

What is River Watch. The “[Colorado River Watch](#)” program is an on-going volunteer water quality-monitoring program co-sponsored by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and the [Colorado Watershed Assembly](#). It is designed to provide the CDOW and the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission with high quality water ecosystem data for use in making or revising water quality standards. Several Colorado Trout Unlimited chapters have joined the program in the collection and analysis of water samples from designated sites per chapter. These samples are analyzed monthly for pH, temperature, hardness, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen and heavy metals (Al, As, Ca, Cd, Cu, Fe, Mg, Pb, Se, and Zn). Twice a year (spring and autumn) nutrients (phosphorous, nitrate + nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, and total suspended solids) are collected. Chapter members conduct the water sample analyses except for the nutrient and heavy metal samples which are analyzed by an outside CDOW laboratory. Twice a year, during low water flow conditions - typically in the early spring and autumn - samples are collected for macroinvertebrates. Volunteers sample water from a stretch of Clear Creek in the Golden area. Participation in this program ( 4th Sat. of every month) affords you not only an interesting, but also an educational experience. To volunteer, please contact Gil Hassinger at 303-980-5616 or email at [gassinger@comcast.net](mailto:gassinger@comcast.net)