During my time at the Environmental Protection Agency in Denver, I was able to experience so much of the EPA during my time this summer. I was able to do a lot of data analysis for the Water Quality Unit, which included writing a 90+ page report on the water quality within an area of the region. My supervisor provided spreadsheets and spreadsheets of data collected over the past four years and we met with different EPA toxicologists to define water quality thresholds for each chemical concentration found in the water for each use of the water (whether it was recreational use, aquatic life, agricultural use, water supply, etc.).

During the time of the internship, I was able to go on field sampling events and experience first hand what is done in the field. I traveled with a Region 8 laboratory technician up to Breckenridge where we sampled the Blue River. Not only was the day beautiful, but I also learned so much about water chemistry and testing water. Although my internship was within the Water Quality Unit, I was also exposed to different pathways within the EPA. I attended different meetings/presentations on radioactive waste, air quality, and oil and gas production. I was able to see what other interns were working on; these projects ranged from legal advice to writing up ideas for wetland mitigation. At the end of my internship, I put together a presentation on my project for the summer and presented to the Water Quality Unit as a whole, which was incredibly exciting to be able to showcase what I had done.

During my time at the EPA, I wasn’t given much direction for my project, which allowed me to grow and helped me learn how to formulate questions effectively. I had a
supervisor overlooking my work and a mentor as well; all interns this summer were paired up with another supervisor from a different department within the EPA. While meeting with my mentor, I was able to explore another area within the EPA, Environmental Justice. He provided information on graduate school, his experience with his position, and what he recommends for current college students.

I highly recommend anyone interested in exploring any pathway within the EPA to check out their internships; interning for the agency was an absolutely incredible experience and I am very thankful for what I was able to accomplish and the support I received at the time of this internship.