



# River Watch of CO

## Enhancements for Our Next 30 Years

Luke Javernick, Ph.D.



## What is River Watch

---

A statewide citizen science volunteer water quality program with the mission:  
*"Real People, doing Real Science, for a Real Purpose."*

---

Partnership between River Science (501c3) and CO Parks and Wildlife





# High Quality Data

## Citizen SCIENCE

Our program depends on our volunteer scientists who have been trained to collect water quality samples and perform on site analysis to a very high rigor.

## Data Users

Our data is used by many groups which include Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as well as the EPA. This speaks to our data quality.

## Data to Decisions

Our study design was built to inform Clean Water Act and aid in decision-making processes to help conserve and restore the health of CO rivers.





# TRACKING WILDLIFE



FOR COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE EMPLOYEES

Volume No. 65 — June 15, 1993

## Inside This Issue:

- Central Region News  
page 2
- Lateral transfer opportunities  
page 6
- State personnel changes  
page 7

## Riverwatch gets the kids involved



DOW wildlife biologist Barb Horn stands on the South Platte River bank with students from Horizon High School. The school is one of 124 schools studying on 75 rivers throughout Colorado with the Riverwatch program.  
(photo by Ed Kosmicki)



# Achievements Over 30 Years

As of July, 2021

## How Many Volunteers Have Participated over the last 30 years?

- A) 25,000
- B) 50,000
- C) 75,000
- D) 3 Million



# Achievements Over 30 Years

As of July, 2021

**>75,000**

Volunteers since 1991

**59,000**

Miles of River Monitored

(65% of CO's River Miles)

**\$1.02M**

Dollars of In-Kind  
Volunteer Time

(2004-present)



# Improving Our Program

Training and Resources

---

**COVID forced us to reconsider training and  
volunteer support**

**We have compiled our training into short segmented  
videos available to all volunteers (>100 videos)**

**CDIP Approved!**

**First CDIP year, we certified 94 students**





# Improving Our Program

Training and Resources

## CDIP Benefits

- Greater focus to the students = increased engagement
- Creates more certified volunteers = greater QA/QC
- Provides additional funding to schools and RW program = sustainability
- Students get certification = skill sets and resume builder



# SPATIAL WATER

**MONITOR - MANAGE - MAINTAIN**  
*REAL-TIME INFO YOU NEED  
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS*



## MONITOR

Dissolved Oxygen  
Conductivity  
Temperature  
Turbidity  
Nitrate  
Ammonia  
Depth  
pH



## ALERTS | REAL-TIME DATA

Set parameter thresholds and receive Text and Email alerts when conditions change.



## RURAL | URBAN | REMOTE

Data can be transmitted through cellular networks, mesh-systems, or satellite



## DATA DASHBOARD

Data is sent to our AWS cloud and presented in our data dashboard to provide targeted information for decisions and management

# Thank you!

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Thank You To Our 30 Year Sponsors:



Michaela Taylor



Bradley Boileau



## Phone Number

719.428.9609

## Email Address

michaela@coloradowatershed.org  
bradley@coloradowatershed.org  
luke@river.science (no .com)

## Website

[www.river.science/river-watch](http://www.river.science/river-watch)