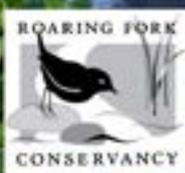


# VOTERS' GUIDE TO WATER ISSUES

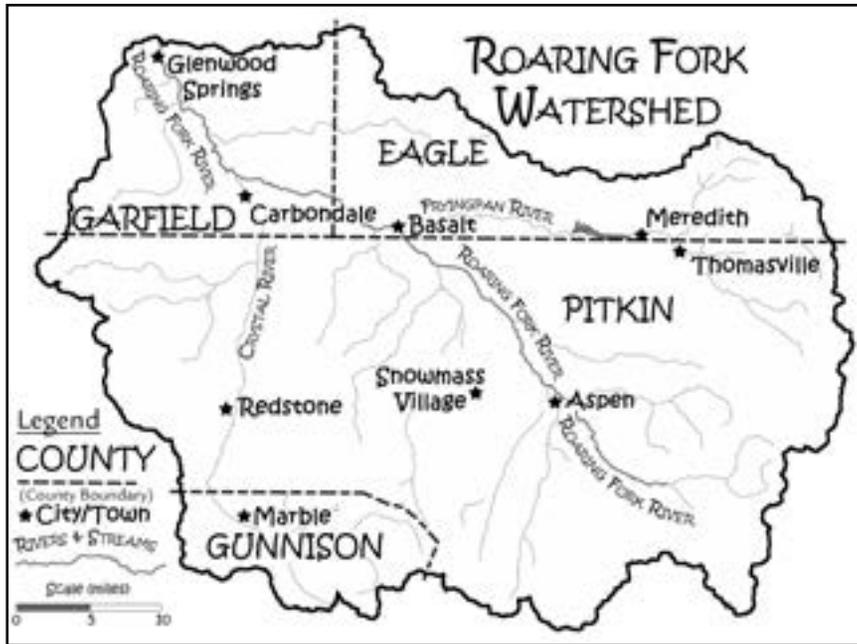
IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY AND BEYOND  
2018 GENERAL ELECTION



Photo by Seth Anderson



The elections in which you can vote is determined by the county in which you live:



To see which elections you can vote in, look for “Counties Eligible to Vote in this Race” below each candidate’s name  
In this guide, Roaring Fork Watershed is abbreviated as RFW

Races included in the  
2018 Voters’ Guide to Water Issues

Colorado Governor  
U.S. Senate - Colorado  
U.S. House Districts 2 & 3  
Colorado State House Districts 26, 57, & 61  
Colorado State Senate Districts 5 & 7  
Eagle County Commissioner  
Garfield County Commissioner  
Pitkin County Commissioner

September 2018

Dear Voter,

Roaring Fork Conservancy is pleased to present yet another edition of the Voters’ Guide to Water Issues in the Roaring Fork Watershed. The importance of water in Colorado continues to grow as we plan for the future of our water resources. Roaring Fork Conservancy remains focused on water quality, water quantity and riparian health, addressing these issues via river science, water policy, and educating citizens on current issues.

Knowledgeable elected officials help us protect vital water resources. With the upcoming election, we wanted to give citizens an opportunity to hear from candidates on local water issues and their proposed solutions.

Roaring Fork Conservancy asked candidates in local, state, and federal races for their responses to two water-related questions. This pamphlet presents a non-biased forum for candidates to express their qualifications and platforms on water issues affecting the Roaring Fork Watershed and the state of Colorado.

**Roaring Fork Conservancy does not endorse any candidates. Their unedited responses are presented as submitted.**

We encourage you to vote, whether by mail or at a polling place on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**. Your voice is an important part of helping us bring people together to protect our rivers.

Sincerely,

Rick Lofaro  
Executive Director  
Roaring Fork Conservancy

## COLORADO GOVERNOR



**Jared Polis**

Democratic Party  
Boulder

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Water is the lifeblood of our state and our singular most precious natural resource. How to manage it in the face of a hotter, drier, more populated future is one of the greatest challenges Colorado's next governor will have to confront. It is a question whose answer will define the economic trajectory and the character of many of our communities for generations to come.

People want to grow their families and businesses here in Colorado because of our high quality of life, our productive economy, our vibrant and sustainable cities, our innovative spirit, our viable and productive agriculture, our access to locally grown food, our strong environment, and our robust outdoor recreation opportunities. Colorado's economy depends on conserving and protecting this scarce resource.

Few people are more acutely aware of Colorado's water challenges than Coloradans in the Roaring Fork. Water is the lifeblood of our agriculture industry and our tourism economy, which in turn is the backbone of our rural economy.

We cannot protect our water supply without also preserving the public lands that make up more than a third of our state. It would be challenging enough if Colorado's population were growing in the face of a stable water supply. But the climb ahead of us is even steeper. Climate change and drought mean that as demand is growing, supply is shrinking.

That's why it's so important that we make implementing and fully funding Colorado's Water Plan a top priority in the years ahead.

2. It will be up to the next governor to upgrade our water funding, financing, and investment mechanisms to take advantage of new partnerships and revenue streams to help fully fund the Water Plan. Everything from sports betting to container fees is being explored, and I'll be an active participant in identifying a sustainable and agreeable source of financing to fulfill our obligation to our future. And we need to make sure that we're using our existing revenue streams wisely, including ensuring long-term support for key severance tax-funded programs like the Water Supply Reserve Fund, the Aquatic Nuisance Species prevention, and the Species Conservation Trust Fund.

At the same time we're funding the Water Plan, we'll also need to update it to take advantage of changing technologies. Today the Water Plan sets an ambitious goal of 400,000 acre feet of additional water storage, 400,000 acre feet of additional water conservation, and 50,000 acre feet of alternatives to the buy-and-dry of our irrigated agricultural lands.

I will work to do better by our state's water system by leveraging new technology and best practices to enhance our conservation efforts. If we are diligent about updating our water data with recent drought information, enhancing our policies to reflect Basin Implementation Plans, and identifying opportunities for integrated regional water systems — the result will be a more resilient water supply throughout Colorado. And we should explore current capacity of existing storage infrastructure and evaluate where it can be enhanced.

## COLORADO GOVERNOR



**Walker Stapleton**

Republican Party  
Greenwood Village

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. I think education is going to be a key part of incorporating new Coloradans into our state and introducing them to the importance of water. The Colorado Water Plan provided a great example of how community engagement can help serve as an education tool, and the work of dedicated citizens like the Roaring Fork Conservancy help further increase awareness of water issues. Education is critical both as it relates to supply and demand of water in Colorado. On the supply side, education builds advocacy and lets people know the importance of building new storage to meet our states needs. Be it in aquifer storage recovery systems, improving reservoirs, or building new mission critical storage, all will require engaging basins and citizens in order to find the solutions that make sense for each communities' unique needs.

On the demand side, education provides the basis for becoming better stewards of our water resources. A big part of this will come from engaging our agriculture and rural communities that use roughly 89% of the state's water. I believe that our reputation as the Silicon Valley of Agriculture and Ranching will help us develop better conservation and saving methods in this arena. For municipal and industrial users, educating users on new reuse technologies and conservation will greatly help reduce our water usage in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way that allows for our growing population to maintain access to water.

I commend the Roaring Fork Conservancy for the efforts they have made to educate citizens along the Roaring Fork and the projects they have put in place to reduce, reuse, and protect water resources in an ecologically responsible way.

2. Water law is a very complex area that is built on legal precedent, traditions, and the unique nature of water. So, I will defer to our legal experts to seek their opinions on how best we can protect our resources during drought years in the context of our interstate compacts and other agreements. That said, I commend the efforts past Attorney Generals and other members of our legal community have made to protect Colorado's water resources.

Maintaining steady flows is an important part of protecting river health during drought years for both ecological and recreational purposes. As such, on a state-level, we must work to promote alternatives to buy-and-dry practices that still respect the property rights of water holders, but allow for more dynamic access agreements in drier years.

During droughts, I will use both the power of my office, and the courts when necessary, to make sure we protect Colorado's water rights downstream.

## COLORADO GOVERNOR



**Bill Hammons**

Unity Party of Colorado  
Broomfield

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. We can educate outsiders about Colorado water by turning water use into a revenue-generating activity. Just as it makes more sense to combat Climate Change by shifting taxation from property and income to the emission of greenhouse gases, it makes sense to shift those same taxes to water. Instead of gouging Coloradans for sleeping in their beds and feeding their families, we can encourage them to take a fresh look at their water consumption.

2. Many might say my above comments are creative enough. We can enshrine a mechanism in new law which increases water taxes with increased drought (perhaps, for example, pegging water revenue rates to the Drought Intensity rates listed on drought.gov). Climate Change deniers will of course embrace this idea under the impression that Colorado droughts won't intensify, and thus allow Colorado to conserve more water as Climate Change inevitably intensifies and dries out our state.

## COLORADO GOVERNOR



**Scott Helker**

Libertarian Party  
Golden

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Your question presupposes that the current residents of Colorado understand water resources and how to increase them. At its formation the Colorado Compact created two duties: the first was to record the volume of water over 10 years in the Colorado River basins; the second was to remove as many beaver ponds as possible. The removal of beavers was based on 19th century theology that man can ignore nature and dominate and create a new environment. I think I climate change is prima facie evidence that we should follow mother nature and not attempt to create our own reality. Following the Colorado Compacts study of water volumes, and after the removal of beaver ponds by the Colorado Compact the Colorado River basins volume drop by two thirds. We now know the beavers are critical to refilling the aquifers and thereby increasing the volume of water in the river basins. To paraphrase the old commercial, "It is not nice to play with Mother Nature". My plan would be to facilitate the return of beavers on a large scale. Over a 10- to 30-year period that should increase the water volume in the Colorado River basins by 1/3 to 2/3. I agree in support all conservation ideas. But the citizens of Colorado must give up 19th century science and bring ourselves into 21st century.

2. Restoring beavers is a creative and valid solution to increasing our water supply. For it to succeed we must work creatively to honor property rights, community values, and protect the local rivers. An example is where there are nearby homes and citizens are rightly concerned about their basements flooding. A simple overflow valve is a creative solution. For farmers and ranchers who may lose farm or pastureland to newly created beaver ponds, the solutions are varied, such as allowing larger water distribution based on the increased volume they create. Cities and communities that allow beavers in the common areas may be afforded the same distribution. For private properties that introduce beaver ponds, thus creating wetlands, the private property owners may be entitled to a decrease in their taxes. I am aware that these are not the answers you are seeking. If you take an honest look at the potential of following Mother Nature's example, you will conclude that using beavers to refill the aquifers and increase the volume of water in the rivers that the aquifers support is a viable solution to some of Colorado water issue. With honest examination I believe that you will support my position.

## COLORADO GOVERNOR



### **Paul Noel Fiorino**

Independent  
Denver

#### **RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**

Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

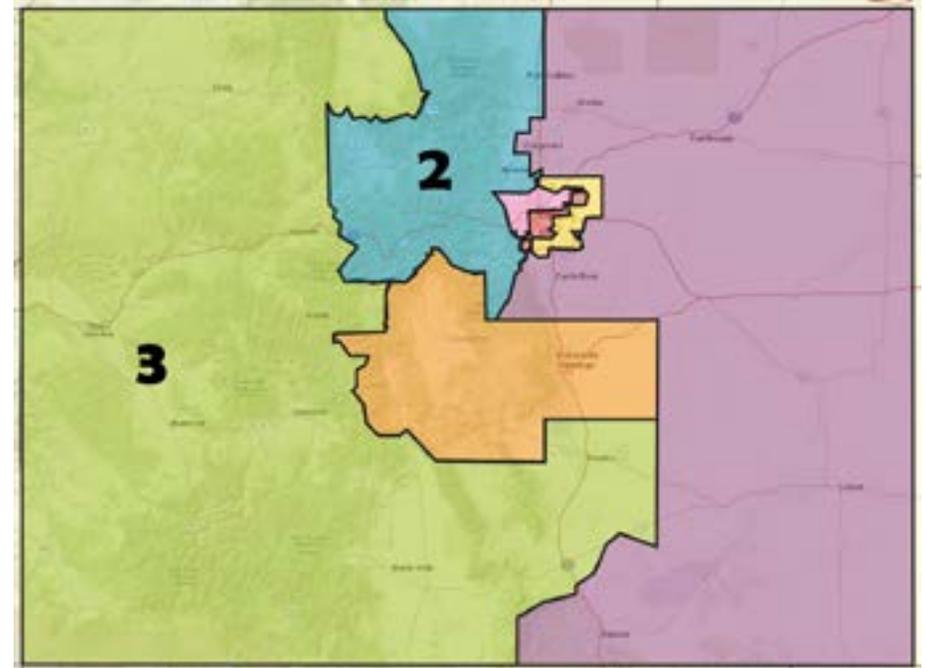
1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Water has and is Colorado's number one issue in our daily lives and use is an individual basis of how much are you Personally letting go down the drain while you brush, shower or generally go about your day and engaging our most precious resource. Agricultural and O&G use for our water diametrically opposed by how the means to an end water is the only thing we need to be most stringent. Former Governor's have made pacts and shut down certain sections. This Governor would make a difference as a water Priority that starts with Aspen communications on Climate Change and future of tourism industry. Watersheds are susceptible to pollution and spills from past mining, oil and gas and the induction of it after use back into the ground around all of us. The newcomer must know how dry we are as drought conditions continue and p.r. education will help. Water information like marijuana should go hand in hand. Hemp has a great future under my administration as the Potential to save water and hemp product development. The seven State Colorado River Compact and the recent Pact made with seven other States as we are the source. Those rivers are our life blood and must be protected and Conserved. Those who move here for business or resident must value our water and realize our place and dependant States need our resource from the Rocky's. Our water is our Gold. Cleaning up the mountain mining water will take Federal assistance, policies for the maintenance and Political will by our elected officials. Fiorino for Colorado could keep the water issues in the future more manageable today.

2. I will bring the history of each river to the routes that served and the way our Pioneers developed what we still have today. Give a reason to care by sharing the river/water experience. Rafting, boating, fishing and skiing depend on the snow fall which depending on Climate Change has been checked and that we continue to move forward with the new. Testing water in community may be a regular basis to insure that we never face a Flint factor. With all of the fracking it may be necessary action on both sides of the Great Divide. I will continue the work of the Water Boards that will keep the future water Conservation ahead of the growth. Water Issues in the forefront with education at its core. Fiorino for Colorado has carried water since 2006 in his First run as The Unaffiliated environmental gubernatorial who brought it to the current Governor by campaigning to bring ideas and issues to the dialogue and to fruition. Water is our Gold. Our Basins are our Bank. Colorado depends on water as you do.

## COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



### **ROARING FORK WATERSHED COUNTIES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN EACH DISTRICT**

District 2  
Eagle County

District 3  
Garfield, Gunnison,  
& Pitkin Counties

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2



**Peter Yu**

Republican Party  
Broomfield

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. As the population of our state and the western slope continue to grow, it is responsible to understand the value of our water resources in our state and how to respect the needs to protect our water. In Colorado, we need to be sure that all agencies, such as the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the United States Department of Agriculture instill programs that educate current and future residents on the need to protect and conserve our limited water resources. By having outreach programs with our watershed agencies, we can provide literature and education to local residents and surrounding businesses on the scarcity of water in our state. This will assure that new habitants in our state are responsible in their usage of our water in Colorado.

As our population in Colorado continues to grow, it is vital that everyone assumes responsibility in conserving our water and take the steps necessary to secure the availability of water. Working with agencies such as the Colorado Water Trust, the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Nature Conservancy will allow us to look at all options in protecting water in drought years. Exploring methods that limit water use or potentially the Alternative Transfer Methods (ATM) will be necessary to assure that all needs are met during these drought years.

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2



**Roger Barris**

Libertarian Party  
Evergreen

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. & 2. My answer to both of your questions is the following:

I am running for the US House of Representatives. One of my strongest commitments is to revive the 10th Amendment and allow the states (and their voters) to control their policies to the maximum extent possible. The control of local water resources is precisely the type of issue that should not involve the federal government at all. Therefore, my commitment in this area is to keep Washington out of the picture and to allow Coloradans to run Colorado. They know their local needs and desires far better than distant politicians and bureaucrats.

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2



**Kevin Alumbaugh**

Green Party  
Evergreen

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. The public should be informed of existing water restrictions when they enter the housing market or when a well permit is issued. Public service announcements on various media sources would also be helpful as well as direct mailings.
2. There are no easy options when it comes to population growth and the subsequent water demands. The state should study plans for a worse case scenario in case the worst case scenario comes to fruition. Options might include voluntary reductions in water use and information on xeriscape options for new homes. If water shortages persist, however, there is no way around mandatory water restrictions.

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3



**Scott Tipton**

Republican Party  
Cortez

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

I would like to take a moment to discuss with you the importance of private water rights in Colorado.

With nearly 640 million acres of public land under its management, the federal government is by far the largest landowner in the West. Repeated attempts by federal land management agencies to interfere with private water rights by circumventing state law have jeopardized the private property rights of businesses and land-owners.

Private property rights are the very foundation of a free market economy. However, we have repeated evidence of the federal government encroaching on the very rights it is supposed to be protecting through adherence to, and enforcement of, the law. It is critical that we pass permanent protections to uphold long-held state water law and the priority-based systems that have governed water rights in the western U.S. for over a century.

That is why I introduced H.R. 1830, the Water Rights Protection Act. This legislation protects privately held water rights by, among other things, prohibiting federal agencies within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture from implementing permit conditions that require the transfer or conditioning of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land.

The Water Rights Protection Act was incorporated in its entirety under Title 11 of the Western Water and Food Security Act (H.R. 2898), which passed the House in July of 2015. That legislation—the Western Water and Food Security Act—was more recently included in the energy package that passed the House in late May of 2016 and is awaiting consideration by a conference committee.

In the arid West, water is the most precious resource we have, and responsible management of water supplies and ability of water users to access their private water rights is vital for the prosperity and very survival of our communities. I will continue to work with my congressional colleagues to uphold state water laws and protect privately held water rights from federal encroachment, interference and takings.

Water is one of our most precious resources in the West, but in recent years, attempts by the federal government to circumvent long-established state water law by requiring the transfer of privately-held water rights to the federal government, as a permit condition, have threatened the rights of farmers, ranchers, municipalities, businesses, and others.

In 2014, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) proposed the Groundwater Resource Management Directive, which gave the federal government greater jurisdiction over groundwater. The directive was inconsistent with long-established state water law. The USFS ultimately withdrew the measure, but it has indicated a desire to issue a revised directive in the future.

I recently introduced a bill, the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 2939), to permanently protect privately-held water rights from future directives coming out of the federal government. The bill would prohibit the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior from requiring the transfer of water rights as a condition of any land-use permit. It would also ensure that any future groundwater directives from the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior are consistent with state water law.

How we manage and protect our water supply has implications on everything from growing crops to managing wildlife habitats. The Water Rights Protection Act is a sensible approach that would preserve the water rights of all water users and provide certainty that the federal government cannot take their rights in the future.

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3



**Diane Mitsch Bush**

Democratic Party  
Steamboat Springs

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. The Colorado Water Congress theme this year was "Perspectives." It is important to know where peoples' perspectives on water come from and to really listen and try to understand them. That's how we solve problems. And that's how we will solve our 21st century water problems.

It took years of stakeholder meetings to successfully develop our Colorado Water Plan. Its header reads: "Collaborating on Colorado's Future". All Colorado residents, established and new, would benefit from reading the Colorado Water Plan and learning how to implement water conservation measures; practice water-friendly business activities; and think more about what we need to do as stewards of this precious resource.

Water use in the older and more urbanized, densely populated regions of the US is based on riparian water law, so many residents new to Colorado do not understand Western water law. It is unique that the Colorado River system serves water needs for more than 35 million people and provides clean, renewable hydropower for most of the West. Much of that water originates on public lands and public lands can be a draw for new residents. Making the link between keeping our public lands public for conservation, recreation, and to safeguard the watersheds they protect is critical.

It was exciting to play a small part in the development of the Colorado Water Plan while I served in the State House, and I look forward to future opportunities to work on water issues as your Congresswoman for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District.

2. Our best ideas are born from listening to one another and scrutinizing all available evidence; from recognizing that different basins have different ecologies, hydrology, functions, needs and problems. No one size fits all; in fact, likely fits none.

John Wesley Powell helped us understand that watersheds are a foundational base we can use to find solutions, and solutions that don't take watersheds into account are likely not solutions at all.

Basin Roundtables have done a remarkable job of developing locally-driven basin implementation plans, drought management, and stream management plans - and that is our best way forward. Cooperative agreements to close certain reaches of rivers, like the Yampa, to protect their health have worked. Many communities which depend on the rivers and streams for irrigation, municipal use, fish habitat, and recreation are working together toward more water security and stream health. These plans are LOCAL plans, developed by local stakeholders that will help communities thrive economically AND protect ecosystems.

Our big, beautiful 3rd Congressional District is really a diverse set of river valleys and watersheds, and we often identify where we are from by a river valley or a basin. All of our basins and all of us are interconnected by the nature and economics of our rivers. Whether there is a poor snowfall year or a persistent drought, we all share in the consequences. But we must work locally, leveraging local knowledge, to create effective protections that coexist with our community values.

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3



**Mary Malarsie**

Independent  
Durango

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. PUBLIC EDUCATION IS KEY. New home buyers (especially those to properties with water rights) should undergo a course on water law and etiquette. These classes could potentially be given by the county extension agent and should be a day or weekend long to cover a wide variety of water topics. Private and Government funding (no new taxes) should be tapped to fund public education on water. In order to reach all households, a public education campaign with commercials, billboards and community forums should be utilized. Forums would allow for open discussion with Ditch Riders, Members of local Water Boards and experts on water conservation. Discounts or tax breaks should be offered to households who choose to XeriScape or install water reducing meters/gauges that actively work with their watering systems to decrease use. We should also look into ways of conserving water on a larger scale by researching and enacting ways to: a) prevent loss through evaporation, b) incorporate economical water recycling, and c) prevent or minimize contamination to our waterways.

2. We need to prioritize and manage our water more effectively by taking steps toward increased conservation, reuse and innovation. We must incentivise water saving techniques such as XeriScaping and the installation of water-saving appliances in order to expand on municipal water conservation. Also, by expanding the battle against invasive, water sucking plants along our rivers and streams we can attempt to reduce evaporation and protect our groundwater. We must also begin to look at the reuse models created by cities such as Las Vegas so that we can develop cost effective ways for our municipalities to reuse water for industrial and other purposes. I would also like to ensure that any water calls during drought years happen at a thoughtful time to ensure as much Colorado water as possible stays in Colorado. I feel Western Slope Water should be prioritized for agricultural use while we explore options for municipal reuse systems and conservation. As Colorado water continues to become more scarce we must also ensure the monitoring of industrial pollutants, and instill harsher punishments for those who pollute our water.

# U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3



**Richard Tetu**

Unaffiliated  
South Fork

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield, Gunnison, & Pitkin

## ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

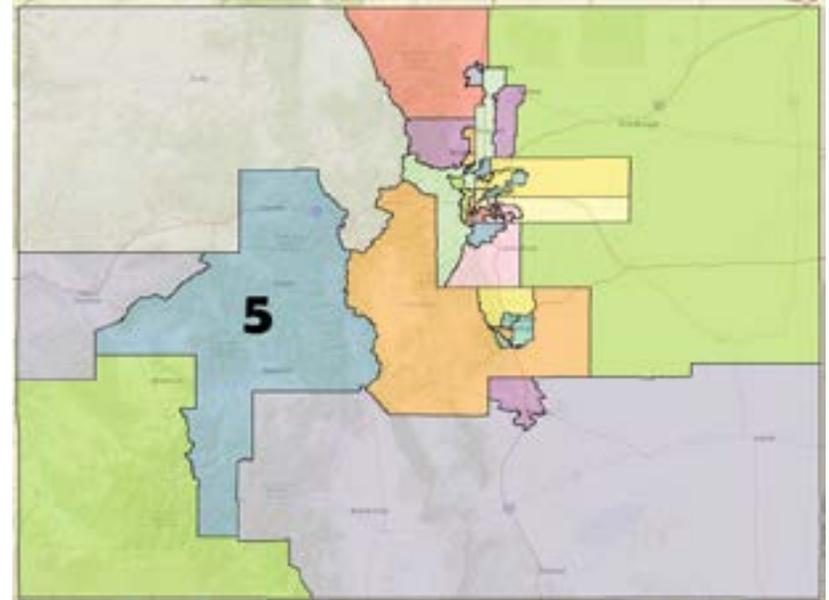
1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. On my facebook page, Turtle for Congress, I said I'll try to hold town halls every other week, and visit every town in the third district. I'm a prospector in real life, and I'd prefer to spend my time away from Washington outdoors. We could meet on the banks of rivers and streams, hold our meeting, and I'll stick around and talk to people personally for as long as they want to. I spend most of my time in dry creek beds and washes now. I've never actually seen them dry underground before this year. The springs that feed them are drying up now, and aquifers are falling. I'm pretty familiar with the San Luis Valley. Further west, say Dove Creek, I'll be the one listening. I'm sure those people have ideas of their own, as their livelihood depends on agriculture. Maybe a pinto bean farmer will offer to host that event.

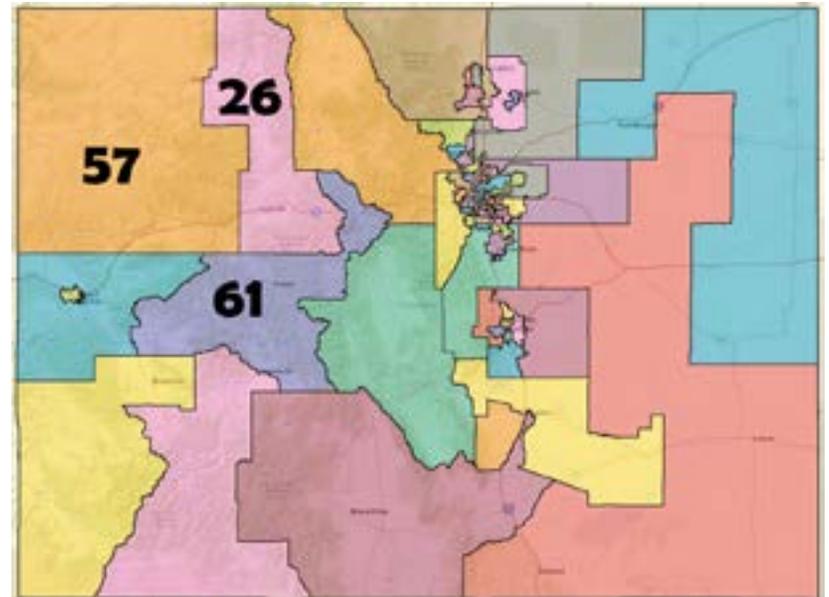
2. We could encourage farmers to grow crops that require less water, and use that water more efficiently. A tremendous amount of water is lost to evaporation flooding or sprinkling fields. Drip watering systems would use far less water. Draught is going to be the future. I think hemp farming uses less water than potato farming. If you're going to grow hemp, why not grow marijuana, let it go to seed, harvest the fiber and seeds, and extract THC as a byproduct. Adding value to crops seems easier than having to produce more with less.

# COLORADO STATE SENATE DISTRICTS



**ROARING FORK WATERSHED COUNTIES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN DISTRICT 5**  
Eagle, Gunnison, & Pitkin Counties

# COLORADO STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS



**ROARING FORK WATERSHED COUNTIES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN EACH STATE HOUSE DISTRICT**

District 26  
Eagle County

District 57  
Garfield County

District 61  
Gunnison & Pitkin Counties

## COLORADO STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 5



**Kerry Donovan**  
Democratic Party  
Edwards

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Education is critical to helping our new neighbors understand the scarcity of water in our state. Working with local organizations, like rafting companies or fly fishing shops, we can meet people where they are and help them to understand water in our valley. There is enormous opportunity with kids. By building in water education programs into schools and summer programs, we can teach the value of water conservation and protection. I participated in River Watch in middle school on the Eagle River and it helped me to understand and care about the riparian environment for the rest of my life. The state can support and supplement these efforts. Our departments can provide help and educational materials and we can create grant programs to ensure education is part of our tool kit to address Colorado's Water Plan.

2. Colorado water laws are foundational. Over the past years we have found ways to build new ideas upon the solid foundation of prior appropriation. Programs that allow ranchers or farmers to opt-in are being successfully piloted on the Western Slope and new water rights that protect stream flows and riparian environments are gaining in use. We are seeing advancements and new ideas around grey water use, healthy soils, crop choice, and stream flows just to name a few. I am proud to have been involved in many of these ideas and bills at the State Capitol including serving on the year around committee that addresses water in Colorado. I will continue to put water at the top of the issues I work on and be a strong voice for Western Slope water.

## COLORADO STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 5



**Olen Lund**  
Republican Party  
Paonia

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle, Gunnison, & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. I am pleased to see a local group working to address our watershed issues and I congratulate you on your new office in Basalt!

Water is very important to all of us in Senate District 5. When you come down to it that is a big reason why most of us live here! All people of the district, including skiers, fishermen, hikers, agriculture, and others must work together to tackle the challenges facing our watersheds.

Water has been an important part of my life from the time I started as a kid scattering water on fields and pastures, to managing our local irrigation company, working as deputy water commissioner, being a founding member of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and serving on the State of Colorado's Interbasin Compact Committee. I have owned water rights in the North Fork Valley for years and am always interested in helping with solutions to the challenges we face. I look forward to working with you in the future!

Yes, we want to reach out to newcomers, but we also need to make sure everyone, including those of us that have been here for a long time, work together for effective solutions. The demands for our water continually increase, not only in quantity and quality, but also in new uses. The ways in which we use our water most effectively become more critical not only as our local population increases, but as the population of Colorado's Front Range and the Lower Colorado River Basin increase.

2. Many groups and many programs are working creatively within Colorado water law to protect our water resources.

The Colorado River Water Conservancy District, based in Glenwood Springs, continually works with entities throughout the Colorado River Basin and on the Front Range of Colorado to represent our interests here in west central Colorado. The Colorado Water Conservation Board holds many in-stream flow rights in order to take care of our lakes and streams. Several agreements have recently been put in place to limit the amount of water that can be diverted from our streams to the eastern slope.

And, as we all know, particularly this year, drought is a challenge! We must never let our guard down when establishing and maintaining projects from community parks to forest health to ensure that our watersheds are protected!

## COLORADO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 26



**Nicki Mills**

Republican Party  
Eagle

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. An important role of any elected leader is to educate and advocate about important issues and policies. Another role is to listen and support important organizations working to protect our quality of life. I will listen to advice and use the communication tools of an elected representative to advocate for sound water conservation policies.

Water is critical to the Western Slope. Many people live here and move here to participate in water dependent activities like skiing, fishing, rafting, and agriculture.

As I seek my first term as your state representative, I believe it is important to educate Coloradans to understand that "water" is the new oil and how to treat it as a scarce resource. We need to approach conversations around water policies with what we have learned with oil and natural gas over the last 50 years.

2. "We may all need to learn rain dances to restore the watersheds that serve our communities." Seriously, we do need to come together as a community to protect our watershed districts. We need to have responsible conservation strategies and be open-minded to create new water storage. Solving our water problems will require awareness and consensus of all users.

Effective conservation techniques should be considered. I am in favor of common sense methods for large and small scale users. We should consider sustainability and conservation techniques that are being adopted throughout Colorado, the US and the world. Without changes in weather patterns, we need to increase efficiency and embrace reductions in all uses of water. Education of users and the broader community is very important.

I look forward to gathering input and working with The Roaring Fork Conservancy to address these challenges. I will be a staunch defender of the water needs of House District 26, Eagle and Routt County. The Roaring Fork watershed district includes El Jebel and Basalt in Eagle County.

## COLORADO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 26



**Dylan Roberts**

Democratic Party  
Avon

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Our state's population growth is no secret and we always hear about how this growth is impacting issues such as housing, transportation, education and more. Unfortunately, our water supply is hardly ever a part of that conversation. It should be.

There is more that needs to be done to educate these new Coloradans about our water resources. First, we can use the unfortunate events like the Lake Christine Fire and other fires to highlight how dry our state can become and how water or the lack of water interplays with these forest fires. By connecting water issues to these fires we can both prevent future fires as well as conduct important education. Second, lawmakers and public officials have a responsibility to be educated about water policy and support efforts to conserve and protect Colorado's water. I have had the privilege of serving on the House Agriculture Committee which hears all water-related legislation as well as on the Water Resources Review Committee. I am always looking for ways to pass on the information I gain from these positions to my constituents at town halls and other public forums. Thirdly, as government officials, we must continue to support non-profit and community organizations that do this important water education every day because it is groups like the RFC that are doing this hard work and doing it well. I look forward to continuing to support your work and the work of similar organizations across my district and the state.

2. As an attorney who has studied Colorado water law extensively, I am personally aware of the unique system we have in Colorado. Our Colorado water law must be protected and honored but I believe there are also ways to do that while also protecting our rivers and water supply over the coming years.

First, we must seek to crack-down on abusive practices that threaten our clean water. For example, spills from hard-rock mines especially threaten Western Slope water supplies and there are changes that can be made in state law to protect against those spills as well as ensure that taxpayers are not left on the hook for the cleanup if a mining company does cause a spill. I wrote a bill to do exactly that last year (HB18-1301) and will continue to work on this issue. Second, there are several legislative pilot programs that have been passed and/or are being considered to embrace innovative deficit irrigation programs that will conserve a significant amount of water during drought years while not harming anyone's water right. Finally, we must do more to incentivize the growing metro region to conserve more municipal water so that our Western Slope rivers are never threatened by further diversion to the Front Range. I was proud to co-sponsor several bills last session that promoted conservation and I will continue to support further efforts for municipal conservation at the Capitol.

## COLORADO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 57



**Colin Wilhelm**  
Democratic Party  
Glenwood Springs

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Protecting the waterways of the Western Slope is a vital issue. Our waterways are all interconnected. Our waterways supply our drinking water, our agricultural water and our summer fun. We must fight to protect this precious resource. Many people who move here see our rivers and believe we have a surplus of excess water. However, amid a major drought, how do we know this water is "surplus"? We must work with our conservation organizations to put on forums and produce literature that will inform new residents of the importance of our waterways.

2. Currently, our rivers are in danger. The White River has an algae bloom at its headwaters, there is a proposal to divert a huge amount of water to the Front Range from the Green River and we are in the middle of a 20-year drought. Due to the dry winter that we experienced this year, we are headed into a potentially bad summer in terms of water levels. The federal government has allocated funds to study the algae bloom in the White River. It is unlikely that there is a single cause of the algae bloom; it is more likely that there are multiple causes that will require your state government's action act to correct. The state will need to step up and invest more money and action to prevent and mitigate any algae growth and damages while making sure that it does not reach the Colorado.

## COLORADO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 61



**Mike Mason**  
Republican Party  
Cedaredge

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Gunnison & Pitkin

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Someone who just visits and services are supplied will hardly appreciate how valued and scarce water can be. He might notice the lack of snow and resulting poor skiing conditions though. In an agricultural county which part of Pitkin Gunnison and Delta are, just try to buy irrigation water this year. No agriculture holder is selling at any price. Farms are shutting down, fields are dried up, the price of Alfalfa and Hay have doubled and are being shipped in from as far away as Texas. Cities throughout the region have water restrictions in place. From the Aspen Times:

For the first time in history, the city of Aspen has declared a stage 2 water shortage..

A very poor shortened ski season has also happened. No water no skiing no fun. There were droughts in 2002 not as bad and 1977 much worse than this year. Droughts follow cycles in the weather called El Ninos which divert rain, snow and some tourists away from us.

2. We already cloud seed, but so far it seems to be beyond our technology to change the pattern of the jet stream that causes droughts. Since we can't create more water the solution through out the west has been the construction of massive reservoirs to collect water in wet years. Though I do not know of any significant undeveloped sites in Pitkin county, which leaves only conservation. And that is what communities are doing right now.

## EAGLE COUNTY COMMISSIONER



**Jeanne McQueeney**

Democratic Party  
Eagle

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Residents, businesses, and government must model water conservation initiatives and strategies for newcomers and visitors alike.

The Eagle County Climate Action Plan provides a policy blueprint and strategic plan to effectively address water challenges. This comprehensive initiative includes a robust education and outreach committee that, among many things, promotes water conservation.

Collaboration and partnerships are effective ways to reach key stakeholders. Reductions in outdoor water use will conserve the most water. Promoting, encouraging and integrating xeriscape landscaping will significantly reduce our water consumption. Eagle County continues to support the work of the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension office. CSU offers education, support, demonstration xeriscape gardens. Many part-time residents utilize local landscaping businesses to maintain their property while they are out of town. CSU effectively partners with Eagle County's landscape businesses and the result is that part-time residents enjoy their beautiful landscape while their landscapers utilize the water conservation techniques.

Water providers have tools in metering and pricing that help educate the public about their water consumption. For example, The Eagle River Water and Sanitation District (ERWSD) has initiated efforts for our community to reduce outdoor water consumption by 25%. Water bills from ERWSD allow recipients to compare year to year and month to month water use. ERWSD has implemented a system of warnings and fines towards excessive water users. Their tiered approach provides 1:1 opportunities for dialog and education before fines are levied.

The Eagle River Watershed Council provides regular public education opportunities to the community. They provide a first-hand understanding of our rivers to hundreds annually through the Eagle River Clean-up. Not only do these volunteers contribute to river health through the clean-up, but each

(1. continued) volunteer becomes a vocal water advocate to visitors, residents and guests.

2. There is little more important to a community's prosperity than water. I am thankful to be a part of a community that values protecting our water sources from pollution and over use as well as from diversions away from our community. Eagle County commissioners have a seat at the table whenever water protection and use are being discussed. We are members of the Colorado Basin Round Table, the Rudi Reservoir Water and Power Authority, Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the NWCCOG Quality/Quantity Committee.

One key partner in collaboration with Eagle County is the Eagle River Watershed Council. Eagle County is proud to be one of their funding partners. The Watershed Council monitors our river and stream health. The Watershed Council employs and contracts with highly regarded experts that fully understand Colorado water laws and guide and recommend science-based policies and strategies to maintain the health of the rivers and streams.

The Climate Action Plan has specific goals to promote and incentivize efficient water use for both residential and commercial buildings. Additionally, Eagle County is currently undergoing a re-write of our land use codes. One of the goals for the re-write is to have codes that provide a stronger link between water use and land use planning.

Balancing the varied priorities for water consumption between household, agriculture and recreation usage is complex. In times of drought, collaboration between all users will provide lasting, creative and win-win solutions. Eagle County is fortunate to have a strong history and focus on collaboration.

## EAGLE COUNTY COMMISSIONER



**Jacqueline Cartier**

Republican Party  
Vail

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Eagle

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. When living in a more urban setting, wildlife is something you visit at the zoo, water comes from the tap, and groceries from the market. A move to the mountains takes a person from being an observer of nature to an integral and active member of it. It's not just a physical move, it is a cultural one.

People go from simply being consumers of water, to guardians of it. There is a greater sense of being caretakers of habitats, and all that comes with it, including fire mitigation, protectors of animal and fauna species, and living with wildlife. Our sense of adventure takes us outdoors more, and thus we develop a more abundant awareness of the synergy of life and our impact on it.

Conservation of water includes, of course, the amount of use, but also how we protect our rivers and how that impacts habitat sustainability, including vegetation, ranching, development, wildlife survival (mammals, plants, birds, fish), and even recreation. We see its effects upfront; it's personal to us.

The most efficient way to increase awareness is to incorporate this education on the school level, with both classroom presentations, but also visits and perhaps have schools adopt certain areas of engagement along the rivers. Children have a way of bringing their excitement home and sharing with families.

I would love to see something like the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) developed in the Eagle Valley portion of Eagle County. What better way to teach about the fragility of our ecosystem than with a fun, family-centered program, which is a microcosm of our greater environment?

People who decide on a change of lifestyle, are often committed to integrating local customs, and when they experience water conservation as an important, joyful, and responsible way of mountain life, they will gladly participate.

2. When we speak of state laws, they are designed to be all-inclusive, which sometimes runs counter to local or individual needs. When we become aware of how integrated our entire environmental structure is, we can see ways of conservation that may not be readily visible to those on the front range, who are making decisions. The various districts provide local input, but a state must establish laws that apply to everyone, exceptions might be interpreted as special considerations to particular groups, so they must remain generic, yet the needs are highly personal to those who live here.

A foundation of my platform is the inclusion of various groups, who are living critical issues on a daily basis. They offer a perspective to these significant concerns, which are not readily available in research studies. No matter how detailed, nothing speaks to an essential need, like water, than someone whose livelihood depends on it. Frequently, they can offer solutions which may not even occur to others because they have evaluated each state law and regional jurisdiction's implementation and can see options which uniquely address local concerns. Commissioners can provide the variables of a wider framework for the execution of specific ideas. There are no instant answers, but the people I serve have far greater experience than I do, in addressing water and related environmental matters.

## GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER



**Paula Stepp**  
Democratic Party  
Glenwood Springs

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. Educating newcomers and part-time residents about limited water resources is best through community interaction. Good strategies and tactics include:

- Default choices for water conserving products and services
- Relevant and simple feedback about home usage
- Letting users know their neighbors are conserving
- Cost incentives to save water
- Disincentives for water usage

Create good neighbor competitions to highlight neighborhoods that use less water. By making the people in our communities the bearers of this information, newcomers will more likely embrace and be a part of this water-saving attitude.

Start early by using our schools. All grade levels need curriculum to include information about our water history and its impact on agriculture, mining, industry and recreation. Create engaging water film festivals to travel the state. Numerous outdoor recreation film festivals overlap outdoor activities and taking care of our natural resources.

Use traditional and social media to make people aware of Colorado's climate and how precious water is. Messages through newspapers, TV, radio and social media all work well when organized as a targeted campaign.

Get our real estate community involved in sharing why there are limits on water, so our new neighbors understand the trends to xeriscaping and plumbing features that have low water usage.

Create citizen groups to take ownership of water issues through community workshops on how to use less water. Encourage xeriscaping through incentive programs on creating green spaces that use

(1. continued) native species to our climate. When community is engaged in the cause, limiting water usage becomes the norm.

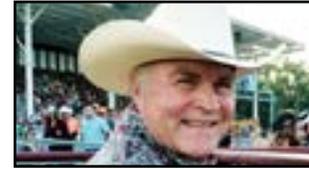
2. Water use in Colorado is a balancing act. Water from Western Slope headwaters are shared on both sides of the Continental Divide. Our water availability is determined by our arid climate, senior water rights and the 1922 Colorado River Compact made by seven western states and Mexico. It is important we do what we can to protect senior calls that help safeguard Western Slope water and to maintain our water "bank account" in Lake Powell.

The history of Colorado water law has allowed the state to manage water usage and sharing of water based on priorities and availability. Whether we are considering agriculture or industry, our towns or fish and wildlife, our homes or outdoor recreation, water law allows for some flexibility based on urgency.

We continue to face the challenge of reserving water for tomorrow. We need to work together to increase awareness of water availability. Senior water right users need flexibility and appropriate compensation to share this natural resource during shortages without giving away seniority. We need to define industry water requirements so we have a projection of water need. New developments need to prove water is availability. Additional storage is an option to consider where it is appropriate.

The Colorado State Demographer estimates that Garfield County could grow to 80,000 citizens by 2030. With these kinds of projections and our repetitive drought years, we need to be proactive. Thinking "Water First" in all our community and business activities will be the motto that drives a new awareness.

## GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER



**Tom Jankovsky**  
Republican Party  
Glenwood Springs

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Garfield

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

#### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. My first response was some type of media campaign. After further thought I believe this responsibility falls to the water suppliers, such as municipalities, water and sanitation districts, HOAs, etc. For rural residents on wells that require augmentation plans, that education may come from County Community Development departments or the State of Colorado.

2. I don't believe water law was designed for creativity. The priority doctrine stands, that the allocation of water rights rests upon the fundamental principle of first in time, first in right. There are many communities with different values: the agricultural community, recreational users, the fishing community, the municipal communities and the business community. The creativity comes into play when all these groups can work towards the common good. I believe the Colorado River District, the Colorado Round Table, water conservation and conservancy districts as well as ditch companies, soil conservation districts as well as East Slope water users need to be the leaders in discussions concerning the future of water use in Colorado River Basin.

PITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER



**Patti Clapper**  
Democratic Party  
Aspen

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Pitkin

ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. We know that people are moving to the Roaring Fork Valley from wetter/coastal areas and that they may not understand Colorado water law. Even more is that they may not know the scarcity and vulnerability of our local water resources. It is of greatest importance that we educate our new and part time residents but that we educate ALL of our residents. Therefore, it would be of great value to have an ongoing water education program providing learning opportunities for Roaring Fork Valley residents, visitors, and guests. That being said, perhaps the best way to educate new and part-time residents is to provide water resource information to real estate, property management, landscape, and irrigation companies. Of note is that for the past few years the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Program has been sponsoring a local high school water education program. This program has attracted attention beyond our valley; to the regional, state, and national levels. Students select and research a specific water topic. The students then present their topics at local and regional public forums. The passion and commitment of these students to our local water resource issues is contagious. What better way to teach the older generations than through the eyes (and brains) of the younger generations?

2. It is important to eliminate the tension between competing community water related values. There is, as there has always been, a difference between water users...agriculture, recreational, domestic, and other uses/users. It is of greatest importance that we recognize, support, and protect environmental (river/stream) flows and riparian ecology. If anything we can do in order to work creatively within Colorado water law is to work creatively with water rights holders. As to what we can do and should do in order to protect our local rivers/streams and our water resources in general is to promote conservation. Conservation is the easiest thing to do within water law albeit it is perhaps the least "sexy" thing to do. Bottom line is that what we need to do and what we must continue to do is to provide water related education opportunities to ALL Roaring Fork Valley residents and water users. And perhaps even more important is that we make any/every effort to help people change their habits as to how, why, when, and where they use our most important Valley resource...our water.

PITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER



**Rob Ittner**  
Unaffiliated  
Aspen

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Pitkin

ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?
2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. We live in one of the biggest and most important watersheds in the country, and we need to be leaders in protecting the headwaters that feed close to 30 million people downstream. The threats and concerns are clear, as population grows here in Pitkin County, and with growth to down river users of the water, as well as, the continuing threat of more diversion to the East. The demand and stress on our watershed grows with these concerns.

We need to offset that demand with education on the importance of conservation and rewards for such conservation. Local and states governments need to work together in efforts to reduce demand of water usage with existing land use and new permits. A mind set of water rights being use it or lose it needs to be changed. People would like to grab as much water rights as they can for fear of losing them. As a community we need to not only educate that such mentality is not good for everyone but find legislative ways to reward conservation actions.

It's time to act with more aggressive regulation on conserving water. Controlled growth is a necessity here in Pitkin County and part of the solution is to offset the threats to our watershed. In addition, the development that is approved in the years to come should

(1. continued) be rewarded for water conservation measures. Measures such as low water use landscaping, usage that is below current allowable levels, low water usage fixtures in new development.

2. Open conversation and community involvement! We need to continue the conversation and realize that we all benefit from protecting our watershed.

We also have to help define and shape that community value. I believe our values are in the surroundings that we live in here. The connection that we share with this majestic landscape around us. We need honor that connection with outreach before it is lost. Saving our snow and being a voice to the world is how we honor it. I would love to see our community act locally and globally on the preservation of our water and environment.

Lastly, I would like to express my shared belief with the Roaring Fork Conservancy as stated in the Roaring Fork Watershed plan "watershed management regime is as much an economic decision as an environmental one." People come to this county and live here because of our environment. Its protection is in everyone's interest.

## GUNNISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER



### **Rolund Mason**

Democratic Party  
Crested Butte

**RFW Counties Eligible to Vote on this Race:**  
Gunnison

### ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY QUESTIONS

1. With state and local populations predicted to continue to increase, we are seeing many people move here from much wetter/coastal areas. How can we educate the new or part-time resident about Colorado water as a scarce resource?

2. How can we work creatively within Colorado water law to honor community values and protect local rivers and water resources - especially in drought years?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

1. I believe the educational information needs to be a tiered approach starting at the state level and working down to the community they move into. The State should make available information regarding its overall water policies. Each County should make their regulations and policies readily available on their website and social media platforms. If moving into a municipality, it should be the responsibility of that municipality to post the local regulations and philosophies regarding water conservation in the local media and on their websites. I also believe an outreach program can be initiated with the real estate community. They are the direct link between a new arrival into our state and the community they work in. This could be a direct way to get relevant water information to a new buyer/renter.

2. We should continue to host round table discussions with all the key interest groups. Community priorities around water use differ from one community to another, but protection and conservation is something we all agree on. Colorado water law is complex and I am not in a position to speak to its intricacies. I can say that I am in favor of actions that will help keep water availability in our Colorado communities. One example of this in Gunnison County is the support of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, a non profit organization that monitors water quality and stream flows in the Coal Creek Watershed.

After several attempts to contact candidates via email, phone, and Facebook over a three week period, we did not receive comments from the following candidates:

#### **U.S. House of Representatives District 2**

Joe Neguse, & Nick Thomas

#### **U.S. House of Representatives District 3**

Scott Tipton, Gaylon Kent, Bruce Lohmiller, & Gary Swing

#### **Colorado State House of Representatives District 26**

Luke Bray

#### **Colorado State House of Representatives District 57**

Bob Rankin

#### **Colorado State House of Representatives District 61**

Julie McCluskie

#### **Gunnison County Commissioner District 3**

Bob Schutt

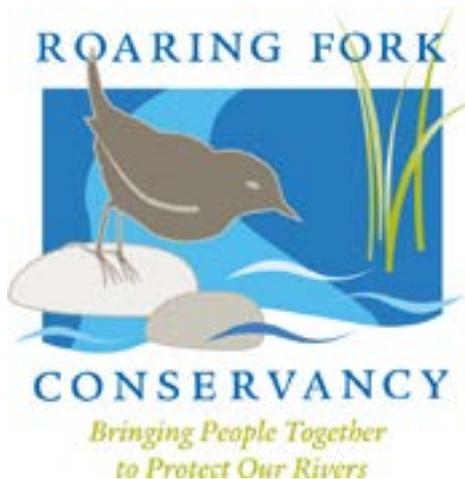
If you would like to have seen these candidates' responses to our questions, please let them know so as to encourage participation in future Voters' Guides.

*CORRECTION (10/15/18): RFC apologizes for incorrectly listing Rob Ittner as a Republican candidate in the first version of the Voters' Guide. He is Unaffiliated and that correction was made in this version.*

Since 1996, Roaring Fork Conservancy has inspired people to explore, value, and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. We bring people together to protect our rivers and work to keep water in the streams, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat. As one of the largest watershed organizations in Colorado, Roaring Fork Conservancy serves residents and visitors throughout the Roaring Fork Valley through school and community based Watershed Education programs and Watershed Action projects, including regional watershed planning, water resource policy, and stream management and restoration initiatives.

Roaring Fork Conservancy is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization registered in the state of Colorado.

For more information about RFC, please visit  
**[www.roaringfork.org](http://www.roaringfork.org)**



Please reuse this guide by passing it on to another voter, and recycle it after the election!