

## **Bart Miller** **Healthy Rivers Director**



Bart Miller is the healthy rivers director at Western Resource Advocates (WRA). Leading his multi-state team of water experts, Miller emphasizes preserving healthy ecosystems and ensuring recreation values while improving the efficiency of meeting the needs of farms, industry, and communities in the seven Western states the organization serves.

With climate change the biggest threat to maintaining and creating healthy rivers and streams, Miller manages experts in each respective state to enact policy and build coalitions around: recovering endangered species; preserving water rights for rivers; creating long-lasting opportunities for boaters and anglers; and more.

Miller's passion for preserving these natural lands and resources didn't happen overnight. In fact, it took closer to six months. While hiking the Continental Divide

Trail from Mexico to Canada after college, Miller witnessed first-hand how lands and rivers were being used. He saw everything from small towns and wilderness to mining and ranching to fishing and tree-cutting.

After this, law school ignited a passion for water law and Miller's future was set. He began his career at the U.S. Department of the Interior, working in the Solicitor's Office in Washington, D.C. After not too long, he returned to his home state of Colorado, where he joined WRA in 2000.

During his time at WRA, Miller has been instrumental in enacting creative solutions to deeply complex challenges. Among them, Miller helped legalize the use of rain barrels to harvest rainwater, design water pricing to incentivize conservation, and direct millions of dollars toward more environmental and recreational water projects.

He also led a coalition of groups that helped to shape Colorado's first water plan, which was finalized in 2015. One of his favorite work memories includes securing flows for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Years ago, the Park lacked its own water rights, leaving it and its watersheds in the "shallow end," particularly during dry years. Thanks in large part to his leadership, the park now boasts its own water rights. It's now ensured that the ecosystem in the park and the Gunnison River below has the water flow it needs, for both healthy habitats and recreational opportunities, in perpetuity.

Miller relishes opportunities to build alliances and create common-sense programs and policies that ensure healthy rivers and streams, while supporting residents of Western states in making smart use of this vital resource that so many take for granted.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Miller went on to earn a law degree from the University of Colorado. He has served on the City of Boulder Water Resource Advisory Board, as well as the board of Rocky Mountain Wild.

He's grateful to live, with his wife, in his hometown of Boulder. He enjoys singing, salsa dancing, and being outdoors year-round to hike, bike, backpack, and cross-country ski.

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