

2. WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

There are 12 segments in the Larimer / Weld region that have been included on the Colorado 2006 303(d) List prepared by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division. These segments are required by EPA and the Clean Water Act to have Total Maximum Daily Load's (TMDL's) prepared for them to attempt to resolve the problems causing water quality impairments.

The chart below shows these sections as listed in the 303(d) List and includes the segment, a description of the segment, the portion of that segment that is impaired, the parameter of concern for impairment, and the level of priority for TMDL development.

Segment	Segment Description	Portion	Impairment	Priority
COSPBD01	Mainstem of Big Dry Creek, including all tributaries, lakes, reservoirs & wetlands, from the source to the confluence with the South Platte River	All	E. coli, Se	High / Low
COSPBT05	Big Thompson River, I-25 to S. Platte River	All	Se, NH ₃	Low
COSPBT09	Little Thompson River, Culver Ditch to Big Thompson River	All	Se, E. coli	Low / High
COSPBT10	Tributaries to the Little Thompson River	Big Hollow	Se	Low
COSPCP12	Cache la Poudre River, Box Elder Creek to S. Platte River	All	Se	Low
COSPCP12	Cache la Poudre River, Box Elder Creek to S. Platte River	Below Eaton Draw	E. coli	High
COSPCP13a	All tributaries to the Cache la Poudre River, including all lakes reservoirs and wetlands, from the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River to the confluence with the South Platte River	Fossil Creek	Se	Low
COSPCP13b	Boxelder Creek from source to the Cache la Poudre River	All	Se	Low
COSPCP14	Horsetooth Reservoir	All	D.O.	Low
COSPMS03a	Tributaries to S. Platte River, Big Dry Creek to Weld/Morgan county line	Horse Creek Reservoir	pH	Low
COSPMS04	Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir	All	pH	Medium
COSPUS16a	Sand Creek	All	Se, E. coli	Low / High

In addition, there are 6 segments in the Larimer / Weld region listed on the 2006 Monitoring and Evaluation List. Those segments are listed below.

Segment	Segment Description	Portion	Parameter
COSPBD01	Mainstem of Big Dry Creek, including all tributaries, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands, from the source to the confluence with the South Platte River.	Big Dry Creek below York Street	Fe(Trec)
COSPBT04b	Big Thompson River, Greeley-Loveland Canal diversion to CR11H	All	Se
COSPBT09	Little Thompson River, Culver Ditch to Big Thompson River	All	Aquatic Life Use
COSPCP10	Cache la Poudre River, Monroe Canal to Shields St.	Below the confluence with the North Fork	Aquatic Life Use

COSPSV03	St. Vrain Creek, Hygiene Rd. to South Platte River	All	Aquatic Life Use, E. coli
COSPUS03	Tributaries to South Platte River, Tarryall Creek to N. Fork South Platte River	Horse Creek, on USFS Land	Sediment, temperature

The majority of the issues from these two lists revolve around selenium and E. coli. Water Quality Standards for selenium are exceeded in a significant number of streams in the state not just in Larimer and Weld Counties. Many of the watershed organizations and monitoring groups including Big Thompson Watershed Forum, Big Dry Creek Watershed Association, and the Cache la Poudre Monitoring Group are all currently collection selenium data as part of their ongoing monitoring programs. The Big Dry Creek Watershed Association will be proposing action related to the listing of segment 1 of Big Dry Creek. The Association will be proposing an ambient based temporary modification to the stream standards for this segment. If approved, the modification would result in this segment being de-listed.

Additional activity related to TMDL development for E. coli has also been occurring. As with selenium, many of the watershed organizations and monitoring groups also are collecting E. coli data as part of their ongoing monitoring programs. Some of the groups such as the Big Dry Creek Watershed Association have also initiated more in depth studies which concentrate on identifying the sources and locations of E. coli concerns along the listed segments.

In 2007 an E. coli work group was established through the Water Quality Forum. This work group was established to bring together a state wide discussion of the concerns and discuss the unique issues involved with the development of TMDL's for E. coli. This group will continue to be an ongoing work group for the Forum with regular updates presented at the Water Quality Forum meetings and provided on the Forum's webpage.