

colorado watershed assembly 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Colorado Watershed Assembly's mission is to provide leadership and support to Colorado's watershed groups to enhance their ability to protect, conserve and enhance our state's watersheds.



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If you love healthy watersheds

please consider making a donation to the Colorado Watershed Assembly and our very important programs! You can become a member at the Watershed Group Level for \$100 or an individual for \$50.

Donate by visiting coloradowater.org!

The **Colorado Watershed Assembly** is an advocate and support network for a statewide coalition of over 80 local citizen groups and over 125 water quality monitoring groups working to protect the health of their unique watersheds. The Assembly provides a statewide voice to increase public awareness of watershed issues and plays a variety of roles in supporting grassroots organizations. We place a high priority on building local, community-based leadership and on amplifying local outreach and educational efforts. Our main programs are listed below. For more information, visit our website.



The **River Watch Program** is a statewide, volunteer-run water quality monitoring program of the non-profit Colorado Watershed Assembly in partnership with Colorado Parks & Wildlife and is comprised of volunteers from about 125 different public, private, and charter school groups, watershed organizations, and private individuals that monitor over 300 different river sites throughout Colorado each year. For more information or to start your own River Watch team, contact Michaela Taylor, Program Director at Michaela@coloradowatershed.org.



The **Measurable Results Program (MRP)** seeks to assist local watershed organizations in scientifically documenting the effects of restoration efforts while helping to enhance the overall quality and quantity of stream restoration monitoring data. The Program was launched in 2010 and has worked in ten watersheds as of July, 2012. For more information on the MRP, contact Michael Blazewicz, Program Director, at Michael@coloradowater.org.

The **Inflow Network** is a free electronic information network designed to engage water interested groups and citizens in state water policy and provide up to date information, such as funding opportunities, job openings, as well as trainings and events. Sign up today on our website to start getting our weekly newsletter!

Watershed Planning – The Assembly offers watershed planning services to local non-profit watershed groups to assist in the development and implementation of EPA certified watershed plans. For more information, email Jeff Crane at jeffcrane@coloradowater.org.

Annual Conference – The Colorado Watershed Assembly hosts the **Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference** each year in partnership with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education and the Colorado Riparian Association. This conference works to expand cooperation and collaboration throughout Colorado in natural resource conservation, protection and enhancement by informing participants about new issues and innovative projects and through invaluable networking! Visit coloradowater.org/conferences for more information!

The **Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund** is financed by the Colorado checkoff program which provides tax payers the opportunity to contribute a portion of their tax return or to make a donation to assist locally-based conservation groups in their efforts to protect our land and water resources. More information can be found on our website.





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Conservancy District
Rio Grande Headwaters
Land Trust
Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Sand Creek Regional Greenway
South Platte Coalition for Urban
River Evaluation
The Greenlands Reserve
The Greenway Foundation

FOUNDATIONS, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

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Pioneer Natural Resources
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Tamarisk Coalition
NorCross Foundation
New Belgium Brewing
Aspen Foundations
Green Mountain Roasters
Healthy Rivers Fund
Eco Star
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Maki Foundation

ORGANIZATIONS

Barr Lake & Milton Reservoir
Watershed Association
Big Dry Creek Watershed
Association
Big Thompson Watershed Forum
Blue River Watershed Group
Chatfield Watershed Authority
Cherry Creek Stewardship
Partners
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition
Coalition for the
Upper South Platte
Colorado Association of
Conservation Districts

"In a time of trying political climate, we tend to feel like we are in a constant battle. The collaborative approach taken by citizen watershed groups is a welcomed relief. It is comforting to see and experience what true watershed partnerships can accomplish for the benefit of whole communities."

Jeff Crane —Jeff Crane Executive Director

2011 Highlights

- The 2011 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference: *The First Drop Lands Here* in Avon, CO was **our biggest conference yet**, with over 250 attendees from across the state with various backgrounds coming together to collaborate about water in Colorado. 2012's Conference, *Water 2012*, takes place from October 9-11 in Avon.
- Since the establishment of the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund in 2003, **over 117,000 citizens donated more than \$912,500 from their tax returns** to fund more than 50 local water enhancement projects in Colorado. Don't forget to donate to the Healthy Rivers Fund on your next State Income Tax Return!
- In the past year, the Measurable Results Program has been developing a **toolbox of monitoring procedures and parameters that can be applied by local watershed groups** to systematically and quantitatively measure the changes to the chemical, biological, and physical attributes of river systems. A list of projects MRP has been working on can be found at coloradowater.org/MeasurableResultsProgram.
- River Watch held a very successful training in October 2011 in Cedaredge, CO. With 70 new and returning volunteers attending, **River Watch was able to add seven new water quality monitoring teams** to our vast network of volunteers throughout the state. River Watch now has about 125 teams monitoring over 300 river sites across the state!
- River Watch also has a new blog. Visit coloradoriverwatch.org to check out what's new!

Income \$594,333



Expenses \$562,667

