



Water Literate Leaders 2023-2024

Water Law, Administration, and Policy Resources

Books

Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law

Note: You were all given this publication in September. Great resource.

Films

Colorado Water Plan (2015, 8 minutes)

"Colorado's Water Plan was officially adopted by the CWCB Board and released to Governor John Hickenlooper at 10am on November 19th, 2015." This video details the history of statewide collaborative efforts to develop the plan.

Watershed: Exploring a New Water Ethic for the New West (2012, trailer)

"Watershed tells the story of the threats to the once-mighty Colorado River and offers solutions for the future of the American West. Meet Jeff Ehlert, a fly fishing guide in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado rancher Dan James, Delta restoration worker Edith Santiago, Navajo Council member Glojean Todacheene, Rifle Colorado Mayor Keith Lambert, Los Angeles native Jimmy Lizama and a group of Outward Bound teens rafting down the Colorado River as they all reflect a compelling new water ethic—one that illuminates how letting go of the ways of old can lead to a path of coexisting with enough for all."

Killing the Colorado (2016, 66 minutes)

"The American West is in the midst of a serious drought, which compounds the underlying water crisis that stems from overdevelopment, misuse, and political maneuvers carried out long ago. This documentary examines the causes and consequences."

- *Trailer at link above. Available to rent from [YouTube](#) for \$1.99.*

Websites

[University of Denver Water Law Review \(duwaterlawreview.com\)](http://duwaterlawreview.com)

Note: University of Denver provides free access to their 2018 *Water Law Review*.

[2023 Colorado Water Handbook | Colorado General Assembly](#)

Note: "The Legislative Council Staff's Water Policy Handbook is intended to serve as a reference guide to Colorado's water policies and programs. The book is divided into three parts. Each part covers a different aspect of Colorado water law and policy."

[Quick Guide to Water Rights and State Water Resources | CDE](#)

Note: "The web links included in this brief list will lead to resources for research on the issue of water rights in the state of Colorado as well as water quality and conservation information from Colorado state agencies. This is a quick information guide to selected print and electronic publications as well as web sites maintained by state agencies."

[Water Administration | Division of Water Resources \(colorado.gov\)](#)

Note: "For over 125 years, the Division of Water Resources (DWR), directed by the State Engineer, has been empowered to administer all water rights according to the Prior Appropriation Doctrine (in short, 1st in time, 1st in right). Most of this work is done by Division Offices located in the seven major river basins of the state, directed by the Division Engineers. Division Engineers are supported by water commissioners to ensure the priority system is followed, enforcing the decrees and water laws of the State of Colorado."