

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

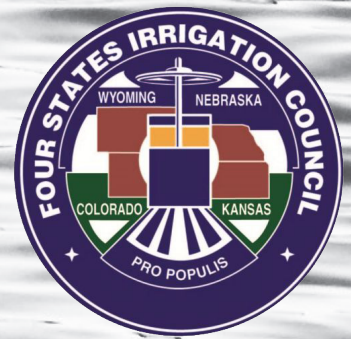
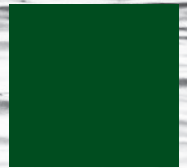
Jan. 11-12, 2023

The Hilton Fort Collins

FOUR STATES IRRIGATION COUNCIL

A forum for irrigators
in Colorado, Kansas,
Nebraska and Wyoming

4-states-irrigation.org



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 11

- 9-11 a.m. Exhibitor and Sponsor Set Up**
Coffee and pastries available.
- 9 a.m. Optional Tour of the Environmental Learning Center Flow Restoration Project**
• Bernadette Kuhn, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas
- 11:30 a.m.** Board meeting for Four States Irrigation Council directors in CSU Presidents Room.
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch On Your Own**
The Hilton has a grill on site.
- 1 p.m. Construction Projects**
Introductions: Steve Fletcher, Four States Irrigation Council President
• Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) – Greg Dewey, Project Manager, Northern Water
• A Case Study for Canal Automation – Pete Gile, Manager, Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District
• Automated Check Structures – Kevin Strecker, Manager, Goshen Irrigation District
- 2 p.m. History**
Introductions: Pete Gile, Kansas Director for Four States Irrigation Council
• The Ogallala Aquifer – Brownie Wilson, GIS/Support Services Manager, Kansas Geological Survey
• Fire Mountain Canal and Paonia Reservoir – Steve Fletcher, Manager, Fire Mountain Canal and Reservoir Co.
- 3 p.m. Break**
Sponsored by Pawnee Buttes Seed
- 3:30 p.m. Navigating the Colorado and Platte Rivers and Their Complexities**
Introduction: Eric Brown, At-Large Director for Four States Irrigation Council
• Kyle Whitaker, Colorado River Programs Manager, Northern Water

Thursday, Jan. 12

- 7 a.m. Full Breakfast**
- 8 a.m. Welcome and Announcements**
• Steve Fletcher, Four States Irrigation Council President
- 8:15 a.m. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Updates**
Introductions: Brent Esplin, Regional Director, Missouri Basin
• Lyle Myler, Area Manager, Wyoming Area Office
• Aaron Thompson, Area Manager, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
• Jeff Rieker, Area Manager, Eastern Colorado Area Office
- 9:30 a.m. State of the States**
Introductions: Jason Orton, Kansas Director for Four States Irrigation Council
• Jeff Cowley, Interstate Streams Administrator, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
• Jesse Bradley, Assistant Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
• Kevin Salter, Interstate Water Engineer, Kansas Division of Water Resources
• Kevin Rein, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Thursday, Jan. 12 (cont.)

- 10:45 a.m. Break**
Sponsored by International Water Screens
- 11:15 a.m. Family Farm Alliance Update**
Introduction: Kevin Strecker, Wyoming Director for Four States Irrigation Council
• Dan Keppen, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance
- 11:45 am State Caucus**
Introduction: Kevin Strecker, Wyoming Director for Four States Irrigation Council
This is an opportunity to meet with the Four States representative from your state to offer comments on current agenda topics, format and ideas for future meetings, and also discuss any other pertinent issues.
- 12 p.m. Lunch**
Sponsored by Murphy Tractor, Subsurface Inc., Control Design Inc., and SePRO
- 1:30 p.m. Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund**
Introductions: Jason Orton, Nebraska Director for Four States Irrigation Council
• Jesse Bradley, Assistant Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
• LeRoy Sievers, Attorney, Knutsen Law Firm
• Michael Placke, Senior Project Engineer, JEO Consulting Group
- 2:30 p.m. Break**
Sponsored by Alligare LLC
- 3 p.m. U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Programs**
Introductions: Marlon Duke, Assistant Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
• Honored Guest – Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior, Tanya Trujillo
• WaterSMART Funding Opportunities – Marlena Lanini and Denis Kelsch, Civil Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
• Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Shane Schieck, Program Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- 4 p.m. Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project Update**
Introduction: Eric Brown, At-Large Director for Four States Irrigation Council
• Jeremy Deuto, Project Engineer, Northern Water
- 5 p.m. Networking Reception in Atrium**
Cash bar available.
- 6 p.m. Awards Banquet Dinner**
Sponsored by Intertape Polymer Group and the Colorado Water Conservation Board
This event will feature presentations of the Headgate awards and other honors, and entertainment by internationally award-winning magician and mentalist Michael Carducci. Northern Water Public Information Officer Jeff Stahla will serve as the event's emcee.

ABOUT THE FOUR STATES IRRIGATION COUNCIL



Four States Irrigation Council, established in 1952, serves as a forum for irrigators, water district officials, irrigation and ditch company representatives and others to exchange ideas, discuss critical water-delivery and irrigation-related issues, and learn from one another. Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming are the member states.

Four States was created to provide an opportunity for its members to study challenges pertaining to the operation and maintenance of irrigation and conveyance systems, and to develop solutions. Four States promotes the wise use of the nation's water supplies, and encourages effective and diverse use of this limited resource. Improving agricultural conservation, promoting more efficient use of water, and balancing these needs with aquatic and wildlife concerns are all priorities of Four States.

Who Belongs to Four States?

Four States members include ditch and irrigation company and water district employees and board members, farmers, engineers, university professors, extension agents, government officials and others with an interest in irrigation. Four States currently has approximately 300 members. Membership is open to any person interested in irrigation system operations, irrigated agriculture and water infrastructure. There are no annual dues or fees. To become a member, simply attend one of our events, or request to be added to the Four States mailing list.

Annual Meetings

Since 1952, the Four States annual meeting has been held each January at a site selected by the board of directors, with input from membership. Costs to attend are held to a minimum to encourage as much participation as possible. Program speakers include federal and state officials, irrigation company representatives, farmers, educators and engineers. Additionally, Headgate and Ditchrider awards are presented at the annual meeting banquet. Fifty-two people attended the first meeting while as many as 200 now attend.

Summer Tours

Four States hosts a summer tour every other year on a rotating schedule to each of the four member states. The tour offers members an opportunity to view irrigation projects and infrastructure at different locations throughout the Four States area, and serves as a great networking opportunity.

Scholarship Opportunities

Four States makes available \$2,000 in scholarships to qualified undergraduate or graduate students who, among other requirements, are currently enrolled at an accredited university or college in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska or Wyoming, and are pursuing a degree in an agricultural, water or irrigation-related field.

FOUR STATES IRRIGATION COUNCIL

2022/2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Directors

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and Paonia Reservoir
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Vice President

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Middle Loup Public Power
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Nebraska Director

Jason Orton
Orton Management Associates
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Wyoming Director

Kevin Strecker
Goshen Irrigation District
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Colorado Director

Currently vacant

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Director-at-Large

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ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER BIOS

Wednesday, Jan. 11, Speakers

1 p.m. – Construction Projects

Greg Dewey, Project Manager, Northern Water

Greg is currently responsible for ditch company relations and shareholder outreach for the Northern Integrated Supply Project in northern Colorado. Greg has a diverse portfolio of technical, management and planning experience in water resources, water rights and water quality. His current work focuses on unique approaches to providing water for municipal needs while keeping agriculture in production. Greg grew up in a farming family in northeast Colorado and earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. In his 30-year career, Greg has been fortunate to work in the field of water resources for various institutions, including local, state and federal government agencies, as well as private consulting, non-profit organizations and special districts.

Pete Gile, Manager, Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District

Pete oversees operations of the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No.2 (KBID), which is a 42,500-acre surface water irrigation district, serving agricultural lands in Jewell County and Republic County in north central Kansas. It is headquartered in the town of Courtland, Kan. The district is made up of 100 miles of main canals and an additional 150 miles of lateral canals and pipelines. Kansas Bostwick was organized and incorporated in 1948. After entering into a long-term repayment contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the construction of the district at a price of \$5.5 million, KBID made its first deliveries of irrigation water to agricultural fields in 1955. In addition to his role at KBID, Pete also serves the Kansas director on the Four States Irrigation Council's board of directors.

Kevin Strecker, Manager, Goshen Irrigation District

The Goshen Irrigation District is located in Goshen County, Wyo., and began its operations in the 1920s. The district serves 52,484 acres of irrigated lands in Goshen County. In 2019, the Goshen Irrigation District faced the ultimate challenge, when a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation tunnel that services its entire district, as well as the Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District, collapsed in the height of irrigation season. Kevin – who grew up in Torrington, Wyo., working on family farms in both western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming – became manager of the Goshen Irrigation District in 2022. Kevin started at the district in 2013 as a ditchrider, and was promoted to equipment manger in 2016 and water master in 2019, before taking over as manager last year. Kevin also serves the Wyoming director on the Four States Irrigation Council's board of directors.

2 p.m. – History

Brownie Wilson, GIS/Support Services Manager, Kansas Geological Survey

Brownie graduated from Kansas State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in geography. He started his working career with the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources in 1993 as a geographic information systems (GIS) analyst. In 1999, Brownie accepted an environmental scientist position with the Kansas Water Office and in 2001 moved to the Kansas Geological Survey, where he holds his current appointment as the Geohydrology Section's GIS/support services manager. His research interests include application development and data assessment, environmental database modeling, analysis of Kansas water rights, and water resource management.

Steve Fletcher, Manager, Fire Mountain Canal and Reservoir Company

Steve was employed at Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association in Delta and Montrose counties in Colorado for 34 years. He started as a ditchrider, was a crew foreman for several years, served nine years as water master, and five years as the general manager. During this time, he was directly involved in or in charge of securing funding for piping or lining for over 140 miles of canal and laterals within the project. During his five years as manager, he helped develop and implement five hydroelectric facilities within the project. He is currently manager of the Fire Mountain Canal and Reservoir Company in Delta County, and dam tender at Paonia Reservoir. His other water-world involvement includes his current role as president for the Four States Irrigation Council's board of directors, council member for the Colorado Mesa University Water Center Advisory Council, and serving on the Gunnison Basin Round Table.

3:30 p.m. – Navigating the Colorado and Platte Rivers and Their Complexities

Kyle Whitaker, Colorado River Programs Manager, Northern Water

Northern Water and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation jointly operate the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which collects water from the Colorado River basin and delivers it to more than 1 million residents and 615,000 irrigated acres in northeastern Colorado. Northern Water, headquartered in Berthoud, Colo., and its Municipal Subdistrict are also currently developing the Windy Gap Firming Project and Northern Integrated Supply Project. Kyle is responsible for overseeing the Colorado River and Platte River programs that Northern Water is involved in, as well as managing and protecting the water right assets owned by Northern Water and its enterprises, in cooperation with Northern Water's legal counsel. Kyle grew up in the White River basin in western Colorado. Kyle has more than 27 years of engineering experience, having previously worked for 18 years with the Colorado Division of Water Resources in the Colorado River basin prior to joining Northern Water. Kyle has bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Colorado State University.

Thursday, Jan. 12, Speakers

8:15 a.m. – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Updates

Lyle Myler, Area Manager, Wyoming Area Office

Lyle is responsible for management of the area's portion of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, the Shoshone Project in the Bighorn River basin, and the North Platte and Kendrick projects in the North Platte River basin. The Wyoming Area Office annually provides approximately 2.8 million acre-feet of water releases. Water is supplied to 60 irrigation entities for irrigation of 680,000 acres of land and to 20 cities, towns and companies for municipal and industrial purposes. An average of 800 gigawatt-hours of hydroelectric power generation is produced annually and supplies the needs of 73,000 households. The Wyoming Area Office manages over 500,000 acres of land for beneficial uses. Other benefits include flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

Aaron Thompson, Area Manager, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office

In his position, Aaron represents the Missouri basin's regional director with various private, public and government stakeholders, pertaining to the management, development and protection of water and related issues. He carries out these responsibilities with a 45-person workforce managing Reclamation projects in Nebraska, Kansas and a portion of eastern Colorado. Thompson entered federal service in 2001 as a mechanical engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation at Hoover Dam. He later held positions as facility manager at Davis Dam, southeast of Las Vegas, and as deputy area manager for the Wyoming Area Office. Aaron accepted the position as Nebraska-Kansas Area manager in August 2007. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1998 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master's in business administration in 2005 from the University of Phoenix.

Jeff Rieker, Area Manager, Eastern Colorado Area Office

In this capacity, Jeff oversees Reclamation's two major water supply projects on Colorado's front range; the Colorado Big-Thompson Project and the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. Jeff began his career with Reclamation in 1999 as a hydraulic engineer in Denver. Since that time, he has overseen a variety of water resource planning and management projects for Reclamation in Carson City, Nev., and Sacramento, Calif., as well as at Reclamation's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Jeff has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from Colorado State University. Jeff is a registered professional engineer in the state of Nevada.

9:30 a.m. – State of the States

Jeff Cowley, Interstate Streams Administrator, Wyoming State Engineer's Office

Jeff has been with the Wyoming State Engineer's Office for 18 years. He worked in the Surface Water Division for the first 12 years, worked in the Interstate Streams Division as the North Platte coordinator for five years, and as the administrator of the Interstate Streams Division for the last five months. The Interstate Streams Division works to protect Wyoming's apportionment of seven interstate compacts and three court decrees. Jeff graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education/biological sciences.

Thursday, Jan. 12, Speakers (cont.)

Jesse Bradley, Assistant Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Jesse was hired by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in 2006 as an integrated water management analyst, and became the head of the Water Planning Division in 2012. In 2014, Jesse was promoted to the role of assistant director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. In his current role, Jesse oversees surface water permitting, water administration, water planning, interstate water management and data collection activities in the department. Jesse earned a bachelor's degree in environmental geology from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a master's degree in hydrogeology from Clemson University. Jesse is also a licensed professional geologist in the state of Nebraska.

Kevin Salter, Interstate Water Engineer, Kansas Division of Water Resources

Kevin has worked for the Kansas Division of Water Resources since 1993. He serves as an interstate water engineer with primary responsibilities related to the Arkansas River Compact between Kansas and Colorado. Kevin is part of a team that is responsible for securing and distributing the available Arkansas River surface water supplies to six Kansas irrigation ditches located in Hamilton, Kearny, Finney and Gray counties. Kevin provided technical support in the U.S. Supreme Court *Kansas v. Colorado* case and continues to monitor Colorado's compliance with the *Kansas v. Colorado* decree and the compact. He serves as the assistant operations secretary for the Arkansas River Compact Administration, which is an interstate body, composed of Colorado and Kansas representatives. He has a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from Kansas State University, and a master's degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Nebraska.

Kevin Rein, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Kevin is the state engineer and director of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, also known as the State Engineer's Office. Kevin directs the division's responsibilities, which include administration of water rights in Colorado, issuing well permits, performing administrative approvals for water use, administering programs that ensure the safety of dams and the safe construction of water wells, managing compliance with interstate compacts, and providing information and education resources to the public. He has worked at the Division of Water Resources for 23 years.

11:15 a.m. – Family Farm Alliance Update

Dan Keppen, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance

The Family Farm Alliance is a powerful advocate for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and allied industries in 17 western states. Dan has 29 years of experience in association management, water resources, power and environmental policy, facilities design, planning, economic analyses and contract administration in the public and private sectors. Since 1997, he has worked primarily in advocacy positions with the Northern California Water Association, and as executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association. He served one year as special assistant to the director of the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. Among other capacities, he's a former board member of the Irrigation Association and Clean Water Alliance. He received his master's degree in water resources engineering from Oregon State University, and his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Wyoming.

1:30 p.m. – Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund

Jesse Bradley, Assistant Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Jesse was hired by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in 2006 as an integrated water management analyst, and became the head of the Water Planning Division in 2012. In 2014, Jesse was promoted to the role of assistant director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. In his current role, Jesse oversees surface water permitting, water administration, water planning, interstate water management and data collection activities in the department. Jesse earned a bachelor's degree in environmental geology from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a master's degree in hydrogeology from Clemson University. Jesse is also a licensed professional geologist in the state of Nebraska.

LeRoy Sievers, Attorney, Knutsen Law Firm

LeRoy is the former legal counsel for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and currently counsel at Knutsen Law Firm in Lincoln, Neb. He is a member and past chair of the Nebraska Bar Association's Natural Resources & Environmental Law Section, and past president of the Lincoln Bar Association. He is an Army veteran who has also served in the White House. LeRoy is former president of the Cornhusker Council of the BSA, the Lancaster County American Red Cross and the Lincoln Sunrise Optimist Club; is currently a member of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and the Nebraska State Irrigation Association; and sits on the board for the Cornhusker Council of the BSA. He also recently completed serving seven years on the board of directors of the Capital Humane Society. LeRoy earned his bachelor's degree from Doane College, his master's degree from the American University, and his juris doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER BIOS

Michael Placke, Senior Project Manager, JEO Consulting Group

Mike is a professional engineer with more than 24 years of engineering experience, who also has a master's in business administration. Mike works at JEO Consulting Group as a senior project manager, and is a board member of the Nebraska State Irrigation Association. Mike grew up on a small farm in central Nebraska, raising cattle, and growing both irrigated and dry land crops, along with produce to sell at the family roadside stand.

3 p.m. – U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Programs

HONORED GUEST: Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior

Assistant Secretary Trujillo is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. She most recently worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign. Before then, she served as the executive director of the Colorado River Board of California. She has served as senior counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and as counselor to the assistant secretary for water and science at Interior. A native New Mexican, Tanya attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law.

Marlena Lanini, Civil Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

In her capacity at Reclamation, Marlena coordinates the WaterSMART grant program in the Missouri, Arkansas and Rio Grande basins and the Texas Gulf region, which include Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas. Additionally, she supports regional planning and hydrologic modeling programs. Marlena earned a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Northwestern University.

Denis Kelsch, Civil Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Denis is a licensed engineer and certified professional estimator. He worked for 20 years as a project engineer and manager on hydrology, environmental and infrastructure projects for private firms – located first in the mid-Atlantic states and then later relocated to Colorado and the central Great Plains region. In 2011, he joined Reclamation in the Technical Services Group of the Missouri Basin Region, preparing and reviewing design contract plans and specs, preparing construction cost estimates, and reviewing proposed WaterSMART construction plans. In 2019, he joined Reclamation's Water Resources Group and took over responsibilities as the regional WaterSMART coordinator, as well as the regional planning coordinator. He is also currently working with the Greenfields Irrigation District, located in central Montana, acting as the project manager of the Sun River Project title transfer. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Geneva College and later received his master's of business administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Shane Schieck, Program Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Shane grew up with a ranching and farming background in Casper, Wyo., and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Wyoming. He is a registered professional engineer and holds Senior Level FAC PP/M and COTR certificates. Shane began his engineering career as a designer for the Wyoming Department of Transportation. His federal career started with the Western Federal Lands Highways Division, where he worked as a project engineer primarily in Yellowstone National Park. He also spent brief periods performing engineering and surveying duties in national forests in Montana, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Shane started with Reclamation in 2011 in Construction Services, moved to the Native American Affairs Division in 2014, and then the Program and Project Management Division in 2021. Among other duties, he currently manages the Blackfeet and Crow and water rights settlements.

4 p.m. – Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project Updates

Jeremy Deuto, Project Engineer, Northern Water

Jeremy Deuto is Northern Water's project engineer on site at Chimney Hollow Reservoir and has been with Northern Water since May 2021. Jeremy was previously the lead field geotechnical engineer for the geotechnical investigations within the Chimney Hollow valley from 2015 to 2017. Jeremy received his bachelor's degree in environmental geology in 2000 from Colorado State University. He received his Professional Geologist Certification in Wyoming in 2008, and his Professional Engineer Certification in 2012. Jeremy has worked on dams and construction sites around Colorado and internationally for his entire career. The Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project he's currently involved in is a collaboration between 12 northeastern Colorado water providers, which will improve the reliability of water supplies from the Windy Gap Project. Chimney Hollow Reservoir will be located southwest of Loveland and provide dedicated storage to supply a reliable 30,000 acre-feet of water each year to the participating communities. Construction started in August 2021 and is scheduled to be complete in 2025. Following construction, the reservoir is expected to take three years to fill.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING EXHIBITORS

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We would like to thank the **SPONSORS** of the Four States Irrigation Council's 2023 Annual Meeting

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