



FALL 2008

Sustainability of the Data Sharing Network, CDSN

The purpose of the CDSN is to create a primary use, water quality database for Colorado that will serve a diverse group of water management professionals, and data users and will be available to everyone. The concept of a user friendly, state-wide, water quality database is one that has been talked about for many years and has been expressed as a definite need by many entities. Interest has always been high for such a product but as any large scale program, resources are always at issue. In 2004 an EPA RGI Grant for \$15,000 and in 2005 a Non-Point Source Grant was approved for \$100,000 by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division to implement the Colorado Data Sharing Network. The three year Grant Project is now in its third and final year. Much progress has been made in the past two years including the launching of a STORET based, web access Data Sharing Network. This Network allows sharing of metadata and actual water quality data throughout the state. The Network includes an interactive map that is currently a work in progress. The Network is continuing to be populated with water quality data (and will include biological data in the future) from Legacy Non-Point Source projects and volunteer watershed and other data generating entities.

As this project moves forward, it is imperative that a sustainability plan be formalized to ensure the viability of the CDSN for the future. The State Water Quality Control Division has given its support to facilitate the success of the CDSN and has committed to help identify grant and other funding opportunities. It will be necessary to look for additional funding to procure a more permanent funding mechanism. The Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council has elected to initiate a fund raising plan that will allow those who may not be able to pay for access to utilize the system through the generosity of others who can afford to provide sponsor the future of the CDSN. Sustainability of the CDSN beyond 2008 will be in part dependent on the funding that can be raised from data sharing partners in the state to augment any state and federal grant opportunities that may be realized in the next few years.

HOW WILL CONTRIBUTING TO THE COLORADO WATER MONITORING COUNCIL AND COLORADO DATA SHARING NETWORK BENEFIT MY ORGANIZATION?

Water Utilities

- Increase knowledge of your water source quality by utilizing CDSN for decision making
- Water quality data available to share with the public
- Increase collaboration with upstream and downstream stakeholders
- Share monitoring costs and efforts with other entities
- Provide monitoring data to the state in usable normalized STORET format
- Provide a mechanism to voice water quality issues
- Generate good will with the public – be listed as a partner

Conservation/Watershed Groups

- Get a better understanding of what is happening in your watershed - Identify other data generators and projects in your region
- Increase collaboration between stakeholders by sharing data and identifying data gaps
- Have a system to manage data from multiple sources and projects
- Leverage resources spent on data management consultants
- Provide the public with a means to access water quality data easily and
- Provide a mechanism to voice water quality issues with local and state agencies
- Provide a valuable tool to help support a forum for watershed protection efforts

Consultants

- Reduce time and client cost through on-line shared water quality data
- Spend resources to analyze rather than gather and format data
- Spend less time filling in data gaps
- Better understand what is happening with water quality in the state
- All data is normalized to reduce data evaluation time and increase efficiency of sharing data with state and federal agencies

Industry

- Better understand water quality context in which industry is operating
- Know what is happening in your watershed to help reduce monitoring costs
- Know what is happening downstream to better determine discharge effects to downstream stakeholders
- Increase collaboration with other watershed stakeholders
- Facilitate data gathering for permit applications

- Provide more efficient regulatory data reporting
- Establish a mechanism to help voice water quality issues with regulatory agencies
- Generate good will with the public – have your name listed as a partner

State/Federal Agencies

- Increase access to water quality data for a better understanding of the status of water quality in the state
- Evaluate water quality conditions to facilitate budgetary and agency priorities
- Improve data sharing with the public and other agencies through a normalized data format
- Reduce resources required for “data calls”
- Leverage water quality data management resources
- Increase communications and collaboration with the regulated community, other government agencies and the public
- Facilitate a forum for effectively communicating water quality issues
- Generate good will with the public – be listed as a partner

Private Citizen

- Understand what is happening with the water quality of your watershed
- Support collaboration with water quality monitoring entities and other stakeholders
- Provide a forum to support local water quality efforts