

# Colorado Data Sharing Network in review: Saint Vrain and Left Hand Creek - March 2, 2011



## Expectations

### Learn and Network:

- What is happening
- Where
- How get data
- Needs & Concerns
- Who wants to leverage resources

Discover Issues and find data gaps

Prioritize Restoration Efforts

Update protection plans

Share what we are doing

Connect with others in the basin

Experience A SWAP or data exchange

Kick off the Watershed Planning Process

## Watershed SWAP Priorities and Concerns

### Priorities

- Sediment remains an issue in specific places and little monitoring occurs
- Eliminate or minimize unnecessary sediment loads to James Cr, especially above Jamestown drinking water intake
- Continue to understand emerging contaminants
- Priority to sell importance of storm water to funders and public but difficult to do
- Priority of EPA to sample Front Range streams for over 200 indicators, on going study
- Priority to minimize negative impacts of CBT project on St. Vrain
- Priority to know the health of the streams I depend upon
- Priority of WQCD Hazardous Waste Section to monitor restoration efforts above California Gulch area and if failing move to next plan
- NRCS priority to assist farmers to adopt irrigation practices that maximize efficiency and protect water quality
- Priority to complete all TMDL's and monitor success of existing TMDL's

### Concerns

- Issues related to historic mining—so much we don't know
- Concern existing data is not adequately shared
- Need better availability of archived flow data on Left Hand Cr
- Concern about Left Hand Cr exchange water in canal water for Boulder with two different water qualities
- St Vrain is two systems, headwater and lower since middle is often diverted dry, changes how and where address protection
- Concern to make sure data are valid, appropriate and meaningful, especially with multiple sources and laboratories
- Concern about impact of saturated septic systems to human health

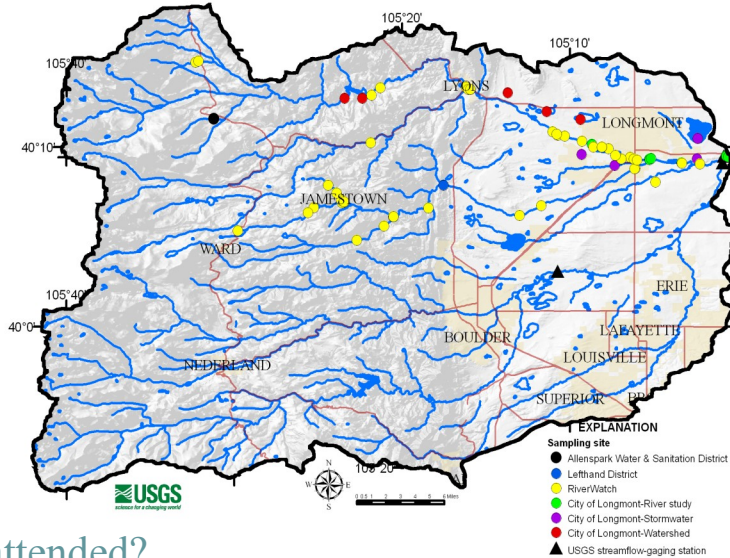
### Needs

- Gap in headwater sampling
- More sites on main stem near town, near Left Hand Cr and on Dry Cr and few other smaller tributaries
- Station needed downstream of Ward on Left Hand Cr
- Goal to get more water in dry stretch and downstream endangered minnow and as esthetics asset for Longmont citizens
- Need better indicator to determine onsite waste disposal influence

## Event Sponsors



# Colorado Data Sharing Network in review: Saint Vrain and Left Hand Creek



## Who attended?

Mike Benham—Boulder  
 Mary Boardman—WQCD Hazardous Waste  
 Karl Hermann—USEPA  
 Janice Loptiz—Keep It Clean Partnership  
 Kathrynne Marko—Longmont  
 Cathy Tate—USGS  
 Gil Barth—SSPA, Hydrologist  
 Mark Williams-Boulder Public Health  
 Colleen Williams—CO Rural Water Assoc  
 Carolyn Sullivan—JVA Inc.  
 Ken Huson - Longmont  
 Jen Stephenson—NWCD  
 Michelle Wind—Boulder  
 Kevin Boden—Longmont  
 Lucia Machado—WQCD NPS program  
 Phil Hegeman—WQCD TMDL  
 Sean Cronin—St Vrain Left Hand WCD  
 Don Graffis- NRCS  
 Glenn Patterson—St Vrain Left Hand WCD  
 Barb Horn—CWQMC

## Who Was Missing?

USFS / BLM                      National Park Service  
 Boulder County Parks Open Space  
 City of Boulder Open Space      Niwot Sanitation  
 Town of Ward                      Town of Lyons  
 Utilities of Allenspark              Left Hand Water District  
 Longs Peak Utility                  Little Thompson Utility  
 Left Hand Ditch CoPlumb & Daily Ditch  
 Highland Ditch Co      New Coal Ridge Ditch CoLeft Hand  
 Water Dist                      Allenspark Sanitation

## Who was invited?

(in addition to attendees and who is missing )

EPA	/Longmont	Bikis Cons
BOR	/Boulder	Bio Habitat Cons
BLM	/Coors	GEI
USFS	/Colo Water Congress	JW Assoc
USFWS	/Jamestown	Camp Dresser Mckee
NRCS	/Fredrick	Colo Env Coalition
USGS	/Tri Cty Health	Trout Unlimited
CDOT	/Colo Heritage Prg	Walsh Environ.
CDPHE WQCD	/AMEC	Colo Water Trust
CDPHE Haz Waste	/WASH	Ducks Unlimited
DNR Geological Survey	/Western Eng	Earth Justice
DNR DREMS	/James Cr WS Init	EM Consulting
DNR DOW	/TDS Consulting	ASARCO
DNR CWCB	/Miller Ecological Serv	River Reach Fd
DNR DWR	/Leonard Rice Eng	AWARE
League of Women Voters		Xcel Energy
Colo State Cons Board		Wright Waters Eng
Colo State Univ	/4 Legal Firms	BO Valley Cons Dist
Univ of Colo	/Dinatale Water	CSU Water Institute
Colo School Mines		Colo Farm Bureau
Central Colo Warter Cons		5 Ind consultants
Northern Water Cons	/ Dist 6 Water Users	MHW America's, Inc
H2O Design Eng	/Timberline Aquatics	Colo Fd Water Ed

# Colorado Data Sharing Network in review: Saint Vrain and Left Hand Creek

## Summary of Activity

### Cities: Longmont and Boulder

Longmont samples seven sites along St Vrain starting at confluence with Boulder Cr up to Airport Road east of City, initiated over concerns from WWTP. Bioassessments on five sites from Boulder Cr confluence upstream. Sample Birch Lake once a year and Union Reservoir more frequently. Work with Northern WCD to sample emerging contaminants at one site above Supply Canal. Three sites that monitor combine stormwater and irrigation impacts.

Boulder monitors the parts of St Vrain that impact the City and Boulder Reservoir. Looking at emergent contaminants and other constituents. Working with Northern WCD to separate canal from other drainages to isolate agriculture, pathogens and road drainage contaminants.

### County: Boulder

County—public health perspective, don't collect much data but need data to reduce risk from onsite waste disposal and ineffective septic systems. Have map of high risk areas close to waterways and drinking sources. Has a laboratory for ecoli testing.

### State:

WQCD—collect data for NPDES program, Non Point Source Program, TMDL development and implementation. State depends on others data for use assessment. Revising current TMDL in watershed. Hazardous Waste Section collected data from Superfund site 2003-2006, looking closely at soils, will implement stream sampling program to monitoring restoration efforts this year.

River Watch—stations on provided map, duration will vary according to volunteer.  
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/landwater/riverwatch>  
WWW. Coloradowater.org

### Federal:

NRCS—snow surveys for 18 years, data from working with producers to increase efficiencies in irrigation practices and reduce runoff/pollutants from operations.

EPA— needs data for mandates and to help states with 305b, 303d, etc. Collecting data on 15 sites in SV-Boulder watershed as part of statewide network for pesticides and personal care products. One site in Lyons area, one on Left Hand Cr. Next phase will select a few sites and monitor more frequently. Found 2, 4-D and DEET at all sites. Ecstasy and cocaine are frequent. Some nutrient sampling.

## Colorado Data Sharing Network in review: Saint Vrain and Left Hand Creek

### Summary of Activity

#### Water Conservancy Districts:

St Vrain Left Hand WCD—Does not generate much data but needs it from a watershed and district planning perspective.

Northern WCD—monitor small list of ultra low concentration indicators at WWTP impacted sites in collaboration with CU. Work with USGS in emergent contaminants sampling in 2005. Some sampling in city park ponds, one time effort to sample all park ponds. Site on St Vrain up and downstream of Supply Canal. Other sites sampled in warm months to monitor impact of CBT water on St Vrain Cr. Some monitoring for mussels in CBT system but have not found in several years.

#### Non Profit / Private

Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group utilizes the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado Watershed Assembly's River Watch Program to monitor stations, they are on the map. Monitoring four stations on Little James Cr, about four to six years, one station on Left Hand Cr and on James Cr. Group collaborates with James Cr Initiative. Other studies completed include tracer, loadings, surface flow and macroinvertebrates.

James Cr Initiative—monitor James Cr mostly around town intake for many years, turbidity being a primary issue. Five total sites that include monitoring impacts from John Jay and other mines. Did a storm water turbidity study.

Keep it Clean—Main focus is any data and efforts to help educate and communicate effects of storm water to funders and public.

Trout Unlimited—interested and have done some monitoring on St Vrain in past.

## Support the Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council

Find this SWAP Summary Fact Sheet and others at:

[www.coloradowaterquality.org](http://www.coloradowaterquality.org)

Visit our map and database at:

[www.coloradowaterdata.org](http://www.coloradowaterdata.org) (password cdsnpublic)

Support the Network and provide your data, time and resources !