

Montana Water Summit

Water in a Changing West

March 6 – 7, 2018

Radisson Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT

Draft Agenda – Still under construction

The 2018 Montana Water Summit, “Water in a Changing West,” will convene diverse stakeholders involved in water management, policy, research and practice – from legislators to landowners – to discuss some of the most-pressing current and future challenges with Montana’s water quality and quantity.

Through a blend of keynote presentations and moderated panel discussions, the conference is designed to provide ample opportunities for audience interaction, interdisciplinary discussion, networking and solution-driven thinking.

The two-day Summit will highlight impacts to the state’s water resources identified in the just-released Montana Climate Assessment while also focusing on how population growth and a shifting economy influence water in Montana now and into the future.

Pre-Summit Gathering - Monday, March 5

5 – 8p.m. Arriving early? Join us for a casual, no-host reception at [Ten Mile Creek Brewing](#) (48 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena). Light appetizers provided.

Day 1 – Tuesday, March 6

Water in the West: Setting the stage and examining impacts to Montana’s water quality and quantity from a changing climate and increased population growth and development

8:30-9:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks:
- *DNRC and MT Water Center*
- *Lt. Governor Mike Cooney, Chair of the Governor’s Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee*
- *Tribal Welcome, Role of water in native culture, tradition & history*

9:15-10 Visiting Speaker: *Professor Leon Szeptycki, Director of Stanford’s Water in the West program*

10-10:30 Water and Climate: *Marco Maneta, Associate Professor of Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling, University of Montana*

10:30 – 10:50 *Break*

10:50 – 11:20 Water and the Economy

11:20 – 11:45 Moderated Q&A and Discussion – *all morning speakers*

11:45 - 12 *Break (for lunch set-up)*

12:00 – 1:30 *Lunch* and [Great Water Conversations](#) – A special topics lunch (all about water) at your choice of round table. Each table will be hosted by a different subject matter expert including conference speakers.

Water Policy Deep Dive: Analyzing Montana water policy history and future as told by former legislators; realizing the role of water and water policy in shaping growth and development; and examining statewide challenges and regional water policy innovation at the water quality/quantity nexus

1:30 – 1:45 Milestones in Montana Water Policy - *John Tubbs, Director, MT DNRC*

1:45 – 3 **Panel: Past policymakers recount their roles in shaping Montana water policy**, share their thoughts on where we’re going, and provide advice to current policy-makers.
Featuring former legislators: *Dorothy Bradley, Steve Doherty, Lorents Grosfield, and Chas Vincent*

3 – 3:20 *Break*

3:20 – 4:35 **Panel: Bridging the divide between water quality and quantity** – Challenges in Montana and stories of innovation in policy and management from across the West.
Visiting Speaker: *Adam Schempp, Senior Attorney and Director of the Western Water Program at the Environmental Law Institute and Tim Davis, Water Quality Division Administrator at MT DEQ.*
Moderator: *Sarah Bates, Regional Deputy Director and Senior Director, Western Water Program, National Wildlife Federation.*

4:35 – 5 Moderated Q&A and Discussion – *all afternoon speakers*

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Insert Fun Here: Evening event with live music

6:00 – 10 Heavy hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar, lively conversation, and live music by Helena's-own Dogjam!

Day 2 – Wednesday, March 7

Adaptation and the Way Forward: An interactive session and workshop led by EcoAdapt plus inspirational stories of local and regional adaptation efforts

8 – 8:15 Morning welcome

8:15 – 8:45 Visiting Speaker: *Lara J. Hansen, Chief Scientist and Executive Director of EcoAdapt*

8:45 – 10:15 **Adaptation Vignettes:** Short stories from fellow Montanans of water resource challenges brought on by climate and growth – and the innovative ways they're dealing with those challenges. *Mike Gaffke, President, Association of Gallatin Area Irrigators (AGAI); Kevin Hyde, Montana Mesonet Coordinator, Montana Climate Office; Brant Oswald, Board President, Flyfishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM), others TBD.*

10:15 – 10:35 Break

10:35 – 12 **Panel: Does water efficiency equal water conservation? It's complicated:** A multi-disciplinary examination of a commonly misunderstood adaptation strategy from science, policy, management, and on-the-ground lenses.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:10 – 2:30 Montana Adaptation Workshop – Integrated small group discussion about adaptation, barriers to adaptation, and moving closer to actionable solutions across water use sectors and at multiple scales.

2:30 – 3:15 **Adaptation Innovation Vignettes:** Innovative adaptation ideas that we might consider at a larger scale in Montana.

3:15 – 3:30 Wrap-up: Bringing it all together and moving toward Montana's water future