



BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR

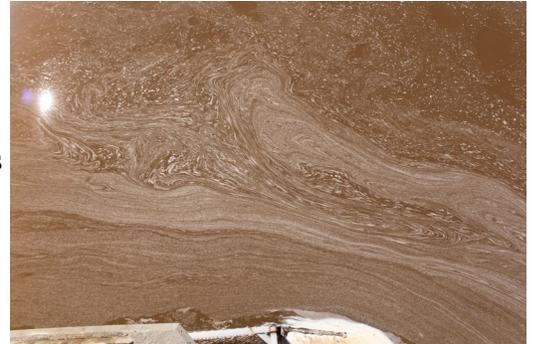
Fact Sheet 3 Sediments and Water Quality

Update June 3, 2016

The Bear Creek Watershed Association protects and restores water and environmental quality within the Bear Creek Watershed from the effects of land use.

Clear Creek County
 Jefferson County
 City of Lakewood
 Town of Morrison
 Aspen Park Metropolitan District
 Brook Forest Inn
 Conifer Sanitation Association
 Conifer Metropolitan District
 Denver Water Department
 Evergreen Metropolitan District
 Forrest Hills Metropolitan District
 Genesee Sanitation & Water District
 Geneva Glen
 Jefferson County School District
 Kittredge Water & Sanitation District
 Tiny Town Foundation, Inc.
 West Jefferson County Metropolitan District
 Evergreen Trout Unlimited
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Rocks and dirt (sediment) eroded from the earth, either naturally or by human-caused events/activities, are moved by wind or water. As long as there is wind and water, our mountains and plains will erode. Rivers and streams carry eroded sediments downstream, which gets deposited into, lakes, reservoirs and finally the oceans. When too much



sediment is eroded or deposited by water, it can cause many problems for plants, animals and people. Increased sediments above natural conditions can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation, reduce or limit recreational uses, contaminate drinking water supplies, and damage property.



Reservoirs, like Bear Creek, built in Colorado for flood control can easily become filled with sediments caused by upstream erosion. Some of our activities (building roads, houses, agriculture practices, or over grazing) can greatly increase the amount and rate of erosion and sediment movement fill-

ing our reservoirs and lakes. Sediments can carry many pollutants.

The sediment deposited in Bear Creek Reservoir is the equivalent of having a truck dumping 2 cubic yards of mud into the reservoir every day since it was completed.

In major storm events, several thousand tons of sediment is transported into the reservoir. The September 2013 major event resulted in a Total Suspended Sediment load of about 1.7 million pounds and the bed-load exceeded a million tons. Excess sediment has decreased water quality in the reservoir and reduced the flood capacity. Report major erosion problem sites or activities to the Association.

