

promote

Cache la Poudre River
National Heritage Area

POUDRE RIVER FORUM

"Each gallon we don't consume is a gallon available for other users or nature."

- Brian Richter, Chief Water Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

OVERVIEW

Some people value the Poudre River mainly as a working river—for agricultural, municipal and industrial needs. Others value its rich recreational opportunities and ecological attributes. Yet, everyone wants a river that meets human needs AND is a healthy river in its own right.

Each year, the Poudre River Forum gathers a diverse group of stakeholders together on the topic of the Poudre River to explore the continuing challenges and opportunities for collaboration. Collectively, the 300 some attendees reflect the diversity of values held by those who live in the communities along the Cache la Poudre River. They represent academia, industry, environment, recreation and more.



Attendees share their experiences and knowledge about the Poudre's uses to meet human needs for agriculture, recreation, industry, and the river's ecological needs. Also, they use what they learn to identify opportunities for cooperative action to help meet the healthy river/working river goals.

The Forum's focus in 2018 was "Listening to Understand" – helping to bridge ideological barriers. Topics included:

- As the Poudre Flows—a set of provocative, dialogue-stimulating "lightning talks" from a range of speakers with contrasting views about what can improve and what can damage Poudre flows.
- Can we Grow Water Smart?—late breaking alternative scenarios from the evolving Colorado Water Plan, and regional insights on integration of land use planning with water supply planning.
- How Poudre Farmers are Improving Poudre Water Quality through Air Quality Monitoring
- How building relationships can break down water issue polarization.

OVERVIEW

Each year, the Forum brings together those who farm on the Poudre, recreate on the Poudre, and advocate for Poudre health to learn from one another and to explore how to move from conflict to collaboration in regards to the Poudre.

The full day event focuses on a different theme each year. The day begins with breakfast sandwiches and a chance to take in more than two dozen Poudre educational displays. From there a Keynote Speaker kicks off a diverse array of speakers and panelists. Also during the day, time is allotted for attendees to gather in round table dialogue sessions to drill further down into topics. And, the Forum features a short video showcasing a wide variety of Poudre watershed activities and projects that took place since the previous year's forum within urban, industrial, environmental, recreational, and agricultural sectors.

PARTNERS

- Poudre Runs Through It
- Colorado State University
- Boyd Irrigation Company
- City of Greeley Water & Sewer
- Northern Water
- Bishop Brogden Water Consultants
- Cache la Poudre Water Users Association
- City of Fort Collins Natural areas

GOALS & OUTCOMES

Goal:

Make the Poudre River the world's best example of a healthy, working river.

Outcomes:

- Collaborations that support and sustain healthy watersheds.
- Promoting new ideas and best practices and broadening perspectives.
- Engaging people from all sectors and levels
- Expanding network of PHA.

BUDGET: \$29,750

Each contribution makes an impact:

- \$60 – Single entry to event
- \$600 – 10 scholarships for student attendees
- \$1,000 – Video recording
- \$9,000 – Food and entertainment

