

Yampa Basin Rendezvous: A Dialogue on Climate Projections and Building Community Resilience

*Organized by the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E),
Colorado Mountain College, Friends of the Yampa,
Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, and Steamboat Resorts
4-5 June 2019, Colorado Mountain College Steamboat Campus*

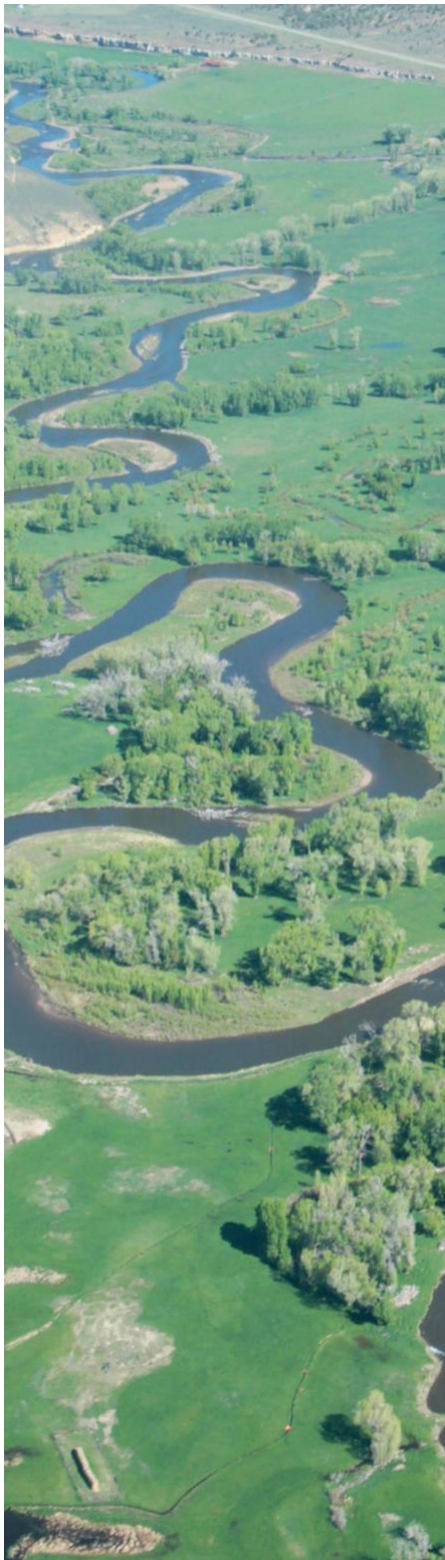


How will the Yampa River Basin experience the effects of the changing climate, and how can communities respond? This question will be at the forefront of the 2019 Yampa Basin Rendezvous. This 2-day event will provide an overview of the state-of-the-art regional climate projections and advances in the fundamental physical knowledge that are essential to the accuracy and usability of these projections. It will also cover the efforts of community members and organizations throughout the region that continue to work towards building resiliency in infrastructure, hazard preparedness, and other factors.

The Yampa River is one of the wildest remaining major tributaries of the Colorado River and supports a rich ecosystem, local agriculture and ranching, and a robust recreation industry. It also provides crucial water supplies to local stakeholders and locations as far removed as Arizona and Southern California. A multitude of environmental and societal factors are expected to be affected by climate change in the Yampa River Basin, and are pertinent to other watersheds around the American West.

During the second Yampa Basin Rendezvous, participants will examine the Yampa River Basin through the lens of climate change and community resilience. The Rendezvous will include morning talks by regional experts, discussion panels, afternoon field learning, and a community event. We will explore the science behind climate projections with a focus on the Yampa, learn how climate change is expected to impact various stakeholders in the Yampa, and learn what adaptation and mitigation plans are in place and where challenges remain. Through this dialogue with the local community, we hope to pair CW3E's research directions with the community's expertise on the challenges and successes of resilience planning and practices in the Yampa to identify how additional climate and weather information and research may be beneficial.

This event is an effort to connect graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, researchers, staff and faculty from the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E; cw3e.ucsd.edu) to river basins throughout the west, to pursue the mission and goals (listed below) of this new center. CW3E is based at the University of California San Diego's (UCSD) Scripps Institution of Oceanography and is building a regional community of scientists and engineers to work on western weather and climate problems.



YBR Mission: The YBR strives to be an opportunity for reflection, communication, appreciation, and collaborative, interactive learning about the Yampa Basin ecosystems, environment, weather, climate, people, and culture and their intersections, for members of the Yampa Basin community as well as all the communities downstream who rely on the Yampa's water.

YBR Goals: Connect students, researchers, institutions, and community members who live and work in the Yampa River Basin to share knowledge regarding climate variability and change that has impacts on the environment, people and the economy. Build community and encourage collaborative problem-solving and planning, and provide an opportunity for citizens and visitors to be informed about the state of the Yampa Basin and the people and plans in place and in process to protect it.

2019 YBR Steering Committee Members:

Sarah Jones, *Yampa Valley Sustainability Council*

Matt Jost, *Colorado Mountain College*

Marty Ralph, *Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UCSD*

Mike Sierks, *Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UCSD*

Nathan Stewart, *Colorado Mountain College*

Tony Urbick, *Steamboat Resorts by Wyndham Vacation Rentals*

Kent Vertrees, *Friends of the Yampa & Steamboat Powdercats*

Anna Wilson, *Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, UCSD*



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