



# H<sub>2</sub>O OUTDOORS

## An Outdoor Water Program for Colorado High School Students

**Keystone Science School**, in partnership with the Colorado River District, Aurora Water, and Denver Water, sponsors a three-day educational water program for Colorado high school students who want in-depth information about water issues in the West.

Students become acquainted with the basics of Colorado water law, the environmental and seasonal indicators affecting water quality, and the processes used for water distribution and administration. They learn what a stakeholder is, meet with a panel of experts representing actual Colorado stakeholder organizations, and

immerse themselves in the roles of these parties, diving deep into the positions and issues faced by each. The program commences in a powerful town hall-style meeting at which all student stakeholders work together to listen to each other's positions and strive to come to consensus on a set of public policy recommendations that best meet the needs of all involved.

The result? Students walk away with not only firsthand knowledge about the water issues faced in the West, but a deep appreciation for diverse perspectives and the power of working together to help effect positive change.

"The students got so much out of the three days. Not only was it a perfect introduction to our River Watch program, it was organized and informative."

- teacher Cathy Girard,  
Steamboat Springs  
School District



# Creativity, innovation, and teamwork: outcomes from our Spring 2011 session

*"I knew [water] was a big issue, but getting a stakeholder role and listening to others helped me see the WHOLE issue."*

Focusing on collaboration rather than competition, our Spring 2011 group worked together to come to consensus on a set of policy recommendations addressing specific water issues. Below are some of their ideas:

- Increase public outreach to encourage water conservation
- Provide monetary incentives and education
- Build new reservoirs and stock with fish
- Revise leasing agreements to allow West Slope cities to lease water from agriculture and East Slope to lease from West Slope as needed
- Encourage the agriculture industry to conserve water through modern irrigation techniques
- Develop an additional West Slope reservoir with a trans-mountain diversion
- Provide opportunities for East Slope and Industry to share a reservoir with water provided by agriculture
- Increase underground storage
- Develop and utilize technologies to reduce evaporation of flowing water and build more man-made lakes with hydroelectricity



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Science  
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## Spring 2011 Expert Panelists

Mike Wilde, Colorado River District

Keri Wagstrom, Colorado River District

Matt Bond, Denver Water

Rob Buirgy, Denver Water

Kevin Urie, Denver Water

Natalie Brower-Kirton, Aurora Water

Corey Lewellen, U.S. Forest Service

Brett Lockhard, Keystone Resort

Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County  
Commissioner

Steve Swanson, Blue River Watershed  
Group

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