



About the Colorado Water Center

The **Colorado Water Center** is one of 54 Water Resources Research Institutions created by the Water Resources Act of 1964. The Center **facilitates outreach, education, and applied transdisciplinary research to address complex and evolving water-related challenges facing Colorado, the west, and beyond** by fostering collaboration, synthesizing water knowledge, and inspiring the next generation of water leaders.

As a division under Colorado State University's (CSU) Office of Engagement and Extension, the Center aims to connect all water expertise in Colorado's higher education system with the research and education needs of Colorado's water managers and users, building on the rich water history at Colorado State University.

Colorado Water Center Focus Areas

- **Education & Training**
 - Empowering Colorado's water leaders to secure and advocate for our valuable freshwater resources.
 - Supporting water education through undergraduate and graduate-level course and program offerings, Extension programs for Colorado communities, and K-12 learning initiatives.
 - Disseminating water knowledge across a broad range of topics and disciplines.
 - Educating and inspiring the next generation of water leaders.
- **Collaboration & Engagement:**
 - Serve as a primary nexus between Colorado's institutions of higher learning and a diversity of water resource stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, community members, the private sector, and our global network of partners and affiliates.
 - Bridge the gaps between community members, scientists, and policymakers by strengthening water literacy.
 - Connect diverse water stakeholders to higher education resources and expertise needed to ensure clean and reliable water for all.
 - Facilitate and support collaborative water dialogues and projects.
- **Advancing Research for Impact:**
 - Facilitate the development and use of actionable water science
 - Foster university, faculty, and student-led research across the state.
 - Connect university research to key information needs of water resource stakeholders in Colorado and beyond.

OUR STAFF

Karen Schlatter
Director
karen.schlatter@colostate.edu

Bethany Howell
Associate Director
bethany.howell@colostate.edu

Rianne BeCraft
Program Coordinator
rianne.becraft@colostate.edu

Mindy Bridges
Stakeholder Engagement Specialist
mindy.bridges@colostate.edu

Perry Cabot
Research Scientist & Extension Specialist
perry.cabot@colostate.edu

Alex Collopy
Water Workforce Program Coordinator
alexandra.collopy@colostate.edu

Marielle Cowdin
Marketing & Communications Senior Specialist | Program Manager
marielle.cowdin@colostate.edu

Jennifer Gimbel
Senior Water Policy Scholar
jennifer.gimbel@colostate.edu

Nancy Grice
Assistant to the Directors
nancy.grice@colostate.edu

Jessica Thrasher
Senior Program Manager
jessica.thrasher@colostate.edu

Brad Udall
Senior Water & Climate Scientist | scholar
bradley.udall@colostate.edu



CORE PROGRAMMING



**COLORADO
WATER CENTER**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Water Education & Workforce Development

The tradition of CSU as a land grant university drives our mission to provide student-centered and community-engaged water education that addresses the challenges of today and tomorrow. Water-related education and training for the next generation of water leaders is imperative to meet both the future workforce demand and complex challenges faced by the water sector.

The Colorado Water Center became the host institution for **Colorado Project Water Education Today (WET)** in September 2024, making the Center a one-stop shop for water education for students of all ages. Project WET trains K-12 educators across Colorado to bring innovative water science education into their classrooms.

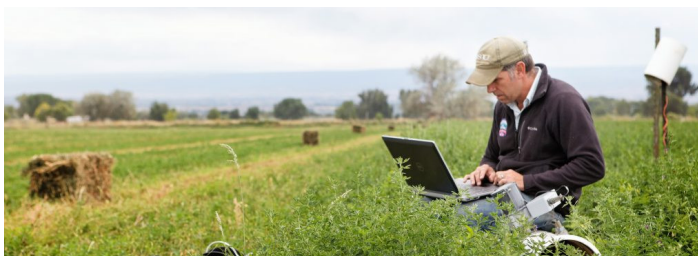
The **Colorado Water Fellows Program** advances the next generation of water leaders by training and connecting undergraduate and graduate students to careers and opportunities in the water field. The Colorado Water Fellows program has expanded beyond CSU supporting cohorts at 11 institutes of higher learning across the state.

The **Water Literate Leaders (WLL) of Northern Colorado Program** engages Northern Colorado leaders in education, dialogue, and empowered decision-making practices to address the complex water issues facing their communities.

Agricultural Water Management

The Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University **advances research and promotes agricultural practices that decrease water consumption or increase water efficiency**, including adoption of alternative low water-use crops and precision irrigation.

Through **high-impact, community-responsive research and programming**, the Center supports practical pathways for agricultural producers to adapt to a changing climate and greater water uncertainty. Work focused on agri-technology, irrigation science, and forage crop resilience helps inform real-world management and policy decisions.



Water Quality & Access

The Colorado Water Center facilitates outreach, education, and meaningful collaboration and engagement to address complex and evolving water-related challenges facing Colorado, including water quality and access issues.

Working to help protect clean and safe water in Colorado's mobile home parks, the Center partners with local, county, and state organizations and leaders to tackle critical water quality and affordability challenges in mobile home park communities through the **Clean Water for Neighbors Initiative**.

In the South Platte River Basin, increasing salinization of water and soil resources pose a threat to agricultural production and municipal water supplies. The Colorado Water Center facilitates the **South Platte Salinity Stakeholder Group** with area water users, working to identify stakeholder needs and translate them into research questions and applicable science.

