COLORADO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WAT-2000-01 SCOPING REPORT FOR GROUND-WATER ATLAS OF COLORADO

22 September 2000

Prepared for: Colorado Geological Survey Prepared by: Pearson, deRidder, and Johnson, Inc.

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4.0 PROPOSED CONTENT FOR THE ATLAS

Although considerable thought has been given as to the content and formatting of the atlas, a final decision cannot be made until data acquisition and synthesis has occurred. Therefore, a suggested table of content is provided below solely to help initiate further thought.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

purpose and scope of the atlas description of subsequent sections

- 2.0 GROUND WATER use usgs primer, G&M special report show recharge, movement, discharge concepts
 - 2.1 Hydrologic Cycle *provide figure with appropriate text describing*
 - 2.2 Surface/Ground water interaction report in lac library other

3.0 WATER LAW

general discussion re colo system, use info frm water in west (lac)

- 3.1 The Permit Process
- *brfly describe types of permits and general criteria for each* 3.2 Well Construction Requirements
- reference state engr office document show typical figures
- 3.3 Water Quality Considerations reference CWL, State, County regs
- 4.0 HYDROGEOLOGY IN COLORADO describe aquifer characteristics
- 5.0 WATER QUALITY IN COLORADO *maps with brief narrative*
- 6.0 POTENTIAL FOR GROUND-WATER DEGRADATION *introduce various ways, geologic controls*
 - 6.1 Septic-leach field systems

show figure, describe suitability for various geologic conditions 6.2 Abandoned Mine Lands

why may-may not be factor, cause-effect, couple examples, figure

6.3 Oil & Gas Operations discuss with Trish

6.4 Agricultural Effects corrals, feedlots, hog farms, herbicide/pesticide app
6.5 Industrial/Manufacturing Operations

npdes permit process, stream/gw interaction

6.6 Landfills

ck w/dd, relate love canal etc.

7.0 Division Maps

Because Colorado's water resources are administered on the basis of water divisions, it is recommended that an atlas that depicts ground-water information be based on division boundaries. Within the boundaries, designated basins and management districts could be shown. This would mean seven base maps that would have some or all of the following information:

- 1. Base map of division boundaries, designated basins and management districts. Show key cities with infrastructure (on a transparency).
- 2. Topographic map
- 3. Geology-generalized
- 4. Precipitation/evapotranspiration data (contours or color pattern)
- 5. Recharge areas for various aquifers (possibly est, of amt)
- 6. Aquifer delineation (lineation map for hdrx areas). Aquifer thickness
- 7. Potentiometric surface
- 8. Well density for respective aquifers
- 9. Areas of water level change
- 10. Average yield for respective aquifers
- 11. GW quality (naturally occurring)
- 12. Septic-leachfield density
- 13. Nitrogen isoconcentration or color map of average for area
- 14. Areas of naturally occurring arsenic and selenium
- 15. Areas of radon concentration
- 16. Abandoned mines
- 17. Abandoned oil and gas wells
- 18. Vulnerability map (areas susceptible to contamination)
- *19. Wetland areas*
- 20. Areas of planned growth dependent on ground water
- 21. Perched water table areas

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In an effort to provide a user-friendly ground-water atlas of the State of Colorado, the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS) commissioned this scoping study to determine the potential level of interest in such a document, and the types of data desired to be portrayed. The primary purpose of the proposed atlas is to provide the lay person, administrators, developers, the general public, and technical personnel with an understandable overview of ground water resources and development in Colorado.

The scoping study consisted of contacting a representation of potential users, and of conducting a cursory literature search to ascertain the availability of the requisite data to be included in the atlas. Administrators or senior planners in seven counties; Jefferson, Arapahoe, Grand, Adams, Park, Clear Creek, and Douglas, were contacted for their input. In addition, eight professionals, consisting of hydrogeologists, engineers, and land developers were contacted for their suggestions. Sources of data were identified on the web, and in the published literature.

2.0 CONSTITUENCY SURVEY

As anticipated, professionals working with ground-water issues on a daily basis identified a need for more quantitative data. Water quality, potentiometric surfaces, recharge amounts, and water level change maps were but a few of the requests made. Those individuals in administrative and planning roles identified the need for qualitative data related to the availability and quality of ground water within their respective jurisdictions. These requests consisted of density of wells, size of lots, radon concentrations, and wetland areas. Developers were very interested in the locations of existing wells, depths, yields, and areas where wells have failed. It is likely that most of the needs of all parties can be satisfied with the atlas planned. The limiting factor will be the availability of data related to the various needs. A record of verbal communication with the various constituency groups is provided in Appendix A.

3.0 LITERATURE SURVEY

Once the needs of the constituency were identified, a cursory literature search was conducted to determine if data were currently available to prepare the requisite maps. Based on a computer search of the Colorado School of Mines library, and of the USGS web pages, it appears that abundant data sources are available. In addition, the library of PRJ has a considerable amount of applicable data. Some of the data sources within the USGS include: USGS hydrologic atlases, water supply papers, professional papers, and miscellaneous investigation series maps. Publications of the Colorado Geological Survey related to water data for various counties will also be a valuable source. The files of the Colorado State Engineer's office will be relied on to provide data on wells in each of the water divisions. All of these data will require a fairly significant effort to synthesize and prepare for map presentation, but will most likely be of greatest value to potential users. Examples of typical sources are included in this report in Appendix B.

The advantages of presenting maps based on water divisions of the state engineer are:

- Allows for better coordination between users and water rights administrators
- Allows for opportunity to upgrade or add a map without having to change all maps
- Will provide more user friendly map scales
- Will be more user friendly for those living and working in a particular division

Some of the disadvantages are:

- The number of maps to be compiled increases
- If someone is interested in county-wide information, more than one division map may need to be reviewed
- The principal aquifers will occur in more than one division (this should not be a problem for the average user, but anyone interested in a specific aquifer would have to consult more than one map)

8.0 APPENDICES

references, web sites for info, other??

7.0 PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE ATLAS

Obviously the preparation of a meaningful atlas useful to a broad range of interests is no small task. The anticipated sequence for preparation will approximate the following:

- Data Acquisition
- Data synthesis and analysis
- Digitizing of analog maps
- Editing and formatting digital maps
- GIS map production
- Document formatting, and graphics production
- Editing for peer review

In an effort to assess the timeframe to prepare such a document, a proposed schedule has been prepared for completing the above tasks, Figure 1. This schedule is definitely tentative, and is provided in an effort to solicit more discussion.

Ground Water Atlas Development Schedule



APPENDIX A CONSTITUENCY CONTACTS

County Contacts

7/7-7/12 8731	Jefferson	Jean Reince S	schwartz	Sr. Planner	271-
Show	types of aquifer	rs, how geology affect	s movement of	gw	
7/11-7/12	Grand	Lorleen Underbrink	Cty Mg	gr. 970	-725-3347
Impac septic leachfi	et of grth on wat eld	er resources, septic tar	nks and gw, lot s	size rqd for	well and
7/11 7000	Adams	Rob Coney	Hd. Planning a	and develop	nent 853-
Depth map, oil and	to base of aqui gas well map, se	fer, aquifer quality vs eptic leachfield (lf) der	drkg wtr stds, ni nsity map	itrogen conc	entration
7/7-7/11	Park	Tom Eiseman	Planning Dept	. 719	-836-4265
Locat quality	ion of aquifers,	depth to water, wetlan	ıds map, abando	ned mines, v	water
7/11-7/12	Clear Creek	Lisa leben Land	use case Mgr.	679	-2362
Well	density map, rec 1	charge area, mine loca	tions, water qua	lity map, rad	lon
7/7-7/11	Douglas	Don Moore Sr. Pl	anner	660	-7400
Aquit	fer map, water q	uality			
7/11-7/19	Boulder	Graham Billingsley	Planning Dire	ctor 441	-3131
Depth document)	n to water, wetla	and, recharge areas, ba	sin delineation ((looking fwo	l to such a
7/17	Arapahoe	Sue Conaway	County Plann	ing 795	-4452
Rech	arge map, wtr q	uality			

HYDROGEOLOGISTS, ENGINEERS, DEVELOPERS

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7/11		Mike West Phd	Geological Engineer	720-529-5300
depth	Structu: max-min	re contour, QW, area 1,	s of perched water tables, we	ll density with average
7/11		Fred Marinelli, Phd	Hydrogeologist/Engr	970-224-5999
	QW-ars	senic, selenium, well	yield map	
7/7		John Helgesen ,MS	Hydrogeologist, USGS	913-842-9909
decline	Rechar; e	ge/discharge areas, ar	eal variation in well yield, Q	W, areas of water level
7/10		Frank Sherman, MS 208-327-7900	Sr. Hydrogeologist, Idaho De	pt. of Water Resources
	Areas s	susceptible to contami	nation, water level change maj	o, recharge areas
6/27		Ed Gutentag, MS	Hydrogeologist USGS rtd	988-0890
contar	nination.	Aquifer map, precip Check USGS PP 140	pitation, recharge, gnrl geol 00B.	ogy, areas of known
7/17	532-36	Jim Goecke, MS 11 x-138	Research Hydrogeologist, Ur	niv.Nebraska 308-
	Nebras	Saturated thk, irrigat ka Atlas.	ion well density, WL fluctuat	ion. Will send copy of
7/17		David Graham	W.J. Graham Construction	674-0444
		Well yield map, qual	ity, well density	
7/13		Bud Simon VP of	Development dhm planning	892-5566
		Well density/location	n, ave. depth, yields, failures	•

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DATE: 7/7/00 JOB # OR REFERENCE: 00900 Park County COMPANY/AGENCY:_ ADDRESS: Bernard (50ks) Scott PERSON CONTACTED:_ TELEPHONE: 719-836-7333 1 2001 TITLE: Tom Epsens 836-4265 Gary SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT): For - 719-836-426 8 Left may 7/11/00----1 here . 5 -orly-Y Comminuio - binda 719-836-4201 Ivan widom - 719-836-4203. (Sailey - als TOMEISEM guantity - resource availab ation of aquifors a here. Baile is may. werlo from ald mass -FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:_ Many Rajb mouth francie Salanda 303-973-1116 wetlabst maps 769-836-2421 30+412erong on mining clair HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE____ PERSONAL____ OTHER_____

DATE: ______JOB # OR REFERENCE: ______ COMPANY/AGENCY: _____ Clear Creek County ADDRESS: PERSON CONTACTED: has a heren TELEPHONE: 303-679-2362 TITLE: Land Use Case Manager SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT); Vary interested will wel w/ dear 7/12/00 - Hydrogeilogie map Kich Not. Pes- clear Jan Kracon 1" = Still runny this - > 1976 - Comity issue - re: no. of well section - Recharge and -Mine korcturis - Water Quality Map- / Roylon Concentration FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:_____ HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE____ PERSONAL____ OTHER_____

DATE: 7/7/00 JOB # OR REFERENCE: _________ COMPANY/AGENCY: Douglas County ADDRESS: Don moore Sr. Planner PERSON CONTACTED: 10 Joline D TELEPHONE: 303-660-7400 TITLE: SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT): Left my mine mine 7/1400 - Pon more loff mage - RCF - Don Moore anything ale info esting ____ aquetes information ---- 80 20 dependent on qui-- aquifen dragger near forthillo Hore regulationa back on premius mayo - Connot rely on qw -- Zoning regulationé determiné a lot of - Wola quality issues - physikoras ont of syste FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:__ Phone & stormwolg Protition for Tubutony streams HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE____ PERSONAL____ OTHER___

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ERSON CONTACTED: <u>Graham Billingslay</u> TELEPHONE: <u>441-3</u>	3]3]
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HYDROGEOLOGISTS, ENGINEERS, DEVELOPERS

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DATE: <u>7/11/00</u> JOB # OR REFERENCE: <u>00900</u> COMPANY/AGENCY: Mike Wast and Com ADDRESS: PERSON CONTACTED: Make West Phd. TELEPHONE: 720-529-5300 TITLE: Geological Engineer. SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT):_____ - Petentiometric surface - some japo inducte - Structure contours + Qui data (Rearie Mign notracurate) See his sinfer +4 × departum the OK records along to the Effstream storage guil pit - flucturtur water wil - and reclige to - from bedge Piney Crk - Post Viney Crk Death of Wething in bely FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:____ HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE ____ PERSONAL_ OTHER

JOB # OR REFERENCE: ______ DATE: ____7/11/20____ COMPANY/AGENCY: RTW. 1600 Stout ADDRESS: Fh Collins -8602 PERSON CONTACTED: Fred Marinedle Ikd. TELEPHONE: 581-5552 TITLE: Hydro geologist / Engr. 703-825-5999 Pt- Celline . 2-224-5997 SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT - RTW - engry-fin - wits tatin't - cirilgeryg. ef water --- punging stature torla -- waste water tatint - arenic in particular -- Selening wypt. ingeting water ---- Colo Digit Publi Health En dottone -> 2 mission (alamora chy) - Well ylds ---le (- Biggent cause of fremature death is untreated water need chemicales of Boiling - Solar powered dumpation allo Violet - NACL & cleatricity generate choire gos. My Solt & electricity -FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED: ___ _____ HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE ____ PERSONAL ____ OTHER _____

دا مور معرف الما From: HELGESENJC@aol.com <HELGESENJC@aol.com>

Hydrogeologist, USGS

To: cerrillo@rmi.net <cerrillo@rmi.net>

Date: Friday, July 07, 2000 6:50 PM

Subject: Re: atlas

Hi Larry,

>From "glorified curve plotting" to the Pakistan-India border.... what an evolution!

We just got back from a trip north -- the usual family visits, then drove along the Mississippi from the Twin Cities to St. Louis. Some of that country we had not seen before, so it was nice. Spent the 4th in St. Louis with Karla & hubby, along with Kristin and her boyfriend (they drove over to there from Lawrence).

Well, I could list some things that come to mind for possible ground-water atlas illustrations. Some of them probably would be the usual stuff and are probably on your list already; a lot of it depends on what information is available......

Depth to water table Depth to top or base of aquifer Saturated thickness

- Recharge/discharge areas
- Connected surface-water features Textural variations

Structural trends/variations

- Areal variations in expected well yield
 Areal variations in water quality
 Areas affected by contamination
- Areas of water-level decline (developed aquifer)
 Zones of contribution (to wells)

I'm drawing a blank right now on any pertinent references. Good luck.

I spent a few days in Ft. Collins last month. It was fun to look at the campus again. The old geology building was flooded several years ago like most other buildings, and was remodeled inside... exterior looked the same but the interior looked nothing like it used to. The area just north of the main part of downtown, called Old Town, is really neat (restaurants, shops, etc.). It is just west of our first apartment -- that building (366 East Mountain) is still there! Some of us drove up to see Horsetooth Reservoir -- considerable housing up there now, whereas in the 60's it was pretty barren around there. Then we kept driving west and got a good look at the Bobcat fire. Glad that other fire kept its distance from Evergreen.

Hi to Ginny, and bon voyage to you. How long will you be gone? We wish you 7/8/00

DATE: 7/10/00 JOB # OR REFERENCE: 0000 COMPANY/AGENCY: John Dayles Water Resources ADDRESS: PERSON CONTACTED: Frank Shaman TELEPHONE: 205-327-7900 TITLE: SR. 14, drogeologist SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT):____ Re mil for Aller-- Areas susceptible to contamination - Changes in SWL Comparison of comple years to determine if losing or garning - Recharge areas for various aquifus will think of other and send -FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:_____ _____ HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE ____ PERSONAL ____ OTHER _____

DATE: 6/27-102 JOB # OR REFERENCE: 00900 COMPANY/AGENCY:___ Contraction of the Contraction o ADDRESS: PERSON CONTACTED: <u>El Gutentag</u> TELEPHONE: <u>988-088</u> TITLE: Hydrogeologist USGS Refired SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT) :_____ mayon typers Precy tation Recharge and -foration - generitied Soil types - infiltation rate Geology - mil. See Inglow 1400 B Area of lown rantom: (CENCLIS LIST) FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:____ TELEPHONE____ OTHER HOW INITIATED: PERSONAL____

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ADDRESS: Evergreen.C.
PERSON CONTACTED: Daniel Graham TELEPHONE: 674-0474
TITLE: europ
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HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE PERSONAL OTHER

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company/agency:_________________ florning ADDRESS: PERSON CONTACTED: Bud Simon, N.P. TELEPHONE: 303-892-5566 TITLE: V-P. of Development -SUBJECT (SUMMARY - INCLUDING PURPOSE & RESULT): ---- ch a doily basis setting ----- La catton of wells Depths_____ - Jielch_ ______ Faiturer _ onen where wells has faited. __ Countly heart and pack for information -World liferatly be a customer if cas complete. FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED:_____ HOW INITIATED: TELEPHONE ____ PERSONAL ____ OTHER_____

APPENDIX B TYPICAL DATA SOURCES

PRJ Library sources: (these will be provided to CGS for perusal)

Ground Water Basic Data Reports: 1-11,13-16, 18-21 --these reports were then changed to Water Resources Basic Data Reports. The reports available are ; 22-31, and 33-36.

Ground Water Circulars: 5-15—these were changed to Water Resource Circulars. The reports available are 16-19, 23, 30, and 36.

Others:

Geology of Ground Water Resources, Colorado by Richard H. Pearl

Evaluation of Water Resources in Kiowa and Bijou Creek Basins

Geohydrology of High Plains Aquifer, USGS Professional Paper 1400-B

Hydrologic Data for Water Table Aquifers in Greater Denver Area, USGS OF Report79-214

Ground Water in the Julesburg Area, Colorado, Thad McLaughlin, USGS GW Series Circular No. 1 (this is quite old but has some useful info.)

Hydrogeologic Maps of the Sterling, Julesburg, and Brush Reach of the S. Platte River Valley

Colorado Ground-Water Association, 2000, Colorado Ground-Water Atlas. (*This document has numerous references that would be of value for the proposed atlas.*)

Colorado Wetlands—report done in 1997. Do not have exact reference. Ck EPA, COE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, all participated.

For Denver Basin hydrologic data, USGS hydrologic atlases HA's 643,646,647,650 and miscellaneous field investigation maps, Map-I-791 and 1043 will have considerable but somewhat outdated information.

Hampton, E.R., 1975, Hydrologic Data, Greater Denver Area, Colorado. USGS Miscellaneous Investigation Series Map I- 856-C.

Hillier & Schnieder, 1979, Depth to Water Table, Boulder-Ft. Collins-Greeley. USGS map I-855-I

Kelly, T.E., 1974, Reconnaissance Investigation of Ground Water in the Rio Grande Drainage Basin with special emphasis on saline sources. USGS HA-510.

Nimick, David A., 1998, Abandoned Mine Lands, U.S.G.S. Open File Report 98-297. (May want to check with Dave Bucknam of DMG. They were working on inactive mines.)

Robson, S.G.and Banta, E.R., 1987, Geology and Hydrology of Deep Bedrock in Eastern Colorado. USGS Water Resources Investigation Report-WRIR85-4240.

USGS Hydrologic Atlases—HA-736,730-C, 720-A, C, D, E, F, G and J

Van Slyke, G., et al, 1987, Aquifer Data from Geophysical Logs, Denver Basin, CO. Basic Data Report 1, Office of State Engineer, Division of Water Resources.

Welch, A. H., et al 2000, Arsenic in ground-water resources of the United States: U. S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 063-00, 4p.

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	Mazzaferro, david l. Ground water availability and water quality at s	I 19.42/4:84-4221 1986
	Mazzaferro, david l. Ground water availability and water quality in f	I 19.76:80-751 1980
	Ground water availability from a dune sand aquif	I 19.76:90-563 1992
	Underwood, mark r. Ground water availability from the hawi aquifer	I 19.42/4:95-4113 1995
	Geological survey (u Ground water availability from the unconsolidate	I 19.42/4:87-4133 1987
	Hansen, bruce p. Ground water availability in acadia national par	I 19.76:80-1050 1980
	Hollyday, e. f. Ground water availability in carbonate rocks of	I 19.76:79-1263 1980
	Geological survey (u Ground water availability in the black river bas	I 19.42/4:86-4040 1986

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USGS

National Water-Quality Assessment National Analysis of Trace Elements

Arsenic in ground water of the United States

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in the environment. Arsenic in ground water is largely the result of minerals dissolving naturally from weathered

rocks and soils. Several types of cancer

have been linked to arsenic in water.

permitted in drinking water, and will

likely lower it, as recommended last

The USGS has developed a map that

country. Highest concentrations were

found throughout the West and in parts

See the news release, 8 May 2000, and

occurs in ground water across the

of the Midwest and Northeast.

frequently asked questions.

shows where and to what extent arsenic

year by the National Research Council.

The US Environmental Protection

Agency is currently reviewing the maximum contaminant level of arsenic

Publications

Fact sheet--Arsenic in ground-water resources of the United States

Detailed report--WRIR 99-4279: A retrospective analysis on the occurrence of arsenic in ground-water resources of the US and limitations in drinkingwater-supply characterizations

1998 conference paper--

Arsenic in ground water supplies of the United States

More....

Other arsenic links

World Health Organization -- Arsenic in drinking water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency--Proposed revision to arsenic drinking water standard and Q & A's: Occurrence

Other organizations with drinking-water interests

American Water Works Association



Counties in which at least 10% of ground-water samples exceed possible new maximum contaminant levels (23 Kb, GIF)

Map is also available as a PostScript file--<u>Color (3,279Kb)</u> <u>Grey-scale (3,250Kb)</u>

Data

Arsenic concentrations for 18,850 groundwater samples collected in 1973-97





(23 Kb, GIF)

Map is also available as a PostScript file--<u>Color (4,729Kb)</u>

Arsenic data available as--<u>Tab-delimited text file</u> (1,130 Kb) U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry-- <u>ToxFAQs: Arsenic</u>

National Research Council-- <u>Arsenic in</u> <u>drinking water</u>

Congressional Research Service report--Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996

Natural Resources Defense Council--FAQs: Arsenic in drinking water

West Bengal and Bangladesh <u>Arsenic</u> <u>Crisis Information Centre</u> Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

National Ground Water Association

National Rural Water Association

<u>U.S. Environmental</u> <u>Protection Agency Office of</u> <u>Water</u>

Local arsenic information

USGS-- <u>Arsenic, nitrate,</u> and chloride in groundwater, Oakland County, Michigan

USGS-- <u>Relation of arsenic</u> <u>concentrations in ground</u> <u>water to bedrock lithology</u> <u>in eastern New England</u>

<u>4th International</u> <u>Conference on Arsenic</u> <u>Exposure and Health Effects</u> (San Diego, June 2000)

National Analysis of Trace Elements

National Water-Quality Assessment Water Resources of the United States U.S. Geological Survey

This page is co.water.usgs.gov/trace/arsenic/ Email comments/questions to <u>traceweb@usgs.gov</u> Last modified: 8May2000

USGS

National Water-Quality Assessment National Analysis of Trace Elements - Publications

Figure 3

from Fact Sheet 063-00, Arsenic in Ground-Water Resources of the United States



Figure 3. Counties with arsenic concentrations exceeding possible new MCLs in 10 percent or more of ground-water samples.

Counties with arsenic concentrations exceeding 10 µg/L in 10 percent or more of samples.
 Counties with arsenic concentrations exceeding 5 µg/L in 10 percent or more of samples.
 Counties with arsenic concentrations exceeding 3 µg/L in 10 percent or more of samples.
 Counties with fewer than 10 percent of samples exceeding 3 µg/L, representing areas of lowest concentration.
 Counties with insufficient data in the USGS data base to make estimates.

Citation:

Welch, A.H., Watkins, S.A., Helsel, D.R., and Focazio, M.F., 2000, Arsenic in ground-water resources of the United States: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 063-00, 4p.

National Analysis of Trace Elements - Publications

National Water-Quality Assessment

This page is co.water.usgs.gov/trace/pubs/fs-063-00/fig3.html Email comments/questions to <u>traceweb@usgs.gov</u> Last Modified: 8May2000

New report details value and status of Colorado wetlands

May 1997

U.S. Water News Online

DENVER -- About 1.5 percent of the State of Colorado is covered by wetlands, which are not only a source of habitat for waterfowl but also are of significant benefit to the state's water resources by providing flood and erosion control and helping to naturally clean up and filter out contaminants, according to the most recent National Water Summary report by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The report, the eighth and final in a series, provides a state-by-state overview of wetland resources that shows the type and distribution of wetlands, trends on wetland losses and gains, and conservation efforts in each state. "The 103 million acres of wetlands remaining in the United States are not only a source of critical habitat for waterfowl, but they also reduce the severity of floods and erosion by modifying the flow of water and improve water quality by filtering out contaminants," said Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, in releasing the report.

The USGS wetlands report provides overviews of wetland protection legislation, research by Federal agencies related to wetlands, a discussion of the functions and values of wetlands, as well as an historic look at gains and losses of wetlands across the Nation since the time of European settlement.

The report, was prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a sister bureau in the Interior Department, and the former National Biological Service, which became the Biological Resources Division of the USGS on October 1, 1996.

Wetlands occupy about 1 million acres of Colorado. Types of wetlands in the state include forested, scrub-shrub, bottomland shrublands, marshes, fens, and alpine snow glades, among others.

Over the last two centuries, wetland acreage in Colorado has been reduced by about one-half. Major causes of wetland loss or alteration are conversion to cropland, dewatering for irrigation purposes, overgrazing by livestock, encroachment by residential and commercial development, channelization, dewatering for municipal and industrial purposes, and contamination from inadequately treated sewage and industrial waste. Other causes are ski resort development, transmountain water diversions, drainage, burning, clear cutting, mining and related activities, erosion and sedimentation, and construction of dams, reservoirs, roads, and railroads.

Even as wetland area continues to decrease in Colorado, some new wetland areas have resulted from irrigation and changes in land-use practices, principally in the San Luis Valley and near Boulder.

Agencies that have responsibility for wetlands in Colorado include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, agencies of the Department of the Interior, State agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Wildlife, some county and local government entities, and various private organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. The USGS National Water Summary report on Wetland Resources provides a table in each State section on the activities and responsibilities of various government agencies and private organizations related to wetlands.

Highlights from the Colorado wetland resources summary include descriptions of the value of wetlands to the State. Wetlands provide important wildlife habitat. One of the best-known functions of wetlands is to provide habitat for birds. Many species of birds depend on wetlands almost totally for breeding, nesting, feeding, or shelter during breeding cycles and are therefore called "wetland dependent." Wetlands also provide for flood attenuation, bank stabilization, and water-quality improvement. Colorado's tourist industry benefits from the scenic beauty of wetlands and from the recreational opportunities they afford residents and out-of-state visitors, according to the USGS.

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Science for Watershed Decisions on Abandoned Mine Lands: Review of Preliminary Results, Denver, Colorado, February 4-5, 1998

Edited by David A. Nimick and Paul von Guerard

- U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 98-297
 - Preface
 - Introduction
 - Statewide and National Mapping
 - The role of geoenvironmental maps and statewide assessments in prioritizing watersheds for remediation of abandoned mine lands by S.E. Church, T.C. Sole, D.B. Yager, and A.E. McCafferty
 - Overview of the Animas and Boulder Study Areas
 - <u>The Colorado and Montana pilot watersheds</u> by Paul von Guerard and David A. Nimick
 - Characterization of Streams on a Watershed Scale
 - What streams are affected by abandoned mines? <u>Characterization of water quality in the streams of the Boulder</u>
 <u>River watershed</u>, <u>Montana</u> by David A. Nimick and Tom E. Cleasby
 - What streams are affected by historic, abandoned mines? --Preliminary interpretation of bed- sediment geochemical data, Boulder River watershed, Montana by D.L. Fey and S.E. Church
 - <u>Fluvial tailings deposits in the Boulder River watershed, Montana:</u> <u>Preliminary results</u> by D.L. Fey, S.E. Church, J.S. Curry, and T.C. Sole
 - <u>Methodologies for characterizing aquatic health and preliminary</u> <u>results, Boulder River watershed, Montana</u> by Aida M. Farag, Dan F. Woodward, Donald R. Skaar, and William Brumbaugh
 - Transport and partitioning of zinc among water, colloids, and bed sediments during low-flow conditions, Animas River watershed, Colorado by B.A. Kimball and S.E. Church

- Impacts of abandoned mine lands on stream ecosystems of the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado by John M. Besser, Del Wayne R. Nimmo, Robert Milhous, and Bill Simon
- <u>Seasonal fluctuations of dissolved-zinc concentrations and loads</u> in the mainstem streams of the upper Animas River watershed, <u>Colorado</u> by Kenneth J. Leib, M. Alisa Mast, and Winfield G. Wright
- <u>Colloid formation and transport of aluminum and iron in the Animas</u> <u>River near Silverton, Colorado</u> by L.E. Schemel, B.A. Kimball, and K.E. Bencala
- <u>Recurrence intervals, probability, and annual duration of</u> <u>dissolved-zinc concentrations using flood analysis techniques in</u> <u>the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado</u> by Kenneth J. Leib, M. Alisa Mast, and Winfield G. Wright
- <u>A toxicological reconnaissance of the upper Animas River</u> <u>watershed near Silverton, Colorado</u> by Del Wayne R. Nimmo, Carla J. Castle, and John M. Besser
- Metal uptake, transfer, and hazards in the stream food web of the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado by John M.Besser,
 William Brumbaugh, S.E. Church, and B.A. Kimball
- <u>Rare earth element geochemistry of acid waters: Preliminary</u> results identifying source signatures and instream processes by Philip L. Verplanck, D. Kirk Nordstrom, Winfield G. Wright, and Howard E. Taylor
- <u>Comparison of filtration procedures and analytical procedures on</u> iron (II/III): Results from upper Animas, Summitville, and Iron <u>Mountain</u> by James W. Ball, D. Kirk Nordstrom, and Charles N. Alpers
- <u>Characterization of aquatic health in mine-impacted streams: A case history from the Clark Fork River, Montana, and the Coeur díAlene River, Idaho by Dan F. Woodward, Aida M. Farag, and William Brumbaugh</u>

Watershed Characterization

- <u>Geologic framework of volcano-plutonic igneous complexes as it</u> relates to the upper Animas River and Boulder River abandoned <u>mine lands studies</u> by K. Lund, M.J. O'Neill, D.B. Yager, R.G. Luedke, and D.J. Bove
- o Digital geologic compilations of the upper Animas River and

technology used as a scientific interpretation tool by D.B. Yager, K. Lund, R.G. Luedke, D.J. Bove, M.J. O'Neill, and T.C. Sole

- <u>Progress report on surficial deposits and geomorphology of major</u> <u>drainages of the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado</u> by Rob Blair
- <u>Watershed characterization from the air: Application of</u> <u>geophysical techniques to watershed characterization in the</u> <u>Boulder River watershed, Montana</u> by A.E. McCafferty and B.D. Smith
- <u>Mapping of acid-generating and acid-buffering minerals in the</u> <u>Animas watershed by AVIRIS spectroscopy</u> by B. Dalton, T. King, D.J. Bove, R. Kokaly, R. Clark, S. Vance, and G.A. Swayze
- <u>Digital data for watershed characterization of abandoned mine</u> <u>land</u> by E. Paul Martin
- Source of Metal Loading
 - Integration of mine-drainage effects in watersheds using tracer injections and synoptic sampling by B.A. Kimball, R.L. Runkel, Katherine Walton-Day, and K.E. Bencala
 - <u>Ground-water input of zinc to a watershed affected by acidic-mine</u> <u>drainage: simulation results and implications for</u> <u>remediationóCement Creek, upper Animas River watershed,</u> <u>Colorado</u> by Katherine Walton-Day, R.L. Runkel, B.A. Kimball, and K.E. Bencala
 - Quantification of metal loading by tracer-injection methods in Cataract Creek, Boulder River watershed, Montana: Study design by Tom E. Cleasby, David A. Nimick, and B.A. Kimball
 - <u>Natural contributions of acidity and metals to surface waters of the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado</u> by Dana J. Bove, Winfield G. Wright, M. Alisa Mast, and Douglas B. Yager
 - <u>Comparison of surface-water chemistry in undisturbed and mining-impacted areas of the Cement Creek watershed, Colorado</u> by M. Alisa Mast, Winfield G. Wright, and Kenneth J. Leib
 - Oxygen isotopes of dissolved sulfate as a tool to distinguish natural and mining-related dissolved constituents in the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado by Winfield G. Wright, M. Alisa Mast, and Kenneth J. Leib
 - Determination of pre-mining background using sediment cores

by S.E. Church, D.L. Fey, and E.M. Brouwers

- Mine-Site Characterization
 - <u>Acid-neutralizing potential of igneous bedrock in Basin and</u> <u>Cataract Creeks, Boulder River watershed, Montana</u> by G.A. Desborough and P.H. Briggs
 - <u>Effects of selected mine dump piles on dissolved-constituent loads</u> in the Cement Creek basin, upper Animas River watershed, <u>Colorado--A preliminary assessment</u> by Winfield G. Wright, Kenneth J. Leib, and M. Alisa Mast
 - <u>Geochemical and mineralogical characterization of mine dumps on</u> <u>BLM lands, upper Animas River watershed, Colorado: Plans and</u> <u>preliminary results</u> by J.T. Nash, G.A. Desborough, and D.L. Fey
 - <u>Spectral induced polarization studies of mine dumps near</u> <u>Silverton, Colorado</u> by David L. Campbell, David V. Fitterman, and Robert J. Horton
 - Seasonal fluctuations of discharge and dissolved constituents from selected abandoned mines in the upper Animas River watershed, Colorado by Winfield G. Wright, Kenneth J. Leib, and M. Alisa Mast
 - <u>An overview of the U.S. Geological Survey mine waste</u> <u>characterization project</u> by Kathleen S. Smith, James G. Crock, G.A. Desborough, David V. Fitterman, Reinhard W. Leinz, Maria R. Montour, Mark R. Stanton, Gregg A. Swayze, and Robert B. Vaughn
- Biological Issues for Abandoned Mine Lands Remediation
 - Aquatic physical habitat and sediment analysis in evaluating mined land remediation measures: A 1998 review by Robert T. Milhous
 - <u>Use of ecological indicators as endpoints for remediation</u> by Terence P. Boyle and Bob Bukantis
- Presenting Abandoned Mine Lands Information
 - <u>The Boulder Geoenvironmental Explorer: A GIS tool to</u> <u>communicate science to land managers and the public</u> by A.E. McCafferty, D.B. Yager, and T.C. Sole
- Perspective on the Watershed Approach
 - <u>Science and regulatory practice: The search for certainty</u> by D. Kirk Nordstrom
 - o A synopsis of presentations and discussions in the Thursday,

http://amli.usgs.gov/amli/reports/ofr98_297/index.html

watershed approach to remediate abandoned mine lands by Margot Smit and Gary Broetzman

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<u>References</u>

Appendix

U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey Rocky Mountain Mapping Center URL: http://amli.usgs.gov/amli/reports/ofr98_297/index.html Maintainer: <u>rtpelltier@usgs.gov</u> Last modified: 05 Dec 1999

NEWS FROM THE COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Release Date: 04/21/2000

COLORADO IS HOME TO FOUR TYPES OF WETLANDS

Colorado's mountain valleys, plains and lowlands are home to four types of wetlands, with examples of each type now being protected by the Colorado Wetlands Initiative.

While wetlands make up a small percentage of Colorado's land mass, covering only about 2 percent of the landscape, they are critical to many species in the state, and serve as filters for runoff, as well as acting like giant storage tanks for flood waters.

But over the past century, Colorado has lost many of its wetlands, and it is estimated that only about one million acres remain.

There are many types of wetlands, but they generally have the same characteristics. "The term 'wetlands' refers to areas where the water table is usually at or near the surface of the ground," said Alex Chappell, the Wetlands Program coordinator for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. "Sometimes you can see the water in wetlands and other times it lies just below the surface of the soil where the plant roots grow." In general terms, wetlands are areas that are wet enough for long enough periods during the growing season to have developed specific characteristics which are unique to them, including certain types of plants that survive with little or no oxygen.

Wetlands also perform many valuable functions for society, like cleaning water by retaining and storing harmful chemicals and sediments as water filters through. Wetland plants, soils and bacteria act as natural filters improving water quality and providing a valuable service to the public, according to Denise Culver, the wetland ecology coordinator for the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

"Wetlands also are valued as energy and water absorbers by spreading out fast-flowing floodwaters from heavy rainfall or snow melt, thus preventing flooding downstream," Culver said.

Colorado supports four broad categories of wetlands – peatlands, marshes, wet meadows and riparian. And the Colorado Wetlands Initiative has funded projects that are representative of each Colorado wetland type.

Peatland is a generic term for any wetland that accumulates decayed plant material, and in Colorado the only known peatland is a fen. Fens are located at high elevations (above 8,000 ft.) and form at low points in the landscape or near slopes where groundwater intercepts the soil surface, maintaining a constant water level.

"They look like meadows," said Gary Skiba, a habitat biologist with the Division. "But they are much more than that. They provide important benefits for a watershed, including preventing or reducing the risk of floods and improving the water quality," he said. "Boreal toads, which are endangered, and chorus frogs are two species that live in peatlands."

High Creek Fen in South Park County, a Wetland Initiative project, is one of the most biologically diverse fens found in the southern Rocky Mountains. It supports more rare plant species than any other wetland known in Colorado. The fen provides habitat for birds such as the spotted sandpiper and Wilson's phalarope.

Another type of wetland found in Colorado is the marsh. Marshes are found next to bodies of water that don't flow, such as lakes or ponds, or by slow-flowing streams or rivers. Such areas have fluctuating levels of water, higher in the early spring and summer, and lower in late summer.

http://www.dnr.state.co.us/cdnr_news/wildlife/20004211223.html

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Marshes are generally home to the greatest biodiversity of the four types of wetland found in Colorado. Cattails, bulrush, and many species of waterfowl, insects, mollusks, crustaceans and algae are all found in marshes. The Wetlands Initiative has funded several marsh projects including the Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges, Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area and Blanca Wetlands. These projects provide habitat for the greater sandhill crane, snowy egret and other waterbirds.

The most common type of wetland found in Colorado is the wet meadow.

"These wetlands are basically grasslands with waterlogged soil near the surface but without standing water for most of the year," Skiba said. Wet meadows depend on precipitation or ground water for a water source, but can be maintained by irrigation. They provide many important benefits to a watershed, including improved water quality.

"Many species of wildlife thrive in this habitat, including deer, elk and sandhill cranes," Skiba said. The Wetlands Initiative funded many wet meadow projects including the Arickaree Ranch, Phelps

Upper Meadow and the L Cross Ranch.

The Arickaree Ranch, located in northeast Colorado, encompasses more than eight miles of the Arickaree River, a stretch of the river believed to be the last intact example of a relatively free-flowing plains river in Colorado. Greater prairie chickens perform their elaborate mating rituals on the ranch and several bird species whose population numbers are declining, including curve-billed thrasers and Cassin's sparrows, make their homes on the ranch.

The last type of wetland found in the state is the riparian wetland. These are associated with moving water and are seasonally flooded. Riparian wetlands are particularly productive ecosystems because they receive large inputs of water and nutrients from upstream sources during flooding. Riparian wetlands and their associated aquatic habitat are important for nutrient cycling and food chain support, providing litter and nesting habitat, fish habitat and forage for wildlife including waterbirds.

The Delta Heron Rookery Project, another Wetlands Initiative project, protects riparian habitat along the Gunnison River. The area is home to dozens of great blue herons, which make their homes in the cottonwood stands. River otters and Colorado pikeminnow, a federally endangered species, also live in the area.

Please send comments, questions or requests for more information on this subject to wildlife.

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Water Resources

Home

WATER RESOURCES are important to construction and maintenance of the Nation's infrastructure. The availability of ground water, for example, can limit man's use of the land in areas of shallow water tables, or can preclude mining of aggregate if water rights issues associated with a gravel pit cannot be resolved. The study area has numerous urban, suburban, and rural areas, and is underlain by a complex network of waterbearing sediments (aquifers). These aquifers are less than 20 feet deep in much of the area and are easily tapped by numerous domestic, commercial, and irrigation wells. The shallow depth makes these aquifers easily polluted by spills of hazardous materials, or leaks from underground storage tanks and oil wells. Knowledge of the thickness, extent, and nature of the shallow aquifers is vital to development of natural resources and planning for increasingly urban land use.

To meet the needs for information on shallow ground-water resources the study includes detailed mapping of 1) the location and thickness of the aquifers, 2) the altitude of the water table and direction of ground-water movement, 3) depth to the water table, 4) saturated thickness of the aquifers, 5) altitude of the buried bedrock surface under the aquifers, and 6) the general water-quality characteristics of the aquifers, and 7) the outcrop and subcrop of bedrock aquifers underlying the shallow aquifers.

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Research Activities	Shallow Aquifers Poster	Bedrock Aquifer Poster	Ground-wa
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Products & People		Digital Data	Publication

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Structure, Outcrop, and Subcrop of the Bedrock Aquifers along the Western Margin of the Denver Basin, Colorado

S.G. Robson, George Van Slyke, and Glenn Graham

This page provides access to maps of the structure, outcrop, and subcrop of the bedrock aquifers along the western margin of the Denver Basin, Colorado, contained in Hydrologic Atlas 742. The 5 maps are in PDF format. To view or print documents in PDF format, download and install the free *Adobe Acrobat Reader* if it is not already available to you. Use your browser BACK button to return here to view another map.



<u>Map</u> <u>1</u>	Structure, outcrop, and subcrop of the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer in the Greeley area.
<u>Map</u> <u>2</u>	Structure, outcrop, and subcrop of the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer in the Platteville area.
<u>Map</u> <u>3</u>	Structure, outcrop, and subcrop of the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer in the Boulder area.
<u>Map</u> <u>4</u>	Structure, outcrop, and subcrop of the Arapahoe aquifer in the Golden area.
<u>Map</u> <u>5</u>	Structure, outcrop, and subcrop of the Arapahoe aquifer in the Castle Rock area.

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