

COLORADO **NPS** CONNECTION

News About Nonpoint Source Issues

Spring 2004

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NPS Retrospective: A Decade of Success

New booklet tells Colorado's success stories

By Laurie DiBattista

In the decade that followed the first Congressional appropriations for section 319(h), the Nonpoint Source Grant Program, over \$11 million was allocated to implement Colorado's NPS program.

How was some of that federal funding put to use in those first 10 years of the grant program, which began in 1990?

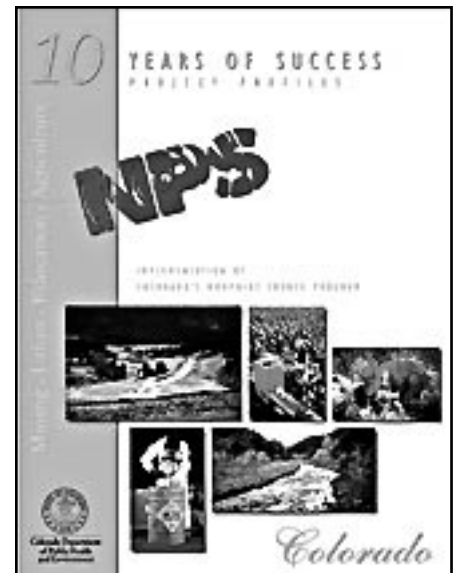
A new booklet, "10 Years of Success," provides examples of 18 NPS projects in the areas of hydrology, urban, agriculture, information and education, and mining. The attractive 32-page publication details key information about funding, partners, history and outcomes of each project, along with contact information.

Because of the nature of NPS programs – they rely heavily on the voluntary actions of property owners and stakeholders within a watershed – it's important to track "interim measures of success. ... Each effort takes us one step closer to the ultimate goal of the Clean Water Act: fishable, swimmable streams," according to the booklet.

Some of the projects that appear in the new publication have also been featured in past issues of the Colorado NPS Connection newsletter, such as:

- "Mining remediation in the Chalk Creek Watershed: Project Demonstrates Exciting Possibilities" (summer, 2003)
- "The death and rebirth of the Rio Blanco" (fall, 2001)
- "You can lead students to water, but can you make them think?" (spring, 2002).

"10 Years of Success" was produced for the Colorado NPS Program by the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture. Funding was provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through a United States Environmental Protection Agency grant.



Weather Channel and EPA Partner to Produce New Special on Polluted Runoff

The EPA and the Weather Channel have joined efforts to create a half-hour television special about watersheds and polluted runoff. "After the Storm" is scheduled to be broadcast on the Weather Channel in June and September (see side bar).

The program reminds viewers that a finite amount of fresh water exists on the planet, and that everyone needs to take actions to protect water resources. Three case studies—Santa Monica Bay, the Mississippi River Basin/Gulf of Mexico, and New York City— illustrate how polluted runoff threatens watersheds highly valued for recreation, commercial fisheries and navigation, and drinking water. Key scientists, water quality experts and citizens involved in local and national watershed protection efforts provide insight into the problems as well as solutions to today's water quality crisis.

The special also provides useful tips on how people can help make a difference. "After the Storm" explains simple things people can do to protect their local watershed. It also shows how some communities and private companies are getting involved through low impact development.

Viewers are encouraged to visit the EPA Web site, www.epa.gov/weatherchannel, for more information about what they can do, including a free brochure about stormwater pollution.

Free copies of "After the Storm" are also available for educational and communication purposes by contacting the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 513-489-8190 or 800-490-9198, or by e-mailing ncepimal@one.net. The VHS copies of "After the Storm" will include captioning so the program is accessible to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. When requesting a VHS copy of the "After the Storm," please refer to document number EPA 840-V-04-001.

Upcoming Broadcasts of "After the Storm"

Saturday, June 26
6:30 pm and 9:30 pm

Saturday, September 18
6:00 pm and 9:00 pm

New Online Tool

By Loretta Lohman, Colorado NPS Outreach Coordinator

The Colorado Nonpoint Source Program has a new tool - a Web site full of information, events and current news. Updated regularly, www.npscolorado.com is an accessible, straightforward resource with links to Colorado NPS information, EPA information and NPS information posted by every state in the country.

The site, an outgrowth of the electronic news clipping service, covers issues relevant to NPS pollution that appear in Colorado newspapers and some national publications.

Site features include: an NPS database with over 900 items searchable by abstract or keyword; a calendar of NPS and other water-related events; funding resources; and downloadable, Colorado-oriented, resources and links to other educational resources, including many suitable for stormwater education.

Look for upcoming special events and conferences, which are noted on the home page, and in more detail in the Colorado NPS News section.

Watershed Restoration Manual Series

Under a cooperative agreement from EPA's Office of Wastewater Management and Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, the Center for Watershed Protection has just published three manuals of an 11-manual "Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series." The series is designed to provide a stronger foundation to assist local and state managers in crafting urban watershed restoration plans. The manuals were written in order to organize the large amount of information required to restore small watersheds; the information is now readily accessible by watershed groups, municipal staff, environmental consultants and others.

Each manual is about 100 pages, and some also include a CD with software to enable data collection and storage. The first three were published in March and can be downloaded for free from www.cwp.org for the next six months.

Five additional manuals are scheduled for release later this summer and early fall, and the remaining three sometime after that.

The 11 manuals in the series are:

1. An Integrated Framework to Restore Small Urban Watersheds
2. Methods to Develop Restoration Plans for Small Urban Watersheds
3. Storm Water Retrofit Practices
4. Stream Repair and Restoration Practices
5. Riparian Management Practices
6. Discharge Prevention Practices
7. Previous Area Management Practices
8. Pollution Source Control Practices
9. Municipal Practices and Programs
10. Unified Stream Assessment: A User's Manual
11. Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance: A User's Manual

Colorado NPS Connection Moves to the Web

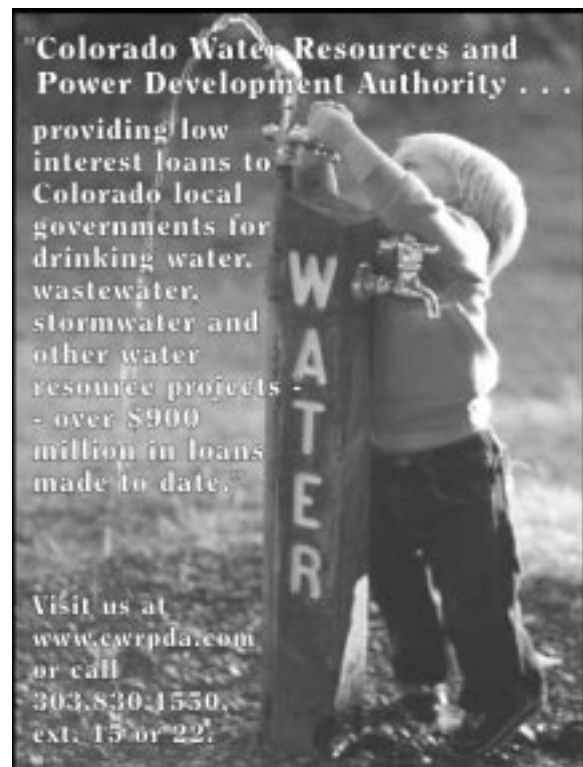
Subscribe Now

Be sure to subscribe soon to the new Web-based e-newsletter by completing the enclosed, postage-paid postcard or visit www.ourwater.org/subscribe.html.

Beginning with the summer 2004 issue, the Colorado NPS Connection will be published as an e-newsletter on the Web. Subscribers will receive an e-mail reminder with a direct link to the newsletter and its feature stories.

The switch from printed copies means the newsletter content will be more current. Direct links to related articles and Web sites will be included in stories to provide a broader scope of information. The new format will reduce production costs, and also prevent the pollution and resource waste generated by hard-copy publication.

See you on the Web!



continued from page 1

To view the booklet on the Web, log on www.npscolorado.com. To inquire about receiving a copy of the booklet, contact nps@state.co.us, or call Laurie Fisher, Colorado NPS Coordinator, at 303-692-3570.

A Sampling of NPS Projects Highlighted in "10 Years of Success"

The Owl Mountain Partnership received about \$295,000 of NPS funding and over \$1.3 million of matching funds. The contract period was 1993 to 2001. The partnership brought together local and government stakeholders to form a model for ecosystem management. Two-thirds of the project's approximately 375-square-mile area is public land. The partnership is named for a local landmark, Owl Mountain, which lies southeast of Walden.

Another project, "Keeping Soil on Site: Construction Best Management Practices," was conducted by the Denver Regional Council of Governments. The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the Colorado Department of Transportation partnered with DRCOG on the educational project that created a video and workbook, and developed training for the construction sector, public works departments, municipalities and other agencies. The project, which took place from 1996 to 1998, received \$65,000 in NPS funding and \$76,510 in matching funds.

Office of Smart Growth Issues Model Water-Efficient Landscaping Ordinance and Best Practices Manual

The Office of Smart Growth in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has issued a new water-efficient landscape design model ordinance and best practices manual to assist local communities in their efforts to encourage the use of drought-tolerant landscaping. The model landscaping ordinance and best practices manual were developed as part of a DOLA Colorado Heritage Planning Grant to the municipalities of Lafayette and Erie.

Water-efficient landscape design provides municipalities and counties with a template for incorporating drought-tolerant landscaping (also known as Xeriscaping) into their design codes. This ordinance was produced in conjunction with the development of Lafayette's landscape design code.

The companion document to the model landscape ordinance is the WaterWise Landscaping Best Practices Manual. The manual includes tips on irrigation and drainage design techniques, soil preparation, water budgeting and a list of drought-tolerant plants, shrubs and trees.

The model landscape ordinance and best practices manual can be obtained at www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth or by calling 303.866.4552.

The Colorado NPS Connection

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The Colorado NPS Connection provides timely information about nonpoint source issues to interested groups, agencies and individuals. It does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund or project funders. Articles for publication may be submitted via e-mail to info@ourwater.org for consideration.

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Upcoming Events:

GROUNDWATER IN THE WEST

**Natural Resources Law Center
June 16 – 18**

The Natural Resources Law Center is sponsoring its 25th summer conference in the Fleming Law Building on the University of Colorado Boulder campus. It will explore law, policy and management of groundwater – one of the most important resources of the 21st century.

The conference will begin on Wednesday, June 16, with a primer on groundwater in the West, focusing on science in the morning, and law in the afternoon.

Thursday's program will present case studies of groundwater use and management, including innovative solutions for a rapidly growing West, trans-boundary issues, the High Plains and the Lower Colorado Region.

Friday's program – available for separate registration – will focus on Colorado groundwater resources, issues, and solutions.

Wednesday evening's keynote presentation by Robert Glennon, author of "Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Water," is free and open to the public.

Limited space will also be available to registrants for free-standing display materials, distribution of free materials, and to place materials on the conference CD-Rom to be distributed after the conference.

For additional information, or to register, contact the NRLC at 303-492-1286, fax 303-492-1297, NRLC@colorado.edu or visit www.colorado.edu/Law/centers/nrlc/waterconference/index.htm

GETTING IN STEP WITH PHASE II: A WORKSHOP FOR STORMWATER PROGRAM MANAGERS

In Denver August 4 - 5

The workshop is based on the Getting in Step outreach workshop series. The workshop aims to provide state and local stormwater program managers with innovative tools and real-world examples that can be used to address the six minimum control measures called for by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program Phase II requirements. The workshop includes group exercises and discussion.

Eight workshops are currently scheduled. Each will highlight the particular stormwater issues faced by states in that area. Participants are welcome to attend any workshop.

The workshops are open to state, regional, and local officials, and program managers responsible for developing Stormwater Phase II Programs. No consultants will be admitted.

Training is offered free in eight locations around the country this summer. Background information is available online at:

www.epa.gov/npdes/gettinginstepwithphase2, or by contacting Melissa DeSantis and John Kosco at (703) 385-6000.

WATER CONSERVATION/WATER QUALITY MEETING IN BOULDER

The Colorado WaterWise Council and Rocky Mountain Section American Water Works Association are co-sponsoring a brown bag lunch on Thursday, June 10, to discuss water quality and conservation. The presenter is Betty Solek, of the City of Boulder. The lunch starts at 11:30 am at the George Reynold Library, 3595 Table Mesa Drive, in Boulder.



Watershed Planning: Blueprint for Action!

Colorado Nonpoint Source Forum 2004

September 8, 2004
Hotel Colorado
526 Pine Street
Glenwood Springs, Colorado
in conjunction with the
Colorado Watershed Assembly
5th Annual Conference
September 9 and 10, 2004

Why watershed planning?

Watersheds are a logical basis for managing water resources. A watershed plan provides the framework -- the blueprint -- to uncover and address the many stressors that impact a watershed and its community. The result is a community better equipped to implement the actions needed to protect or restore their water resources.

Colorado's Nonpoint Source Program will soon require a watershed plan before funding on-the-ground projects. NPS Forum 2004 will provide intensive information on the elements of a watershed plan including:

- ♦ What makes a good watershed plan
- ♦ Identifying watershed stressors
- ♦ Estimating pollutant loads
- ♦ Measuring success
- ♦ Reaching out to your community
- ♦ Implementing your plan

Who should attend?

- ♦ Watershed associations and stakeholders
- ♦ Watershed managers or coordinators
- ♦ Prospective NPS project sponsors
- ♦ County and local government planners
- ♦ Source water protection interests
- ♦ Anyone interested in protecting water quality

Bonus Session!

For those interested in submitting a proposal for 2005 nonpoint source funding, members of the Colorado Nonpoint Source Council's technical subcommittees will be available to provide assistance and insight to the application process.

The day will conclude with presentation of the Colorado Nonpoint Source Hall of Fame awards and reception.

Check www.npscolorado.com for updated information, including the final agenda.

Watershed Planning: Blueprint for Action!
Colorado Nonpoint Source Forum 2004
September 8, 2004
Tentative Agenda

8:30 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:00

Introductions and Overview

- Introduction
- Workshop objectives

10:00 – 10:45

What makes a good watershed plan?

- Overview of components in a watershed plan
- How watershed plans meet Clean Water Act goals
- EPA's new guidelines

10:45 – 11:45

Tools for Watershed Assessment and Management Strategies

- Identifying sources to be managed
- Estimating pollutant load reductions needed
- Selecting management measures to achieve load reductions
- Modeling tools, BMPs, and low-impact development

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch

12:45 – 1:55 Measuring Success

- Developing criteria (indicators) to measure progress
- Identifying interim, measurable milestones
- Devising a monitoring plan to track trends

1:55 – 3:05

Tools to Help Implement the Watershed Plan

- Building support through education, stakeholder involvement and outreach
- Securing technical, financial, and other support
- Scheduling actions and assigning tasks

3:05 – 3:25 Break

3:25 – 4:35

What's in a Watershed Plan?

- Review of sample watershed management plans
- Identification of nine minimum elements
- Review of plan scope and completeness

4:35 – 5:00 Panel/Q&A

5:05 – 5:30

Hall of Fame – Nonpoint Source Awards Presentations

5:30 – 7:00 Reception

Registration

Preregistration \$30 At the door \$35

Includes lunch, breaks, handouts and the networking reception

- Check here if you plan to attend the networking reception.
- Check here for vegetarian lunch.

Overnight Accommodations:

The Hotel Colorado, in Glenwood Springs, has set aside a block of rooms. These rooms must be reserved by July 1. Call 800-544-3998 and ask for the Colorado Watershed Assembly [COW] rate. Other accommodations in Glenwood Springs can be located at the Chamber of Commerce site: <http://www.glenwoodsprings.net>.

Detach this form and send by August 27, with a check or money order payable to Denver County Extension to:

NPS Forum, CSU Cooperative Extension
 201 West Colfax, Dept. 107
 Denver, CO 80202-5330

Name	Organization
Address	City, State, Zip
Phone	Email
Fax	\$ Amount Enclosed

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IMPORTANT!***

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