



# Water Resources

## Types of Impacts

- Increases in impervious (paved) surfaces increases stormwater runoff
  - Highway runoff contains contaminants, salts, and sediments that can enter waterways
  - Runoff also increases potential for heavy metals from exposed mine tailings to be released into streams
- Streams could be further channelized (moved or straightened) when transportation footprint widens. Channelized streams have higher velocity flows that lead to bank erosion and less desirable habitat.
- Hazardous material spills on the I-70 highway would increase as traffic volumes increase. Spills can enter and contaminate waterways.
- Impedance or blockage of cross-slope streams could worsen as transportation footprint widens
- Construction could disturb historic mine waste materials, potentially releasing contaminants into waterways
- Induced growth increases demand for water and may affect existing communities, water supplies
- Induced growth requires other new construction, which increases impervious areas and associated runoff impacts



## Mitigation Strategies

The Colorado Department of Transportation has committed to the following mitigation strategies to avoid or possibly improve water quality in the Corridor:

- Adopt the water quality and water resource mitigation strategies the *Draft Stream and Wetland Ecological Enhancement Program (SWEET) Memorandum of Understanding* (which will be finalized before the Record of Decision), which include, but are not limited to, sedimentation control and stream restoration measures.
- Work cooperatively with various local, state, and federal agencies and local watershed groups to address Clear Creek water quality:
  - Manage impacted mine waste piles and tunnels within the Corridor
  - Use appropriate best management practices during stormwater permitting
- Incorporate local watershed initiatives and consider goals of the local watershed planning entity in future projects.
- Provide detention basins for the collection of sediment as outlined in the Sediment Control Action Plans developed for Black Gore Creek and Straight Creek and under development for Clear Creek.
- Mitigate construction impacts for erosion and sediment control primarily through the implementation of a Stormwater Management Plan, which will be in place before construction begins and after construction until site stabilization has been achieved.
- Refine placement of roadway and bridge piers to avoid water resource impacts of future projects when feasible.

Other mitigation strategies could be considered for Tier 2 processes. Mitigation will be developed in context of project impacts – that is, more complex projects will likely require more mitigation.