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**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT - COMPARISON OF HOW VARIOUS STATES HAVE INCORPORATED  
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION INTO THEIR STATE'S WATER LAWS**

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**ABSTRACT:** The interaction between groundwater and surface water is managed and administered differently across the country. In some states in the West, the interaction of ground water and surface water is recognized and administered within previously existing water law. In other Western and Mid-Western states, the scrutiny of water resources management practices in states that do not recognize the interaction between groundwater and surface water has recently been brought to the forefront. The sometimes disparate administration and management of groundwater has not only effected groundwater administration, but also the administration of the interaction of groundwater and surface water. In various compacts and interstate agreements, groundwater management has played a key role in the compliance and administration of these agreements to divide water flowing from state-to-state. Some compacts and agreements are reviewed to highlight the effect of the differences in management of ground water from state-to-state. Groundwater that is not considered to effect surface water is also managed and administered to varying degrees across the country. Comparisons of the management of various groundwater resources including the Ogallala, Edwards and Denver Basin Aquifers are discussed. The discrepancies among various management rules and regulations are highlighted in aquifers underlying various states, particularly the wide-reaching Ogallala Aquifer. The similarities and difference of various states'; groundwater legislation, management and administration are discussed. The following states are included in the comparison: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Examples from Colorado water law, legislation, administration, and compact compliance will be highlighted.

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