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Southwest Basins Roundtable – Letter of Interest

April 1, 2025

Mr. Tolen,

I am writing to express my interest in applying for the At-Large Environmental Representative position for the Southwest Basins Roundtable.

I am the Southwest Colorado Project Manager for Trout Unlimited (TU) and have worked in conservation and water resources in our area since 2002. I served as the Soil and Water Conservationist in the Water Resources Division of the Southern Ute Tribe from 2010 through 2018. Additionally, I worked seasonally on the San Juan National Forest as a hydrologic technician from 2003-2004 and 2008-2009. I have worked on local ranches and in Wyoming as a packer, weed sprayer, and irrigator, and my family has been farming in Cherokee County, North Carolina, since the late 1700s. I still own property and maintain an interest in forestry and livestock operations on the family farm.

I maintain a proficient understanding of state, federal, and tribal water rights and the legal framework determining water rights administration in the Upper Basin. I do not own water rights or shares in a ditch, and I do not represent an agent with a Reclamation contract.

I am passionate about conservation, water use, and agricultural operations and can communicate effectively about these issues with various audiences. I am a hunter and angler and enjoy the opportunities to pursue these interests on our public lands. Much of the meat, heat, and water in my house comes from our local watersheds, and the ability to enjoy this kind of life led me to move West in the late 1990s. As the Colorado River Basin drought continues and the possibility of a call increases, I would welcome the privilege to serve my community and our region.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this position, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Chambers

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