

## 24. Management Associations and Watershed Groups

This section discusses wastewater operating agencies, management agencies/associations, and watershed groups/organizations in the Chico Creek Watershed.

### 24.1. Wastewater Operating Agencies

The following organizations are recognized as wastewater operating agencies within the Chico Creek Watershed. These agencies are responsible for controlling all aspects of the collection, treatment, and discharge of sewage or industrial concern, within their company's sphere of operation. Each of these operating agencies is discussed in further detail in Section 9.3, Chico Creek Watershed Point Source Dischargers.

- 4-Way Metropolitan District
- Sunset's Ellicott Springs
- Cherokee Metropolitan District
- Falcon Highlands Metropolitan District
- Meridian Service Metropolitan District
- Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District

PPACG also recognizes wastewater operating agencies located outside of the Chico Creek Watershed but within El Paso County.

### 24.2. Management Agencies/Associations

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 the Upper Black Squirrel Subwatershed.

Due to the limited number and size of communities outside of the watershed but still within El Paso County, it is also recommended this association review site applications from entities adjacent to the watershed, including the towns of Calhan and Ramah and the 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.

### **24.2.1. Cherry Creek Watershed Authority**

The Cherry Creek Watershed Authority was formed to determine appropriate phosphorous loading into the Cherry Creek Reservoir. Phosphorus loading in Cherry Creek Reservoir is a prime concern for many agencies. Planning activities relating to the reduction of phosphorus loading in the reservoir have occurred through the local master-planning group (Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority) and the CDPHE. Following rigorous work to provide an equitable plan to allocate phosphorus loading in the entire Cherry Creek basin, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission adopted “the Cherry Creek Reservoir Control Regulation, Regulation #72”. Although El Paso County is located in a small portion of the Cherry Creek basin, due to the lack of urban density developments and a nondischarging wastewater treatment plant facility, this regulation does not contain a phosphorous allocation for El Paso County.

### **24.2.2. El Paso County**

El Paso County is a statutory government and has its own individual environmental health department and processes septic system permits, regulating water quality, solid waste and other environmental health concerns. The county must assure adequate water supplies are available to support approved development and in approving the plans for Title 32 Special Districts and land use approvals for related facilities.

## **24.3. Groups/Organizations**

### **24.3.1. 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 down to the southerly extent of Squirrel Creek Road. 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 is no longer meeting. It was composed of representatives from the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Nature Conservancy, Chico Basin Ranch, and Central Colorado Conservation District.