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CDSN SWAP Opportunity

January 8, 2009

Dear Colorado Data Sharing Network (CDSN) Members:

CDSN has the opportunity to organize and host a Data Sharing Network SWAP in your watershed or basin this spring or fall. The target audiences for SWAP events are anyone in a local watershed who is interested and working with water resources, whether generating data or just a data user. A SWAP is a place based gathering, at a local watershed scale such as the Gunnison River, where entities come prepared to share what they are doing or need done, when, where, how, why and their monitoring and assessment needs and concerns. Presentations can also be given regarding recent studies, projects or work in that basin. The agenda is set by a local team. CDSN creates a watershed team that plans the time, location and agenda of the SWAP and then produces a fact sheet available to all documenting the information exchanged.

Benefits from previous SWAPs included on the ground monitoring collaboration, increased knowledge of activities in the basin, concerns and needs documented for entities outside the basin, such as the state, that then can understand local needs.

SWAP "Fact Sheets" or summaries of past SWAPs are available on our web site:

<http://www.coloradowaterquality.org/swapfacts.html>.

CDSN conducted 16 SWAPS between 2006 to 2008 (our first 3-year grant cycle) as an outreach tool that is critical and valuable to the Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council, the Data Sharing Network project, and the state-wide water quality community. Because we received much positive feedback from these SWAPS, CDSN planned to host a SWAP in about 16 basins on a three year rotating cycle based on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commissions' (WQCC) Rule Making Hearing Basin every June. This timing was chosen to leverage the fact that many entities are focusing on data generation and analyses the year before a basin has a rule making hearing. CDSN's goal is to have a SWAP about every two years in each Colorado basin. The WQCC Basic Standards Hearing occurs every fifth year and the next one would have been in June 2010. The WQCC has decided to extend that hearing date for another year until June 2011. The date change pushes back all of the subsequent rule making hearings, and has created a gap in this year's basin cycle. Therefore there is a new opportunity for CDSN to offer a SWAP where it may be most needed in the Spring of 2010, Fall of 2010, or Spring of 2011.

Would a SWAP in the Spring of 2010, Fall of 2010, or Spring of 2011, be of value to you?

If you are interested in having CDSN conduct a SWAP in your watershed during any of these open seasons, please contact CDSN Project Coordinator at cwqmc@coloradowaterquality.org. Questions can be answered by Barb Horn, co-chair, at 970.382.6667 or barb.horn@state.co.us.