Geoscience in Your State: Colorado
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...

Case Studies & Factsheets

Using Produced Water
Opportunities and Concerns in Using Produced Water
Produced water is natural groundwater that is extracted along with oil and gas. It is commonly salty and mixed with oil residues, so it must be either disposed of or treated and reused. About 2.5 billion gallons of produced water are extracted...

Webinars & Forums

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

GOLI Online Courses

State Responses to Induced Earthquakes
Course Type: GOLI Online Course
The surge in recent years of earthquake activity associated with some oil and gas operations, most notably in Oklahoma, has spurred a range of actions and responses from state geoscientists and regulators. States have taken measures to monitor these earthquakes and moderate the activities that...