

## 1. Executive Summary

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) is required under federal and state statutes to develop a Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) that recommends future policies and technical strategies for each of the five watersheds within the Pikes Peak region – El Paso, Teller, and Park counties. The 208 Plan recognizes each watershed is uniquely different and water quality problems can be both diffuse and site-specific.

The 2019 208 Plan supersedes the previous plan which was last updated in 2010. The format and structure of the 208 Plan has remained unchanged between 2003 and 2019 and is still broken down into five watersheds to describe site-specific information. The changes in the 2019 208 Plan update include but are not limited to:

- changes to the population projections;
- revisions to the regional policies;
- a revised water quality assessment that identifies the major water quality issues for each watershed;
- a revised description of the point source dischargers and a point source summary sheet for each watershed;
- revised watershed sections that condense information in order to be useful and easier to manage during updates;
- updates to the nonpoint source assessment; and
- revised conclusions and recommendations for each watershed.

Water quality improvements recognized as a result of implementation of the 2010 208 Plan include:

- changes to site applications to address specific water quality issues and concerns as identified in the 208 Plan;
- implementation of recommendations aimed at improving water quality, including changes to local regulations and policies that affect water quality, studies to assess sources of water quality impairment, and further coordination between cities and counties; and
- improved regional collaboration to identify future needs and ensure

water quality will not be impacted as a result of future decisions.

### 1.1. Development Process

This plan was developed by PPACG with the assistance of PPACG's Water Quality Management Committee (WQMC). The WQMC consists of representatives of special districts and military installations involved with water quality management, along with local governments located within El Paso, Teller, and Park counties. During regular meetings, members reviewed and made recommendations regarding information to be incorporated into the 208 Plan.

### 1.2. Uses of 208 Plan

A regional approach is important to protecting water quality because it involves multiple groups and individuals and recognizes geographic impacts to problems are not isolated. The importance of providing and promoting regional dialogue, discussion, and solutions is evident by the numerous watershed organizations throughout the region and state. The 208 Plan is a planning document intended to assist local, state, and federal decision makers prioritize and provide information to help guide the region in addressing water quality issues. This process helps assure decisions made at the local and state levels are consistent with pertinent statutory and planning requirements, information necessary for water quality decisions is adequate and up-to-date, and agencies and associations are designated to implement the recommendations.

As such, this plan is used to:

- review site applications and discharge permits to ensure consistency with the recommendations, policies, and future needs of the region;
- educate the cities and counties and the public regarding the future wastewater needs of the region;
- provide information to planners regarding point source and nonpoint source water quality issues and concerns, and applicable policies and strategies;
- determine if proposed state water quality standards are consistent with the policies and goals contained in the plan.
- review the status of water quality within designated areas and report on progress in meeting the local, state, and federal water quality goals

as well as regional policy objectives;

- identify priorities and processes and recommend solutions for addressing water quality problems through special stream studies, including Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or wasteload allocation analyses;
- identify priorities and local needs for improving or constructing wastewater facilities; and
- identify environmental, economic, and social costs and benefits of implementing portions of the 208 Plan goals and objectives.

### 1.3. Goals and Objectives

The goal of the 208 Plan is to be consistent with the Clean Water Act, which is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters. This will be accomplished through a regional and coordinated approach that serves to recognize the watersheds in the region as regional assets supporting diverse interests. To achieve this goal, five objectives were adopted as part of this plan:

1. Improve watershed health by developing and implementing strategies that improve water quality and maintain a balance between the natural environment and designated land uses.
2. Restore and maintain the designated uses of the streams and creeks to ensure protection of public health, aquatic life, agriculture, recreation, and surface and groundwater supplies.
3. Identify current and future wastewater treatment needs through a regional collaborative process and implement strategies that improve water quality.
4. Develop solutions that consider environmental, social, and economic impacts to both point and nonpoint source problems.
5. Encourage local governments, special districts, businesses, and other stakeholders within the watersheds to adopt policies and operating practices consistent with the 208 Plan.

## 1.4. Scope

The 2019 update of the 208 Plan follows the watershed approach initially taken in the 2010 Plan. Information and issues that overlap between watersheds are described in the beginning of the 208 Plan in the following sections: Introduction; Regional Water Quality Assessment; Regional Policies; Population Projections by District and/or Service Area; and Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of the Plan.

The remainder of the 208 Plan is divided into four sections corresponding to the five watersheds shown located within the portions of the South Platte and Arkansas river basins within the Pikes Peak region:

- South Platte Headwaters
- Upper South Platte Watershed
- Upper Arkansas Watershed
- Fountain Creek Watershed
- Chico Creek Watershed

The key aspects described in each of these five watersheds are:

- A description and identification of treatment facilities necessary to meet the anticipated municipal and industrial waste treatment needs of the area until 2045, including treatment level requirements;
- The establishment of construction priorities for such treatment facilities and time schedules for the initiation and completion of all treatment facilities;
- The identification of agricultural and forest management-related nonpoint sources of pollution, mine-related sources of pollution, construction activity, and the control and disposition of all residual waste disposal of pollutants on land or in subsurface excavations;
- An identification of management and operating agencies to carry out appropriate portions of the 208 Plan;

- Description of the water quality issues and concerns unique to each watershed; and
- Recommendations for future policy and technical strategies to address water quality issues and concerns.

1.5. Figure: Watersheds in the Pikes Peak Region

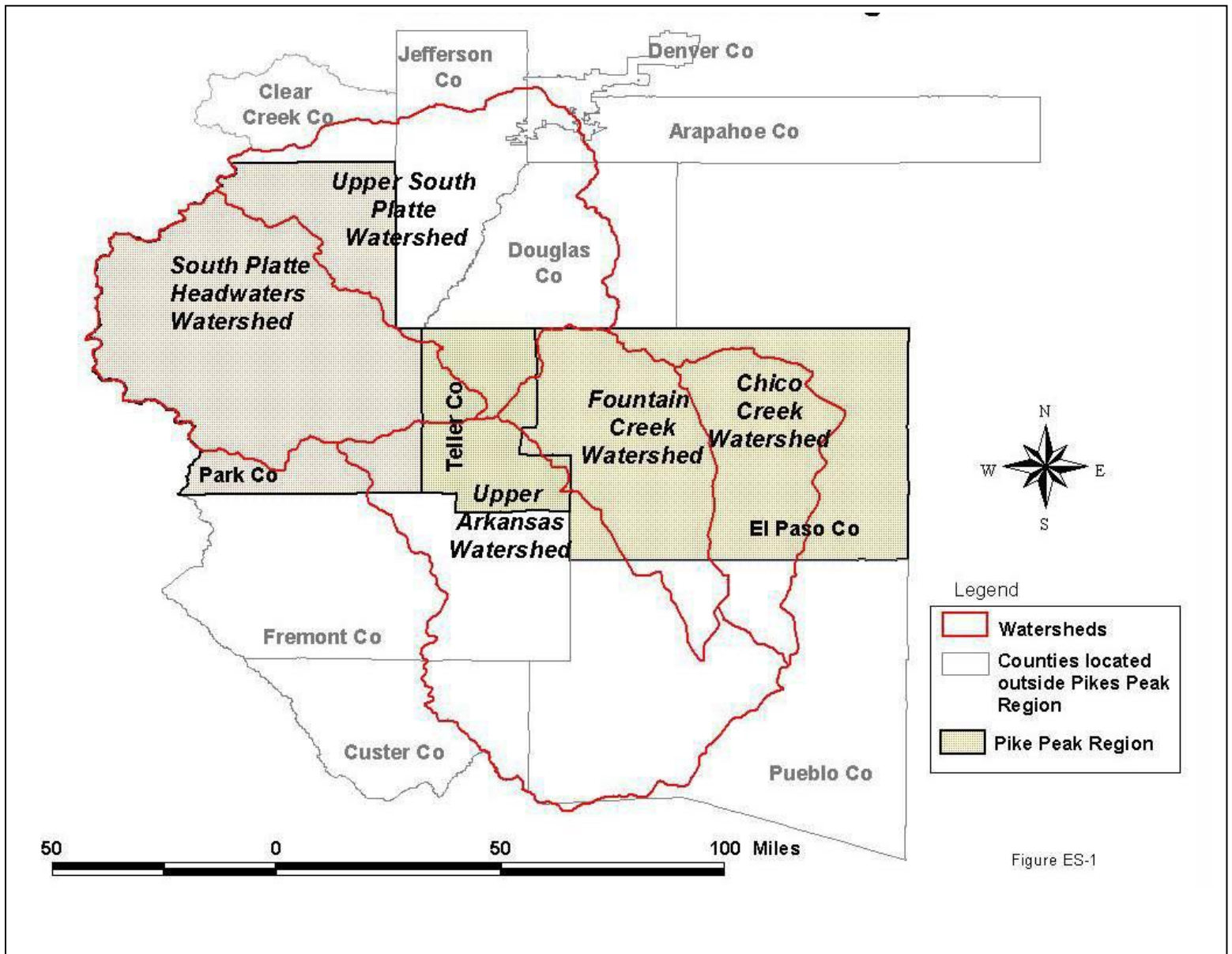


Figure ES-1

## 1.6. Challenges

The development of the 208 Plan identified the following challenges:

- Complying with future nutrient standards for total phosphorous and total nitrogen, fish tissue-based selenium criteria, ammonia standards for the protection of mussels, and new arsenic standards, all of which will be adopted no later than 2027 by the Colorado WQCC;
- Determining sources of *E. coli* contamination; and
- Conducting adequate water quality monitoring in each of the watersheds to determine future water quality problems.

## 1.7. Future Plan Revisions and Updates

The 208 Plan will be updated at least every five years. If required, amendments to the 208 Plan will occur between updates of the 208 Plan. Section 25-8-105 of the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Colorado WQCC Policy #98-2 contain language regarding review and approval of amendments to the 208 Plan.