



BCWA PINNACLE



Volume 4

April 19, 2014 *Earthday*

Bear Creek Watershed Association at Evergreen Earthday 2013. She really liked Tony the Bear.

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
Bear Creek Cabins
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
Singing River Ranch
The Fort Restaurant
Tiny Town Foundation, Inc.
West Jefferson County Metropolitan District
Evergreen Trout Unlimited
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BCWA Policy 17-The Association considers recycling as a best management practice to help manage natural resources and protect water and environmental quality in the watershed. Recycling programs protect water quality by reducing or eliminating pollutions before they become a problem. Recycling programs can manage household hazardous waste products, organic material/yard wastes, slash, manure generated at stabling operations, clean fill material, recyclable materials (e.g., cans and bottles) and prescription drug take-back programs.

Bear Creek Watershed Association, Colorado

Evergreen Metropolitan District Source Water Protection Program

Colorado communities are taking new efforts to protect their drinking water sources from potential contamination. A source water protection plan identifies a area of concern, lists potential contaminant sources and outlines best management practices to implement to decrease risks to the water source. Implementation of this plan provides an additional layer of protection at the local level beyond drinking water regulations.



Evergreen Metropolitan District (EMD) values a clean, high quality drinking water supply and is working collaboratively with area stakeholders to develop a Source Water Protection Plan. The effort consists of public planning meetings and individual meetings with water operators, government, and agency representatives during 2013 and extending into 2014. Colorado Rural Water Association is instrumental in this effort by providing technical

assistance. EMD obtains its drinking water from Evergreen Reservoir. The Protection Area for Evergreen Reservoir is a 1,000 foot wide band from both sides of Bear Creek and its tributaries from Evergreen Lake to the Continental Divide (Zone 1) and the rest of the upper watershed (Zone 2).

A Steering Committee conducted an inventory of potential contaminant sources and identified other issues of concern

within the Protection Area. The highest priority potential contaminant issue of concern is stormwater runoff causing

erosion. Other noted water quality threats include wildfire, septic systems and public bathroom vaults.

The EMD Steering Committee developed several best management practices that may help reduce the risks from the potential contaminant

sources and other issues of concern. The best management practices are centered on the themes of building partnerships with community members, businesses, and local decision makers; raising awareness of the value of protecting community drinking water supplies; and empowering local communities to become stewards of their drinking water supplies by taking actions to protect their water sources:

- * Conduct an engineering study to design the removal of sediment from catchment basins

- * Create accessibility for removal of the captured sediment on an annual basis to keep the catchment basins functional.

This Source Water Protection Plan is a living document that is meant to be updated to address the changes that will inevitably come. The EMD Steering Committee will review this Plan every two years or more frequently if new risks are identified or new water sources and source water protection areas are developed .





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Everything in a watershed is connected and everything and everyone in our watershed is important. The Bear Creek Watershed membership strives to be the voice for our watershed.

Cottonwood that was partially submerged in the 2013 flooding

The Association has a junior watershed manager program and will work with the 5 watershed high schools to provide educational opportunities, training classes and materials related to watershed and water quality management. The Association has a "Watershed 101" training course tailored to our Watershed. The Association worked with students at Evergreen High School to develop a restoration project on the school property. The students designed and with funding support from the Association built a rain garden that fixes a stormwater runoff problem at the school.



West Jefferson Middle School honor students protect train-wreck hero monument

Adapted from Ann Baker, Denver Water Communications and Marketing

More than a century after a train engineer saved all 450 passengers before dying in the crash; a group of students are preserving the 113-year-old monument erected in his honor. The West Jefferson Middle School honor students saved this deteriorating grant monument through a real-world lesson in history, engineering and fundraising. On Aug. 28, 1898, train engineer Billy Westall lead a group of passengers on a trip from Denver's Union Station along the South Platte River into the mountains,

returning to Denver by dinner. The route was a common daytrip for city dwellers at the time, eager to spend a day out of town and enjoy a picnic in the mountains. That afternoon, the train made its scheduled stop in the small town of Pine, continuing onto the Dome Rock Station. Westall noticed that a pile of rocks, trees and debris had washed across the tracks, and, sensing the train would crash, slowed the cars enough so the crew and passengers could jump off. Although everyone on board scrambled to safety, Westall couldn't escape in time. The train rolled, pinning him underneath. Several people freed him, but his injuries were too severe. He died later that night, whispering, "tell my wife I died thinking of her," as he took his last breath. "The story is so interesting," said Neil Sperandeo, retired Denver Water recreation manager who coached the students through the restoration process. "And not many people have heard of it." A year after the train wreck, the Ancient Order of United Workmen erected a 10-foot granite

monument near the site of the crash. Westall's name and last words are engraved in the stone, which has survived more than a century of forest fires and floods, the end of the railroad line, and the harsh mountain weather. But the soft riverbed has shifted beneath it, causing the structure to lose ground support and tilt toward the river.

The students raised money for the project and researched its history to replace a plaque that once was bolted to the stone. On Dec. 9, 2013, the monument was moved to its new location where it will be more visible from the nearby dirt road. Once it's completely restored, the students plan to promote the monument so people stop and learn more about the last heroic act a train engineer made so long ago.

