

RIO GRANDE STATE OF THE BASIN SYMPOSIUM

“Seeking Tomorrow’s Wisdom”

March 29, 2025

Richardson Hall, Adams State University



- 8:00-8:30 Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:30-9:00 Welcome and Introductions**
Welcome: David Tandberg, PhD—President, Adams State University and Ken Salazar, Former Colorado State Attorney General, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico
Introduction: Paul Formisano, PhD—Director, Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center
- 9:00-9:30 Rio Grande River Update**
Kevin Boyle—Assistant Division Engineer, CO Division of Water Resources
Pat McDermott—Staff Engineer, CO Division of Water Resources
Darin Schepp—Assistant Division Engineer, CO Division of Water Resources
- 9:30-10:00 Colorado Climate Update**
Russ Schumacher, PhD—Colorado State Climatologist
- 10:00-10:15 Break**
- 10:15-11:15 Building Resilient Forests**
Moderator: Christi Bode—Project Coordinator-2-3-2 Partnership, Forest Stewards Guild
Daniel Denipah—Director of Forestry, Santa Clara Pueblo
Adam Moore—Supervisory Forester, Colorado State Forest Service
Lindsay Quam—Deputy Director and Tribal Liaison, New Mexico Forestry Division
Dan Dallas—Director of Renewable Resources, Rocky Mountain Region 2, USFS and Former Forest Supervisor, Rio Grande National Forest
- 11:15-12:00 SLV Economic Impact Report**
Heather Dutton—Manager, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
Emily Wolf—Rio Grande Coordinator, American Rivers
Claire Sheridan—Senior Economist, One Water Econ
- 12:00-12:10 Break and Relocate to Student Union Building (SUB) Banquet Room**
- 12:10-1:15 Luncheon and Future Producer’s Panel**
Moderators: Bethany Howell—Director of Strategic Outreach and Engagement, Colorado Department of Agriculture and Robert Sakata—Agriculture Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture
ASU Students

1:15-1:30 **Return to Richardson Hall**

1:30-2:15 **Building Healthy Soils**

Moderator: Madeline Wilson—Extension Area Specialist, CSU Extension
John Rizza—Western Slope Soil Health Coordinator, CO Department of Agriculture
Michael Jones—Jones Family Organics

2:15-2:45 **Emerging Technologies in Understanding Our Snowpack**

Erik Skeie—Special Projects Coordinator, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Nathan Coombs—Manager, Conejos Water Conservancy District and Chair, Colorado
Water Conservation Board

2:45-3:20 **Building a Community of Collaboration**

Amber Pacheco—Deputy General Manager, Rio Grande Water Conservation District and
Chair, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable

3:20-3:45 **Break**

3:45-5:00 **Keynote Address**

Kevin Fedarko, author of *A Walk in the Park* and *The Emerald Mile*

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

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The Outcalt Foundation



*"Enhancing and Protecting the Water Rights of the
Citizens of the San Luis Valley Who Reside Within the
Boundaries of the District"*

