

Dear Western Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Practitioners:

You are invited to the 3rd regional meeting of the **Western Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Workgroup**, April 29, 30, & May 1, 2008 at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City, SD. Organized by EPA Region VIII and representatives of EPA Region VIII states and tribes, this workshop is a follow-up to previous successful wetland workshops held in Denver in 2005 and Rapid City in 2004. The goal of this workshop is to assist states and tribes in developing new programs or enhancing existing programs to monitor and assess wetlands of the Rocky Mountains and High Plains. The workshop offers practitioners an opportunity to share technical information regarding wetland monitoring and assessment methods, study designs, and assessment approaches currently in use in the region and in the United States.

The workshop is intended for both developers and users of wetland monitoring and assessment tools including wetland and water quality scientists and managers with federal, state, and tribal agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations. This year's workshop agenda will focus on a few selected wetland monitoring and assessment program objectives and technical topics that highlight the use of wetland monitoring data and assessment results in decision-making as well as wetland delineation, protection, and restoration.

Meeting support is being provided by the International Water Institute. Workshop information, including registration form, logistics, agenda, abstracts, and background information are posted on a workshop website hosted by the International Water Institute: www.internationalwaterinstitute.org under the "Western Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Workgroup" link.

There is a \$30 registration fee to help cover workshop expenses. A block of rooms is being held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn at a group rate of \$69 until March 30, 2008. Call 1-800-HOLIDAY to make your reservation. Ask for the "Region 8 Wetland Monitoring & Assessment Workshop" to receive the conference rate. For information regarding the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, go to: www.rushmoreplaza.com.

For more information on the workshop, please contact Mike Ell, North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.5214 (mell@nd.gov) or Jill Minter, U.S. EPA Region 8 at 303.312.6084 (minter.jill@epa.gov). For registration assistance, please contact Grit May, International Water Institute, at 701.231-5266 (grit.may@ndsu.edu).

