

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

Rivers are a lifeline for any society. Population growth, conflicting demands for resources, and the unpredictable nature of a changing climate have all impacted how and where our western waters are used. For example, the Colorado River has changed so significantly in the last 50 years that it doesn't even reach the sea anymore.

What are the things that have most changed the flow and uses of the Platte and Colorado River in the past? How has the river been impacted by human use in the past? How will the river impact humans in the future? Use available resources to help demonstrate how a changing world will impact the volume, flow and uses of the river in the future.

Presentation: You will present your findings related to the changing nature of your river to an audience of interested community members. The Platte River focus groups will present on Sept. 28. The Colorado River focus groups will present on Sept. 29.

Final Product:

Platte River: Write a letter to your grandchildren explaining what the North Platte watershed will look like when they inherit it.

Focus: voice and audience

Colorado River: Address final paper toward who or what is most affected by the current status of the Colorado River: (Either human or critter or otherwise . . .)

Consider: *Why I chose you; what your future looks like; what possibly can be done to take better care of you or get you back to an environment when you thrived.*

Focus: voice and audience

Readings:

First Along the River (excerpts/chapters) by Benjamin Klein [all]

When the Rivers Run Dry (Chapter 1 and Chapter 22) by Fred Pearce [all]

J.W. Powell writings on the Colorado River [10th & 11th]

J.C. Fremont's & C. Preuss journals [all]

Governor Mead's Water Strategy Plan [9th]

What You See in Clear Water (excerpts/chapters) by Geoff O'Gara [all]