



Media Contact:

David Marks
dmarks@outreachstrategies.com
202-507-4840

Charting New Waters Forum Series Launched in Colorado

*Will focus on regional innovations and successes
to inform national freshwater policy*

DENVER (October 18, 2011) – Today, [Charting New Waters](#), an alliance of leading organizations calling for action to avert a looming U.S. freshwater crisis, is convening the Colorado Regional Freshwater Forum, an event bringing together experts to examine freshwater challenges, successes, innovations and potential solutions that can bridge geographies and inform national policy.

More than 100 participants representing diverse interests in Colorado, as well as national interests, will attend the Forum. By directly engaging top water experts and “on-the-ground” stakeholders in dialogue about regional freshwater challenges, the Colorado Regional Freshwater Forum will highlight ways in which Colorado’s experience with developing solutions to complex freshwater challenges can inform problem-solving in other regions of the U.S. and the nation. Colorado is the first in a series of Charting New Waters forums across the country.

“This new Forum series is all about exploring how other parts of the country are developing innovative solutions to overcome our complex freshwater challenges and highlighting these regional discoveries and insights,” said Lynn Broaddus, Director, Environment Programs at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. “We’re bringing together the best and brightest to demonstrate that there is a diverse set of stakeholders eager to explore Colorado’s experiences and how they apply to problem-solving strategies in order to improve our nation’s freshwater policy.”

Charting New Waters is moving into a significant new phase by launching the forum series and reaching out to more stakeholders and local communities. To support this effort, Charting New Waters will organize more regional forums across the nation to create better awareness of freshwater challenges and showcase real solutions.

The key challenges that will be tackled during the Colorado Regional Freshwater Forum include balancing agricultural, municipal, industrial, and environmental water needs; enhancing water conservation through improved efficiency; and gaining traction on the water-energy nexus. Charting New Waters will be capturing key outcomes to carry forward to leaders in other regions of the U.S. as well as federal decision makers.

Charting New Waters represents more than three years of high-level engagement on freshwater issues initiated by The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. The initial phase of work led to the release of *Charting New Waters: A Call to Action to Address U.S. Freshwater Challenges*, a consensus report issued on September 15, 2010. Download the report [here](#).

Charting New Waters is composed of more than 85 organizations, including voices from business, agriculture, academia and environmental organizations that have publicly committed to improving U.S. freshwater resources by advancing the principles and recommendations of the September 2010 *Call to Action*.

Charting New Waters is actively engaging new organizations to join the coalition. If you are interested in making a commitment please [click here](#).

#

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information about Charting New Waters, or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit www.johnsonfdn.org.