

Upper South Platte Source Water Protection Plan



Denver Water's formal Upper South Platte Watershed Source Water Protection Planning process was initiated in 2013. The plan was developed as part of a collaborative stakeholder process convened by Denver Water, facilitated by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, and funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through the Colorado Source Water Assessment and Protection program. The planning process and final plan are designed to provide municipal water providers, local governments and the public with information about drinking water, as well as providing a way for water providers and community members to get involved in protecting the quality of their drinking water. The program encourages community-based protection and preventive management strategies to ensure public drinking water resources are kept safe from future contamination.

The planning process recognizes that decision makers, public water providers, and emergency response personnel all play key roles in protecting water quality, both in the short and long terms. They are the community's front line to protect against spills and emergencies, deal with everyday contaminants of concern, mitigate negative impacts of development, and protect against long-term watershed degradation. For this reason, a Steering Committee comprised of broad stakeholders was convened to help direct the project.

The Steering Committee recognizes that protecting against long-term watershed degradation requires coordination between land managers and public water providers. In a series of public meetings, the Steering Committee worked with subject matter experts to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for contaminants of concern within the watershed. These BMPs will be implemented to protect against contamination from chemical spills, inadequate septic systems, nutrients from agriculture, mine contamination, oil and gas development, and forest fires.

Denver Water has been working with partners in Colorado to improve water quality monitoring and evaluation, to increase participation in watershed groups, and to lobby for increased protection of drinking water sources. This plan for the Upper South Platte Watershed will serve as a guide and template for the development of plans in other watersheds upon which Denver Water's customers depend.

For additional information about Denver Water's Source Water Protection activities, contact Sarah Dominick at sarah.dominick@denverwater.org.



Project Steering Committee Members

Aurora Water

Bureau of Land Management

Center of CO Water Conservancy District

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

CO Department of Public Health and Environment

CO Trout Unlimited

Denver Water

Douglas County

Environmental Protection Agency

Jefferson County

Park County

Teller County

United States Forest Service

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<http://www.denverwater.org/SupplyPlanning/WaterSupply/watershed-protection/>