



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

970-453-2561  
fax 970-453-3535

Post Office Box 68  
208 East Lincoln Avenue  
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

**For Immediate Release**

**May 27, 2010**

**For more information,**

**Contact: Summit County Environmental Health (970) 668-4070**

**Drinking water obtained from Loveland Pass spring box may lead to illness.**

### **Summit County, CO – MEDIA RELEASE FROM SUMMIT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Water from the spring box located on Loveland Pass (MM 218) has recently been tested and found to contain bacteria, similar to those found in rivers and lakes. Although the bacteria tested are commonly found in surface water, they should not be in drinking water because they can cause illness. Symptoms of such illness generally are limited to diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain, but in certain individuals could be more serious. A sign will be posted at the spring informing consumers of the possible health hazard.

Spring water naturally rises from the ground water aquifer. If it can be collected and delivered in a closed system, the water is frequently safe to drink. The Summit County Environmental Health Department has been monitoring the Loveland Pass spring water since 1997. The most recent water sample was the first to indicate contamination.

Summit County Environmental Health officials investigated the source of contamination for the spring and observed that erosion and weathering have deteriorated the condition of the spring's collection system. Current conditions allow surface water and surface contaminants to easily enter the spring.

Summit County Environmental Health officials recommend treating the spring water prior to consuming, similar to what you might do prior to drinking water from a creek. Recommended treatment methods include filtering, boiling or disinfecting. Details on treatment techniques can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/water-treatment.aspx>

For additional information, please contact the Summit County Environmental Health Dept. at (970) 668-4070.

###