



STREAMLINE

A Resolution for an Outdoor Water Revolution

With a sigh of relief, we cautiously celebrated the start of a new water year on October 1. The 12-month period from October to September marks the water year because the majority of precipitation we receive after October 1 accumulates as snow in the high country and does not run off until the following spring. We leave behind a below average snowpack, an early runoff, a hot and dry summer, and several weeks of wildfire smoke. With a new year comes the tradition of a New Year's Resolution. We've thought long and hard about last year, the good and the bad, and decided there's one place where we could all trim a few pounds (or in this case, gallons!): outdoor water use.



Outdoor use accounts for most of the municipal water that does not return to the river system. While we will always advocate for a full dishwasher, shorter showers, and turning the tap off while you brush your teeth, the water that moves down the drain eventually returns to the river system. Of course, there are costs associated with treatment plants and loss created between point of diversion and return flows, but big picture, this water stays in the proverbial bucket. It travels downstream to be reused by the environment or other users.

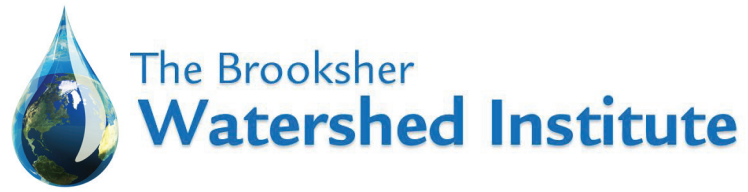
Reducing outdoor water use doesn't have to be a "crash diet." It's only human nature to visualize the extremes such as a dry, dusty, weed-filled yard, an all-out turf replacement, or xeriscape. We would never advocate for dust, brown lawns or weeds anywhere, ever. And while there are many benefits to turf replacement and well-done xeriscapes - think beautiful low water plants and gardens, not cactus and rocks - we understand for some these are not viable options, whether financial, HOA restrictions, or other complications. We'd like to share a resolution that is attainable: use only what you need and use it efficiently.

Like any resolution, it may be best to start small and easy. Adjust irrigation to ensure it does not water the concrete. Water between 8pm and 8am to minimize evaporative loss. Water lost to evaporation is just that: lost. Water enough to green the grass, not create a wetland. (While we're all for wetlands in the wild, a backyard blue grass wetland does not have

the same benefits of diverse plants and wildlife.) And lastly, let's all follow the friendly neighborhood provider's watering schedule. Most areas have at minimum alternating day watering based on house number or location.

Do we have your attention? Want to reduce your water use and need a little help and support? Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) is planning to host irrigation experts later this winter who will share easy tips and tricks to reduce outdoor water use. Start planning now! As we all turn off our irrigation for the season, let's start thinking about how next summer we will save rather than sprinkle on a rainy day.





FALL 2025 & WINTER 2026 SERIES

Join us for in-person presentations addressing our most precious resource, water. We'll discuss the most current water-related issues at the local, state and national level, and provide opportunities for one-on-one dialogue with these water leaders.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FROM 5:00-7:30PM AT TACAW, THE ART CAMPUS AT WILLITS

Sacred Water, Wondrous River with Lorelei Cloud & Johnny Le Coq

"We know that water is sacred. We also know that water is alive." Lorelei Cloud, member of the Southern Ute Tribe and the first Indigenous person to chair the Colorado Water Conservation Board, grew up hauling water to her home. Johnny Le Coq, an avid fly fisher, combined his passion with his design skills to start Fishpond, a Colorado-based fly fishing and outdoor gear company. Their different backgrounds meet at the Colorado River, and they share a mission to protect it. Join Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) and The Nature Conservancy for a special installment of the Brooksher Watershed Institute. Special Guest and former RFC board member, Ramsey Kropf, will emcee a lively evening featuring Lorelei and Johnny in a conversation about Tribal engagement in the Colorado River basin.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 FROM 7:00-8:30PM AT BRISTLECONE MOUNTAIN SPORTS

AI Innovations for Weather, Snow, and Avalanche Risk

Joel Gratz, CEO & Founding Meteorologist of OpenSnow

Learn about four new AI-based technologies that OpenSnow created over the last year and that will be live for the upcoming winter season. Joel will also discuss the snow forecast for the season and attempt to answer (or get roasted by) your questions about mountain weather. This talk is a fun way to get excited about winter and it will fulfill your inner geek's desire to learn more about the science of weather.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 FROM 5:00-6:30PM AT BASALT LIBRARY

Beyond Boats and Bonytails: How innovative management of Ruedi Reservoir is benefitting the Roaring Fork Watershed

Heather Lewin, Director of Science and Policy at Roaring Fork Conservancy

Roaring Fork Valley residents and visitors flock to Ruedi shores throughout the summer to camp, paddleboard, sail, and water ski. But why is Ruedi Reservoir there and what is the water used for beyond recreation? With most of the water destined for use in the Colorado River over 100 miles downstream, learn how RFC is ensuring local environmental and ecological needs are met. Spoiler alert: this reservoir is NOT used for drinking water!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 FROM 5:00-6:30PM AT BASALT LIBRARY

Zebra Mussels on the Western Slope: An Update

Madeline Baker, Invasive Species Specialist at Colorado Parks and Wildlife

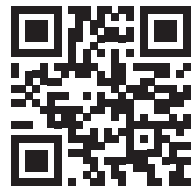
Aquatic Nuisance Species are more than just a minor inconvenience! Learn how a zebra mussel infestation's detrimental effects can impede water conveyance on Colorado's western slope. Updates will be provided on CPW's latest sampling results and subsequent containment measures, as well as what partners and citizens can do to support these efforts and stop the spread. Everybody has a role to play when it comes to being a *Pain in the ANS!*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 6:00-8:00PM AT THE CRYSTAL THEATRE IN CARBONDALE

The American Southwest Film Screening

The American Southwest is a family-friendly wildlife movie that takes viewers on an unforgettable journey down the mighty Colorado River. Narrated by Quannah Chasinghorse and directed by Ben Masters, the film beautifully showcases the region's abundant wildlife, confronts the ecological impacts of dams and water overuse, and advocates for better management of the river. Made in association with Natives Outdoors, the movie incorporates an indigenous storyline and is told through the perspective of some of the Southwest's most charming characters... such as industrious beavers, bugling bull elk, and soaring condors. Between its legendary landscapes and fascinating wildlife, The American Southwest aims to endear millions of people to better cherish, love, and conserve this unique region." RFC is partnering with American Rivers on the showing of this stunning feature-length film.

Registration is required for all presentations. Program details and ticket purchases are available at www.roaringfork.org/events.



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- 2) Search for **Roaring Fork Conservancy** or **CV113**



- 3) Click Enroll and you're ready to support your rivers while you shop!



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Consider a Charitable Rollover

If you're over 70½, you can donate up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA directly to charity through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). QCDs count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and can be excluded from your taxable income. It's a great way to support the Roaring Fork Watershed while meeting your RMD. Consult your financial advisor to learn more.



Join Us for Colorado's Largest Giving Day!

Donate at ColoradoGives.org/RoaringForkConservancy to protect rivers, monitor water quality, preserve critical habitat, and inspire future river stewards!



Remember your rivers on **December 9!**

December 8: Update On The Crystal Riverfront Park Impact Study

Discover the story behind the Crystal Riverfront Park Restoration Project and its impact on our community. Dr. Annette Shtivelband of Research Evaluation Consulting LLC and RFC's Heather Lewin will share a presentation highlighting both the successes and challenges identified through a recent evaluation, offering insights into how the park is being used and valued today. Together, we'll reflect on these findings and discuss recommendations for future watershed projects. **Read additional details and register at www.roaringfork.org.**



Water Quality Update

RFC continues to work with Pitkin County and the Lincoln Creek Workgroup to study water quality concerns on Lincoln Creek, a headwater tributary to the Roaring Fork River.

In late September, RFC completed one of its largest sampling events ever – a synoptic survey over two consecutive 15+ hour days - and it was only possible with help from partners such as Pitkin County Environmental Health, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and LRE Water. It was truly a team effort!

Together we collected a combination of water quality and stream flow data at 50+ sites from the Lincoln Creek headwaters downstream to Grizzly Reservoir. In addition, water samples were collected at 24 sites for sulfate, fluoride, isotopes, and a suite of 13 different metals. Corresponding data was also collected on the Upper Roaring Fork River the same week to enhance the overall water quality picture.

Member Spotlight: Ken Everett

What hooked you with RFC?

I first heard of RFC in the late 1990's when I worked at the Roaring Fork Club and thought it was such a great concept to have an organization that protects and monitors our beautiful lakes and rivers in the Roaring Fork Valley. What really hooked me, however, was seeing several of Rick Lofaro's presentations as Captain Cutthroat to delighted crowds, young and old, at the Club. It was a very entertaining way to communicate the purpose and importance of RFC.



Over the years, the RFC has grown to include many wide-ranging community events and educational programs. My favorite is still the river cleanup. The camaraderie, the stories, the pictures and the unbelievable trash make it a very fun day. Plus, the riverbanks look better.

What do you wish people knew about RFC?

Education and awareness are key to protecting the rivers, lakes, and other natural resources that we have in our valley. RFC is the leader in this area and I wish more people knew about all the programs that are offered, and professionally and enthusiastically presented. The programs for kids are especially important if we are to pass on these wonderful natural resources to future generations. Thank you, RFC, for all you do.



ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY
The River Center • 22800 Two Rivers Road • Basalt, CO 81621



These 5th graders spent a semester learning about their water supply, and then spent 3-days immersed in it.

Scan the QR code to watch a short video of what happened!

