Bear Creek Watershed Monitoring

Fact Sheet 15 Watershed Sampling

Updated June 1, 2016

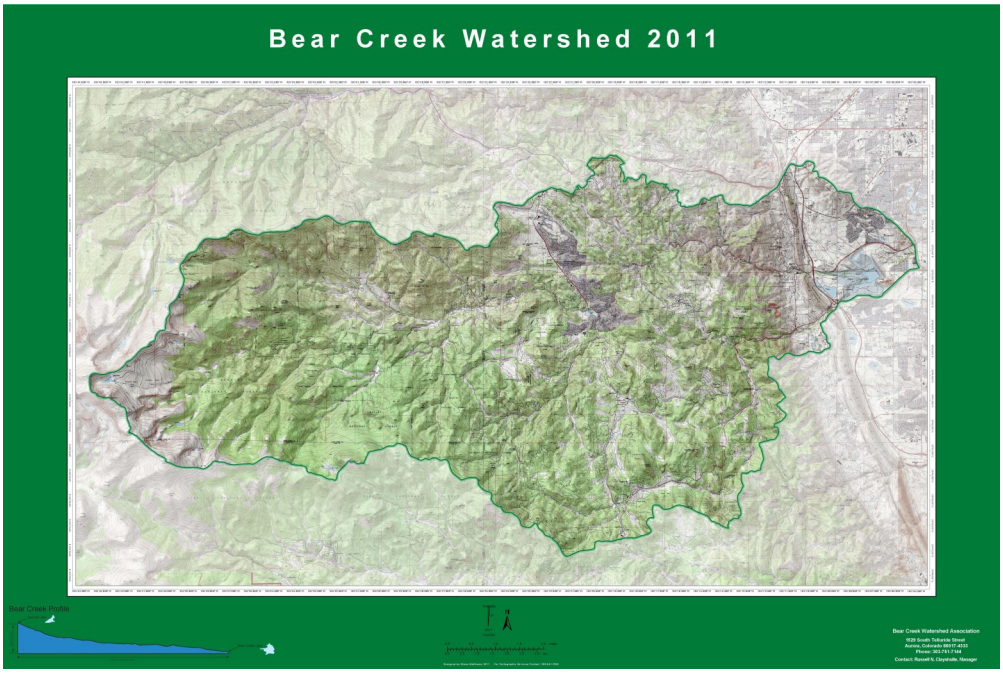
The Bear Creek Watershed Association has a watershed monitoring program defined in an annually updated sample plan (*PGO24 Bear Creek 2016 Sample Plan Version 2016.01)*. The watershed sites (P2, P3 and P4) include surface water monitoring along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. There are 35-years of water quality data collected in the watershed.

P2- Supplemental sampling of tributaries, problem areas, restoration or other project specific sites (e.g., Coyote Gulch in cooperation with the City of Lakewood). These types of monitoring efforts can be either of limited duration, or long-term on a site-specific basis, and generally these programs monitor for specific parameters of interest to the project.

P3- Watershed surface water monitoring along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek drainages for site-specific characterizations (e.g., temperature trends, nutrient loading, flow studies). These are interim and long-term monitoring sites for watershed characterizations. Watershed monitoring stations include both long-term reference sites where multi-year data is desirable, and target sites that may provide only a couple years of data. The nutrient monitoring is on a watershed basis that begins near Summit Lake and extents through Bear Creek Reservoir.

P4- Supplemental environmental characterizations of Bear Creek watershed including, but not limited to macroinvertebrates, flow analysis, habitat characterizations, fishery evaluations, system productivity, or other environmental factors that potentially affect fisheries or watershed health.

The Association measures stream temperatures in both the cold and warm-seasons and targets most classified stream segments in the watershed. Measurements are taken at about 25 sites every 30-minutes. The Association has 96 watershed sample locations that begin at Summit Lake in the Mt. Evans Wilderness and extent to the outlet of Bear Creek Reservoir. The Association generally monitors 30 watershed sites per year for field parameters (e.g., Temperature, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Specific Conductance) and nutrients (total phosphorus and total nitrogen). Monitoring begins in the spring and can continue to first snow.



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