

Have a safe, happy Memorial Day! - CWA



## COLORADO

### **"Boil water" Order Issued for Part of West Denver Due to Big Main Break**

A boil water order which is expected to be in effect for about 24 hours has been issued by Denver Water following the rupture of a 30-inch water main near Lakewood Gulch. Denver Water spokeswoman Stacy Chesney said that because of the loss of pressure, residents and businesses between 10th Avenue and 24th Avenue and Federal Boulevard and Tennyson Street need to boil their drinking water. *May 27, Denver Post*

### **BLM, Colo. Propose Unique Water Flow Regime for New Wilderness**

At just over a year old, the Dominguez -- Colorado's newest wilderness area -- is one step closer to securing essential legal rights to both base water flows and seasonal swells that help sustain its diversity of species. In a decision hailed by environmental groups and supported by BLM, the Colorado Water Conservation Board last week advanced an unconventional plan that would be one of the first variable water rights ever granted in the state. *May 27, New York Times*

### **State Revising Surface Water Rules**

Protecting the quality of Colorado surface waters seems like a no brainer. Who doesn't want clean water, pristine creeks, rivers and lakes? But that's where the simplicity ends. Applying and revising the rules and regulations that govern water protection are complex endeavors, and stakeholders often have competing or divergent agendas. *May 27, Crested Butte News*

### **Global Warming Will Make Colorado Hotter, Right? But Will It Also Get Drier?**

A new \$1 million study suggests snowier and rainier winters in the northern mountains and drier ones in the southern mountains by the mid-21st century. But everywhere across the Western Slope, summers will be hotter, longer and drier, putting more stress on reservoirs. Those tentative conclusions are found in the draft Colorado River Water Availability Study, a \$1 million effort described by state water officials, who commissioned it, as cutting edge. *May 27, Telluride Watch*

### **Pay Now, Save Later Water Plan Pitched to Greeley Council**

The Greeley City Council has figured out a big chunk of its ultra-lean budget: water. Namely, the council favors aggressively buying water — as much as \$90 million worth during the next six years — an approach officials say will cost residents in the near term but offer long-range savings and security. If the city goes that route, said water and sewer director Jon Monson, water rates would rise about 84 percent in the next 10 years, equating to \$30 per single-family home per month. That's compared to rates rising, if no additional water is bought, 47 percent in the next decade, or \$17 per home. *May 26, Greeley Tribune*

### **Water Study Wins Few Western Slope Fans**

An economic study that said the Front Range generates 18 times the economic value that the Western Slope does from an acre-foot of water was called "inflammatory" Tuesday by Western Slope water users. The reaction was harsh enough that a representative of Denver Water, one of the agencies that sought the study, said it seemed instead to undermine the main point the Front Range Water Council sought to illustrate: the interdependence of various regions in Colorado. *May 18, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*

The report is at [http://www.summiteconomics.com/FRWP\\_Econ\\_Final\\_2011910.pdf](http://www.summiteconomics.com/FRWP_Econ_Final_2011910.pdf) and the technical appendix at [http://www.summiteconomics.com/Report\\_Technical\\_Appendices.pdf](http://www.summiteconomics.com/Report_Technical_Appendices.pdf)

### **DeGette 'Fracking' Amendment Doesn't Fly; ExxonMobil Shareholders Vote**

Colorado Rep. Diana DeGette's bid to get full public disclosure of the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing of natural gas wells was withdrawn as an amendment to a Safe Drinking Water Act bill Wednesday after debate by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The committee passed the "Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2010 (pdf)," which amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to increase funding to states, water systems and "disadvantaged communities," step up EPA enforcement and encourage better environmental and financial management of water systems, among other things. But the committee did not accept DeGette's hydraulic fracturing amendment. *May 26, Colorado Independent*

### **Earlier Snowmelt in Colorado Linked to Warmer Air Temperatures and Decreasing Snowfall**

Snow in the Colorado mountains is melting significantly earlier in the year, and the changes appear to be related to recent climate trends. Colorado snowmelt and streamflow are occurring an average of two to three weeks earlier than in the late 1970s, according to a new U.S.

Geological Survey (USGS) study published today in the Journal of Climate. These shifts in timing are correlated with warming springtime air temperatures and decreasing snowfall over the study period and may have an effect on Colorado water supply. *May 25, USGS Press Release*

### **Geological Study Cuts Tamarisk a Break**

A recent study by the U.S. Geological Service says tamarisk, commonly known as saltcedar, consumes no more water than native plants such as cottonwoods and willows. Also, the report says tamarisk-dominated landscapes aren't totally inhospitable to wildlife. Reptiles, amphibians and birds, including the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, use and breed in tamarisk stands. The report was requested by Congress asking for a review of the scientific literature about tamarisk and Russian olive to assess the impacts, distribution, water consumption and control methods for the two invasive species. Researchers also assessed the impacts to wildlife use and the challenges associated with revegetation and restoration following control efforts. *May 5, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*

### **Dry Times**

Colorado has grown rapidly over recent decades, as more and more people crowd inside our borders. Our water, unfortunately, is a limited resource. And we're almost out. *April 2010, 5280 Magazine*

### **Landowner Will Allow Rafting Through Property After Bill Sinks**

The company that prompted one of the more hotly contested bills of the legislative session – House Bill 1188 dealing with commercial river rafting – announced Friday it would allow two outfitters to float the Taylor River through its property this summer. Officials for Jackson-Shaw, owner of the Wilder on the Taylor fishing reserve, said they will continue mediation efforts with Three Rivers Outfitting and Scenic River Tours while allowing the two companies to continue navigating the river through the private property. *May 15, Colorado Independent*

### **Gov. Ritter Hopes Rafting Rift Can Be Mended Without Ballot Initiatives**

Gov. Bill Ritter said he plans to continue working behind the scenes to prevent a torrent of citizen initiatives addressing rafting through private land from making the November ballot. He may get his way if a tangle on the Taylor River – where two rafting outfitters want to float a stretch that runs through a private developer's property – can be resolved through ongoing, private mediation. A bill that could have once and for all given either river recreationists or property owners dominion over waterways died this session, leaving 20 proposed initiatives aimed at the same complex topic. *May 19, The Denver Post*

### **Low Runoff Could Affect Farmers, Rafter, Fish in Some Colo. Basins**

Fresh snow still caps the mountains and the Front Range remains soggy, but Colorado water experts say the heavy snow and rain in the past weeks won't make up for a relatively dry winter.

"Overall, the runoff is expected to be lower than average across the state," said Mike Gillespie, snow-survey supervisor for the National Resources Conservation Service.

Gillespie said that with statewide precipitation totals at about 87 percent of average, the chilly, wet weather would need to linger into June for a turnaround. The recent wet weather did haul the state back from the brink of a year like 2002, one of the driest on record, said Treste Huse, service hydrologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. *May 14, The Denver Post*

### **Water to be Key Issue for High Court Nominee, Colorado Delegates Say**

U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan's position on water rights will be high on the lists of issues for U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and Mark Udall when considering Kagan's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court. Bennet also will pay close attention to her position on individual rights, while fellow Colorado Democrat Udall said he'd like to know how Kagan would tackle other natural-resources law. Those issues also are at the top of the list for two Republicans who aspire to take Bennet's seat in the November election. In addition, GOP Senate candidates Jane Norton and Ken Buck said they hope to hear that Kagan will interpret the Constitution strictly according to the founders' intent. *May 11, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*

### **Crested Butte Ski Resort Loses Appeal on Expansion Proposal**

The U.S. Forest Service has rejected Crested Butte Mountain Resort's appeal of a decision in November that blocked a long-planned expansion at the resort. Deputy Regional Forester Jim Peña affirmed the decision by Gunnison National Forest supervisor Charlie Richmond, who last fall decided the resort's proposed expansion onto neighboring Snodgrass Mountain was not in the public interest and should not proceed into deeper environmental review. *May 11, Denver Post*

### **CSU Technology Tests Water Contamination On-Scene**

If those first on the scene at last summer's two Poudre River asphalt tanker spills could have immediately tested contamination in the water to find out how badly the river was polluted, Fort Collins Utilities might have had a better idea of how the spills polluted the water even faster than they did.

New technology being developed at CSU might be able to help in similar situations by allowing first responders and utilities to test contaminants in water in real time without having to take a water sample to a lab. Colorado State University chemical and biological engineering professor Ken Reardon, working with CSU's renewable energy arm Cenergy, has formed OptiEnz LLC, which will develop biosensors that will test water quality in the field. *May 11, Fort Collins Coloradoan*

### **Need for Water Storage Takes Center Stage at Congressional Hearing in Greeley**

The message was loud and clear: Colorado needs more water storage. That came from the majority of those who testified at an oversight field hearing conducted by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water and Power at the University of Northern Colorado's University Center. The formal hearing lasted more than two hours and was chaired by Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Calif., who said the meeting was brought to Greeley at the request of Rep. Betsy Markey, D-Colo. Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., also joined on the congressional side. Two panels were invited to address the formal hearing, one primarily composed of federal, state and local government officials, and another featuring farmers and agricultural and municipal water experts. *May 18, The Greeley Tribune*

### **State Rejects Plan for Water Cleanup of Jeffco Mine**

State regulators Thursday directed Cotter Corp. to treat water from its nonoperating uranium mine in Jefferson County to keep contamination from reaching Ralston Reservoir, a drinking-water supply for Denver Water and the city of Arvada. The state Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety rejected the protection plan Cotter submitted last month and instructed the Denver-based company to submit a water-treatment plan within two weeks, the agency said in a news release. *May 21, The Denver Post*

### **Tamarisk Control Benefits Possible, Not Proven**

There may be water savings from removing tamarisk in the Arkansas River basin, but it remains to be proven. A U.S. Geological Survey scientific assessment recently concluded there is no proof that removing tamarisk, also known as salt cedar, increases water supplies throughout a watershed. It found that studies through the early 1970s overstated the consumptive use by tamarisk, and that native vegetation might use just as much water. Past studies also failed to take into account all the variables that contribute to a water budget and

no detectable savings have been found after tamarisk removal. *May 20, Pueblo Chieftain*

### **How Clean is Your Water?**

While most people assume that well water is clean and safe, a recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey shows that one out of every five wells providing public drinking water contains at least one contaminant at levels of potential health concern.

The USGS sampled 932 public wells across the country for the study. About 105 million people — or more than one-third of the nation's population — receive their drinking water from one of the 140,000 public water systems across the United States that rely on groundwater pumped from public wells. *May 25, The Summit County Citizens Voice*

## **WESTERN U.S.**

### **Wyoming Worried About Green River Water Grab**

Wyoming has an unusual problem among the states in the Colorado River system: lots of water and, other than supporting some fine trout fishing, no way to put a significant amount of it to use. Yet increasing demand for water in the upper Colorado River basin, combined with new government predictions that climate change could reduce future water supplies, are ratcheting up concerns in Wyoming about how to preserve the state's share for the day when it's needed. *May 17, Salt Lake Tribune*

### **Water Adds New Constraints to Power**

In the Mojave Desert, solar developers are scrambling to secure permits to build vast expanses of new generating capacity. But they are discovering that cost and carbon emissions are not the only limiting factors in new energy decisions in California. They are bumping up against water scarcity. In the United States, thermoelectric power generation — mainly coal, nuclear and natural gas — accounted for 41 percent of U.S. freshwater withdrawals in 2005, U.S. Geological Society data show. *May 17, The New York Times*

### **Nuclear-Power Officials Vow to Mine Uranium "The Right Way"**

Uranium-mining leaders and federal regulators poised to fuel a resurgent nuclear power industry gathered in Denver on Wednesday, vowing to do a better job of protecting the environment but drawing demonstrators nonetheless. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials indicated they're expecting applications for uranium projects at 25 sites by 2013, along with applications to establish 28 new nuclear power plants. *May 27, The Denver Post*

### **It Takes a District: Utah Landowners Control Groundwater**

For decades, landowners in the Escalante Valley of Utah have held rights to much more of it on paper than the aquifer can sustainably yield. In 2006, legislation gave Utah the power to manage the groundwater it had long over-allocated in valleys around the state. The Escalante Valley became the test case for reducing groundwater use. As farmers and ranchers felt their livelihoods threatened, a multi-year political, legal and ideological debate ensued. Finally, this March, legislation was passed that allows communities to create their own plans for managing groundwater. *May 10, High Country News*

### **Energy Projects Threaten Utah's Water Resources**

With Shell Oil's recent withdrawal of a water right permit application to divert 375 cubic feet per second of water from the Yampa River in northwest Colorado, one would get the impression that the bubble has finally burst on mass scale, traditional energy development in the West and that the oil industry has finally come to terms with the impact of traditional energy development on rapidly diminishing water resources. Not so in Utah. *May 9, The Deseret News*

### **Report Details Changes in Rockies' Agriculture**

Mom-and-pop farms are making a comeback in the Rockies, although they may be larger than in the past and increasingly more likely to be run by just mom. That's the upshot of a the 2010 State of the Rockies Report Card, recently completed by students at Colorado College. The annual report card has looked at water and natural resource issues common to Rocky Mountain states since 2004. *May 7, The Pueblo Chieftain*

### **Bark Beetle Epidemic Among Top Concerns at Congressional Hearing**

A U.S. Forest Service official told a group of agriculture producers Tuesday that the bark beetle problem has reached epic proportions, saying "100,000 trees a day are falling and that will continue every day for the next 10 years." Rick Cables, a regional forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Golden, said the dead trees will have drastic consequences on the watershed from those forests, which supply water to 177 counties in the western U.S. *May 5, The Greeley Tribune*

### **Feds Asking Ski Areas, Water Utilities for Help with Beetle-Ravaged Forests**

The threat to watersheds from fire-prone dying forests is growing so severe that federal forest managers are seeking help from water utilities, ski resorts and others in ravaged Western states. But enlisting the likes of Denver Water to fund the removal of beetle-killed trees may be difficult because utilities probably would have to raise rates for customers. The problem is erosion of sediment, which clogs water-supply reservoirs and delivery systems as it did after the 2002 Hayman wildfire southwest of Denver. Today, with more than 17 million acres of national forest killed by the beetle epidemic (3.5 million acres in Colorado), authorities are bracing for fires that could cause more erosion in watersheds. *May 5, The Denver Post*

### **Judge Rules Coal Bed Methane Wastewater Ponds Unconstitutional**

Montana State District Court Judge Jeffrey Sherlock of Helena this week affirmed that dumping wastewater from coal bed methane development into evaporation pits violates the Montana Constitution. He said such "water impoundments" are not a beneficial use of the billions of gallons of water that are brought to the surface and dumped into pits or into rivers and streams, calling such practices "a waste of one of Montana's natural resources." *May 3, Northern Plains Resource Council*

### **Is Wyoming Doing Enough to Combat Aquatic Invasive Species?**

Stickers are just part of the state's emergency regulations adopted in March under a Wyoming Game and Fish Department program aimed at keeping AIS species such as zebra and quagga mussels out of Wyoming waters. The program includes boat inspections on all major waterways in Wyoming. Some residents say port-of-entry inspections are needed. *May 17, Casper Star Tribune*

### **A Push to Preserve the San Gabriels**

Environmentalists, cities, scientists and hikers want a larger portion of the mountain range and its rivers shielded from pollution and population woes with strong federal protections. Bill Reeves is a member of San Gabriel Mountains Forever, a campaign that is pushing Rep. David Dreier (R-San Dimas) to fashion a bill that would shield a larger portion of the 655,000-acre range and its free-flowing rivers from pollution and

population woes with the strongest federal protections available. The goal is to add 30,000 acres to three existing wilderness areas and have 44 miles of San Antonio Creek, the middle fork of Lytle Creek and portions of the San Gabriel River's east, west and north forks protected under the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which would prohibit new damming. Today, only a 7-mile stretch of Piru Creek, in the northern San Gabriel Mountains, is designated as wild and scenic. *May 16, Los Angeles Times*

### [Salina Public Entities to File Federal Lawsuit in Regard to Groundwater Pollution](#)

Pulling strength from unity, four Salina public entities are determined and confident in their push to rid soil and groundwater of pollutants under southwest Salina. Filing a federal lawsuit is next in the multiyear battle to get the U.S. Department of Defense to clean up pollutants it left behind over 24 years at the former Schilling Air Force Base. *May 20, Salina Journal*

## NATIONAL

### [Not Just Oil: US Hit Peak Water in 1970 and Nobody Noticed](#)

The concept of peak oil, where the inaccessibility of remaining deposits ensures that extraction rates start an irreversible decline, has been the subject of regular debate for decades. Although that argument still hasn't been settled—estimates range from the peak already having passed us to its arrival being 30 years in the future—having a better sense of when we're likely to hit it could prove invaluable when it comes to planning our energy economy. The general concept of peaking has also been valuable, as it applies to just about any finite resource. A new analysis suggests that it may be valuable to consider applying it to a renewable resource as well: the planet's water supply. *May 25, ARS Technica*

### [Shale Gas Costing 2/3 Less Than OPEC Oil Incites Water Concern](#)

Companies from India's Reliance Industries Ltd. to Japan's Mitsui & Co. are spending billions of dollars to dislodge natural gas from a band of Pennsylvania shale -- sedimentary rock composed of mud, quartz and calcite. Shale gas proponents, led by 91-year-old oil patch billionaire George Mitchell, who invented the process to extract it, say the U.S. should plumb all forms of natural gas. That would help unhook the nation from coal and foreign petroleum. Gas is about two-thirds cheaper than oil and greener too. It produces 117 pounds (53 kilograms) of carbon dioxide per million British thermal units (MMBtu) of energy equivalent compared with 156 for gasoline and 205 for coal. *May 25, Bloomberg*

### [Scientists Track Plume of Polluted Groundwater to the Sea](#)

Faulty septic systems have long been blamed for polluting some of California's most popular beaches. Yet few scientific studies have established a direct link between septic systems and coastal contamination. Now, in the first study of its kind, Stanford University researchers have tracked a plume of polluted groundwater from a septic system to one of Northern California's top recreational beaches. The researchers say their findings could be an important step toward improving wastewater management in coastal communities throughout the United States. *May 25, Science Daily*

### [From Trees and Grass, Bacteria That Cause Snow and Rain](#)

Walking across the campus of Montana State University here, David Sands, a plant pathologist, says the blanket of snow draped over the mountains around town contains a surprise. The cause of most of it, he said, is a living organism, a bacterium, called *Pseudomonas syringae*. *May 24, The New York Times*

### [Bottled Water Pits Nestlé vs. Greens](#)

In this idyllic town on the north slope of Mount Hood, an autopsy on three dead rainbow trout may play a role in Nestlé SA's efforts to reverse a deep slide in its bottled-water business. Bottled water, which for years delivered double-digit growth for Nestlé, is under fire from environmentalists. They decry the energy used to transport it and the use of billions of plastic bottles, and oppose efforts to use new springs, citing concerns about water scarcity. *May 25, The Wall Street Journal*

### ['Céline World' Makes Waves in Florida](#)

Céline Dion has all of Palm Beach county, Fla., atwitter over the extravagant water park she has installed on her Jupiter Island property. *April 30, The Montreal Gazette*

### [Is Brown the New Green?](#)

When Jim Hoyer was inaugurated as president of the U.S. Golf Association in February, he surprised many by speaking out more forcibly than USGA presidents are wont to do on a controversial subject: water usage and the misguided perception that golf courses need to be lush, green and perfect to be good. It is the issue, he said, "that is perhaps of greatest concern to golf's future." *May 8, Wall Street Journal*

### [Roots Meshed in Waste Materials Could Clean Dirty Water](#)

Plant roots enmeshed in layers of discarded materials inside upright pipes can purify dirty water from a washing machine, making it fit for growing vegetables and flushing toilets, according to Penn State horticulturists. *May 6, ScienceDaily*

### [Tainted Nuke Plant Water Reaches Major NJ Aquifer](#)

Radioactive water that leaked from the nation's oldest nuclear power plant has now reached a major underground aquifer that supplies drinking water to much of southern New Jersey, the state's environmental chief said Friday. The state Department of Environmental Protection has ordered the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station to halt the spread of contaminated water underground, even as it said there was no imminent threat to drinking water supplies. *May 7, MSNBC.com*

### [Federal Government Seeking Applicants for Regional Climate Change Research Centers](#)

While a fringe element still debates climate change and its causes, major U.S. Government agencies are starting to take global warming very seriously, as the reality of what's at stake starts to sink in.

The potential for widespread Dust Bowl conditions, dwindling water supplies in arid western states and impacts to agriculture and food supplies have spurred the Department of Interior to establish four regional climate centers. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar called for the eight Climate Science Centers in a Secretarial Order signed Sept. 14, 2009. With this order, he put into action the Interior Department's first-ever coordinated strategy to address current and future impacts of climate change on America's land, water, ocean, fish, wildlife, and cultural resources. *May 7, Summit County Citizens Voice*

### [New EPA Water Infrastructure Policy Seeks to Encourage Smart Growth](#)

If you build it, they will come. And, if you don't, they won't.

Such is the thinking behind a policy released late last month by the Environmental Protection Agency that instructs states to adopt smart-

growth principles in allocating the \$3.3 billion in water infrastructure funding that the federal government doles out each year. States, it asserts, should prioritize projects that upgrade the drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in cities over projects intended to serve new developments on the suburban fringe. *May 5, Washington Post*

#### **The War on a Weed Killer**

With the headlines full of oil spills and immigration, the Obama Administration's regulatory agenda is getting little attention. That's a mistake. Consider the Environmental Protection Agency's effort to revive an assault on atrazine, one of the oldest, most well-established agricultural chemicals on the market. Just this past week, the EPA held its third "re-evaluation" hearing on atrazine. *May 3, Wall Street Journal*

#### **Halted Construction Filling US Waterways with Silt**

Residents in a subdivision of two-story brick homes near the North Carolina state line say they were promised roads and ball fields and tennis courts. But the developer has vanished and the neighbors never came so, when the rains do, the ground crumbles. The potholes at Edenmoor are big enough to swallow car tires these days. With every deluge, miniature Grand Canyons carve through the red clay of the abandoned home sites, clogging a nearby stream with dirt and adding to a growing environmental problem. *April 30, Washington Times*

#### **EPA Proposes Big Cuts in River Pollution**

While carbon cap-and-trade is stalled in Congress, Georgia and South Carolina are moving ahead with a cap-and-trade system that could significantly reduce pollutants in the Savannah River. The cap-and-trade system could mean 'significant' pollution reductions in the Savannah River. Industries, like International Paper, or municipal wastewater authorities could be forced to spend millions either to upgrade their equipment to reduce pollution, or buy credits from someone else who does. Officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have released proposals for how the system would work.

Basically, they want the states to agree on how much oxygen-depleting pollutants can be put in the river. Industries and municipal wastewater authorities then could buy and sell rights to pollute. E.P.A wants the states to choose from three targets. *May 14, Georgia Public Radio*

#### **From Pollution to Power? Study to Explore Using Mine Drainage for Energy**

Could abandoned mine drainage be used to heat and cool downtown Johnstown buildings? With assistance from a \$175,000 state grant, backers of a geothermal energy project will begin studies that could answer that question. The grant will be matched by American Geo-Energy Solutions of Cumberland County to determine whether the alternative energy initiative makes economic sense. *May 15, Tribune-Democrat*

#### **W.Va. May Be Sued Over Sewage Pollution of Rivers**

West Virginia may be sued over Clean Water Act violations that a Georgia lawyer claims have continued for decades. *May 14, Washington Examiner*

#### **Go With The Flow: A Wave of Water-Related Opportunities**

"Water supply is where climate change hits the ground," declares a Natural Resources Defense Council policy analyst. The imminent crisis of Earth's shrinking freshwater supply is rapidly attaining the wide awareness of global climate change. Proliferating water problems are building a wave of opportunities for scientific expertise, knowledge, and innovative solution. Here's a look at the growing pool of diverse needs. *April 2010, Science*

#### **House Subcommittee Passes Bill Restricting Lead in Water Fixtures**

A House subcommittee passed legislation Wednesday that seeks to eliminate harmful lead exposures from tap water and home plumbing fixtures. The legislation would prohibit manufacturers from using all but a tiny fraction of lead in making or selling water faucets and fixtures. Tainted water is estimated to count for up to 20 percent of human lead exposure, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Safe Drinking Water Act, which determines the lead content of plumbing materials, now allows up to 8 percent of lead content in faucets and fixtures. This proposed legislation, written by Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.) of the committee, would cut that amount to 0.25 percent. The legislation is expected move to the full Energy and Commerce Committee for further consideration. *May 19, Washington Post*

#### **Hawaii Water Panel Tells Plantation to Restore Water to Maui Streams to Aid Habitat**

Hawaii's last sugar plantation on Wednesday grudgingly accepted and Native Hawaiian residents swiftly rejected a water commission ruling ordering the restoration of water to six East Maui streams, some of it on a seasonal basis. *May 27, CanadianBusiness.com*

## **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **Jordan River Expected to Run Dry by 2011**

The Jordan River, once a beautiful river with rapids and waterfalls and sacred to the religions of Judaism and Christianity, could run dry by 2011. Environmentalists from Friends of the Earth, Middle East (FoEME) said that the river "has been reduced to a trickle south of the Sea of Galilee, devastated by overexploitation, pollution and lack of regional management," with more than 98% of the river's flow having been diverted by Israel, Syria and Jordan over the years. *May 3, PlanetSave*

#### **Water-Related Conflicts Set to Escalate**

Population growth, urbanisation, increasing pollution, soil erosion and climate variations are all reflected in the management and adequacy of the world's waters. The situation is particularly difficult in many developing countries, where there are growing concerns over escalating water crises and even outright water conflicts between countries and regions. *April 30, ScienceDaily*

#### **Iraq's Drinking Water Drying Up, Sewage Pollutes Shrinking Rivers**

Clean drinking water is an increasingly scarce resource for millions of people in Iraq, according to a new report released today by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The agency says its engineers are doing their best to improve access to safe water in the face of a volatile security situation in some areas and the rising price of fuel, which have put additional strain on already scarce services, as have population growth and displacement. *May 14, Environment News Service*

#### **Greenland Rapidly Rising as Ice Melt Continues**

Greenland is situated in the Atlantic Ocean to the northeast of Canada. It has stunning fjords on its rocky coast formed by moving glaciers, and a dense icecap up to 2 km thick that covers much of the island--pressing down the land beneath and lowering its elevation. Now, scientists at the University of Miami say Greenland's ice is melting so quickly that the land underneath is rising at an accelerated pace.

According to the study, some coastal areas are going up by nearly one inch per year and if current trends continue, that number could

accelerate to as much as two inches per year by 2025, explains Tim Dixon, professor of geophysics at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) and principal investigator of the study. *May 18, ScienceDaily*

**[Tories Unveil Protections to Keep Canada's Water Within its Borders](#)**

The Harper government is bulking up its bulk-water removal rules. Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon unveiled new measures Thursday to keep Canada's water within its borders. The new legislation would toughen existing protections against bulk removal of the country's water. *May 14, The Chronicle-Herald*

Many thanks to Loretta Lohman at [npscolorado.com](http://npscolorado.com) for compiling many of the news articles in this report.

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