Spring 2009
Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar

Sponsored by: CSU Water Center, USDA-ARS, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Forest, Rangeland, and Watershed Stewardship

Thursdays from Noon to 1:00 PM

Water Quality Issues on Fountain Creek

Speakers

Perry Cabot, CSU Extension
Del Nimmo, CSU - Pueblo

Location and Time

Lory Student Center
Room Virginia Dale
February 12th, 2009 - Noon

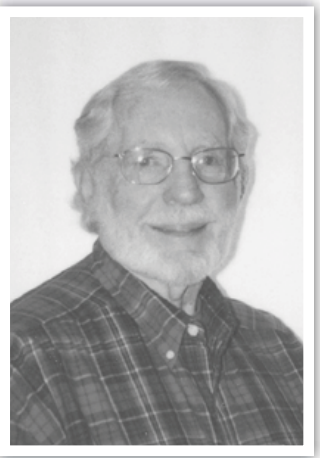
Abstract

The Fountain Creek subbasin of the Arkansas River watershed links the cities of Colorado Springs and Pueblo, comprising approximately 12% of the Colorado population. The water quality issues on Fountain Creek once garnered it the lamentable status of a watershed equivalent of the "Hatfield-McCoy feud." Pitting upstream Colorado Springs against downstream Pueblo, the hydrologic regimes and water quality of several reaches have been significant altered throughout the watershed, and these effects are poised to worsen given the current pace of development. Changes in hydrologic conditions have degraded the foundations of creekside structures, whereas other reaches have experienced significant aggradation. Moreover, growth in Colorado Springs has spurred a controversial project, the Southern Delivery System, which will further subject the Creek to greater-than-historic discharge rates. Fountain Creek reaches also contain several pollutants of concern including high concentrations of Escherichia coli and naturally-occurring selenium that are likely impacting fish and other macroinvertebrate species. None of these water resources issues are entirely remarkable, however, given that similar examples are found throughout Colorado. What makes Fountain Creek an interesting case study is how the communities within its watershed are challenged to cooperate with one another by virtue of their common linkage. Dr. Perry Cabot (CSU Extension) and Dr. Del Nimmo (CSU-Pueblo) will present a narrative and research on Fountain Creek water quality issues, what is being done to resolve them, and how they have necessitated alliances between stubborn adversaries.

Perry Cabot

Dr. Cabot is an Extension Water Resources Specialist at Colorado State University. Originally from Colorado, he completed his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at CSU ('94). He later received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering and Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where his research focused on agricultural hydrology, sediment transport, and nonpoint source pollution. His current extension and research program is focused on irrigation water management in the Arkansas River Basin. He is also collaborating with stormwater utilities to foster the use of Low Impact Development (LID) practices. He is a licensed professional engineer.

Del Nimmo



Dr. Nimmo is a Research Associate and Adjunct Professor with the Department of Biology at Colorado State University-Pueblo. He is an aquatic toxicologist who has worked with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. National Park Service, the U. S. Geological Survey and a private consulting firm. His interest began with "methods development" then later, the implementation of the methods to understand the action of xenobiotics on aquatic organisms, particularly in field studies. He has published 90 peer-reviewed research papers in the scientific literature, approximately 30% being estuarine and marine reports on pesticides and PCBs and 70% on the impacts of metals and metalloids on freshwater organisms.

All interested faculty, students, and off-campus water professionals are encouraged to attend.
For more information, contact Reagan Waskom at reagan.waskom@colostate.edu or visit the CWI web site.