

Groundwater Use in Colorado

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 1,540
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 14.0%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 130
Percentage of total groundwater..... 8.44%
Percentage of total public supply 15.3%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 37.9
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.46%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 1,300
Percentage of total groundwater..... 84.4%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 13.4%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 48.1
Percentage of total groundwater..... 3.12%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 30.3%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 3.45
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.22%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 2.65%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 5.46
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.35%
Percentage of total mining..... 64.2%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 16.8
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.09%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 21.8%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

¹ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

² Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources

³ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

Groundwater's Role in Colorado's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 183,000 known residential wells statewide.²
- 498 community water systems use groundwater for 393,000 people³
- 127 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 32,900 people⁴
- 827 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 164,000 people⁵
- 10,100 irrigation wells used serving 2,670 farms and 1,000,000 acres⁶



Address 601 Dempsey Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081-8978 U.S.A.
Phone 800 551.7379 • 614 898.7791 **Fax** 614 898.7786
Email ngwa@ngwa.org **Websites** NGWA.org and WellOwner.org

Colorado's Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Colorado's groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

Colorado's Contracting Employment

Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.⁷

- 193 firms employ an estimated 2,240 people⁸
- Annual estimated sales of \$662 million

Colorado's Scientists and Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting⁹

NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 1,210 firms employ an estimated 3,960 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$604 million

Remediation¹⁰

NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 199 firms employ an estimated 2,070 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$330 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁷ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

⁸ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

⁹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹⁰ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.