



Watershed trouble spots


Polluted mine drainage, sediment, and low flows are ongoing problems in the Blue River Basin.

FISH KILLS 


Occasional fish kills in local streams indicate that pollution levels from various sources sometimes reach acute levels, and the persistence of whirling disease impacts rainbow trout populations.

SNOWMAKING DIVERSIONS 

The cumulative impacts from simultaneous diversions in all major Blue River tributaries has never been fully evaluated.


HIGHWAY SAND 

Progress cleaning up highway traction sand in Straight Creek is a promising sign; however other local streams, notably the North Fork between Loveland Pass and Keystone, are still seeing major impacts from this source.


PUMPBACKS 

Plans to pump Blue River water from Dillon Reservoir back to Breckenridge, and from Green Mountain Reservoir to Silverthorne, as well as issues with well-water use, suggest that local water supplies are extended to near a breaking point.


Countywide issues

NATIONAL FOREST ISSUES 

Widespread erosion and runoff from unpaved roads on national forest lands affect sensitive headwaters around Summit County.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION 

Runoff from paved areas and from construction sites requires more monitoring and stricter enforcement of existing regulations.

BLUE RIVER FLOWS 

Low flows in the Blue below Dillon Reservoir could become more common, affecting fisheries and recreation, as more water is diverted to the Front Range.