

15. Conclusions and Recommendations

15.1. Conclusions

Teller County represents a small portion of the Upper Arkansas Watershed and is primarily rural. Conclusions drawn from a review of the Upper Arkansas Watershed include the following:

- Expansion of the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining operation will require water quality monitoring to determine continued permit compliance.
- OWTs in Teller County represent both a near-term and a long-term threat to groundwater quality.
- Groundwater is the major source of drinking water for the county, and water quality degradation is a major concern.
- Based on historical trends, most of the growth is expected to occur in the unincorporated portions of Teller County.
- Due to the presence of large areas of national forest and state parks, development in certain areas will be negligible.
- Activities potentially affecting water quality include unmanaged historic mine sites.

15.2. Recommendations

These recommendations are specific to the Upper Arkansas Watershed; general recommendations are listed in Section 3, Policy Evaluation.

15.2.1. Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Conduct a comprehensive groundwater quality study and develop a countywide, comprehensive groundwater protection plan.

15.2.2. Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Develop a program for testing and assessing existing septic systems to determine if existing systems are working adequately, and develop a county-wide database that contains the age, design, location, and date of last servicing for the systems.