

# SPDSS

The Newsletter for the  
South Platte Decision Support System



A publication of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Colorado Division of Water Resources

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## What is SPDSS?

The South Platte Decision Support System (SPDSS) helps water users make informed decisions about managing water.

State agencies, water providers, and water users are constantly evaluating management of water resources in response to increases in population and demand, droughts, endangered species issues, and reductions in federal water program funding.

The overall purpose of SPDSS is to provide all water users - from farmers, to water providers, to Colorado agencies - a better means for accessing, organizing, and evaluating a wide range of information and alternative strategies for making decisions about developing, managing, and preserving the water resources of the South Platte River Basin.

SPDSS, the third decision support system (DSS) to be developed by the state, consists of data that characterizes the hydrologic and hydrogeologic features of the basin and tools that provide enhanced water administration and water resource planning capabilities.

This newsletter focuses on providing water users with information and updates on the SPDSS data and tools that can help to manage the water resources of the South Platte River Basin.

## CWCB and DWR bring you SPDSS.

SPDSS is a comprehensive DSS being developed for the South Platte Basin under the direction of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and Division of Water Resources (DWR) with review and input by users in the form of a core advisory group and specific technical advisory groups. CWCB contracted with several firms to bring particular expertise to the development of SPDSS. These firms include Riverside Technology (GIS, irrigated parcels, and system integration), CDM (groundwater resources), Leonard Rice Engineers (consumptive use), and Brown and Caldwell (stakeholder outreach). For more information about SPDSS and to access the data and documents discussed in this newsletter, visit the Colorado DSS website at <http://cdss.state.co.us> or contact Ray Alvarado, the SPDSS Project Manager at CWCB (303.866.3441 ext 3201 or [ray.alvarado@state.co.us](mailto:ray.alvarado@state.co.us)).

## Featured in this issue:

### ***New online tools and website improvements!***

What is SPDSS?

WellView Web Now Available

Aquifer Determination Tools

Hydrobase Web Service is Here

CDSS Website Improvements

Upcoming Events, E-Newsletter Subscription

## WellView Web Now Available

WellView Web came online in July 2009, a valuable tool available to the user anytime.

Researching well permit information meant either going directly to the Division of Water Resources office or purchasing and installing the previous version of the WellView program, which was becoming outdated and difficult to use. Now with WellView Web available anytime online, searching for well permit information is much more efficient. The user can look up well information and related documents, search by permit number, well owner, location, or other criteria, and export results into a spreadsheet. When viewing data for a specific well, available information includes applicant/owner history; location information; details regarding the permit, well construction and usage; the application and permit history, and links to scanned original documentation. Visit <http://www.dwr.state.co.us/wellviewweb/> for more information.

## What can I use WellView Web for?

With WellView Web now available online, you can:

- Look up information about any existing well permit
- Find legal description of well location
- See chronology of permit and well history
- Find out well type/use (e.g. municipal, monitoring, etc.)
- Link to related documents such as well completion and pump installation reports, permit applications, correspondence, etc.
- Have all the State's well data at your fingertips!



## Aquifer Determination Web-Based Tools

Launched in September 2008, tools provide web-based aquifer information for the Denver Basin and the Dakota/Cheyenne aquifers.

The Denver Basin aquifer information is based on the aquifer characteristics in the Denver Basin Rules (2 CCR 402-6). The characteristics provided by the tool include the top and bottom elevations of the aquifers, the thickness of the water yielding sands, whether the aquifer is tributary or nontributary, all at a given location. Using inputs either for a specific location or a tract of land, the tool can be used to determine the volume of water located beneath that parcel of land based on the aquifer characteristics at that location. The Dakota/Cheyenne aquifer tool yields similar information within a specific area in southeastern Colorado, estimating the top and bottom elevations of the aquifer. Before the Aquifer Determination web-based tools were available, aquifer characteristics and information were available by going to the Division of Water Resources office or purchasing and installing the previous version. Using the updated online tool, aquifer characteristic information for either the Denver Basin or Dakota/Cheyenne aquifers is now easily accessible to any user at any time online, facilitating the data gathering process for making better groundwater use decisions. Visit <http://cdss.state.co.us/DNN/ViewData/AquiferDeterminationTools/tabid/87/Default.aspx> for more information.



## Hydrobase Web Service is Here

CWCB and DWR have made Hydrobase publicly accessible online.

Hydrobase is a widely used database of water information published on an annual basis. Some examples of the available data include streamflow, diversions, climate data, and water rights information. Currently, users can obtain a DVD from the Division of Water Resources each year to obtain historical water data up through the most recently published water year. Using the DVD-based database, the information can be queried using the predefined searches and output formats. The Hydrobase web service that is now available creates a publicly accessible web service for the Hydrobase database. Users can access all the water information from Hydrobase directly to query and present the information in a format that is most efficient and convenient based on their data needs. Water information available through the web service is updated automatically each year as published data becomes available. You can access the Hydrobase Web Service from the CDSS website at <http://cdss.state.co.us> - click on View Data on the horizontal menu bar, then select Web Services.



## CDSS Website Improvements

Now you can find scanned water rights court documents, access CDSS through different browsers, and search the content of documents on CDSS.

- The Water Rights data feature in CDSS now allows access to scanned court documents related to each water right. These documents are available for viewing, downloading or printing. This new access to water rights documents will make water rights research much more efficient since they are now available to the user any time online.

- CDSS is now more browser compliant so that anyone using the internet, regardless of which browsing program they are using, has access to the same data in CDSS. Now in addition to the tabs at the top of the home page, there are also links at the bottom to allow for the same use by different internet browsers.

- If a user searches for key words related to CDSS in an online search engine, CDSS is now recognized by search engines and will come up in the search results. The online search engines can also find key words in the documents available in CDSS, such as SPDSS Technical Memorandum.



## Upcoming Events

Peer review committee meetings in 2010

- The main topic of the upcoming groundwater peer review committee (PRC) meeting coming up in mid 2010 is calibration status of the alluvial model.

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