

# Groundwater Use in Colorado

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 1,500  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 14.6%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 109  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 7.3%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 12.9%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 35.4  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.36%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 1,310  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 87.3%  
Percentage of total irrigation.....13.56%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 38.7  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.58%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 13.2%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 4.22  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.28%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 5.02%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 5.24  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.35%  
Percentage of total mining..... 68.1%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 3.03  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.02%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 8.15%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

\*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

<sup>1</sup> US Geological Survey, Estimated Water Use in the United States in 2015, published 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources

<sup>3</sup> US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

## Groundwater's Role in Colorado's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 183,000 known residential wells statewide.<sup>2</sup>
- 482 community water systems use groundwater for 398,600 people<sup>3</sup>
- 138 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 35,900 people<sup>4</sup>
- 819 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 166,500 people<sup>5</sup>
- 10,100 irrigation wells used serving 2,670 farms and 1,000,000 acres<sup>6</sup>



**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](mailto:ngwa@ngwa.org) **Websites** [NGWA.org](http://NGWA.org) and [WellOwner.org](http://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.<sup>7</sup>

- 155 firms employ an estimated 1,400 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$331.4 million

## Colorado's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

### Environmental Consulting<sup>8</sup>

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.

- 1,308 firms employ an estimated 4,108 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$781.0 million

### Remediation<sup>9</sup>

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

- 198 firms employ an estimated 2,276 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$608.6 million

### Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



<sup>7</sup> InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.