



WORLD WIDE WEB HOME PAGE FOR THE SOUTH PLATTE NAWQA

U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey

A World Wide Web home page for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, South Platte River Basin study is now online. The home page includes information about the basinwide investigation and provides viewing and downloading access to physical, chemical, and biological data collected by the study team.

The World Wide Web (WWW) is part of a computer information network that provides public access to a wide variety of information. This information commonly is accessed and viewed by means of "home pages" on the WWW.

The South Platte River Basin study team has developed a home page on the Colorado District Web server that is available to any person with access to a Web browser. The home page contains information on significant findings from the study investigations, synopses of work activities, listing of and access to publications produced by the study team, and personnel information. It also provides links to other USGS home pages, including the National USGS NAWQA home pages, in addition to other water-information-related links that may be of interest.

The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the South Platte River Basin study home page is:

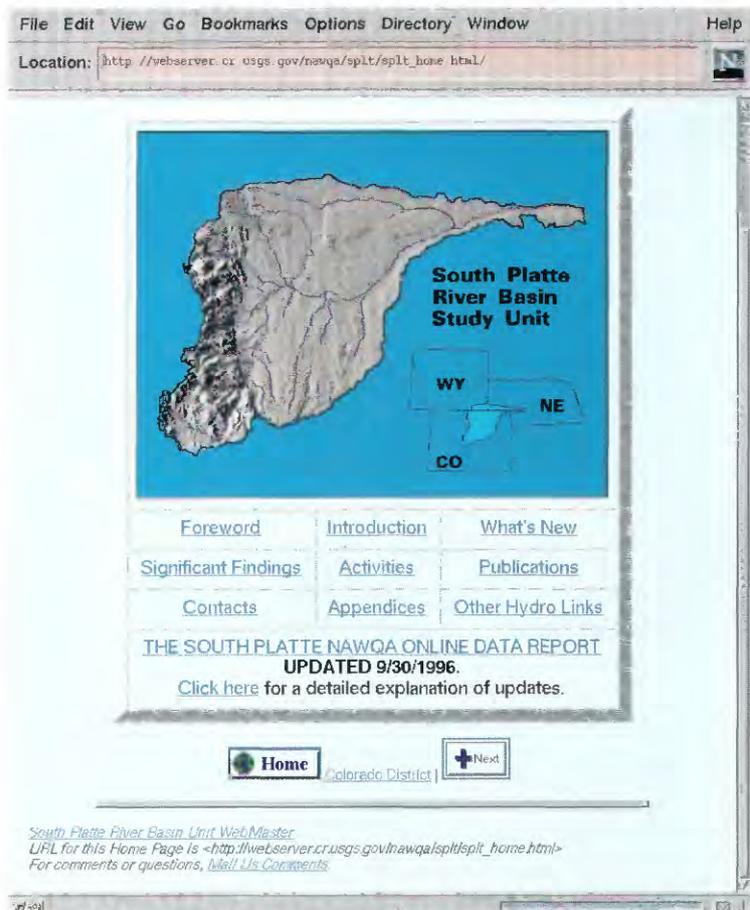
http://webserver.cr.usgs.gov/nawqa/splt/splt_home.html

An innovative aspect of the home page is the availability of data to the public. Physical, chemical, and biological data for the South Platte River Basin study for water years 1992-95 are available over the WWW to any interested party through viewable tables and downloadable data sets. Included are data collected from 136 surface-water sites on 24 streams, 39 sampling locations in 6 reservoirs, and 147 wells at 99 ground-water sites (a single sampling location may have multiple wells) throughout the basin. The home page and data are updated as information and additional data become available.

Most of the data for the South Platte River Basin study were collected during the high intensity data collection phase of the project (March 1, 1993, to September 31, 1995). The data consist of (1) physical infor-

mation such as water-temperature measurements, site descriptions, well-construction information, and suspended-sediment data; (2) chemical data from all surface- and ground-water sites and from fish tissue and bed sediment collected at surface-water sites; (3) biological data, such as habitat and fish community information; and (4) quality-control data associated with each sampling effort.

The data sets can be accessed by clicking on the activity or data sets of interest listed as subheadings below the main headings in the "TABLE OF CONTENTS" (for example, Synoptic Studies under Surface Water). Readers who want a more detailed explanation of each activity should begin by clicking on the main headings in the "TABLE OF CONTENTS" (for example, Surface Water, Ground Water, Biology, and Sediment).



The South Platte River Basin NAWQA home page.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN



WATER-QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN, COLORADO, NEBRASKA, AND WYOMING -- PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL DATA, FISCAL YEARS 1993-95

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The Table of Contents for the online data.

Because the data are from multiple sources (analyses from different laboratories, data recorded in the field, data recorded by data loggers), there are many data-storage formats. Three types of data formats are provided to make these data sets more useful: (1) formatted tables (for viewing); (2) American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) flat files (for downloading); and (3) tables in a tab-delimited ASCII format called RDB (for viewing and downloading).

Each chemical data set is accompanied by explanatory text that contains links to column-description lists that describe each column of data in the ASCII flat files. However, biological data also include RDB formatted tables (physical habitat data), and the explanatory text contains links to different column-description files called data dictionaries.

-Sharon L. Qi and Kevin F. Dennehy

The data can be downloaded to a hard drive or disk with the click of a button.



For more information, please contact:
Project Manager - South Platte River Basin study
U.S. Geological Survey
Denver Federal Center, MS 415
Denver, CO 80225
(303) 236-4882



In 1991, the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, began a National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. The long-term goals of the NAWQA Program are to describe the status of and trends in the quality of a large, representative part of the Nation's surface- and ground-water resources and to identify the major factors that affect the quality of these resources. In addressing these goals, the NAWQA Program will produce water-quality information that is useful to policymakers and managers at Federal, State, and local levels.

Studies of as many as 60 hydrologic systems that include parts of most major river basins and aquifer systems are the building blocks of the national assessment. The 60 study units range in size from less than 1,000 to more than 60,000 square miles and represent 60 to 70 percent of the Nation's water use and population served by public-water supplies. Twenty investigations began in 1991, 15 investigations began in 1994, and at least 12 are scheduled to begin in 1997.