



For Immediate Release

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Rocky Mountain PBS Announces “Water Week” – A Collaboration of Communities Throughout Colorado to Elevate Conversations on Water

Grand Junction, CO - Rocky Mountain PBS (RMPBS) will bring Colorado-based organizations and communities together during “Water Week” in an effort to provide resources and information to a broad statewide audience by convening conversations to share the diverse perspectives of Coloradans with respect to water.

“Water Week” features unique, historical and informational programming on RMPBS, along with digital resources, and events in communities across Colorado designed to connect experts, environmentalists and businesses to all who see water as an essential part of Colorado’s past and its future.

“One year ago, RMPBS organized a statewide listening tour and engaged local advisory committees to better understand which topics are most important to their communities,” states Amanda Mountain, President & CEO for Rocky Mountain Public Media. “Water repeatedly surfaced as both an historic and contemporary issue, which led us to invest in programming and partnerships to continue these conversations around this critical topic.”

Colorado’s statewide water plan prescribes that conversations about water play a role in shaping our shared future in the state and in the broader West. We asked over 40 water experts to provide feedback to RMPBS about how public media can engage those who are not otherwise actively involved in the topic, as well as how best to expand the number of perspectives represented on public media.

“I think we’re going to see a much longer period of aridity and therefore, incredibly creative thinking that’s going to have to come about,” said Andy Mueller, General Manager for the Colorado River Water Conservation District. “It doesn’t spell the end of civilization in the southwestern United States. What it means though is our civilization’s going to have to transform.”

“Water Week” festivities begin with a variety of RMPBS hosted events across Colorado that are free to local communities including:

- February 25 at 6:00pm in Colorado Springs at ALMAGRE Venue + Bar
- February 25 at 6:00pm in Gunnison at Western Colorado University
- February 26 at 5:30pm in Grand Junction at Eureka! McConnell Science Museum
- February 26 at 6:00pm in Durango at Fort Lewis College

- February 26 at 5:30pm in Montrose at History Colorado Ute Indian Museum
- February 26 at 6:30pm in Pueblo where at Walter's Brewery & Taproom
- February 27 at 6:00pm in Denver/Littleton at Sterling Ranch Community Center
- February 28 at 5:00pm in Durango at the Powerhouse Science Center

All “*Water Week*” event details for local communities can be found at www.RMPBS.org/events/WaterWeek.

“*Water Week*” programming on RMPBS begins on February 27th at 7pm with a new episode of *Colorado Experience* entitled “*Western Water & Power*”. This program visits the history of Western settlers who dreamed of deserts in bloom, where they chased the mirage of more water than the arid lands could provide. “Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting,” describes the urgent struggle every generation of Coloradans faces to control this fleeting but precious resource -- creating hydrodynamic history through structures that can propel water to run uphill toward money and power. This episode is produced in partnership with Colorado Mesa University.

Immediately following at 8pm, *Colorado Experience: “Living West – Water”* will explore what happened to the Ancestral Pueblo people of Mesa Verde and Goodman Point. After settling in southwest Colorado for over 700 years, the ancestral Pueblo people suddenly left their cliff dwellings and spring-side kivas, leaving behind a variety of archaeological treasures. In this episode, historians and archaeologists discuss the possibility that this drastic move was caused by a devastating drought in the southwest region. Discover the similarities in historic conditions – and what the disappearance of water might mean for the state of Colorado today.

Continuing at 8:30 pm, *Confluence* tells the story of The Colorado River, which runs through the Western Slope, shaping both the landscape of the American Southwest and the people living near its waters. *Confluence* follows an up-and-coming indie folk band as they traverse this endangered river system, documenting its places and people through original music.

“*Water Week*” concludes its programming with “*Arkansas River: From Leadville to Lamar*” airing at 9:30pm. This program explores the economic and social importance of the river basin including its recreational, municipal, and agricultural value. By the year 2050, the population of Colorado is expected to double, but future growth and economic development hinges on a dependable water supply. In response, the state has developed a plan that will meet the needs of all water users. On RMPBS, come discover why the Arkansas River basin is an important part of that new water plan.

Across the state, RMPBS will be celebrating water week with events. These events will take place in Colorado Springs, Gunnison, Pueblo, Grand Junction, Durango, Montrose, and Denver.

Colorado Office of Film, Television & Media will have their water event on February 25 at Western State Colorado University at the University Center Theatre at 6 pm in Gunnison as part of the *Colorado Experience Roadshow*.

In Colorado Springs, RMPBS will be hosting their event at Almagre Venue + Bar on February 26 at 6 pm and will have whiskey tastings.

At Walter's Brewery & Taproom, there will be a sneak peak of *Colorado Experience: "Western Water & Power"* while sampling different types of beers. This event will take place on February 26 at 6:30 pm.

In Grand Junction, RMPBS will be hosting their event at Eureka! McConnell Science Museum on February 26 at 5:30 pm. Attendees will get to mingle with local water partners, catch a short preview of *Colorado Experience: "Western Water & Power"*, and enjoy whiskey and beer tasting.

RMPBS will also be in Durango at Fort Lewis College on February 26 at 6 pm. Attendees will get to watch the full screening of *Colorado Experience: "Western Water & Power"* with an academic panel afterwards.

Colorado Film Commission will be hosting a screening of *Colorado Experience: "Western Water and Power"* with a Q&A afterwards on February 26 at 5:30 pm at Ute Indian Museum in Montrose.

In Denver, RMPBS will be hosting an event at Sterling Ranch in Littleton on February 27 at 6 pm. While there, attendees will get to enjoy the full episode of *Colorado Experience: "Western Water and Power"* with beer tasting and information from local water businesses and organizations.

RMPBS will be hosting another event in Durango on February 28 at 5 pm at the Powerhouse Science Center. At the event, attendees will get to watch the full episode of *Colorado Experience: "Western Water and Power"* while they enjoy beer tasting and engage with local water businesses and organizations.

RMPBS wishes to thank all the local community and statewide partners in supporting our mission of strengthening our civic fabric and convening important conversations that impact our state including Colorado River District, Ute Water District, Peach Street Distillers, Ska Brewing, Business for Water Stewardship, Audubon Rockies, and Sterling Ranch.

For more information regarding "*Water Week*," to RSVP to events, access resources, and learn how to get involved, visit the Rocky Mountain Public Media website at: rmpbs.org/events/WaterWeek .

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About Rocky Mountain Public Media

Rocky Mountain Public Media is Colorado's largest statewide, member-supported, multimedia organization and the parent company of Rocky Mountain PBS, KUVO Jazz and THE DROP. Rocky Mountain Public Media has more than 90,000 members representing every county in Colorado and reaches 98% of the state's citizens through television, radio and digital platforms. A non-commercial media organization by and for the people of Colorado, we create high quality local and multimedia content through Regional Innovation Centers in Denver, Colorado Springs, Durango, Grand Junction and Pueblo. Our enriching journalism, educational and cultural programming connects and engages citizens for lifelong impact. RMPBS, started in Denver in 1956 as Colorado's first public television station, is now a

statewide television network, with stations in Denver (KRMA), Pueblo/Colorado Springs (KTSC), Steamboat Springs (KRMZ), Grand Junction (KRMJ) and Durango (KRMU). Visit us at www.rmpbs.org.

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