

What is the Animas Watershed Project Doing to Keep the Animas River Healthy?

The Animas Watershed Project convenes monthly, alternating between Aztec, New Mexico and Durango, Colorado. The current goal of the Animas Watershed Project is to draft a Watershed Management Plan using the EPA's Handbook. A Watershed Management Plan is designed to identify pollutant sources and find ways to reduce the pollution sources thereby increasing the quality of the water in the river. A successful planning process involves significant stakeholder input.

What can you do to help the Animas River?

Please consider attending the monthly meetings and providing your input into the watershed management planning process. If you cannot attend a meeting, please visit the project website for meeting summaries, meeting materials, and a schedule of events. You can also call to have your name included on the mailing list to receive meeting notifications and other project related information. To be included on the mailing list, call the Animas Watershed Coordinator at (970) 382-7256.

For More Information

The Animas Watershed Project maintains a website through Ecosphere Environmental Services located at www.ecosphere-services.com/resources. Here you can find links to various water related resources, as well as upcoming and past meeting materials, such as agendas, meeting presentations, and meeting summary reports.

Animas River Facts—Did you know?

The Animas River's official name is *El Rio de las Animas Perdidas*, which roughly translated means, "The River of Lost Souls". The Spanish explorers named the river after several explorers traveled on the river and were lost. Their bodies were never found, and last rites could not be administered. Being devoted Catholics, they believed the souls of the dead could not enter heaven and would be relegated to Purgatory. (This legend also explains the name of our ski mountain, Purgatory Resort. Purgatory Creek is near lift 4 at the ski area.)

The Animas River is the last free-flowing, undiverted river in Colorado.

The Animas River is the largest un-dammed river in the Lower 48 United States.

Dropping from the heart of the San Juan Mountains to an elevation of 9,230 feet, the Animas River is one of the highest boatable rivers in America.

There is a two-mile stretch on the Animas River that is gold medal water. Gold Medal water has the highest quality of fishing for large trout. Only lures and flies may be used in this stretch of water.

Water Facts

- ◆ What is the most common substance found on earth? Water (In fact, 80% of the earth's surface is water.)
- ◆ How much of a human body is water? 66%
- ◆ The average person in the United States uses anywhere from 80-100 gallons of water per day. Flushing the toilet takes up the largest amount of this water.
- ◆ Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Wherever it travels, water carries chemicals, minerals, and nutrients with it.