Overview: Colorado's Satellite-Linked Water Resources Monitoring System



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Brief description and update on the current system
Partnerships and coordination



Partnerships and Coordination

- Federal Agencies
 - **USGS**
 - USBR
 - NOAA-NWS
 - NRCS
 - USFWS
- State Agencies
 CWCB, DOW, Parks, CDPHE
- Local
 - Water Districts
 - Cities
- Water Users



Water administration /distribution

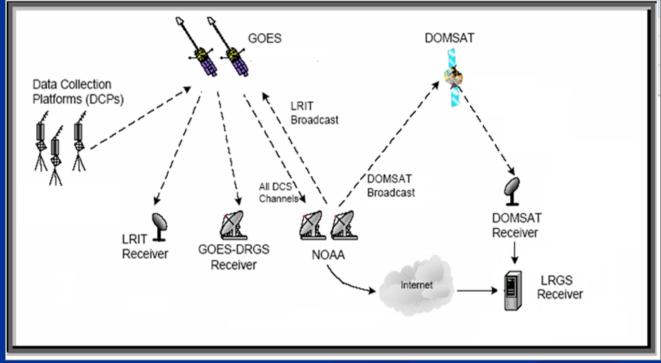
- Compact administration
- Water storage and release
- Flood warning/monitoring
- Dam safety
- Recreation/safety
- Environmental monitoring
- Minimum stream flow

- Certified final stream flow records
- Hydrologic modeling
- Water rights analyses, exchanges, transfers
- Litigation
- Wildlife and fisheries
- Water quality





a network of automatic surface water gaging stations collecting and reporting observations of stage (water level) and other environmental parameters using satellite telemetry in near real-time





Satellite Monitoring System Data Collection: Remote Sites

Gaging stations

- Rivers, streams, creeks, canals, ditches, reservoirs
- Sense water level or stage by floatactivated shaft encoder, bubbler systems, pressure transducers, radar
- Programmable data collection platforms (DCPs) collect and store observations typically every 15 minutes
- Satellite Telemetry
 - Hourly transmissions at 300 baud (older DCPs transmit every 4 hours at 100 baud)
 - Use GPS to maintain accurate time synching with GOES satellite
 - 91% of active DCPs are converted to High Data Rate (HDR)
 - ~ 48 DCPs remain to upgrade to HDR CWCB Nov 18, 2009







Satellite Monitoring System Data Collection

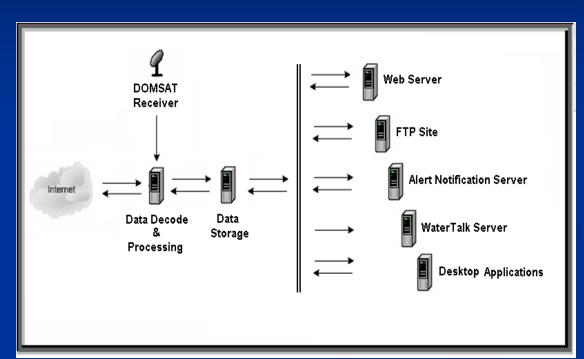
DWR Data Collection

- 463 DWR gaging stations on satellite telemetry
- 65 cooperator gaging stations
- Federal agencies (USBR, USACE, NWS)
- Local entities (Colorado Springs, Aurora, etc.)
- Stream flows and diversions
- Reservoir levels
- Environmental data (precipitation, air and water temperature)
- Water quality parameters (cooperators)
- Data from external providers
 - 375+ external stations
 - U.S. Geological Survey
 - Water conservancy districts (NCWCD, LSPWCD, SVLHWCD)



Data Processing Overview

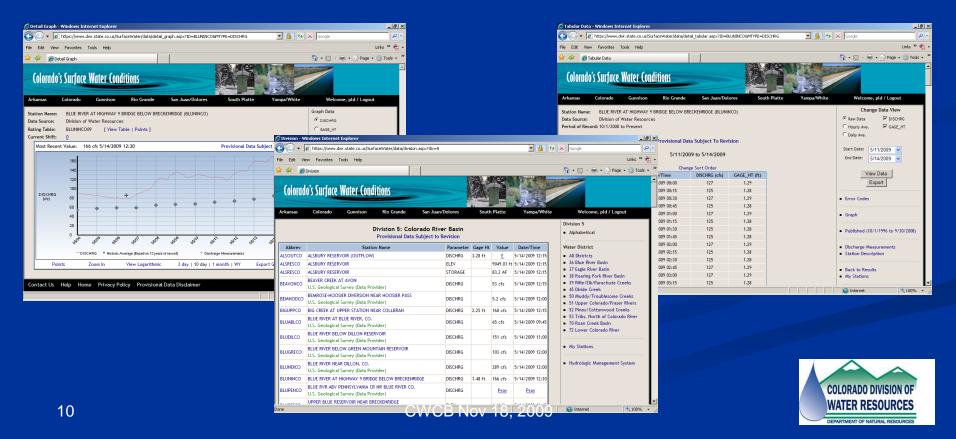
- Decode 463 DWR DCPs
- Decode 65 cooperator DCPs
- 10,700+ transmissions /day
- \square 105,500+ data values/day
- 32,000+ diagnostics values/day (signal strength, battery voltage, error codes)
- Data provider stations (USGS, NCWCD, others)
 - Via web services
 - Data automation services
 - 45,200+ data values / day





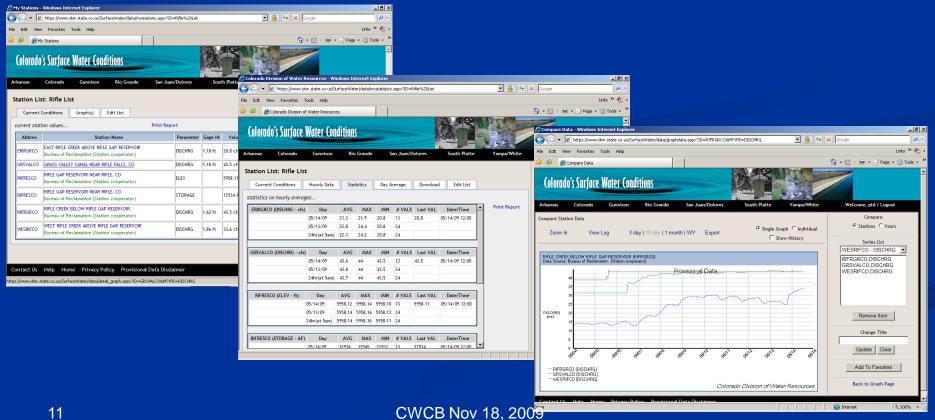
Colorado's Surface Water Conditions Web Site

- Provide near real-time telemetry data to personnel and the publicDetailed graphs
- Tabular data
- Approximately 3 million page views per year



Colorado's Surface Water Conditions

Customized user station lists Statistics Analysis / Comparison Tools



Telephony Solutions

Alert Notification System

- Dials out to subscribers
- User subscribed station list
- Informs subscriber of "red flag" conditions (minimum, maximum or rate of change)

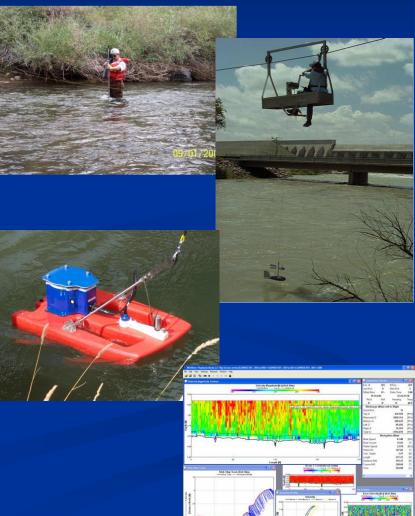
WaterTalk

- Inbound stream flow condition requests
- Approximately 90,000 inbound call per year



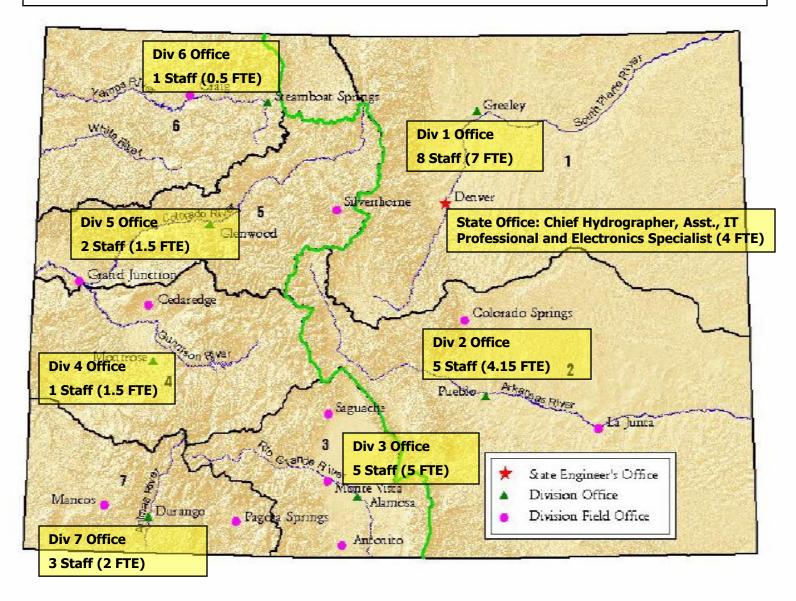
Colorado Division of Water Resources Hydrographic and Satellite Monitoring Branch

- Responsible for over 500 stream, ditch, and reservoir gages with automatic gage height collection and real-time reporting to DWR real-time streamflow web (www.dwr.state.co.us) site via GOES satellite
- 29 staff (24.9 FTE) statewide perform:
 - Gage operation and maintenance,
 - Over 4000 streamflow measurements annually to maintain stage-discharge relationships,
 - Satellite monitoring (electronic) equipment installation and maintenance
 - Streamflow record publication
 - Computer application/website support and maintenance



OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER DIVISION and FIELD OFFICES

26 of 29 Hydro Branch Staff operate and maintain gaging stations



2005 streamgaging program cost study with USGS

\$2.9 million total annual program cost

- Personal services (supervisory, field and clerical staff)
- Field equipment
- Office space, utilities, and supplies
- State vehicle lease and O&M (mileage)
- IT infrastructure (computer hardware) and support for data processing and maintenance
- 400 active streamgages → \$7250 per gage
- Estimated 2009 program costs
 - **•** \$3.5 million $\rightarrow \sim$ \$7600 per active streamgage



Annual operating budget for field operations:

- SM General Fund (2 FTE and \$90,000 operating)
- SM Cash Fund (\$145,000 annual spending authorization)
 Current firm revenue is \$172,000 per year
- CWCB Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Request (\$350,000)
 - \$245,000 -- High Data Rate DCP upgrade/maintenance program
 - \$50,000 -- Streamgage Flood Hardening
 - \$55,000 -- Streamgage Refurbishment

\$40,000 (FY09-10) and \$60,000 (FY10-11) in GF operating to be re-financed with increased SM cash fund revenue







Thomas W. Ley, PhD, PE Chief, Hydrographic and Satellite Monitoring Branch Colorado Division of Water Resources thomas.ley@state.co.us

