

9.5 Management Associations and Watershed Groups

9.5.1 Upper Black Squirrel Subwatershed WQMA (Proposed)

No Association currently exists in the Chico Creek Watershed. Due to the future growth in the Upper Black Squirrel Subwatershed, formation of the Upper Black Squirrel Water Quality Management Association (WQMA) is recommended. This Association would include portions of the two previous associations, Eastern El Paso and High Plains which were recommended for formation in the 1999 208 Plan Update. This Association will be based on the boundaries of Upper Black Squirrel subwatershed. Once formed, this Association would represent the entities of Cherokee Metropolitan District, Ellicott School District, Sunset Metropolitan School District, and Paint Brush Hills Metropolitan District. Due to the limited number and size of communities outside of the watershed, but still within El Paso County, it is also recommended that this Association review site applications from entities adjacent to the watershed, the Town of Calhan, Town of Ramah and Colorado Centre Metropolitan District.

Until a WQMA is formed, this area will continue to have all its site applications for new or modified wastewater facilities or interceptors reviewed by the Lower Fountain WQMA before being submitted to PPACG.

9.5.2 Upper Black Squirrel Creek Groundwater Management District

This district was established in 1968 by the Colorado Groundwater Commission to review water rights applications and information concerning withdrawals for this Basin. This District is authorized to adopt additional rules and regulations to help administer groundwater within their district. The Boundaries of this district generally correspond to the natural limits of the surface water drainage basin. A copy of the rules of this District are available at <http://water.state.co.us/cgwc/rules-regs/UpperBlackSquirrelCreek.pdf>.

9.5.3 Water Quality Management Groups

Chico Basin Conservation Leadership Initiative

A Chico Creek Watershed group met several times in 2002 to talk about concerns and issues in the Chico Creek Subwatershed. This group was composed of representatives from the El Paso County Planning Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Nature Conservancy, Chico Basin Ranch, and Central Colorado Soil Conservation District. This group focused specifically on the portion of the Chico Creek Drainage Area. The Nature Conservancy coordinated the meetings and one of the primary goals of this group was to develop a Chico Basin Land Use Plan. Three workshops were held to

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develop an action plan. This action plan consists of tasks, a timeline and leadership, and a description of the organizational structure for implementation support.

An assessment of the current situation by this group revealed this subwatershed was:

- Large, biologically diverse, high quality, valuable, viable arid landscape, historic agricultural economy and large tracts of state school trust and federal owned land.
- Threatened by fragmentation, economics of development, lack of vision and action and loss of water due to increased diversions and growth related use.
- High quality, intrinsically valuable, biologically diverse landscape will not survive without alternatives to development, increasing value of land due to residential growth, fragmentation and increasing demands on finite water supplies.

Some of the Problem statements that this group identified were:

- Growth, fragmentation, encroachment impacts - land, ecosystems, plants & animals valuable and high quality: viability threatened by growth and fragmentation.
- Water – Basin will not be ecologically and economically viable without water.
- Proper management and mitigation.
- Economics of land development and options and opportunities to generate dollars to develop land and develop a vision and action to change economics.
- Lack of knowledge/ understanding and ability to value the area.

This group held its last meeting in 2002 and is currently no longer meeting.