

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON OUR POUDBRE RIVER FORUM PRESENTERS

Each presenter was asked to tell us what they do, what they care about most in terms of the Poudre, what they are most proud of that they have accomplished in their career and personally, and something they hope to accomplish before they die. Here are their responses:

Nolan Doesken

I'm the State Climatologist at Colorado State University – tracking the climate of our fascinating state. I love it when the Poudre River feels and seems wild and natural, even when it is so heavily used and managed. I've worked in the field I love most – climatology – for nearly 40 years and I've had the chance to share my passion and expertise with many others. Personal accomplishment? I once threw a golf ball over a 10 story building! Before I die, I'd love to get the garage cleaned up enough to actually park a car inside – at least once.

George Wallace

Professor Emeritus, Warner College of Natural Resources, CSU; farmer/rancher; Larimer County Ag Advisory Board, Poudre Basin Water Sharing Working Group, Legacy Land Trust Board. In terms of the Poudre, I care most about water sharing – finding alternative transfer methods that minimize the permanent transfer of ag water to non-ag uses and loss of irrigated agriculture in the basin. Most proud of professionally includes teaching, research, technical assistance provided to students and natural resource managers throughout the Americas over many years; community service locally. Most proud of personally is restoration and improved management over 45 years of the once degraded farm where we live – and being part of a good family and marriage. Would like to incorporate a bit of music, prose, poetry, back into my somewhat pedestrian routines.

Sara Rathburn

Associate Professor, Department of Geosciences, Colorado State University. My work day is filled with teaching, advising, conducting research, and serving on university committees. I care most that users of the Poudre River understand it, from an interdisciplinary perspective, as a complex ecosystem, and that this understanding translates into vigilance and action to maintain watershed health. I am proud to be helping build an informed cadre of students who are responsible water users. College students are some of our most important stakeholders as future homeowners, professionals, voters, tax payers, and members of city councils and school boards. I am proud to have maintained a family-work life balance. My husband and I have raised two children together while working full time, and we are still happily married and employed! I am grateful for the opportunity to raise a family and also experience success as a researcher and educator at CSU. I hope to leave a legacy of enlightened, CSU-educated students who are fluent in river processes, and who endeavor to keep river ecosystems healthy for generations to come.

Ken Kehmeier

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Senior Aquatic Biologist for the Platte River Basin. Prior to this I was the aquatic biologist for the Poudre River from 1987 to 2007. What I care about most in regard to the Poudre River is the fishery habitat and fishery, both from a recreational and species conservation standpoint. I was instrumental in the delisting of the Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*) from the Colorado State threatened and endangered species list. I also am proud of the stream and lake management that I have helped implement in Northeast Colorado, and the species protection and fishing recreation that is accomplished on a yearly basis. I am proud to be a 4th generation native of Colorado, having my family homestead on the western slope of Colorado in the 1890's. I am also very proud of my family (wife and three kids) and their accomplishments and involvement in the various interests they are engaged in. For what I would like to accomplish before I die, I would guess that professional football is out of the question. That said, I would like to finish a successful career with CPW and be respected for my efforts to protect or enhance the wildlife resources of Colorado. Past that, spending time with family and friends and getting to travel and see Colorado and beyond.

Joe Kunovic

Mr. Kunovic is employed with the City of Greeley as an Industrial Pretreatment Supervisor. Joe has 30+ years of experience working at the Greeley Water Pollution Control Facility. During that time he has operated, sampled, analyzed, measured, permitted, regulated, enforced, and managed water and wastewater at the facility. Joe estimates that he has observed the Poudre River in the Greeley area more than 7,500 times during his work career. Joe is a Certified Water Professional with the State of Colorado, and he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1982.

Eric Reckentine

Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the CPRW and Deputy Director of Water Resources for the City of Greeley. In his current position, he is responsible for Greeley's raw water management and resource planning; the City's water rights portfolio; federal permitting projects; and is currently managing the fire mitigation efforts for the High Park and Hewlett Gulch fires on behalf of the City of Greeley. Prior to working for Greeley, Eric was a Resource and General Manager for an international mining company responsible for the operational management of several business units, development of acquisition and reclamation strategies, and resource permitting. Originally from New York, Eric came to Colorado in 1994 as a geologist to continue work for a geotechnical and environmental engineering firm and worked on environmental assessment, remediation, and regulatory compliance projects throughout North America. He obtained a B.S. in Geology from the State University of New York and obtained an MBA from Colorado State University.

Todd Boldt

District Conservationist USDA-NRCS, Fort Collins Field Office. Clean water is what I care most about in regard to the Poudre. Performing Snow Survey duties are what I am most proud of professionally, while personally I am most proud of teaching students at Front Range Community College about conservation. Before I die I hope to fish Ireland.

Matt Bailey

I spend my time with my three kids and working as Odell Brewing's Sustainability coordinator, as well as the Maintenance/Engineering manager. What I care most about in regard to the Poudre River is the health of the river, and the ability of brewers to contribute to the quality and availability of its resource. I am proud of being part of the latest expansion in 2013 at Odell Brewing. The project was expansion of our tap room and installing a new efficient brewhouse. Being part of the project from concept to design to installation, and the ability to incorporate many sustainable design features we always wanted to do, was extremely rewarding. I also served in the US Navy for four years and I am quite proud of that experience. About personal accomplishments, my first house was a rough condition, bank owned building. Doing a full restoration with sweat and tears, the amount learned and seeing the end result was fantastic. Also, teaching myself the guitar, seeing my progress, being creative and playing music for my family. It's totally cliché, but something I think and work on daily, is to strive to be a good Dad and husband.

Boyd Wright

I am a native aquatic species biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, overseeing conservation of native fish and amphibians in the in the South Platte Basin of Colorado. Regarding the Poudre River, I care most about habitat integrity, as it relates to conserving native fishes in the river. A first major accomplishment in my career involved completing a project in which I worked with ranchers, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and a non-profit organization to restore Colorado River cutthroat trout to 6 miles of stream in the Little Snake River drainage. I have completed other similar projects subsequently, but there is something about that first one that makes me proud. On a personal level, when I was stationed in Meeker, CO, I started and led a youth fly fishing club through the local 4-H chapter. I am personally most proud of finding a beautiful and supportive wife to share in life's ups and downs. Before I die, I would like to take a wilderness river float fishing trip in Alaska.

Bill Brown

Mr. Brown is a recovering attorney who spent the bulk of his active career in the practice of law with the Fort Collins law firm Fischer, Brown, Bartlett and Gunn focusing on water law. He remains "of counsel" to that firm, but spends most of his time in frivolous pursuits, including fishing for trout in front of his cabin on the South Fork of the Poudre. Bill's vision is that the Poudre remain, as it has for over a century, a 'multi-purpose' river, providing recreational and aesthetic opportunities coupled with its historic 'workhorse' heritage. Bill represented the South Platte Basin on the state's water board, serving as president in 2000, and has served twenty plus years on the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District board. He's proud of being honored by the Colorado Water Congress with a lifetime membership and of recently learning to standup paddleboard. He'd like to shoot his age in golf but realizes he'd have to live to about 119 in order to do it.

Karen Weitkunat

Mayor of the City of Fort Collins. Small business owner for 38 years – 23 years hosting visitors to Fort Collins as a hotel owner and hospitality ambassador, and the next 15 years as owner and operator of storage units in east Fort Collins. One of the most important considerations with the Poudre River is the ability of the people to be able to enjoy, connect and utilize the great amenities the River brings to our area. One of my greatest accomplishments in my years of public service has been the planning, redevelopment and revitalization of the North College Area over the last 38 years. The second greatest accomplishment was the successful development of an economic strategic plan, which added Economic Health as a key element of the city organization plan. For a small town Wisconsin girl to be the Mayor of the Best City in America to live, work and play is truly an amazing accomplishment. I am honored and blessed to serve the wonderful people of Fort Collins.

David Merritt

Riparian Vegetation Ecologist, USDA Forest Service; affiliate faculty in the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Colorado State University; David H. Smith Conservation Fellow. What I care most about the Poudre River is that it is the river that flows through the place that we live and that its watershed is both our playground and our source of freshwater. My hope is that the inhabitants of the Poudre River floodplain and valley develop and maintain an appreciation for the river and the unique and valuable components of the riverscape. Through understanding and appreciation for the biodiverse and functioning ecosystem supported by the river, I hope that we may collectively strive for restoration and maintenance of its historic functions and processes, its native plants, insects, birds and wildlife, and that we appreciate the elements of a wild diverse river that the Poudre retains. I feel fortunate to be able to work in wild places, and to understand and contribute to our knowledge about rivers and riparian systems. I am proud of the work that I continue to do to balance human water demands and uses with functioning river ecosystems. Personally, I am proud of having a gratifying and rich life and lifestyle, and living with a wonderful wife (Tamara) and two fine young men (my sons Everitt and Owen.) I hope for health into old age and the ability to travel in the backcountry, both locally and in wild places around the world.

Justice Greg Hobbs, Colorado Court

My job is to collaborate with the other six justices in reaching decisions in criminal and civil cases, including water cases, and to teach and write about access to justice and water law, history, and culture. What I care about in regard to the Poudre is that the river be honored for all it is and does. Professionally, I am proud of helping to negotiate the 1986 Poudre Wild and Scenic River Act, and helping clean up Colorado's air as a member of the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission and Regional Air Quality Council. A personal accomplishment is publishing six books of poetry, history, culture, and law of the Southwest United States. What I most hope to accomplish before I die is to say goodbye in a good way.

Mark Simpson

As Poudre River Water Commissioner, I have the encumbered position of distributing the water of the Poudre Basin, on a daily basis, pursuant to court water decrees and compiling records of water diversions and use. I earned a BS in Range Management from CSU in 1998. I care about the water rights of the Poudre and providing accurate and timely delivery of water to those in priority. Serving as the Deputy Water Commissioner for many years helped me understand the tangled web of administering the Poudre. When I'm not chasing water, I'm chasing my 4 and 7 year old boys. Before I die I hope to catch a Redfish on my fly rod.

Jim Clark

President and CEO of Visit Fort Collins, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, tourism and convention marketing and service agency for the City of Fort Collins. More than 30 years' experience in Destination Marketing Organizations in Denver, Colorado Springs, Tampa, FL and Irving, TX, and is a Certified Destination Marketing Executive (CDME). The Poudre River is a major contributor to tourism and the unique lifestyle of Fort Collins, and I love to fly fish the river and listen to its song. Proud professional accomplishments include successful execution of Super Bowl XXV and securing Super Bowl XXXV as Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Super Bowl Task Force, and improving every CVB I've headed. Personal accomplishment is raising two wonderful children and mentoring five destination CEOs. Before I die, I would love to write a book. And have it read!

Bryan Voronin

I have the best job in the entire world, because I am a Stay-at-Home Dad to five beautiful children. My "co-workers" range in age from 10 years to 7 month old Twins. Obviously, I have a fulfilling but exhausting job. I am honored to speak at the Poudre River Forum, because I feel passionate about maintaining the river for future generations and completing the Poudre River Trail. I am proud to have been part of the team that obtained the GOCO grant to connect Timnath to Fort Collins on the trail. In my personal life, I am most proud of the people my children are becoming, and also I am proud of my community service on the Timnath Town Council, as well as school. Before I die, I would like to climb a Colorado Fourteener.

Lee Rozaklis

I am a hydrologist and water resources consultant. For the past 32 years, I have focused my career on finding ways to meet Colorado's future water demands while preserving the health of its rivers and streams. Whenever I need to restore my soul, I come to the Poudre to fish, float or hike. To me, the Poudre represents the brawny but fragile backbone of the South Platte basin. I am proud to have been instrumental in restoring instream flows to several Colorado streams including Boulder Creek, the North Fork of the Poudre and Snowmass Creek. Before I die I would like to see instream flows restored on all of Colorado's Front Range streams.

Jennifer Shanahan

Environmental Planner, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. What I care about most in regard to the Poudre River is that it remains a uniquely special urban river experience and our children grow up with quiet natural spaces and a clean river to play in. I am proud to be a part of the recent upswing in momentum and attention on Poudre River Health and issues. Personal accomplishments I am proud of include surviving a bus trip in a torrent on a mountainside in Bolivia and raising two little boys. Before I die, I hope to take my family on a hut trip in the Alps.

Tom Norton

Tom, who was born in Washington State and attended high school in Lander Wyoming, has been the Mayor of Greeley since 2009. He took on the challenges of local government after a 30-year career in engineering and ten years serving in the Colorado State Senate. Environmental compliance, air and water quality, economic and transportation related issues have been his areas of interest and involvement. Tom is most proud of his 6 years as Senate President, as well as leading CDOT (as Executive Director) through the planning and funding process for \$1.7 billion in transportation projects, including T-Rex in Denver. His marriage of 37 years, including five children and five grandchildren, are points of pride along with the moral support he is privileged to provide for his wife, the President of the University of Northern Colorado. Regarding the Poudre River, he believes it has always been a working river; however, the Poudre National Heritage designation brings the river into focus not only via its historical significance, but as a current-day resource for agriculture, industry, municipal and recreational needs. Tom would like to see the Poudre's use balanced — with the ability to store water maximized in order to maintain flows.