



BEAR CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Fact Sheet 1 Association Overview

Updated June 1, 2016

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

2016 Membership

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

Our Mission -The Association identifies, defines, collectively develops, maintains & implements a local environmental & water quality monitoring, management plan and watershed-based program for the Bear Creek Watershed that meets reservoir & watershed applicable water quality standards and beneficial use classifications as adopted by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission.

Colorado state water quality regulations that affect the Association management program:

- Regulation 22: Site Location and Design Approval Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works
- Regulation #31 - The Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water
- Regulation 38: Classifications and Numeric Standards for South Platte River Basin
- Regulation 43: On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Regulation

Our Membership The Association is one of the oldest watershed associations in Colorado and includes a diverse membership of general-purpose governments, special districts, holders of wastewater discharge permits, water providers, businesses, youth camps, homeowner associations, interested local, regional, state and federal agencies. We provide a forum for collaborative efforts and information transfer. Members work within a watershed context to help implement state & federal regulations. We encourage public participation. The Association is entirely self-funded through a cost share program.

Our Purpose The Association works with Clear Creek, Jefferson & Park Counties. We review development proposals for water & environmental quality implications. We promote sound land use decisions and encourage good land stewardship. Our water & environmental protection policies & guidelines can help in the review process. We support advanced wastewater treatment at all actively permitted treatment plants in the watershed, improved onsite wastewater (septic system) management, sediment and erosion control, protection of the watershed fisheries, nutrient & pollution controls, adopted water quality standards and classifications & preservation of our vital watershed resources.

Water Quality Agency The Association is a state and federally recognized *water quality management agency*. The Association, formed in 1981, manages a diverse water and environmental quality program within the area drained by Bear Creek and Turkey Creek that extends from the Mt. Evans Wilderness Headwaters to an area below the Bear Creek Reservoir, near Morrison Colorado.

Watershed Plan The Association uses a flexible and adaptive watershed planning process maintained electronically and assessable on a designated web site. The online watershed plan contains elements and information required to meet multiple types of water quality planning and management requirements. Annual reports meet regulatory reporting requirements. The compilation of the various watershed planning documents and databases meet state and Environmental Protection Agency requirements for a *complete watershed plan*.

Bear Creek Reservoir Control Regulation #74 The Association helps implement the State of Colorado regulation that has water quality goals, assigns wasteload allocations to wastewater treatment plants, requires nutrient management, requires a monitoring program, and calls for the Association membership to use control strategies to protect all classified waters and uses within the Bear Creek Watershed.

Monitor Water Quality The Association has an extensive watershed monitoring program defined in an annually updated sample plan. The Association monitors water quality within Bear Creek Reservoir. The >90 watershed sites include surface water monitoring along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. There are 30-years of water quality data collection.