

## **AGENCIES WORKING TO PROTECT OUR WATERS**

### **Local**

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG)  
Water Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ) and Watershed Services

Summit Water Quality Committee

Phone: (970) 468-0295 x116  
Email: [qqlane@nwc.cog.co.us](mailto:qqlane@nwc.cog.co.us)  
Web: [www.nwc.cog.co.us](http://www.nwc.cog.co.us)

### **Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Water Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ) and Watershed Services**

The mission of the QQ Committee is to enable its members to protect and enhance the quality of Colorado's waters while facilitating the responsible use of those resources for the good of all Colorado citizens and their environment.

The QQ contract staff provides members with monitoring of legislative issues, water quality information, litigation and advocacy support, trans-mountain diversion oversight, and participation in intergovernmental matters providing for increased cooperation on water matters and improved political clout with state and federal agencies. Watershed Services has been the designated regional water quality management agency since 1976. In that capacity, NWCCOG completes and administers a water quality management plan for Region XII in compliance with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act.

### **Summit Water Quality Committee**

The Summit Water Quality Committee was formed in the mid 1980s and comprises all of the towns, the county government and the municipal dischargers. It is created under an intergovernmental agreement with the stated purpose of providing for a regional and coordinated approach to phosphorus control and monitoring. The SWQC has supported water quality monitoring in the watershed since its inception, and the Denver Water Department has participated in that monitoring as well.

### **Regional**

Environmental Protection Agency Region 8

Phone: (800) 227-8917 (for Region 8 states only: CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

Contact form: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/feedback.html>

Web: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/>

### **Environmental Protection Agency Region 8**

The major responsibilities of the Region 8 Water Quality Team (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming) are to:

- assist states/tribes with development of new/revised water quality standards and implementation procedures, including providing comment letters on proposed water quality standards;

- review and take action on new or revised state/tribal water quality standards;
- consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on water quality standards approvals subject to the Endangered Species Act;
- participate in national policy formulation.

## **State**

Colorado Department of Public Health & the Environment

Water Quality Control Division & Commission

Phone: (303) 692-3469

Email: [cdphe.wqcc@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.wqcc@state.co.us)

Web: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/>

The EPA delegated authority to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to implement the Federal Clean Water Act. The WQCC is the administrative agency responsible for developing specific state water quality policies in a manner that implements the broader policies set forth by the legislature in the Colorado Water Quality Control Act. Its mission is to develop and maintain a comprehensive and effective program for the protection of Colorado surface and ground water quality via an open process that involves the public. The WQCC adopts water quality classifications and standards for surface and ground waters of the state, as well as various regulations aimed at achieving compliance with those classifications and standards.

The Water Quality Control Division staffs the WQCC. The Division is recognized as Colorado's leading agency for monitoring and reporting on the quality of state waters, preventing water pollution, protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of surface and groundwater, and assuring that safe drinking water is provided from all public water systems. The Division is also committed to continuously enhancing and improving service to all segments of the public. The Division regulates the discharge of pollutants into the state's surface and ground waters and enforces the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

The WQCC meets the second Monday (and Tuesday, if necessary) of the month and encourages the broadest possible public involvement in its rulemaking hearings—where water quality standards and other regulations are formally adopted—and in informal informational hearings on a variety of topics. The Governor appoints and the Colorado Senate confirms nine members for three-year terms. Appointments are to “achieve geographical representation” and “reflect the various interests in water in the state.” At least two members are from west of the Continental Divide.