Bear Creek Watershed

Fact Sheet 28 Adopted Stream Standards

Update June 7, 2016

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission adopts stream standards for all waters of the state.

The classifications identify the actual beneficial uses of the water. The numeric standards are assigned to determine the allowable concentrations of various parameters. Discharge permits will be issued by the Water Quality Control Division to comply with basic, narrative, and numeric standards and control regulations so that all discharges to waters of the state protect the classified uses. Table Value Standards (TVS) refer to numerical criteria set forth in the Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water and the values are based on a formula that is specific to hardness conditions in a waterbody. The stream standards effective in 2014 for the Bear Creek Watershed are:

Physical & Biological	Inorganic (mg/l)
Temperature = Site-specific table values	Ammonia (ac/ch) = TVS
Dissolved Oxygen = 6.0 mg/l	Residual Chlorine (ac) = 0.019
Dissolved Oxygen (spawning) = 7.0 mg/l	Residual Chlorine (ch) = 0.011
pH = 6.5-9.0	Free Cyanide = 0.005
E. coli = 126/100ml	Sulfide = 0.002
Mean Chlorophyll = 12.2 ug/l	Boron = 0.75
Total Phosphorus = 22.2 ug/l	Nitrite-nitrogen = 0.05
	Nitrate-nitrogen = 10
	Chloride = 250
	Sulfate = if Water Supply = 250

Metals (ug/l)
Arsenic (ac) = 340
Arsenic (ch) = 0.02 (Trec)
Cadmium (ac) = TVS (tr)
Cadmium (ch) = TVS
Trivalent Chromium (ac) =50 (Trec)
Hexavalent Chromium (ac/ch) = TVS
Copper (ac/ch) = TVS
Iron (ch) = Water Supply 300 (dissolved)
Iron (ch) = 1000 (Trec)
Lead (ac/ch) = TVS
Manganese (ac/ch) = TVS
Manganese (ch) = Water Supply 50 (dissolved)
Mercury (ch) = 0.01 (total)
Nickel (ac/ch) = TVS
Selenium (ac) = 18.4
Selenium (ch) = 4.6
Silver (ac) = TVS
Silver (ch) = TVS (tr)
Zinc (ac/ch) = TVS

A temporary modification set at "current conditions" to expire 12/31/2020, is adopted in order to recognize the uncertainty regarding how soon the internal load will be reduced. Progress on resolving uncertainty will be reviewed in the annual temporary modification hearings in December 2018 and 2019.

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

ac = acute (1-day)
ch = chronic (30-day)
Sulfide= sulfide as undissociated H2S (hydrogen sulfide)
Trec = total recoverable
TVS = table value standard
Tr = Trout

Bear Creek Reservoir Site-Specific Standards

Mean chlorophyll = 12.2 µg/l and mean total phosphorus = 22.2 µg/l measured through collection of samples that are representative of the mixed layer during summer months (July, August, September) and with an exceedance frequency of once in five years. See *BCWA Fact Sheet 53 BCR 2015 Regulation #38 Update.*