



BEAR CREEK WATERSHED

Fact Sheet 58 Guide to Cyanobacteria in Bear Creek Reservoir
October 11, 2018

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

2018 Membership

Clear Creek County
Jefferson County
City of Lakewood
Town of Morrison
Aspen Park Metropolitan District
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 Metro District

Blue-Green Genera

- **Aphanizomenon** – Forms dense mat-like surface aggregations or blooms on shore-line or surface of reservoir. Can appear like grass clippings on surface water.
- **Microcystis** - Small cells usually organized as colonies that begin in a spherical shape, appear as dark blue-green or brown globs.
- **Anabaena** - Nitrogen fixing filamentous blue-green, forms long bead-like or barrel chains with interspersed enlarged spores (heterocysts).
- **Oscillatoria** – Unbranched filamentous blue-green or grey-green, occurring singly or in tangled mats, forms long thread-like filaments.

BCWA Fact Sheet 57 Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins lists four common genera of blue-green algae found in Bear Creek Reservoir: Microcystis, Anabaena, Oscillatoria, and Aphanizomenon. The BCWA monitors bi-monthly for phytoplankton species present, cell count (number of cells per mL water), and density ($\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$) in the reservoir from July to September. These are the anticipated months when a cyanobacteria blooms frequently occur, although blooms have occurred in early June and late October.

