



What is a Healthy Working River? Pieces of the Puzzle

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Drake Centre | Fort Collins, CO

What is a Healthy Working River?

The PRTI Study/Action Work Group's definition of a healthy working river is one that supplies the goods and services demanded by our complex society, within the existing and evolving water rights system and honoring existing property rights, while maintaining and improving ecological integrity and resilience.



Who's Here Today?

Age

- 21 or younger
- 22—35
- 36-55
- 55—75
- 75 or older

Geography—where do you live?

- Greeley
- Fort Collins
- Windsor
- Unincorporated Larimer County
- Unincorporated Weld County
- Other

Forum Attendance

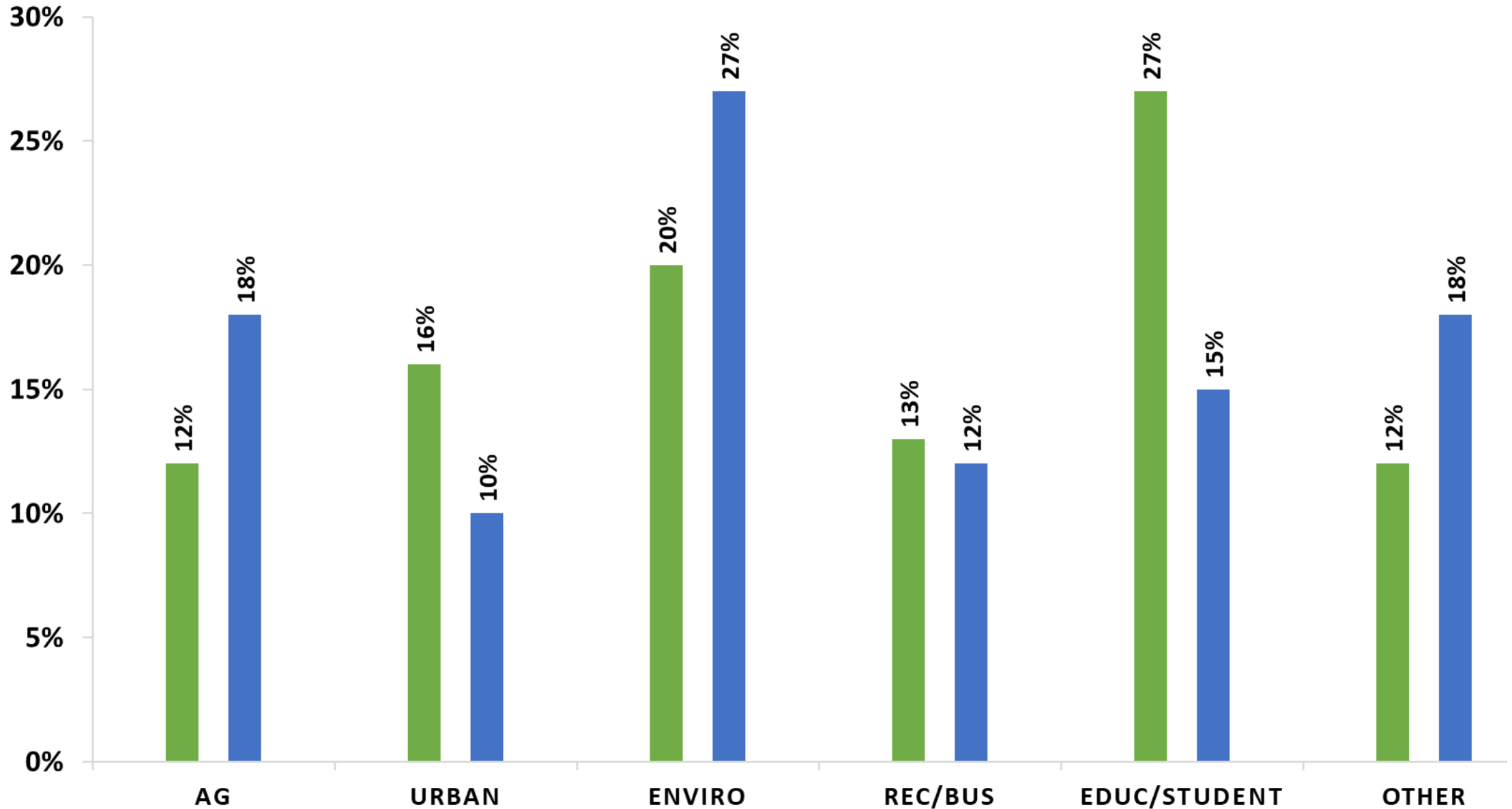
- First time
- Have attended several
- Have attended all of them!



FORUM ATTENDANCE BY SECTOR

2018

2019



WATER

SWIM

Answer: Swim Under Water

BLOOD

WATER

Answer: Blood is thicker than water



Answer: Holy Water

ειναι ολα
me me

Answer: Its all Greek to me



Answer: Brown nosing



Answer: Back to square one

**EHTNI
DAY**

Answer: Back in the day



Answer: Misunderstood

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Glossary of Water Terminology

Fact Sheet No. 4.717

Crop Series | Irrigation

by R. Waskom and M. Neibauer*

Water is basic to our lives and all of us are affected by how it is used and managed. In Colorado, the complexity of our water laws and our water management structure is often bewildering. It seems that water managers in Colorado have their own special language. This fact sheet offers non-technical definitions of many of the commonly used water terms to help citizens better understand the principles that govern the use of water in Colorado.

A

Absolute water right: A water right, with a specified priority date, that has been placed to a beneficial use.

Acre foot: The volume of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).

Adjudication: The judicial process through which the existence of a water right is confirmed by court decree.

Adverse use: Using decreed water owned by another appropriator.

Alluvial groundwater: Ground water that is hydrologically connected to a surface stream that is present in permeable geologic material, usually sand, silt, and gravel.

Appropriation Doctrine: The system of water law primarily used in the western United States under which 1. the right to water is acquired by diverting water and applying to a beneficial use; and 2. A right to water use is superior to a right developed later in time.

Appropriator: The person or persons who put water to beneficial use.

Aquifer: Underground deposits of sand, gravel, or rock saturated with water. The two major types of aquifers are confined and unconfined.

Artesian well: A well in which water under natural pressure rises to the surface without being pumped.

Augmentation plan: A court-approved plan that allows a junior water user to divert water out of priority so long as adequate replacement is made to affected stream system preventing injury to the water rights of senior users.

B

Base flow: The amount of water in a stream that results from ground water discharge.

Basin: The area of land that drains to a particular river.

Basin rank: The relative seniority of a water right as determined by its date of adjudication and the date of appropriation.

Beneficial use: The application of water necessary to accomplish the purpose of the appropriation, without waste. Some common types of beneficial use are agriculture, municipal, wildlife, recreation, and mining.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Practices that are technically and economically feasible and for which significant water conservation or water quality benefits can be achieved.

C

California Doctrine: A legal doctrine retaining aspects of both riparian rights and the principles of prior appropriation.

Call: The request by an appropriator for water which the person is entitled to under his decree; such a call will force those users with junior decrees to cease or diminish their diversions and pass the requested amount of water to the downstream senior making the call.

Change of water right: Any change in a way a water right is used. Can be changed in type, place, time of use, point of diversion, adding points of diversion, etc. Changes of

*R. Waskom, director of the Colorado Water Institute; M. Neibauer, former Extension master's student. 5/2012



Quick Facts

- Water in Colorado is administered under the doctrine of prior appropriation or "first in time, first in right doctrine".
- The state constitution declares that "the right to divert the unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied."
- The concept of beneficial use has changed with changing public values, but includes a notion of wise use, without waste.
- Water rights in Colorado are adjudicated or recognized through the court system.

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