

Going Virtual!



# SUSTAINING COLORADO WATERSHEDS 2020 CONFERENCE

A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE



Business as (Un)Usual  
Oct. 6-8, 2020





# THANK YOU to our 2020 conference sponsors!



## Sustaining (Benefactor) Level

WALTON FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



## Headwaters (Presenting) Level



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

## River Level



**Northern Water**



**COCO**  
COALITIONS &  
COLLABORATIVES, INC.

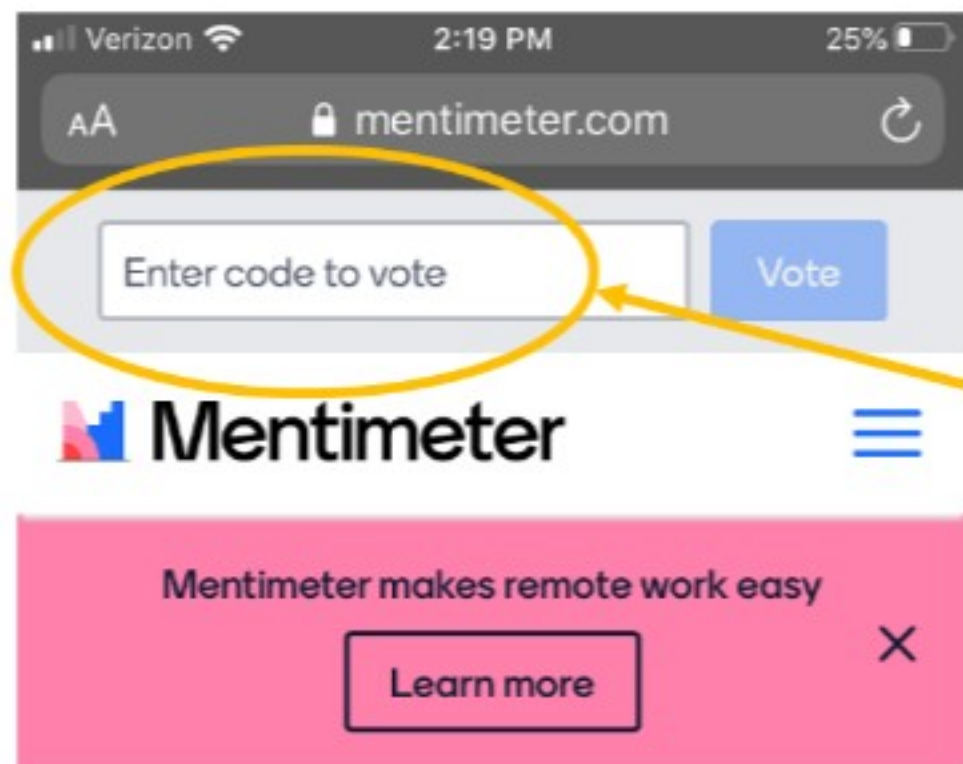
## Stream Level



## Scholarship Level

American Rivers, Colorado River District, Saint Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District,  
San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, Vranesh and Raisch





## Create interactive presentations & meetings, wherever you are

Get real-time input from remote teams and online students with live polls, quizzes, word clouds, Q&As and more



# Using Mentimeter

- Type Menti.com into your phone or computer's web browser
- Enter the code above into the code bar
- Follow along & participate in the webinar



# Panel Discussions, Q&A, Polling

- Polling through Menti is anonymous. Please be respectful & professional.
- Please reserve GoToWebinar's 'Question' box for technical issues & 'Chat' box for resources.
- We have a fixed time for questions. Please contact individual presenters for unanswered questions. Speaker info can be found in Expo.





# Session 2: Financial/Legal/Social Tools to Keep Water Flowing in Rivers



**Moderator: Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado**

**Molly Mugglestone, Business for Water Stewardship**

**Todd Reeve, Bonnevillie Environmental Foundation**

**Kate Ryan, Colorado Water Trust**

**Eric Potyondy, City of Fort Collins**

**Linda Bassi, Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Dan Brown, Cache La Poudre Water Users Association**

**Zuza Bohley, Americas for Conservation + the Arts**



**BUSINESS FOR  
WATER**  
STEWARDSHIP

SECURING WATER FOR  
BUSINESS, NATURE,  
AND COMMUNITIES







SECURING WATER FOR  
BUSINESS, NATURE,  
AND COMMUNITIES



A network of nearly 1,400 businesses working on sustainable water practices and policies, and healthy rivers.



# BUSINESS LENS

**OVER 16 MILLION JOBS**  
IN THE BASIN REGION RELY ON THE AVAILABILITY  
— OF COLORADO RIVER WATER EACH YEAR —



\* Seven California counties that receive Colorado River water: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura

**ANNUAL GROSS STATE  
PRODUCT (\$2014)**  
DEPENDENT ON THE COLORADO RIVER

IN BILLIONS	State	Annual Gross State Product (\$2014)
	ARIZONA	\$185.01
	CALIFORNIA	\$657.45
	COLORADO	\$188.95
	NEVADA	\$115.39
	NEW MEXICO	\$59.76
	UTAH	\$69.79
	WYOMING	\$21.67



# What word comes to mind when you think "corporate water stewardship"?







### **CONSUMER CAMPAIGNS**

We design campaigns that raise awareness and engage businesses and individuals in water conservation and restoration.



### **ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS**

We support innovative water restoration projects throughout North America that demonstrate how we can have healthier rivers side-by-side with healthy economies and productive agriculture.



### **BUSINESS LEADERSHIP**

We work with decision makers to prioritize immediate action and conservation in decisions about the future of the Colorado River system.



### **EVENTS**

Bringing together business, water, government & community leaders to discuss and shape smart water management practices.







# BWS FUNDED PROJECTS



**Working with** businesses **to** advance smart solutions to ensure that communities, economies and ecosystems have clean water to flourish.

## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS:

**200+**

COMPANIES  
ENGAGED

**58K**

Acre Feet  
BENEFIT

**60**

NGO PARTNERS  
FUNDED

**90**

WATER PROJECTS  
SUPPORTED ACROSS  
16 US STATES AND  
MEXICO

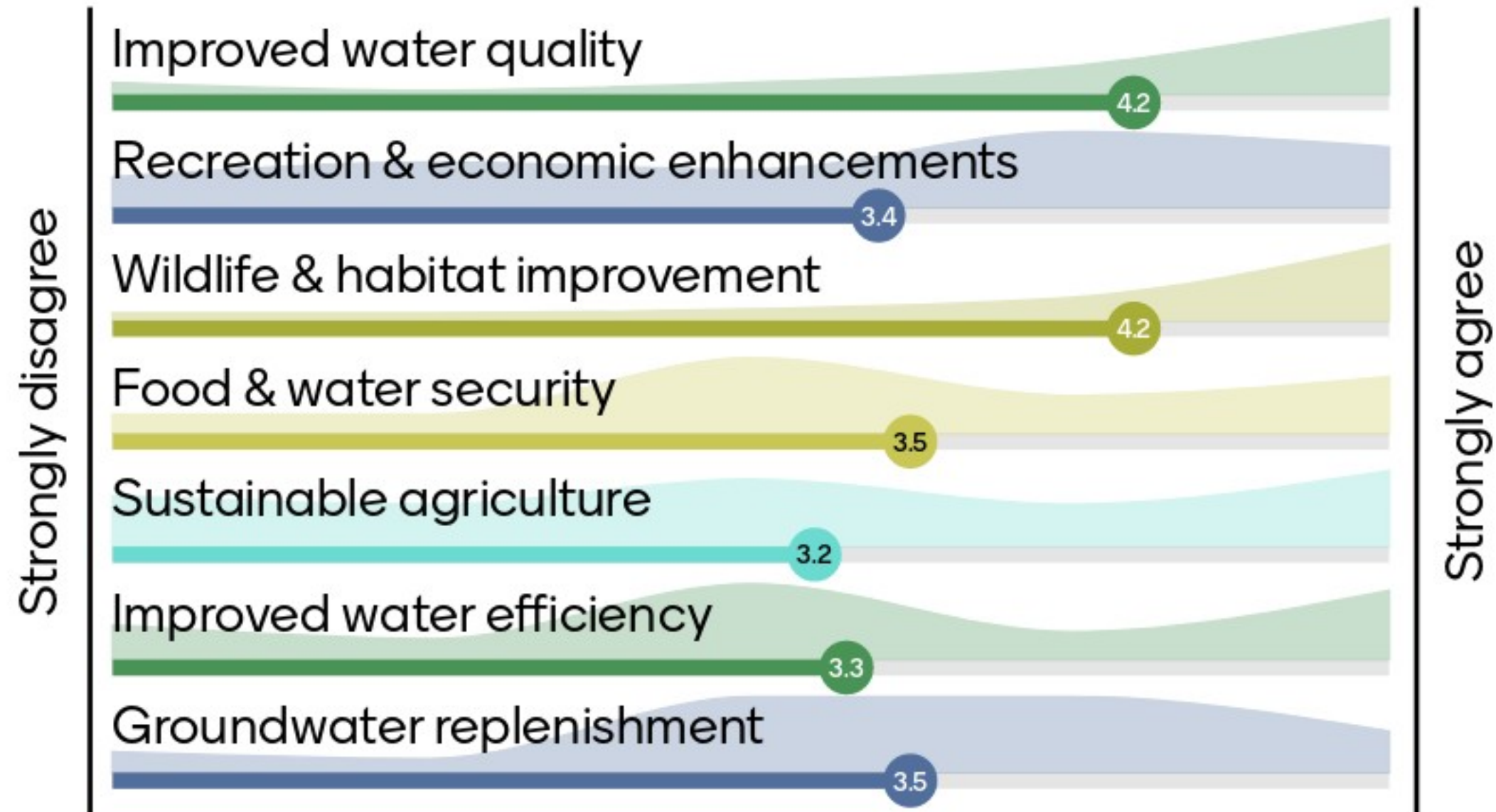


# Project Types





# In your opinion, what is the most important type or outcome of river-related projects?

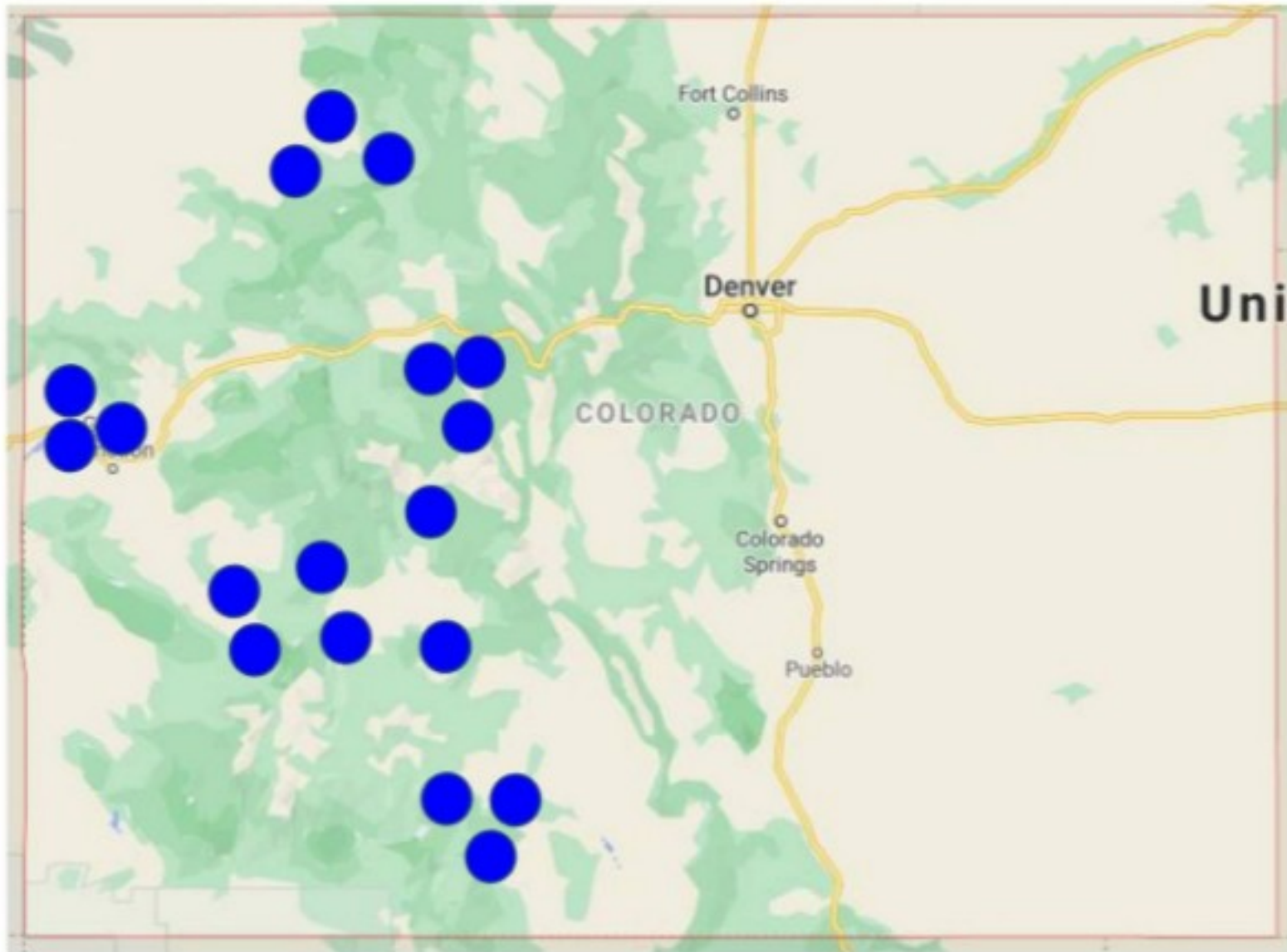




# Colorado Project Impact



18+  
PROJECTS  
FUNDED



## BENEFITS

- Improved Water Quality
- Recreation & Economic Enhancements
- Wildlife & Habitat Improvement

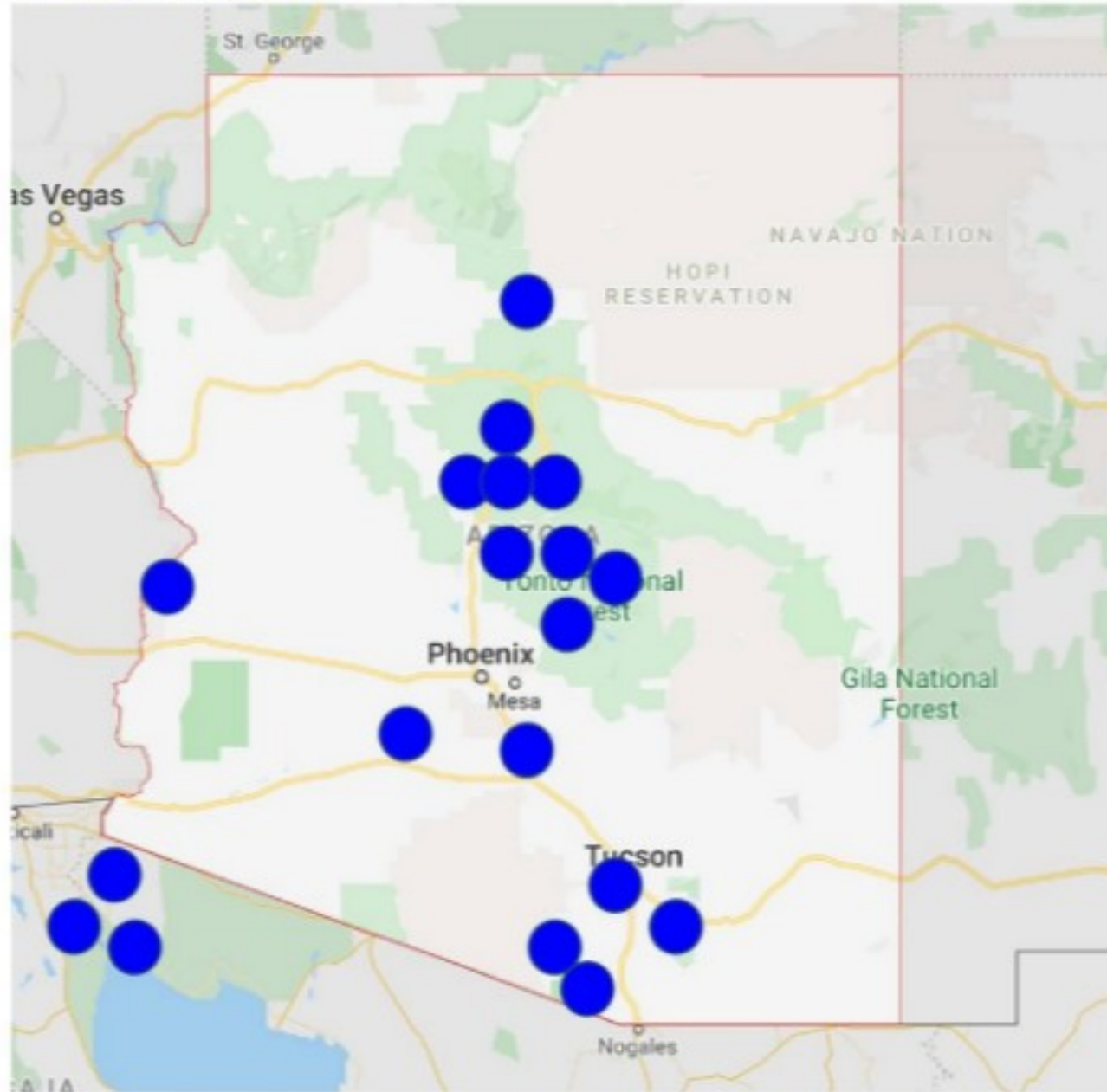


# On the Ground Impact Arizona



20+  
PROJECTS  
FUNDED

\$4M+  
FUNDING  
INVESTED



## BENEFITS

- Food & Water Security
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Improved Water Quality
- Improved Water Efficiency
- Groundwater Replenishment
- Recreation & Economic Enhancements
- Wildlife & Habitat Improvement



# Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) System Conservation Project



- 150,000 acre-feet to stabilize declining water levels in Lake Mead
- Colorado River system water conservation to bolster water security lower basin cities
- Supports Arizona's commitment under 2019 Drought Contingency Plan
- Water priorities for the Arizona Governor's Office, Department of Water Resources
- Support CRIT efforts to modernize irrigation infrastructure, conserve additional water



## **FUNDER UPDATE**

- 9 Corporate Funders
- Private sector: \$793k
- In process: ~\$300k



# What role do you think businesses should play in river health?



Do no harm

do no harm

Funding

Encouragement

Give money

Finances

Funding

Invest in local projects that benefit the community

Leadership





# What role do you think businesses should play in river health?



Leave it better than you found it

Offset impacts and drive innovation

innovative solutions

Offset their water use by investing in river restoration and flow augmentation

Fund ecologically sound projects

Water conservation and efficiency Funding

Should plug in to make substantial investments

Funding

Give back profits to support sustainable resources





# What role do you think businesses should play in river health?



seek economic benefits

Financing of high priority projects.

Mitigate their impacts and promote awareness of how they use water resources

Give money and raise awareness

Balanced benefit

Compensate impacts and invest in sustainability

Improve efficiency and lower over all environmental impacts

Collaboration

Funding to fix and help problem solve





# What role do you think businesses should play in river health?



Scale impact

Valuing environmental services

Learn how much water matters directly to them

Provide money to mitigate their impact

Engage their customers in river health

Outreach

Don't make money more important than clean watersheds.

Environmental health over profit

Match funding within their community





# What role do you think businesses should play in river health?



Support regeneration

(1) Any direct nexus to the business' river impacts

support local regulations

increasing environmental awareness

Increase awareness

offset harm

They should incorporate river stewardship into their business plan, i.e. promote volunteerism, k12 education, etc

Responsibility for their impacts and projects that protect their bottom line

Match innovation with partners





# What role do you think businesses should play in river health?



Same as everyone else. It's a social issue

Keep their eyes and ears open & mouths pretty quiet

Funding







Thank You

Todd Reeve

treeve@b-e-f.org

WWW.BUSINESSFORWATER.ORG



facebook.com/BWStewardship/



@BWStewardship







**Public Funding for (Un)Usual Times**  
Jeff Shoemaker, The Greenway Foundation  
Oct. 6, 2020 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference





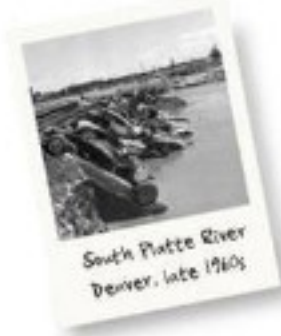
# WHAT IS THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT BENEFIT INVOLVING DENVER'S SOUTH PLATTE RIVER & CHERRY CREEK ?



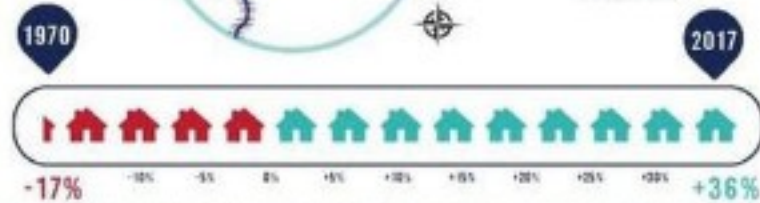
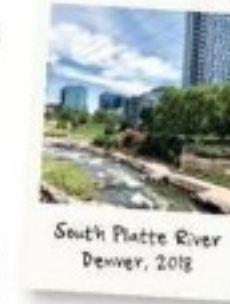
Denver's investments in the South Platte River and Cherry Creek and their related greenways through Denver led to tangible and proven benefits, as identified by an objective economic study completed in 2019.

1

In 1970, properties within a ½ mile of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek were valued **17% LOWER** than the property values outside that boundary in Denver.



In 2017, properties within a ½ mile of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek were valued **36% HIGHER** than properties outside that boundary in Denver.



2

**\$18 BILLION** PROPERTY VALUE



As of FY 2017, approximately \$18 Billion in property value has been created that would not exist if the conditions of 1970 persisted today along Denver's waterways.

3

As a result of this increased property value, the City and County of Denver receives **\$64 Million** in additional annual funding and Denver Public Schools receives **\$100 Million** in additional annual funding.

### ADDITIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED

\$64 MILLION

\$100 MILLION



This money accounts for 15% of overall property taxes collected by Denver.

4

ALMOST \$14 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL ANNUAL BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM



ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE IMPROVED CONDITION OF THE WATERWAYS.



DENVER REALIZES COST SAVINGS FROM THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE IMPROVED LANDSCAPES, LIKE



THAT OTHERWISE WOULD REQUIRE NON-NATURAL AND EXPENSIVE SOLUTIONS.





**Jeff Shoemaker**

**Executive Director**

**The Greenway Foundation**

**[jeff@greenwayfoundation.org](mailto:jeff@greenwayfoundation.org)**

**303.818.8078**

**[www.greenwayfoundation.org](http://www.greenwayfoundation.org)**





# Q&A: Enter your questions for our presenters!



What are corporate funders getting for return on investment?

What makes political support possible?

Best public funding sources you've utilized?

In what capacity has your foundation been involved in K-12 education? Is there a way for those funding sources to help promote water quality and health with the upcoming generations through schools?

As river enhancements improve real estate values, how do you prevent gentrification?

how to get corporate\$ while simultaneously discouraging floodplain encroachment

collaborative





# **Poudre Flows: Improving Flows While Respecting Water Rights and Operations**

**Kate Ryan, CWT Senior Staff Attorney**

**Eric Potyondy, City of Fort Collins Attorney**

**Linda Bassi, Colorado Water Conservation Board**

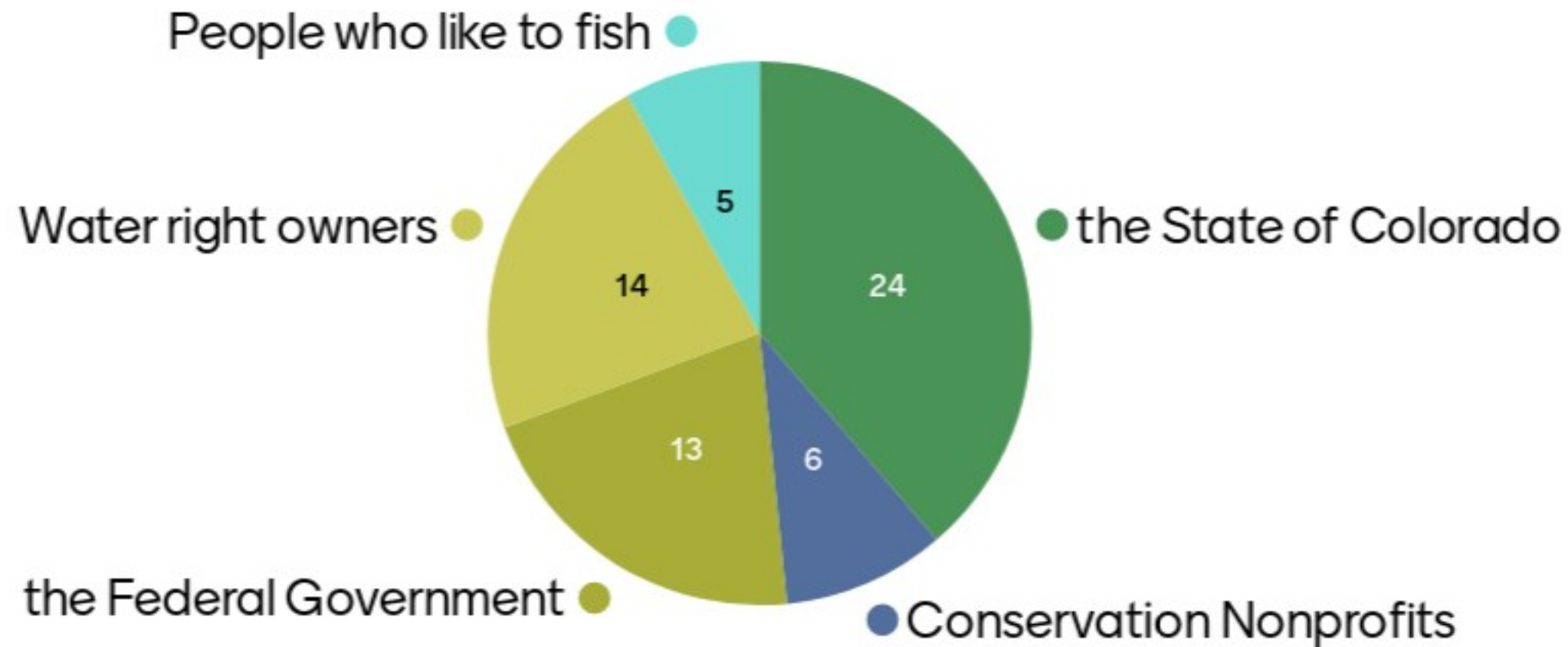
**Dan Brown, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett & Gunn, PC**

**2020 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds**





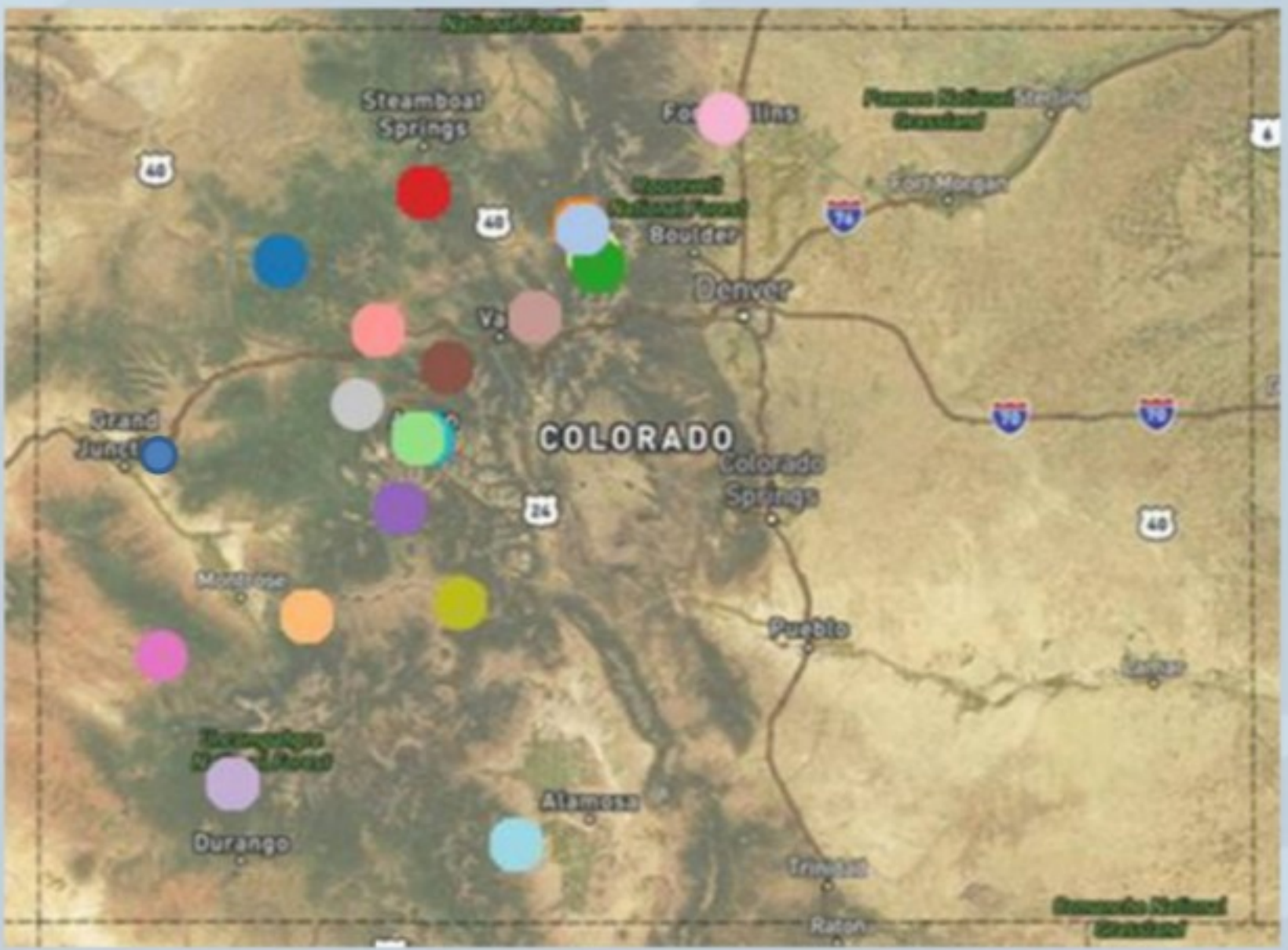
In Colo., the use of water is a property right that can be bought, sold or leased. Who should PAY FOR water that is used for environmental purposes?







# Colorado Water Trust



The Colorado Water Trust has successfully completed **32 projects**, adding water to **over 440 miles** of rivers and streams in Colorado.



***Poudre Flows Project Partners:***  
**Poudre Runs Through It**  
**Colorado Water Trust**  
**Fort Collins**  
**Greeley**  
**Thornton**  
**Cache la Poudre Water Users**  
**Northern Water**  
**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**



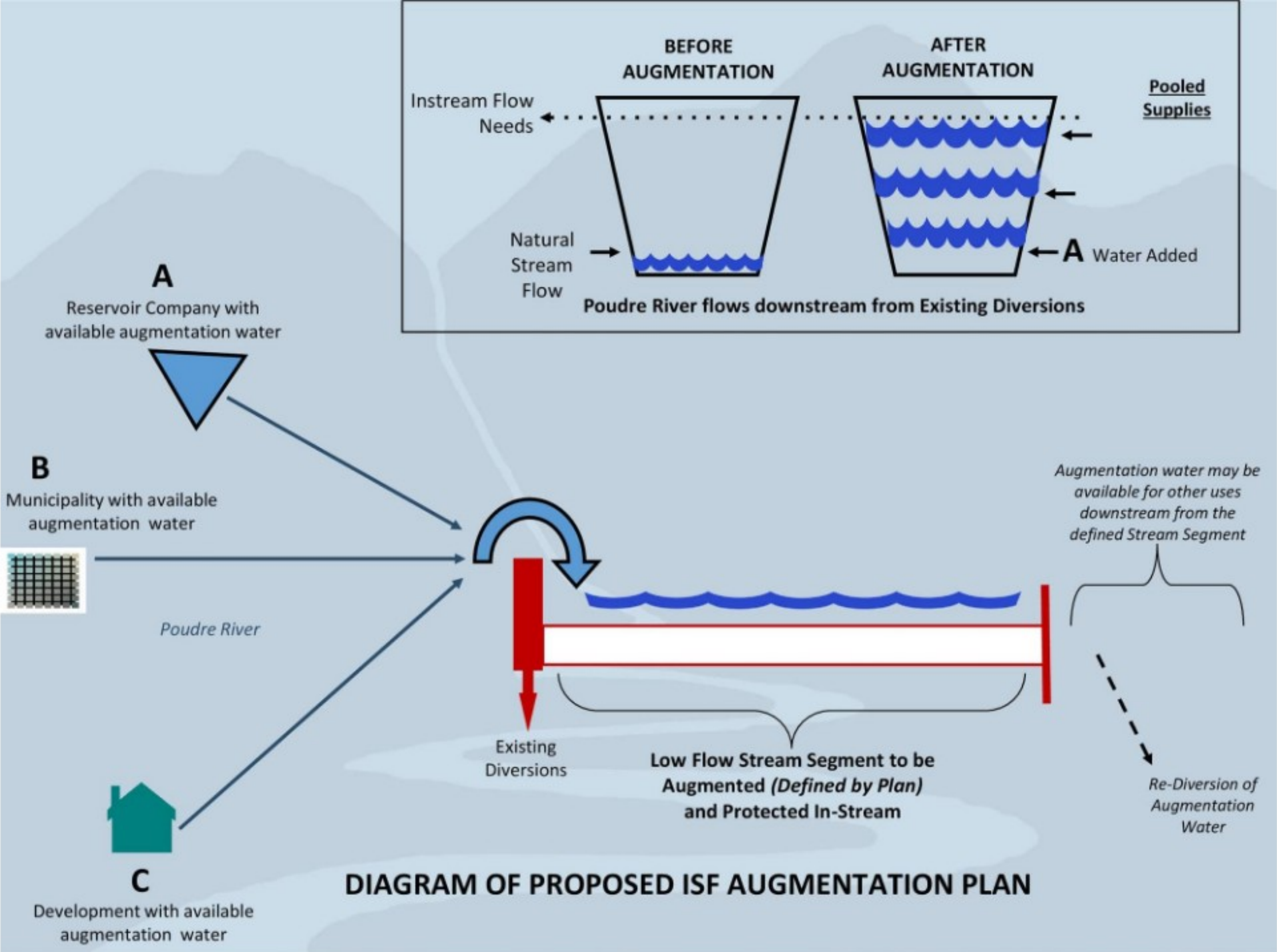




**Working with the Poudre in time and place to respect its role as a working river and valuable habitat by **ADDING** water to the river.**

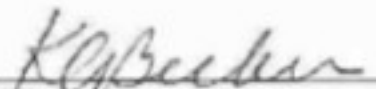


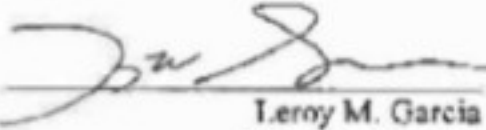


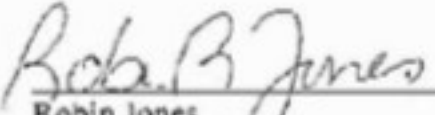


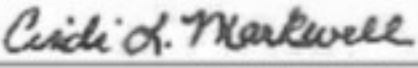




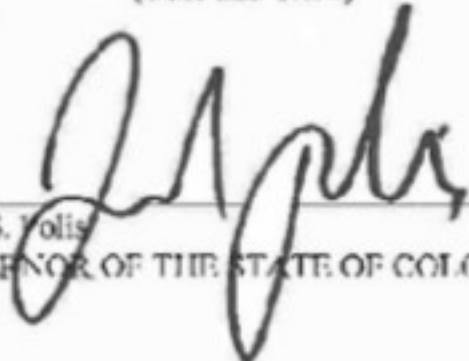
  
KC Becker  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
Leroy M. Garcia  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

  
Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

APPROVED March 24, 2020 at 4:30pm  
(Date and Time)

  
Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

**House Bill 20-1037**  
**Signed into law March 24,**  
**2020**



# Eric Potyondy, City of Fort Collins



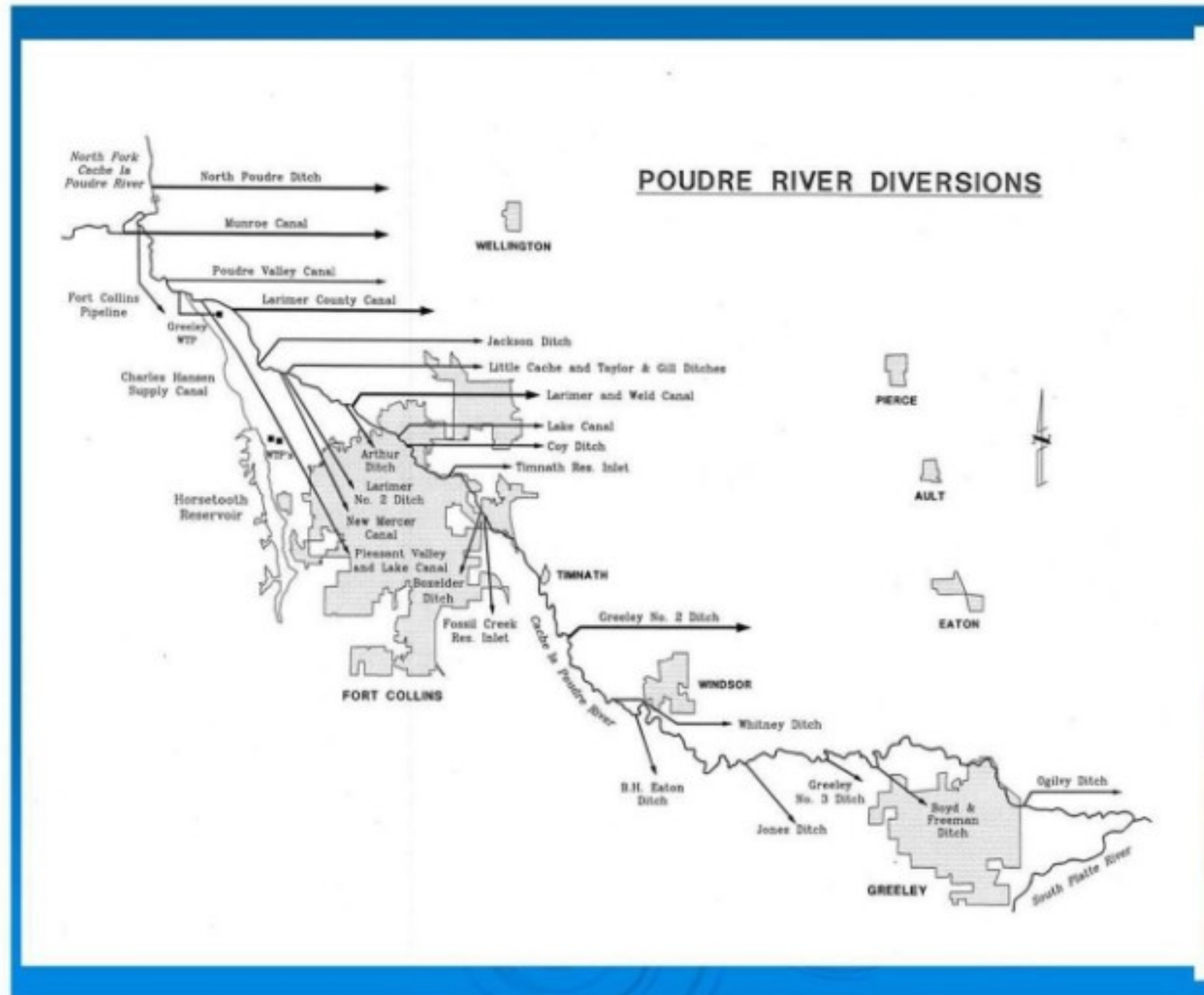


# Linda Bassi, Chief of Stream and Lake Protection, Colorado Water Conservation Board





# Dan Brown, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett & Gunn, PC Attorney for Cache la Poudre Water Users Association





# Poudre Flows Partners' Next Steps:

- CWCB Board approval
- Water Court



**Thank you!**

**Kate Ryan, [kryan@coloradowatertrust.org](mailto:kryan@coloradowatertrust.org)**

**Linda Bassi, [linda.bassi@state.co.us](mailto:linda.bassi@state.co.us)**

**Dan Brown, [danbrown@fbgpc.com](mailto:danbrown@fbgpc.com)**

**Eric Potyondy, [epotyondy@fcgov.com](mailto:epotyondy@fcgov.com)**







# Q&A: Enter your questions for our presenters!



was the state pleased with the outcome?

How hard has it been to get buy in from water rights owners?

How is the augmented water monitored for quality?

if you daylight an underground urban stream, do you need water rights

Will structures have to be modified for this to work?

What do you think caused the change in the legislature?

What about underground rivers? Especially the ones that are connected to wells. Do you see a reduction in the water levels too?

How will the ag water users historic consumptive use be protected if the are leasing augmentation water?

How might we (legally & financially) encouraging daylighting of urban streams that have been completely buried for a long time?





# Q&A: Enter your questions for our presenters!



Maybe the State needs a 1% quantity dedication for base flows!

inclusive





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio



**Connecting across Boundaries  
Languages and Cultures**

**Building Confluence & Justice**





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio



## Colorado River

1,450 miles  
15 Dams  
40 million people



Last urban user:  
San Luis Rio Colorado,  
Sonora, Mexico



### Colorado River Basin States

US

Wyoming }  
Colorado }

Headwaters

Utah

New Mexico

Nevada

Arizona

California



MX

Baja California }  
Sonora }

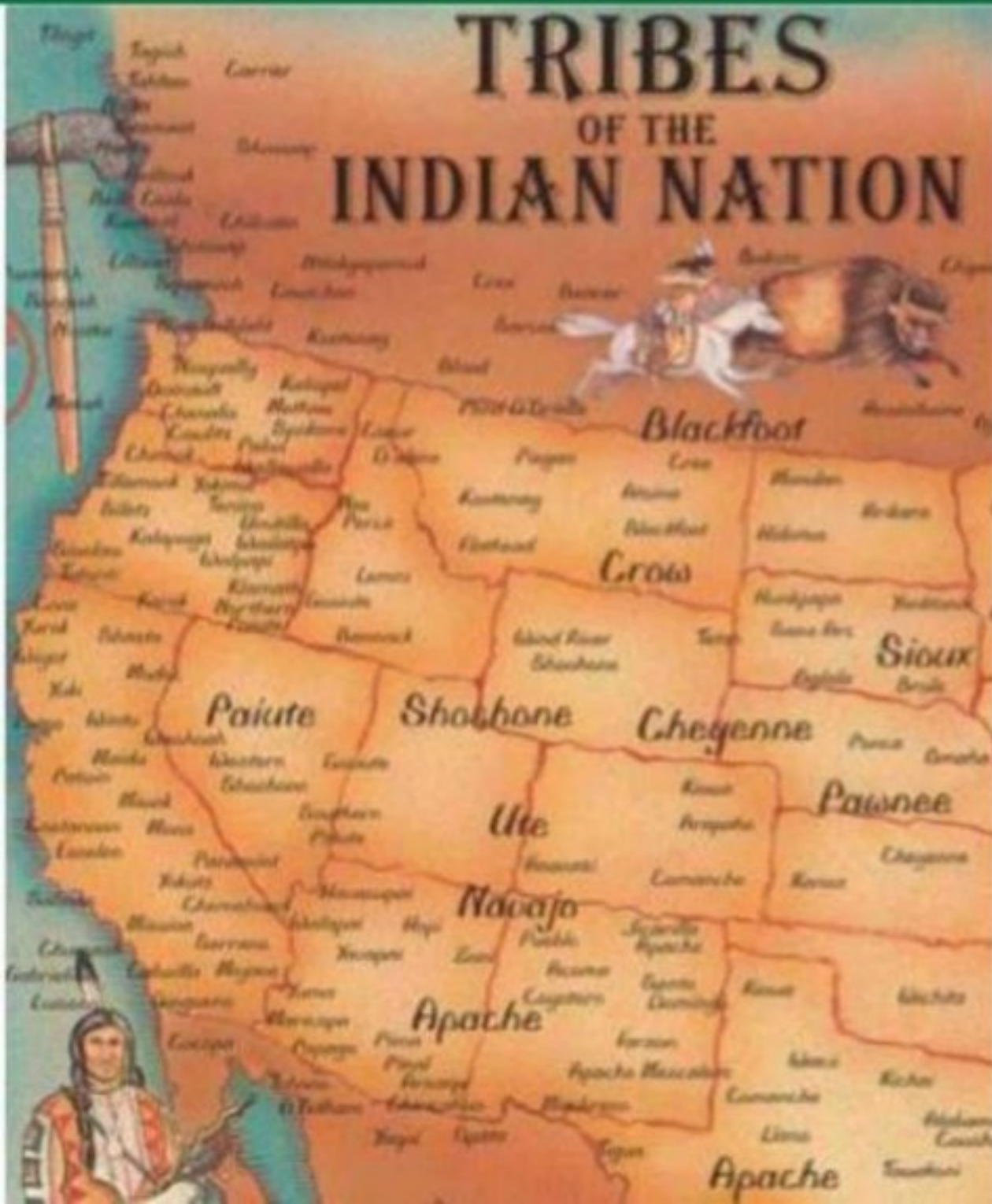
Delta



**AFC+A**  
AMERICAS for  
CONSERVATION  
+ the ARTS



# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio



[www.tribalwateruse.org](http://www.tribalwateruse.org)



**AFC+A**  
AMERICAS for  
CONSERVATION  
+ the ARTS



# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2014/ 2015



**AMERICAS  
LATINO  
ECO-FESTIVAL**  
A NEW SHADE OF GREEN  
SEPTEMBER 11-16/2014 BOULDER/COLORADO



## **The Colorado River Pulse Flow**

Our Extraordinary Song for Renewal panel

## **Latino Millennial Voices on Conservation**

Stories about Activism for Water and Land Protection

## **K-12 school involvement & Family Day**

**AMERICAS LATINO  
ECO-FESTIVAL III**

"CLIMATE of HOPE" Denver, CO. October 15-17, 2015

## **2015 UN Water Decade**

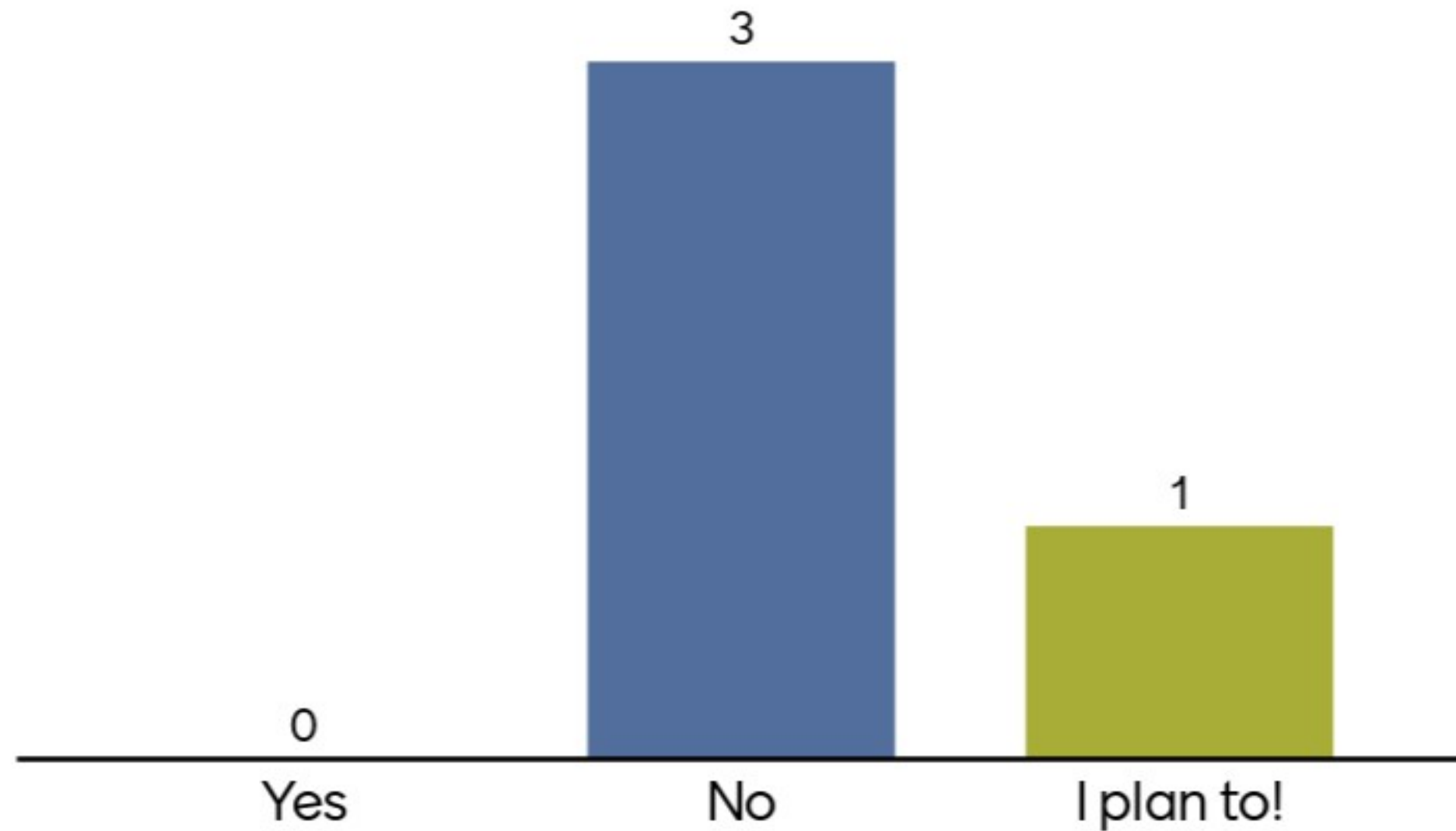
## **Dip Deeper, Immerse Yourself**

Audubon Educational Trunks (K-12)

## **Climate Summit Youth Training**



# Have You heard or participated in one of the Americas Latino Eco Festivals?





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2016



## United Cultures for Art & Nature Student Congress

at Rocky Ridge Music Camp

## Water Guardian Sculptures

Community Art



**AMERICAS LATINO  
Eco FESTIVAL<sup>IV</sup>**

Denver, CO. October 13-15, 2016



## Diversifying Conservation

25 years of Environmental justice anniversary

## U-CAN Youth Summit

## 4<sup>th</sup> grade Bio Blitz

**Circle of Life: Indigenous Wisdom Defending Mother Earth and its Children**



# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2017



## River Sisters Proposal



National Western Center  
Youth Water Project



Kick-off



U-CAN

AMERICAS LATINO  
Eco FESTIVAL VI

Bio Blitz

Source to Sea Summit





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2018



## BVSD Water Festival



## Latino Conservation Week



## U-CAN Student Congress



## River Sisters

Planning Workshop



## 4<sup>th</sup> grade Bio Blitz

Water Quality & River Clean-up





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2019



- **South Platte River Environmental Justice Bike Tour**
- **Uniting Diverse Voices at the Continental Divide**
- **Thompson River Restoration**



**U-CAN**

**S Platte River Clean-up**



**Youth River Festival**



**Guardians of Water and Life Exhibit**

Honoring 12 environmental water protectors





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2020



## Stewardship & Conservation Action

- Glacier Lake Hike, Brainard Lake
- High Line Canal Trash Clean-up
- Wildland University Training
- Thompson River Restoration
- Willow Planting





# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2021



**Denver Sister City Park Project**  
**River Sisters Pearl Necklace**  
interconnected parks and Greenways  
celebrating Denver's cultures and rivers



In one word, what inspires you most about the River Sisters Initiative and Promotores Verdes?



diversity

connection

women

espanol

art

youth



# River Sisters – Hermanas Del Rio 2021



## We are looking forward to connect further

- Climate Change & Conservation Education
- Enriching & Diversifying Events
- Recreation & Adventure
- Greenway Development
- Training Opportunities
- Stewardship Projects
- Career Pathways
- Community Art
- Festivals



**Zuza@AmericasforConservation.org**



**If you would be interested in collaborating with us, please indicate your name, organization & email address:**

Name?

Organization?

Email address?

What project would you like to work on?



# Q&A: Enter your questions for our presenters!



What are some of the challenges faced in implementing the project and how did they overcome?

So does this program then protect water rights users from the whole "use it or lose it" idea? Or has that already been addressed through other mechanisms?

This kind of program works when there is ultimately enough water to go around, what happens in drought when there just isn't? Do environment flows get cut, or do all "users" have to make sacrifices?





**Business as (Un)Usual**  
**Oct. 6-8, 2020**



**THANK YOU!**

**Our Video Social Hour begins right after this at 3:45pm!**

**To get there....**

**Close out of this Webinar session, return to EXPO, and navigate to Video Social Hour on Oct. 6**

**Then open that session and click "Join" to enter the ZOOM for the social hour**