



## WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

**Project ID:** CO1761

**Title:** Applicability of Trophic Status Indicators to Colorado Plains Reservoirs

**Focus Categories:** Nutrients, Management and Planning

**Keywords:** Reservoirs, Eutrophication, Trophic status index

**Start Date:** 03/01/2001

**End Date:** 02/28/2002

**Federal Funds:** \$4,166

**Non-Federal Matching Funds:** \$8,334

**Congressional District:** 4th

**Principal Investigator:**

John D. Stednick

Professor, Colorado State University

**Abstract**

Eutrophication of reservoirs along the South Platte River in eastern Colorado is caused by excess nutrient inputs. Measures of eutrophication include nutrient concentrations, as well as algae or specifically chlorophyll concentrations and water transparency. Trophic Status Indices (TSI) are used to evaluate the trophic status of reservoirs. Over the years, many TSI have been developed and used to monitor water quality changes in aquatic systems. We propose to evaluate the applicability of commonly used TSI for describing the trophic status of reservoirs along the South Platte River. The study will also develop a narrative standard for nutrients in reservoirs in Colorado. The results will aid in better water quality management and decision-making.