By the numbers: Colorado

- 16,763 geoscience employees (excludes self-employed)
- 1.53 billion gallons/day: total groundwater withdrawal
$1.68 billion: value of nonfuel mineral production in 2017
80 total disaster declarations, including 57 fire, 13 flood, and 3 snow disasters (1953-2017)?
$178 million: NSF GEO grants awarded in 2017

Read more in this Geoscience in Your State Factsheet...

 Agencies Working on Geoscience Issues in Colorado

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe
The mission of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is to protect and improve the health of Colorado’s people and the quality of its environment.

Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
https://www.colorado.gov/dhsem
The mission of the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is to provide leadership and support to Colorado communities to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover from all-hazard events including acts of terrorism.

Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining & Safety
https://drms.colorado.gov/
The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety is responsible for mineral and energy development, policy, regulation and planning. The division is comprised of the Office of Mined Land Reclamation and the Office of Active and Inactive Mines.

Colorado Division of Water Resources
https://dwr.colorado.gov/
The mission of the Colorado DWR is to provide competent and dependable distribution of water in accordance with statutes, decrees and interstate compacts; to ensure public safety through safe dams and properly permitted and constructed water wells; to maintain and provide accurate and timely information concerning water; to promote stewardship of all human, fiscal and natural resources; to serve the public through the generation of creative solutions to problems; to help the public understand complex water issues; to promote stability in the use of the state’s limited water resources; and to apply modern technology to its greatest advantage.

Colorado Geological Survey
http://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/
The mission of the Colorado Geological Survey is building vibrant economies and sustainable communities, free from geologic hazards, for people to live, work and play through good science, collaboration, and sound management of mineral, energy and water resources.

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
https://cogcc.state.co.us/
The mission of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) is to foster the responsible development of Colorado’s oil and gas natural resources.

Colorado Water Conservation Board
https://cwcb.colorado.gov/
The mission of the Colorado Water Conservation Board is to conserve, develop, protect and manage Colorado’s water for present and future generations.

Maps & Visualizations
Interactive database for geologic maps of the United States
U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey hosts the National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB). This interactive tool serves as a national archive for high-quality, standardized geologic maps created by the U.S. Geological Survey and state geological surveys. The MapView section of the NGMDB displays geologic maps...

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Case Studies & Factsheets

Water Sources for Hydraulic Fracturing

Hydraulic Fracturing and Water Demand Hydraulically fracturing a modern well can require millions of gallons of water for the initial fracturing process. This is a potential problem in arid regions with competing demands for fresh water (i.e. high water stress), such as Colorado and West Texas (see...

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Webinars & Forums


The 2016 Critical Issues Forum was a 1-½ day meeting covering multiple aspects of groundwater depletion in the High Plains.

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