



**Colorado Water Congress  
2011 Annual Convention**

**Water in Our Corner of the World  
A Comparative Look at Water Management  
in Colorado and Australia**

**January 26 – 28, 2010  
Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center**

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**Convention Overview**

**Wednesday, January 26**

**Preconference Workshops**

**9:00 – 11:30 Compacts Workshop**

Status of compliance with the Colorado River Compact including operational forecasts for Lakes Powell and Mead. Focus on the Gunnison River Basin and how it contributes to our compact commitments.

**9:30 – 11:30 Skills Development for Young Professionals**

*With Diane Hartman and Fred Brown*

Our first workshop directed toward skill development for young professionals (with less than 10 years experience). Developing persuasive written and verbal communication skills.

**10:00 – 4:00 Water Quality Workshop**

*Hosted the Colorado Water Congress Water Quality Committee*

A primer on the Clean Water Act presented by EPA, update on activities of the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, Colorado's approach to regulation of nutrients, and storm water issues.

**11:30 – 1:00 Lunch Break (on your own)**

**1:00 – 5:00 Strategic Thinking and Problem Solving**

*Co-Sponsored by the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance*

Through case studies, workshop presenters will introduce and explain economic, social, and psychological aspects within business organizations that often thwart an optimal decision making process. Participants in this workshop will learn how to think about and analyze risk; how risk analysis is carried out in leading companies around the world; and how to identify pitfalls and avoid traps along the decision making path.

1:00 – 4:00 **Australia Workshop**  
*Co-sponsored by The Australian Trade Commission*  
For those of us who are not very familiar with Australia, this workshop will give participants a foundation in Australian water management, the role of the principal water agencies, current research, and key water issues. The workshop will be highly interactive and the best opportunity during the conference to ask questions about how water works in Australia.

1:30 – 3:45 **Endangered Species Workshop**  
This workshop will provide an in-depth review of the recovery programs on the Colorado, San Juan, and South Platte River Basins.

### **Thursday, January 27**

7:00 – 8:15 **Legislative Breakfast**  
*Hosted by the Colorado Water Congress State Affairs Committee*  
  
Our annual legislative breakfast is an opportunity to meet Colorado's legislative leaders and learn about key issues that will be addressed during the new legislative session.

8:15 – 8:45 Break

8:45 – 10:15 **Opening General Session**  
**A Change in State**  
**But Water Still Matters**  
  
Goals for Colorado's new administration and legislature. An analysis of where the political pendulum now lies and how that may affect water-related decisions in the near future.

10:15 – 10:30 Short Break

10:30 – 11:45 **General Session II**  
**Water in Our Corner of the World**  
**An Overview of Water Issues in Colorado and Australia**  
  
Australia recently endured one of the most severe droughts in modern times. Much of the country is now emerging from that drought and their approach to water management has undergone radical change. Laying the foundation for much of the conference, speakers will review the key water issues we face in Colorado and the West and compare and contrast those issues with the Australian experience.

11:45 – 12:15 Break

12:15 – 1:15 **Luncheon**

**Colorado Water  
1870 – 2010  
Photographer John Fielder**

Colorado's premier nature photographer, John Fielder, pairs images from a century before with his own photographs of Colorado, its ranches and water resources, with commentary of what's changed for the better and the worse.

1:15 – 1:45 Break

1:45 – 3:00 **Concurrent Sessions 1**

**Session 1A  
Our Water, Our Future  
A 50-Year Plan for Water  
Colorado's and Australia's Long Range Visioning**

Not so long ago, former DNR Executive Director Harris Sherman challenged the Interbasin Compact Committee to develop a vision for what water management in Colorado would look like in 50 years. Australia also recently completed a number of long-range visioning projects on the local, regional, and national levels. How well have those processes worked? How are the results similar and different? What are the expectations for the future?

**Session 1B  
Do We Agree What a Healthy River Is?  
So Many Perspectives, So Little Time**

In river systems that have been altered from their historic conditions, how do we agree what is healthy? Rivers are subject to numerous human and environmental demands. Substantial funds are being spent to bring aquatic species back from the brink of extinction. How might non-consumptive needs be prioritized with future water development? Will the complexity of the debate gridlock decision-making?

**Session 1C  
Consultant Technical Presentations**

Our convention exhibitors will make a series of 20-minute presentations on important projects.

3:00 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 5:00 **Concurrent Sessions 2**

**Session 2A**  
**Responding to Drought**  
**Water Conservation in Times of Crisis**

Australia and Colorado have adopted aggressive water conservation programs in response to drought. Actual experiences and water use reductions will be compared. When watersheds recover from drought and water supplies return to more normal levels, should conservation restrictions be relaxed?

**Session 2B**  
**Colorado Streamflow Variability**  
**The Hydrologic Effects of Temperature, Dust, and Landscape**

Many scientists agree that the Colorado's snowpack is melting faster resulting in streamflows peaking earlier in the season. But is the cause warmer temperatures, windblown dust, or land use changes? A lively debate is still ahead.

**Session 2C**  
**Alternatives to Agricultural Water Transfers**

Colorado and the West are exploring a variety of alternatives to the buy-and-dry of agricultural water. An innovative program is being developed on the South Platte. Water trading has also been an important response to water shortage in Australia. Are the water sharing strategies employed in Australia instructive for our issues in the western U.S.?

5:00 – 5:15 Break

5:15 – 6:45 **Reception**  
**In Honor of the Australian Delegation**

**Friday, January 28**

7:00 – 8:15 **Business Breakfast**  
*Hosted by the Colorado Water Congress Federal Affairs*  
**Perspectives on Water from the U.S. Congress**

8:15 – 8:45 Break

8:45 – 10:00 **Concurrent Sessions 3**

**Session 3A**

**Climate and Water Policy**

**When Is the Right Time to Adjust Course?**

Water policy must evolve with changing circumstances. The dynamics of population growth, economy, multiple and diverse human values, and climate will always place pressures on systems of water allocation. At the same time, infrastructure is designed to meet a fixed set of parameters and assumptions. How do we maintain the balance between a stable water policy and one that is flexible?

**Session 3B**

**Taking Care of Business**

**Building and Maintaining our Water Infrastructure**

In times of extreme stress on local, state, and national budgets and pressure to keep water rates from rising, projects are still moving ahead. But will a divided public affect the ability to get things done?

**Session 3C**

**Consultant Technical Presentations**

Our convention exhibitors will make a series of 20-minute presentations on important projects.

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:45 **Concluding General Session**

**Balancing Water Supply and the Environment**

**A Common Challenge in Two Hemispheres**

The previous series of general and concurrent sessions will be tied together with lessons learned during the conference. A panel discussion will review the threads of several topics. Can we learn from each other and build upon our experiences for future collaboration?

11:45 – 12:15 Break

12:15 – 1:30 **Aspinall Award Luncheon**