph, *Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego*

Anna Wilson, *Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UC San Diego*

For information on previous Yampa Basin Rendezvous visit: yvsc.org/yampa-basin-rendezvous