



# 2017 Regional Conditions to Nationwide Permits in the State of Colorado

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Albuquerque District  
Omaha District  
Sacramento District**

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## **Regional Conditions Applicable to Specific Nationwide Permits within the State of Colorado**

1. Nationwide Permit No. 12: Utility Line Activities. Notification to the District Engineer (DE) in accordance with General Condition (GC) No. 32, pre- construction notification (PCN) is required for utility line activities that propose open trenching in perennial waters or for the purpose of creating a water intake.
2. Nationwide Permit No. 13: Bank Stabilization. PCN is required for bank stabilization activities that are necessary for erosion prevention in streams with an average width of less than 20 feet (measured between the ordinary high water marks (OHWM)). Bank stabilization activities in these small streams are limited to the placement of no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  cubic yard of fill material per linear foot below the plane of the OHWM unless the Corps determines on a case-by-case basis that the use of larger or greater quantities of material is appropriate.
3. Nationwide Permit No. 23: Approved Categorical Exclusions. PCN is required for all projects utilizing Categorical Exclusions.
4. Nationwide Permit No. 27: Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities. This permit is revoked for activities in which the project purpose is fishery enhancement in perennial streams. These types of projects may qualify for authorization under Regional General Permit No. 12 for Aquatic Habitat Improvement for Stream Channels in Colorado.
  - a. Channel realignment is not authorized by this permit unless it is demonstrated that the realignment is consistent with the natural morphological evolution of the stream.
  - b. The use of concrete/grouting is not allowed in perennial streams unless waived in writing by the DE.
  - c. The construction of water parks (e.g. kayak courses) and flood control projects are not authorized by this permit.

## **Regional Conditions Applicable to All Nationwide Permits within the State of Colorado**

5. Important Spawning Areas. Activities are not authorized by any nationwide permit except after case-by-case review and consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) if the activities would adversely affect important spawning areas or would be conducted in these waters during trout and Kokanee spawning seasons. Bio-engineering techniques, such as native riparian shrub plantings, are required for all bank protection activities that exceed 50 linear feet in important spawning areas. For activities located in these important spawning areas, PCN is required and consultation with CPW must be conducted in accordance with the timeframes established in GC 32 (Pre-Construction Notification). Important spawning areas are considered Gold Medal Waters in Colorado (Attachment 2).

*NOTE: Pre-application consultation with the CPW, preferably on-site, is highly recommended. Providing documentation of pre-application consultation with CPW, stating that CPW has reviewed the proposed project and has no concerns, will be helpful in project evaluation by the Corps. Please visit the following state website to determine the appropriate CPW office for coordination: <http://cpw.state.co.us>.*

6. Fens. All nationwide permits, with the exception of 3, 5, 6, 20, 27, 32, 37, and 38, are revoked for activities located in fens and wetlands adjacent to fens. PCN is required for activities proposed for authorization by Nationwide Permits. The PCN will address potential adverse effects to fen hydrology. The permittee may not begin the activity until the Corps determines the adverse environmental effects are minimal.

A fen is defined as a groundwater-fed wetland with saturated organic soil (greater than or equal to 16 inches in thickness) that is classified as a histosol in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States (Version 8.0, 2016). A copy of the document can be obtained from the NRCS at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2\\_053171.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_053171.pdf).

*Note: A fen may be part of a larger aquatic system (fen complex) where wetlands and other waters adjacent to the fen may provide a critical source of hydrology necessary for sustaining the fen.*

7. Springs. PCN is required for all Nationwide Permits if the activities occur within 100 feet of the discharge point of a spring. The Corps will determine if the proposed project will have more than a minimal effect to the spring and may require an Individual Permit or project modification to reduce/eliminate the spring impacts. For the purposes of this regional condition, a spring is defined as any location where groundwater flow emanates from a distinct point. Springs do not include seeps or other groundwater discharge areas where there is no distinct point source.

8. Suitable Fill. A PCN is required for the use of broken concrete as fill material within the State of Colorado. Permittees must demonstrate that soft engineering methods utilizing native or non-man made materials are not practicable (with respect to cost, existing technology, and logistics), before broken concrete is allowed as suitable fill. Use of broken concrete with exposed rebar is prohibited.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The following additional information relates to minimization of impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States and compliance with the General Conditions:

1. **Permittees are reminded** that appropriate erosion and sediment controls are required in accordance with GC No. 12 in order to properly stabilize the site and prevent erosion and siltation into wetlands and other waters downstream. Streambed material or other small aggregate material placed alone for bank stabilization will not meet GC No. 12.

2. **Permittee best management practices.** In order to prevent the spread of invasive and/or nuisance species (e.g., Asian Clam, Grand Valley Asian Tapeworm, Green River Mud Snail, New Zealand Mud Snail), the permittee is strongly encouraged to clean heavy equipment prior to and after construction if the equipment was previously used in another stream, river, lake, pond or wetland within 10 days of initiating work. The following are recommended methods for preventing the spread of invasive aquatic organisms:

Remove all mud and debris from equipment (tracks, turrets, buckets, drags, teeth, etc.) and spray/soak equipment with a 1:15 solution of disinfection solution containing the following ingredients:

- Dialkyl dimethyl ammonium chloride (5-10% by weight);

- Alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride (5-10% by weight);
- Nonyl phenol ethoxylate (5-10% by weight);
- Sodium sesquicarbonate (1-5%); and,
- Tetrasodium ethylene diaminetetraacetate (1-15%)

The equipment should be kept moist for at least 10 minutes, and rinsate should be managed as a solid waste in accordance with local, county, state, or federal regulations. Alternately, equipment, hand tools, boots and any other equipment that was previously used in a river, stream, lake, pond, or wetland prior to moving the equipment to another water body may be disinfected using the following methods:

- Spray/soak equipment with water greater than 140 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 10 minutes.
- Sanitize water suction hoses and water transportation tanks (using methods described above) and discard rinse water at an appropriately permitted disposal facility.

**3. Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Within the State of Colorado, the waters listed in **Attachment 1** are designated as Critical Resource Waters. In accordance with GC 22, the discharge of dredged or fill material is not authorized by the following nationwide permits in these waters or their adjacent wetlands: NWP 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, A and B. In addition, in accordance with GC 32, notification to the DE is required for the use of the following nationwide permits in these waters and their adjacent wetlands: NWP 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37 and 38.

**4. Gold Medal Waters.** Within the State of Colorado, the waters listed in **Attachment 2** are designated as Gold Medal Waters. Requirements for projects located in these waters and their adjacent wetlands are set forth in RC 5 above.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### DESIGNATED CRITICAL RESOURCE WATERS

The Colorado Water Quality Control Division designates Critical Resource Waters (Outstanding Waters) within the State of Colorado. Please note that the following list is subject to change and typically changes on an annual basis. For the most current list, or for more information on specific designations within these watersheds and their tributaries, please refer to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wqcc> or Water Quality Control Division's website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/clean-water-gis-maps>

**Animas and Florida River Basins.** All tributaries to the Animas River and Florida River, including all wetlands, which are within the Weminuche Wilderness Area.

Hermosa Creek, including all tributaries, from the source to immediately below the confluence with Long Hollow, except for the East Fork of Hermosa Creek.

All lakes and reservoirs tributary to the Animas River and Florida River which are within the Weminuche Wilderness Area. This segment includes Lillie Lake, Castilleja Lake, City Reservoir, Emerald Lake, Ruby Lake, Balsam Lake, Garfield Lake, Vestal Lake, Eldorado Lake, Highland Mary Lakes, Verde Lakes, Lost Lake, and Crater Lake.

**Bear Creek Basin.** The main stem of Bear Creek and all tributaries, lakes, and reservoirs, including wetlands, within the Mt. Evans Wilderness Area.

**Big Thompson River Basin.** The main stem of the Big Thompson River, including all tributaries, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP).

**Blue River Basin.** North Fork of the Swan River, including all tributaries and wetlands, from the source to the confluence with the Swan River.

All tributaries to the Blue River, including wetlands within the Eagle Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.

All lakes and reservoirs within the Eagle Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.

**Boulder Creek Basin.** All tributaries to Boulder Creek, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area.

**Cache la Poudre River Basin.** All tributaries to the Cache La Poudre River, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within RMNP and Rawah, Neota, Comanche Peak, and Cache La Poudre Wilderness Areas.

**Clear Creek Basin.** All tributaries to Clear Creek, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within Mt. Evans Wilderness Area.

**San Luis Valley (Closed Basin).** All tributaries in the Closed Basin, including wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs, located within the La Garita Wilderness Area.

The main stem of Sand Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands, from the source to the mouth.

The main stem of Medano Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands, from the source to the mouth

**Colorado River Basin.** The main stem of the Colorado River, including all tributaries and wetlands, located within or flowing into RMNP.

All tributaries to the Colorado River and Frasier River within RMNP and within the Never Summer, Indian Peaks, Byers, Vasquez, Eagles Nest, and Flat Top Wilderness Areas.

Main stem of Northwater Creek and Trapper Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands, from their source to the confluence with the East Fork of Parachute Creek. East Middle Fork of Parachute Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands from the source to the confluence with Middle Fork of Parachute Creek.

Battlement Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands, from its source to a point immediately downstream boundary of BLM lands.

Main stem of Rapid Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands, from the source to a point immediately below the confluence with Cottonwood Creek including Kruzen Springs.

**Dolores River Basin.** All tributaries to the Dolores River and West Dolores River, including all wetlands, tributaries, which are within the Lizard Head Wilderness area. main stem of Rio Lado from the source to the confluence with the Dolores River. Main stem of Spring Creek from the source to the confluence with Stoner Creek. Main stem of Little Taylor Creek from the source to the confluence with Taylor Creek. All lakes, and reservoirs tributary to the Dolores River and West Dolores River, which are within the Lizard Head Wilderness area. This segment includes Navajo Lake.

**Eagle River Basin.** All tributaries to the Eagle River system, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Eagle Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness Areas of the Gore Range. Abrams Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands, from the source to the eastern boundary of the BLM lands.

**Fountain Creek Basin.** Severy Creek, including all tributaries, from the source to a point just upstream of where the Forest Service Road 330 crosses the stream.

Bear Creek, including all tributaries, from the source to a point upstream of GPS coordinated N3847682, W10454917 (this location is at elevation 8,200 feet above sea level at a 250 degree angle and 3,000 feet from the trailhead of the Mount Buckhorn Trail off High Drive).

**Upper Gunnison River Basin.** All tributaries to the Gunnison River, including and wetlands, within the La Garita, Powderhorn, West Elk, Collegiate Peaks, Maroon Bells, Fossil Ridge, or Uncompahgre Wilderness Areas.

All tributaries and wetlands from North Beaver Creek to Meyers Gulch, from the West Elk Wilderness boundary to their confluences with Blue Mesa Reservoir, Morrow Point Reservoir, or the Gunnison River, excluding Steuben Creek, North Willow Creek, and Soap Creek.

All lakes and reservoirs that are tributary to the Gunnison River and within the La Garita, Powderhorn, West Elk, Collegiate Peaks, Maroon Bells, Raggeds, Fossil Ridge, or Uncompahgre Wilderness Areas.

**Lower Gunnison River Basin.** All tributaries to the Smith Fork, including all wetlands, which are within the West Elk Wilderness Area.

All lakes and reservoirs tributary to the Smith Fork, and are within the West Elk Wilderness Area.

**North Fork of the Gunnison River Basin.** All tributaries to North Fork of the Gunnison River, including all wetlands, within the West Elk or Raggeds Wilderness Areas.

All lakes and reservoirs that are tributary to the North Fork of the Gunnison River and within the West Elk or Raggeds Wilderness areas.

**Laramie River Basin.** All tributaries to the Laramie River system, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Rawah Wilderness Area.

**Los Pinos River Basin.** All tributaries to the Los Pinos River, including all wetlands, which are within the Weminuche Wilderness Area.

All lakes and reservoirs tributary to the Los Pinos River which are within the Weminuche Wilderness Area. This includes Granite Lake, Divide Lakes, Elk Lake, Flint Lakes, Moon Lake, Rock Lake, Betty Lake, Lost Lake, Hidden Lake, Vallecito Lake, Eldorado Lake, Trinity Lake, Leviathan Lake, Sunlight Lake, Hazel Lake, Columbine Lake, and Emerald Lake.

**Mancos River Basin.** All tributaries of the Mancos River located within Mesa Verde National Park.

**North Fork of the Gunnison River Basin.** All tributaries to North Fork of the Gunnison River, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the West Elk and Raggeds Wilderness Areas.

**North Platte River Basin.** All tributaries to the North Platte River and Encampment Rivers, including lakes and reservoirs.  
All wetlands located within the Mount Zirkle, Never Summer, and Platte River Wilderness Areas.

**Piedra River Basin.** All tributaries to the Piedra River, including all wetlands, which are within the Weminuche Wilderness Area.  
All lakes and reservoirs tributary to the Piedra River which are within the Weminuche Wilderness Area. This segment includes Window Lake, Monument Lake, Hossick Lake, and Williams Lakes.

**Rio Grande Basin.** All tributaries to the Rio Grande, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Weminuche Wilderness Area.

**Roaring Fork River.** All tributaries of the Roaring Fork River system, including lakes and reservoirs, located within the Maroon Bells/Snowmass, Holy Cross, Raggeds, Collegiate Peaks, and Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness Areas.

**San Juan River Basin.** All tributaries to the San Juan River, Rio Blanco, and Navajo River including all wetlands which are within the Weminuche Wilderness area and South San Juan Wilderness Area.  
All lakes and reservoirs which are tributary to the San Juan River, Rio Blanco, and Navajo River and located within the Weminuche Wilderness Area and South San Juan Wilderness Area.  
This segment includes Archuleta Lake, Spruce Lakes, Turkey Creek Lake, Fourmile Lake, Upper Fourmile Lake, Crater Lake, Quartz Lake, Fish Lake, and Opal Lake.

**San Miguel River Basin.** All tributaries, including wetlands, to the San Miguel River, and within the boundaries of the Lizard Head, or Mount Sneffels Wilderness Areas.  
All lakes and reservoirs tributary to the San Miguel River and within the boundaries of the Lizard Head, or Mount Sneffels Wilderness Areas.

**South Platte River Basin.** All tributaries to the South Platte River, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Lost Creek and Mt. Evans Wilderness Areas.

**St. Vrain Creek Basin.** All tributaries to St. Vrain Creek, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Areas and RMNP.

**Uncompahgre River Basin.** All tributaries to the Uncompahgre River, including all wetlands, which are within the Mt. Sneffels or Uncompahgre Wilderness Areas.  
All lakes and reservoirs tributary to the Uncompahgre River and within the Mt. Sneffels or Uncompahgre Wilderness Areas.

**White River Basin.** All tributaries to the White River, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, including Trapper's Lake.

**Yampa River Basin.** All tributaries to the Yampa River, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, located within Zirkle, Flat Tops, and Sarvis Creek Wilderness Areas.

## ATTCHMENT 2

### GOLD MEDAL WATERS

The following list of important spawning areas has been defined as Gold Medal Waters by the State of Colorado. As a reminder, according to RC 5 above, PCN is required for all proposed nationwide permit activities in these waters; consultation with CPW must be conducted in accordance with the timeframes established in GC 32.

NOTE: This list of Gold Medal Waters is subject to change. For the most current list, please refer to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Colorado Fishing Brochure available on the CPW website (<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/RegulationsBrochures.aspx>) Fishing Brochure or contact any CPW or Corps office in Colorado.

### GOLD MEDAL LAKES:

**North Delaney Butte Lake** in Jackson County.

**Spinney Mountain Reservoir** in Park County.

**Steamboat Lake** in Routt County.

### GOLD MEDAL STREAMS:

**Animas River** from Lightner Creek to Rivera Crossing Bridge.

**Arkansas River** from the confluence with the Lake Fork of the Arkansas, near Leadville, downstream to Parkdale at the Hwy. 50 bridge crossing above the Royal Gorge.

**Blue River** from Dillon Reservoir Dam to Green Mountain Reservoir inlet; and From Green Mountain Reservoir dam to Colorado River confluence.

**Colorado River** from Fraser River to Troublesome Creek confluence. Also, the 24 mile reach from the confluence with Canyon Creek, at the mouth of Gore Canyon, downstream to the confluence of Rock Creek, near the town of McCoy.

**Fryingpan River** from Ruedi Reservoir dam to Roaring Fork River Confluence.

**Gore Creek** from Red Sandstone Creek to Eagle River confluence.

**Gunnison River** from the upper boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument downstream to the confluence with the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

**North Platte River** from the Routt National Forest boundary to the Wyoming border.

**Rio Grande** from Farmer's Union Canal upstream to the upper boundary of Collier State Wildlife Area.

**Roaring Fork River** from the confluence with the Crystal River downstream to the confluence with the Colorado River.

**South Platte River:** The **Middle Fork** of the South Platte River downstream from U.S. Highway 285, the **South Fork** of the South Platte River downstream from the outlet at Antero Reservoir, and from the confluence of the **Middle and South Forks** of the South Platte River downstream to the inlet of Spinney Mountain Reservoir.