

# Bear Creek Watershed Association

**Approved:** October 9, 2013

**Policy 17 Beneficial Recycling of Natural Resources in Bear Creek Watershed**



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## Statement of Basis and Purpose

The Bear Creek Watershed Association (Association) is established in the Bear Creek Watershed State Control Regulation (Regulation #74, 5 CCR 1002-74) (Control Regulation). The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission recognizes the Association as a designated Water Quality Management Agency under provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan.

The control regulation defines best management practices that need to be used in watershed programs as:

"Best Management Practices (BMPs)" means best methods, measures, prohibitions or practices, schedule of activities, operation and maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the introduction of pollutants into state waters. Best Management Practices include, but are not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls or policies. Such practices can be applied before, during, and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters.

The Association considers recycling as a best management practice that can 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) disposed at parks and open spaces, and prescription drug take-back programs.

Many common household products cannot be thrown in the garbage or poured down the drain, such as:

- Latex and oil-based paint
- Cleaners, solvents and certain other household products (e.g., oil-based furniture polish)
- Motor Oil, antifreeze and other vehicle waste products
- Electronics and batteries
- Fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides

The Rooney Road Recycling Center's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility offers Jefferson County and Bear Creek Watershed residents a convenient, year round, location to recycle/dispose certain recyclable items. The Rooney Road Recycling Center provides proper disposal programs for household hazardous waste (HHW). HHW includes electronic waste, household chemicals, paints, propane cylinders and automotive products. HHW materials

collected at the facility since 1994 total more than 5 million lbs of potential surface water and ground water pollutants. The HHW program services over 4,000 participants, with City of Lakewood accounting for over 25 % of the total participation and the Bear Creek Watershed accounting for 38% of the total participants.

The City of Lakewood Regional Park Program supports recycle and litter management at their regional parks, including Bear Creek Park. The city continues trash clean up along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek drainages and around the reservoirs. The program includes construction of manure management bins and park clean-up. Recycle your fishing string program helped keep shorelines clean.

The Conifer Area Council has maintained a “Recycling / Sustainability Committee”, which supported community-recycling efforts. Information from this committee is distributed to the Association membership. The committee has a slash removal program for pine beetle damaged trees. The program also takes recycled materials to the Rooney Road Recycling Center.

Clear Creek County has a recycling center and transfer station. The transfer station handles household trash, construction debris, furniture, appliances and other materials for a fee. The recycle center collects, at no charge, glass bottles, all sorts of plastics, cardboard, paper, various metals, motor oil, cooking oil, and antifreeze. The Clear Creek County Chipper Program allows homeowners to rent a 6” Vermeer Wood Chipper. The center also has hazardous household collection days, a slash drop-off program and produces useable compost from the slash.

Denver Parks and Recreation promotes recycling and conservation of natural resources at their mountain parks within the watershed.

### **Membership Policies**

1. The BCWA supports beneficial recycling in the watershed as a natural resource protection and best management practice.
2. The BCWA supports all beneficial recycling programs such as, household hazardous waste products, organic material/yard wastes, slash, reusable compositing, composting of manure from stabling operations, reuse of clean fill material, recyclable materials (e.g., cans and bottles), and prescription drug take-back programs.
3. The BCWA specially supports the Rooney Road Recycling Center and its beneficial recycling programs, the City of Lakewood Regional Park recycling programs, the Conifer Area Council recycling programs, the Evergreen medicine recycling take-back site (Colorado Medication Take-Back Project), The Clear Creek County recycling center, and the Denver Parks and Recreation recycling programs.
4. The Association is willing to support other appropriate natural resource or other appropriate recycling efforts in the watershed.