



# Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation Section



FY 2008/2009

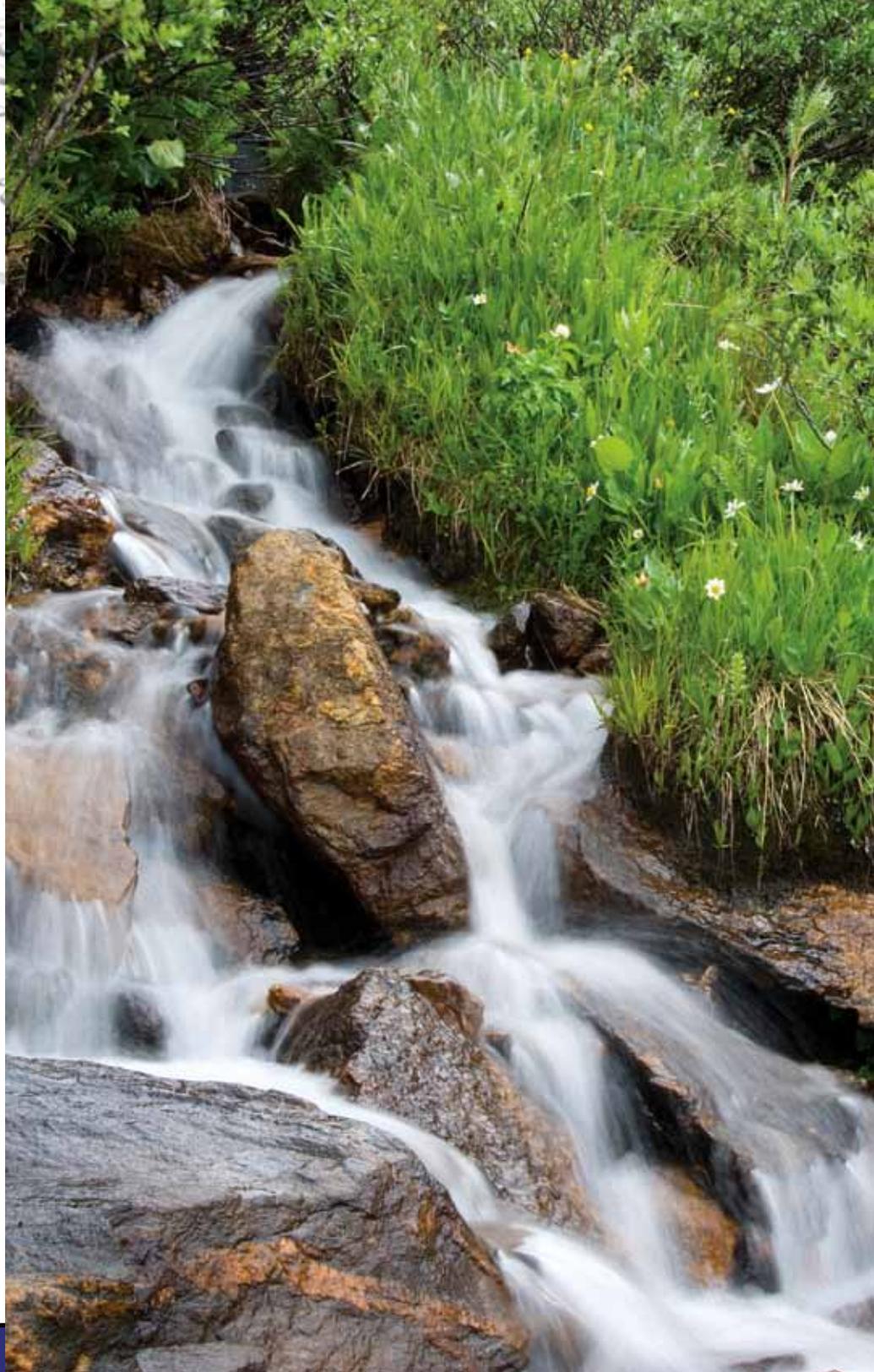
ANNUAL SUMMARY



# Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation Section

*The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section encompasses dozens of studies and projects, and provides technical assistance and support for local recovery efforts. Among the many duties carried out by staff, an essential element of the program is to prepare for floods and reduce their impacts on land, public safety, land and developed lands.*

*The CWCB's efforts include studying watersheds and implementing solutions, forming partnerships with government agencies—from rural communities to the Army Corps of Engineers, administering federal funds, and educating community officials, emergency responders and the public.*

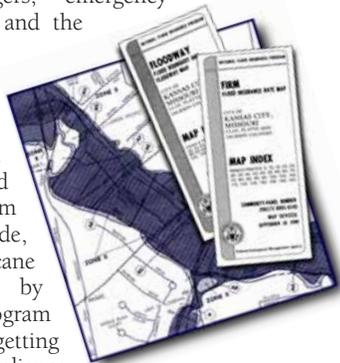


# Projects & Programs

**Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project** The CWCB continues its work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a strong coalition of local interests. The project's aim is to convert up to 20,600 acre feet of existing flood storage into multi-purpose water storage capacity for municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs with respect for the environment and recreation needs. Chatfield, a flood control reservoir, is upstream of the Denver metropolitan area at the confluence of Plum Creek and the South Platte River. If ultimately approved, the conversion requires no dam or spillway enhancements.

**Floodplain Map Modernization Program** FY 2009 is a transition year with the intent of evolving the Map Modernization program, through continued successes that have been seen through that program, into newly formed Program Management activities for FEMA's Risk Map program that will help expand the cooperative agreement between the State of Colorado and FEMA. The first two counties selected for countywide Risk Map updates are Morgan and Prowers Counties. The CWCB is anticipating that this year's total grant funding from FEMA will be similar to last year's amount. Including the two new studies, 35 of Colorado's 64 counties have studies underway or completed.

**Flood Response Program** The Daily Flood Threat Bulletin provides timely Web-based flood information to community leaders, floodplain managers, emergency responders, federal agencies and the public. The CWCB staff and its consultants document all major floods in Colorado. Flood control levees are now in the federal spotlight as concerns have evolved from lessons learned from catastrophic failures nationwide, especially during Hurricane Katrina. Staff responded by initiating a levee assistance program for communities in need of getting their levees back into compliance with federal standards.



**Community Assistance Program** CWCB staff members visited more than 40 communities across Colorado to meet with local officials; assess regulatory floodplain mapping data; encourage wise land use planning; assess floodplain ordinances and codes; and review the status of floodplain development permits. The staff also delivered a multi-state course entitled "Managing Floodplains through the NFIP" and conducted a regional workshop to educate community officials about the Community Rating System.



**Watershed Restoration Program** The CWCB Watershed Restoration Program matured into a competitive grant program supporting planning and project efforts designed to support holistic strategies in watershed restoration. Preference is given to those applications that consider the ecological connections between land and water while protecting human life and property from floods. The Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund, formerly known as the Watershed Protection Fund, awarded nearly \$200,000 in grants that serve to protect water quality, improve habitat, and provide a legacy of healthy streams for future generations. Staff continues to support various watershed groups through community outreach, technical assistance, and management of grant programs.

**Weather Modification Program** Interest in cloud seeding activities is on the rise especially with the ever-growing demand for water in Colorado and the arid West. The State of New Mexico and several water entities in downstream states donated a combined \$305,000 since 2007 to Colorado's cloud seeding grant program which is designed to augment mountain snowpack and increase spring runoff. The probable, but not quantified, increase in water supplies in the state's major river basins is considered system water, to be shared according to Colorado water law and existing interstate compacts.

**South Platte River O&M and Easement Program** The CWCB owns and operates approximately 6 miles of river reach, known as the Chatfield Downstream Channel Improvement Project, and completed a series of vegetation management activities along the project reach. The CWCB's goal is to balance public safety needs and flood control against fish and wildlife benefits and recreation. CWCB staff members are working toward a solution and Corps of Engineers approval to satisfy inspection requirements.





The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) consists of 15 members. Eight voting members represent the state's major water basins: the South Platte, North Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, Gunnison/Uncompahgre, Colorado Mainstem, Yampa/White and the San Juan/Dolores/San Miguel. One voting member represents the City and County of Denver, and the tenth voting member is an Ex-Officio, the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Other Ex-Officios, who are non-voting members, inform and advise the other Board Members on water issues as they relate to or impact their agencies. These five members consist of the Director of the CWCB, the State Engineer, the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of Wildlife, and the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Board Members serve three year terms, and are appointed by the Governor after they apply or are nominated for the position. All appointees must be confirmed by the Senate. Applicants for the positions are generally experienced in water resource issues, such as water law, irrigated farming, ranching, and water project planning, financing, or engineering. No more than five appointees can be members of the same political party, and all appointees must reside in the area they represent.

The Board meets every two months, in various locations around the state, with location often depending on some of the current issues to be discussed. These meetings are open to the public, and citizens have the opportunity to address the board during official agenda item discussions.

**For more information on upcoming meetings and agendas, go to:  
[cwcb.state.co.us](http://cwcb.state.co.us)**