Tom Cech
Director

One World One Water (OWOW) Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship

Metropolitan State University of Denver
Denver, Colorado, U.S.
What Are We Going to Talk About Today:

1. One World One Water (OWOW) Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship
2. Water Studies Minor at MSU Denver
3. Water History of Ancient Cultures
4. Water History of Colorado
5. Future Water Supply Issues in Colorado
Fort Collins, Colorado
Denver, Colorado
Outdoor Colorado
Metropolitan State University of Denver

40,000 students on Auraria campus

157 acre campus at Speer Blvd.

Established in 1965
One World One Water (OWOW) Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship

Three goals:
* Establish a Water Studies minor for all students and departments at MSU Denver;
* Develop “Water Stewards” on and beyond the Auraria Campus; and
* Provide experiential opportunities for students
Water Essentials

Introduction to Water Law and Administration

Water Conflict Resolution

Multicultural Water Issues

Electives

Internship/Capstone Project

18 credit hours
If a man has released waters and so has let the water carry away the works on his neighbor’s field, he shall pay 10 gur of corn for every bur (of land) flooded.
I.

Cross-section of a qanat
Interior of a qanat
The Water Court (Tribunal de Las Aquas) has been sitting in the Cathedral of Valencia, Spain, since 961, every Thursday at 11 AM, to resolve farm border, irrigation and other water-related disputes between local farmers.

The seven members are elected by local farmers and the hearings are held without oaths, written records or lawyers. The Court sits on a circular velvet couch to listen and render judgment in the local Valencia dialect. The Court was created by Moorish farmers.
Tin Mining in the United Kingdom
1300 A.D.

This etching shows the removal of overburden and the washing away of unwanted gravel to separate out the heavier tin ore.

Leats (canals) were used to divert water to tin-rich regions away from streams.

http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/flyingpast/streams.html
1859 – Gold Rush in Colorado

1876 – Colorado becomes a state, and a strict Doctrine of Prior Appropriation is adopted, an Innovative idea for its time.
Hundreds of irrigation ditches (canals) were constructed between 1860-1890 along the South Platte River and across Colorado.

Under the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation, irrigation ditches received a river diversion priority date, such as May 2, 1863 for 75 cubic feet/second. Wells received no priority date.
Settlers in Oklahoma – 1890s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5kHdhithds
Good Precipitation (rain) in Oklahoma – 1900 - 1930
Dust Bowl in Oklahoma – 1930s

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=grapes+of+wrath+dust+storm&&view=detail
&mid=85FCF6A20B14ABE4753B85FCF6A20B14ABE4753B&&FORM=VDRVRV
Dust Bowl in Oklahoma – 1930s

Grapes of Wrath Movie, John Steinbeck

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=grapes+of+wrath+crawlers+house&&view=detail&mid=8003C042E13F0ACE01788003C042E13F0ACE0178&&FORM=VRDGAR
Average Annual Precipitation in the Conterminous United States: 1961-1990
South Platte River Basin Facts

Colorado Population – 5.0 million
2030 projection – 7.1 million
Denver Metro Population – 2.4 million
(30% growth since 1990)
Denver projected
2030 projection – 3.9 million

Water shortfall by 2030 in the South Platte Basin
410,000 acre-feet (134 billion gallons)
Acres of irrigated land expected to be dried up by
2030 in the South Platte Basin –
133,000 – 226,000 acres
Aurora’s Prairie Waters Pipeline
City of Greeley Water Pipeline
Proposed Flaming Gorge Water Pipeline

Flaming Gorge in Wyoming
1 million people moving to Denver by 2030

Where will the water come from?
Information:

Tom Cech

tcech@msudenver.edu