

THE LIVE STREAM

Official Newsletter of Coal Creek Watershed Coalition



Big Water and Wishful Thinking, Don't Get Swept Away!

I love deep pow as much as the next ski bum, but winters like 2022-2023 are increasingly improbable. The baseline has shifted. We cannot allow wishful thinking or recency bias to fool us into putting off the work necessary to protect and improve watershed resiliency. In water conservation circles we say “drought is the teachable moment” as we hope water users of all kinds begin or continue the hard work of making do with less. Yet, I’m not aware of a saying to promote water conservation in years with big snowpacks and hearty runoff. The large-scale structural changes needed to protect watersheds, recreation and tourism-based economies, and existing agriculture can’t be delayed.

A Bitter Sweet Goodbye

As some of you already know, I am stepping down from my field technician role with CCWC at the end of May. While I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the streams and even behind a desk when needed, I am moving on to other exciting opportunities in the Gunnison Valley and beyond!

As I prepare to move on from this position, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to our Executive Director, Board of Directors, and the community here in the valley. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a talented, dedicated, and professional group of individuals, and I have learned so much over the past three years. I can't wait to see what CCWC does next!

-Alli Del Gizzi

Welcome Julie Donohue!

Please help us welcome our new Field Technician and Administrative Assistant, Julie Donohue. Julie moved to Crested Butte in 2014 and stayed for the supportive community and unrivaled outdoor activities. In her free time, she enjoys travel, scuba diving, skiing, biking, gardening, reading, shed hunting, and adventuring with her husband and dogs. She is thrilled to join CCWC and help protect the invaluable services provided by our watershed!



A great blue heron on the Slate River
Photo : Jerry Clark

Great Blue Herons

Nested in the coniferous trees surrounding the upper Slate River is a great heron rookery, home to numerous nesting pairs of this gregarious bird species. The rookery has been there for at least 20 years and the diverse wetland complex they inhabit is also a popular playground for recreationists. Recognizing the potential impacts that increased recreation could have on the heron rookery, the Slate River Working Group was formed to address river-specific management opportunities and balance recreational use and wildlife protection. CCWC is a stakeholder in the Slate River Working Group.

Welcome Steve Moore!

Please help us welcome our newest Board Member, Steve Moore! Steve and his wife, Martha Griffin, have skied, biked, and hiked in the Crested Butte area for many years, but moved here full-time in the fall of 2022, after deciding that the Upper Gunnison River Valley was simply too amazing and beautiful to not call it a full-time home. They love the strong sense of community which binds the town folk of all generations together here, and they are looking for ways to become more deeply rooted in the Valley. Steve has practiced law for over 40 years, working with the Boulder non-profit firm, the Native American Rights Fund. Water has been a central focus of his practice, representing several Indian tribes in the western United States to establish their rights to water for their reservation homelands, as well as rights to instream flows for the protection of fishery and riparian habitats that are the foundation of their treaty reserved fishing rights. He admires the work of the dedicated Board and Staff of CCWC, and looks forward to contributing as a Board member to its continued success.



Steve Moore

A Tribute to Steve Glazer

As we welcome a “new Steve” to the board, I can’t help but remember our “old Steve”, Steve Glazer. The “Glaze” passed nearly seven years ago just after the community signed the Mt. Emmons Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is the basis for the collaborative work that will prevent mining on Mt. Emmons and protect water quality in Coal Creek.

In my memories, Steve was the type of skeptic you wanted on your side. He asked pointed questions and wasn’t afraid to research obscure details buried in regulations. The incredible courage and diligence of Steve and other dedicated community members are the reason we’re on the verge of permanently protecting Red Lady. I look forward to celebrating the completion of the land exchange, execution of the conservation easement, and mineral withdrawal with the rest of the community. And as I do, it will be with a bit of sadness that Steve isn’t here to celebrate with us.

Support CCWC Today!

Your tax-deductible donations help us fulfill our mission and support various programs and projects. We can't do our invaluable work without your support!

Mail us a check or donate online at CoalCreek.org

WATER WORDS

In water words we explore the etymology of words we commonly use in the world of water.



Image: The confluence of the East and Taylor Rivers form the headwaters of the Gunnison River.

Confluence (n.) early 15c., a flowing together, especially of two or more streams.

A confluence is the place where two or more rivers, streams or other continuously flowing bodies of water meet and become one.

Confluence is derived from the Latin work *confluentem*, "to flow together." The word *con* meaning *together with*, and *fluent* meaning *flowing freely*.