



# Big Thompson Watershed News

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Big Thompson Watershed Forum*

Summer 2006

Volume 7, Issue 2

## Remembering the Big Thompson Flood

by Sharlynn Wamsley

*Sharlynn Wamsley is a member of the Big Thompson Canyon Association and editor of "Reflection on the River: The Big Thompson Canyon Flood."*

A casual look at the Big Thompson River today is delightful. The spring snowmelt this year has kept the river at a healthy flow. The vegetation along its banks is flourishing, in contrast to the plants only a few yards away struggling to survive another dry year. What a contrast from the same area 30 years ago, in 1976, the year of the Big Thompson Flood. In August that year, the riverbank was washed clean of dirt and vegetation, while a nearby Cherry tree was blooming for the second time that season. The floodwater scoured the riverbed clean down to bedrock in many places, but the residue left behind, especially in the Big Thompson Valley and town of Loveland, was an incredible sight. Every sign of human habitation - clothing, furnishings, appliances, tools, toys, cars - everything was left in heaps of ruin.

Other, less visible, items added significantly to the impact of the flood. Common household products including solvents, detergents, propane - even sewage from septic tanks - all became part of the aftermath. The smell of propane permeated the canyon for months. Over time, gasses dissipated into the air, solvents, oils, and fluids broke down chemically, and balance was eventually restored. It took a few years to clean the bulk of the tangible ruin from the canyon. The river had to cleanse itself of the rest.

The river flow during the years following the flood was kept as low as possible. The water from the upper watershed was diverted out of the canyon to provide optimum conditions for restoration and road and bridge work. During this time, in 1977, when most of the construction and rehabilitation was done, youth and service groups came to the canyon to help clean, repair and plant trees. Many of the trees you see along the banks of the river now were planted by the youth of Estes Park and Loveland after the flood.

After restoration of the infrastructure was completed, attention turned to the river. The Division of Wildlife began rehabilitation of the waterway. They positioned large boulders and logs to prevent undercutting of the riverbank, and created eddies and small pools to restore habitat for trout.

It was a joyous day when water from the upper watershed was once again released into the Big Thompson Canyon. It was then that the river began to settle in its new bed, and do its own rearranging in earnest. For a long time, the eerie sound of boulders bumping and rolling underwater was common to those who lived nearby.

An estimated 85 percent of the fish population was destroyed in the flood. The Division of Wildlife stocked the river



*Cedar Cove, situated just above the narrows in the Big Thompson Canyon, was hard hit by the flood.*

with baby trout, with the promise that within three years the river would be worth fishing again. It might have taken a little longer, but fishermen are now a common sight on the river.

It has been 30 years since the disaster caused by the foot of rain that fell in four and a half hours in the upper reaches of the Big Thompson Canyon. In many practical ways, the canyon has recovered, and continues to be an evolving ecosystem. With a closer look, however, the signs of the disaster are still visible. Foundations from homes long since gone still remain. Small scraps of metal, a gear

from something, and bricks from fallen houses can easily be found. Occasionally, during high water in the spring, a car engine is washed from the rocks into the river.

American novelist Tom Robbins once said, "True stability results when presumed order and presumed disorder are balanced. A truly stable system expects the unexpected. It is prepared to be disrupted, waits to be transformed." One thing we learned from the disaster caused by the Big Thompson Flood is that we must meld our needs with the needs of our environment. It was a brutal lesson, but we now have the knowledge and willingness to seek a more stable system.



## ABOUT US...

The Big Thompson Watershed Forum is an association of private citizens and representatives of government, organizations, and businesses. We are united with the common goal of protecting water quality throughout the Big Thompson Watershed. We strive to accurately assess conditions in the Big Thompson Watershed and to facilitate informed, cooperative water quality protection. North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association is a cooperating agency. The Forum maintains a strong partnership with the Thompson R2-J School District.

The Forum is a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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Water Quality Sampling Technician

This portion of the News is dedicated to the Forum's Water Quality Management Planning Process. We are developing a collaborative management plan to reduce or eliminate the water quality impacts of nutrients in our Watershed. Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen compounds) from natural and manmade sources enter water bodies and impact drinking water, agriculture, recreation, and aquatic life uses. For more details and recent project developments, please visit the Programs/Restoration section of our website or contact us at (970) 613-6160.

by Rob Buirgy

The Water Quality Management Planning process is moving forward, with the majority of the effort focused in two areas. The first area of progress, the Nutrient Problem Statement, is close to completion. This three-page statement will serve as a pivotal component of the Water Quality Management Plan. The first phase of the plan is scheduled for completion at the end of 2006.

The Nutrient Problem Statement clearly and concisely identifies the nutrient issues in the Big Thompson Watershed for both the general public and stakeholders. By summarizing the state-of-the-region with regard to nutrient levels, it provides a natural segue to understanding why it is imperative that affected groups work together and act now to manage levels of nutrients and ultimately protect our area waterways from increased problems.

Developing a nutrient 'problem statement' is a challenging process, because nutrients are an important requirement for the growth and development of plants and animals. However, elevated levels of nutrients negatively impact human health, the economy of our communities, and the integrity of aquatic ecosystems. We are collecting details on local events that illustrate the direct effect elevated nutrient levels can have on water supply and other uses in the watershed. Besides substantiating the current impacts, these examples underscore the importance of developing a set of strategies for managing nutrients and protecting water quality. The Science and Monitoring subcommittee plans to have an interim draft of the problem statement for review by the planning team on June 28th.

Another vital piece of the planning process that will lead to the development of local nutrient goals is also underway. This part of the process will interface six years of monitoring data with recommended nutrient thresholds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division (WQCD).

At present, the WQCD has until 2010 to develop a set of standards to regulate nutrient levels. In the meantime, Colorado watershed groups such as the Forum are assessing local monitoring data in order to develop nutrient criteria tailored to local conditions. In the absence of local, site-specific standards, the 2010 statewide standards developed by the WQCD will be applied to the Big Thompson basin regardless of its unique characteristics. Both federal and state agencies support the Forum's approach as a model for a watershed approach to local water quality management.

*... elevated levels of nutrients negatively impact human health, the economy of our communities, and the integrity of aquatic ecosystems.*

As we assess this local data, we are establishing trends within the watershed and beginning to pinpoint water bodies with elevated nutrient levels. This analysis is mostly completed for area reservoirs and lakes. The next analytical challenge will involve assessing conditions in rivers and streams.

Phase II of the Water Quality Management Planning process will begin in 2007. At that time, we will recruit additional stakeholders to work with Phase I participants in establishing local goals and nutrient management plans.



## The Importance of Stream Flow in Characterizing Water Quality

by Jeffrey Boring

The physical destruction of property resulting from catastrophic flow events is obvious - see the photo of Colorado's worst natural disaster, the Big Thompson Flood of 1976, on the cover of this issue of the *News*. The water quality issues associated with flow are less obvious. High flows can result in severe water quality problems caused by the flooding of sewers, conveyance of pollutants from flooded land, and severe erosion of stream banks.

On the other end of the spectrum, low flows, often associated with drought or dewatering, can also lead to significant changes in the physical and chemical condition of water bodies. These changes can include an increase in ambient water temperatures, a decrease in dissolved oxygen, and a reduction in the dilution capacity of receiving waters.

Hydrologists generally use the word discharge instead of flow in the scientific literature. Discharge is defined as the volume of flow passing a specified point in a given amount of time. Discharge includes the volume of the water and any sediment or other solids that may be dissolved in or mixed with the water. The units of discharge are often measured in cubic feet per second (cfs).

A good example of the role discharge plays in characterizing the condition of the Big Thompson can be found by comparing nutrient samples collected during different flow regimes. The concentration of total phosphorus in the Big Thompson at I-25 was 1.41 mg/L in February and 0.184 mg/L in June of 2005. The interpretation of these concentration data suggest that total phosphorus was seven times higher in February than June. However, if discharge is taken into consideration, a different story emerges.

February and June provided the lowest and highest recorded discharges in the Big Thompson at I-25 in 2005. The instantaneous discharge at this site in February was 15 cfs, compared to 170 cfs in June. The June instantaneous discharge was more than 11 times the magnitude of the February instantaneous discharge.

The calculated phosphorus loads at this site, on each of these days were considerably different, 51.81 and 587.23 kg. Do you think the 587.23 kg load applies to the February or June

sampling event? February had a much higher total phosphorus concentration, but the discharge was the lowest on record in 2005. The 587.23 kg was calculated in June, when the total phosphorus concentration was relatively low, but the discharge was large. Even though the concentration of total phosphorus was greater in February, the relatively low flow resulted in a small phosphorus load. Accounting for discharge clearly puts the concentration of pollutants into context during different flow regimes.

The most common method for measuring stream discharge is called the velocity-area method. This method requires the physical measurement of the cross-sectional area of the channel and the velocity of the flowing water.

Discharge is determined as the product of the channel's area times the velocity of the water.

Stream channels are not consistent in depth, as anyone who has tried to wade across a stream can vouch. Streams often have shallow riffle areas and deeper pools. Therefore, in order to measure the cross-sectional area of a stream, the channel must be broken up into subsections. Depth and velocity are measured in each subsection by a current or velocity meter. The meter consists of a propeller that is rotated by the action of flowing water. Each rotation of the propeller completes an electrical circuit that is recorded. Velocity is calculated by tracking the number of revolutions in a given time interval. Summing the discharge calculated in each subsection provides a total discharge measurement.

Every water quality sample that is collected for the Forum by the U.S. Geological Survey includes a discharge

measurement. However, the Forum has not implemented a discharge measurement program for all of our volunteer monitoring sites. We've acquired current meters and modified a sampling protocol, and ensured that all equipment and procedures are in place. We currently have two volunteers assisting with the project, but because our sites are spread across the Watershed, we are looking for a couple more volunteers. If you are interested in participating in this project and learning more about the importance of stream discharge, contact the Forum and ask for Jeffrey Boring.



Jason Gurdak, USGS Hydrologist, uses a current meter to measure stream discharge in the Big Thompson River.



**River Life** Focusing on the organisms that live in and around Colorado's waters.

## Life in the Floodplain - Living and Learning

by **Jeremy Monroe and Bob Zuellig**

*Jeremy Monroe and Bob Zuellig are aquatic ecologists at Colorado State University, and also represent Freshwaters Illustrated, a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting aquatic awareness through photo, video, and film.*

To most of us, the word "flood" carries catastrophic connotations and conjures images of rooftop islands, demolished bridges, and bobbing cars. Our most memorable floods - such as the Big Thompson Flood of 1976 - are those that took human life and destroyed human property. However, for animals and plants that live in and around rivers, these powerful events are just part of life in the floodplain.

Flooding is a natural part of the hydrologic cycle in all watersheds. In Rocky Mountain streams, flooding occurs mainly when winter snowpack melts in spring, but can also occur throughout the year in response to heavy rains. Aquatic and streamside organisms that have evolved in these streams have adapted their lifestyles to not only withstand floods, but to even capitalize on them. For example, many native fish species time their spawning period so that snowmelt flooding will not disturb their eggs. Likewise, many stream invertebrates will burrow into the streambed during floods to avoid being washed downstream by the current or scoured by the sediment that it carries. Some streamside plants use the spring floods to disperse their seeds and deposit them in fertile sand and gravel bars.

Despite the many adaptations of river life to flooding, major floods will still injure or kill many of these organisms. It is these harsh lessons that continually teach populations and communities how to live with flooding. In remembering the Big Thompson Flood and its severe impacts, we should ourselves embrace its lessons and learn how to better live with rivers.



*Native cutthroat trout spawn after spring snowmelt floods, to minimize the disturbance of their eggs in streambed gravels.*



## H<sub>2</sub>Organizations: Uncompahgre River Stewardship Alliance

by **Nathan Fey**

In the upper reaches of the Uncompahgre River, on the southern face of the Gunnison River Basin, a new community effort has begun to foster greater stewardship of the river corridor. The Uncompahgre River, which flows from headwaters high above Ouray, Telluride and Silverton to its confluence with the Gunnison River in Delta, suffers from historical hard rock and instream gravel mining activities, decrepit irrigation diversion structures, irrigation return flows, heavy mineral content, and increasing development pressures along the river corridor.

Recently, the Uncompahgre River has become a focal point for stream stabilization and river restoration efforts, habitat improvement projects, and increasing commercial and recreational use, particularly in the river's upper reaches. Recognizing the increased pressures faced by the river, and concerned over water quality impairments, navigability, and manipulated hydrographic regimes, a group of river users, commercial outfitters, landowners, and local governments are developing a collaborative framework that will facilitate restoring, monitoring, and preserving the Uncompahgre River corridor.

This effort is being coordinated by myself, a Colorado native and resident of Ridgway. I am the recipient of the Kenney

Foundation's Leadership Grant award, a highly regarded nomination recognizing leadership in water issues facing the western United States. With the start-up funding provided through the award, I formed the new Uncompahgre River Stewardship Alliance (URSA), a forum for community dialogue and education, and a mechanism for collaboration, cooperation, and teamwork.



*Nathan Fey and Bill Coughlin reconstruct a drop structure for the town of Ridgway.*

In the few months since its formation, URSA has initiated a stewardship campaign with commercial outfitters, supported river-cleanup days, and teamed up with national programs that support community river stewardship. URSA has supported the efforts of private landowners to protect the river corridor from development while providing the public with areas for enjoyment of the river. URSA has also worked with the town of Ridgway, hydrologists, and the Army Corps of Engineers to design structures for stream stabilization and restoration, and recreation and aesthetics.

In the coming months, URSA will grow its volunteer base, work to establish a monitoring program, and coordinate the preservation of a stretch of the Uncompahgre River that serves as prime wildlife habitat and showcases a healthy river system.



## Community Outreach

by Kathy Hartman



*The Big Thompson River*

### Introducing . . . Adopt-A-Waterway . . . Come and Join Us!

2006 is the inauguration of the Forum's Adopt-A-Waterway program. In partnership with the City of Loveland Stormwater Department, the Forum will add a year-round component to stewardship efforts throughout the watershed. In the first year of the program, we will concentrate on water bodies within the City of Loveland. Future years will take us upstream to Rocky Mountain National Park and downstream toward the eastern plains. Lakes, ponds, reservoirs, canals and wetlands are all a part of this improvement project.

Your watershed needs you to get involved. We are looking for groups - Girl & Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Homeowners Associations, environmental groups, school groups - just about any group of committed individuals to improve water quality by adopting a local waterway. The requirement is to make a commitment of three cleanups per year for a two-

year period at a specific location. If you already have a location in mind, all the better. The more connection your group has to a waterway, the more fun and pride of ownership you'll have. Two of the cleanups can coincide with our annual Spring Cleanup and River Revival. If you're not sure which waterway you'd like to adopt, call us and we'll help you find a good match.

Are you ready to commit? Call Kathy Hartman at (970) 613-6164 to sign up!

### Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup

Earth Day - April 22, 2006: 3 hours of hard work, 2 debris-filled waterways, 2.75 miles of canals and creek, 5 tons of trash, 65 tired but satisfied volunteers.

This year Forum volunteers tackled two stretches of waterway at our annual spring cleanup event. In past years we've removed trash from the Greeley-Loveland irrigation canal as it parallels the bike path from the Municipal Center to Denver Avenue. After scoping the site, it appeared that we needed to work there again this year. Dozens of hardworking volunteers, including a high-spirited group from Starbucks, pulled out a mattress spring, tires, tools, a \$20 bill, shopping carts, branches, recyclables - the list goes on! Cleaning up this highly visible route through Loveland is a priority and a satisfying experience.

Less noticeable, but even more in need of a cleanup, were Dry Creek and the feeder canal coming from Lake Loveland. Another hearty crew tackled the stretch from 29th Street to Dry Creek where it crosses Hwy 287 near 37th Street. The banks are steep in places and lots of trash washes down the waterway. In past years, water in the canal has prevented us from cleaning it up. Accompanied by City of Loveland Parks & Recreation staff and some heavy equipment, Forum volunteers pulled tons of trash out of this area.

Thanks everyone for a job well done! Special thanks to Joe Chaplin, George Parrish, Dave Cole, Bruce Philbrick, Adam Clark and the Loveland Parks and Recreation staff, Forum staff and their significant others, and all the other hardworking volunteers who came to help. Thanks also to contributing organizations: Tom's of Maine, City of Greeley, City of Loveland, Larimer County Health Department, Clif Bars, National River Cleanup Week, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Medical Center of the Rockies Foundation, Starbucks, and Green Mountain Coffee.



*Glenda Curtiss, Kathy Williamson and several other Starbucks volunteers put in a hard day's work at our Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup!*



*Over 130 volunteers removed five cubic yards of trash from the Big Thompson River at last year's River Revival.*

### Save the date! 5th Annual Big Thompson River Revival

Save the date for the 5th Annual Big Thompson River Revival. Centennial Park is the place and September 23, 2006 is the date for our yearly celebration of the Big Thompson River as it winds its way through our city and our lives. We'll remove trash from sections of the river near the park as well as across the street at Jayhawker Ponds. H2O Jo will be on hand to greet participants.

Please dress appropriately: work boots, old shoes or waders, hat, and gloves. Refreshments will be served following the cleanup.

Visit the Forum's website to register and to find current information as the date approaches.





## Student Photography Project Features 1976 Flood

by **Melissa Adams**

*Melissa Adams is Communications Coordinator for the Thompson School District.*

Thirty six gifted and talented middle school students combined local history, literacy and art through a photography project focused on the Big Thompson Flood of 1976 that resulted in an exhibit at the Loveland Public Library in October.

Art from this project, as well as previous middle school classes with artist-in-residence, Bob Campagna, are now on permanent display at the Thompson School District Administration Building. The Board of Education recognized the students and their work during a meeting earlier this year preceded by a reception at the Administration Building.

Campagna, a photographer from Iowa who has conducted weeklong photography residencies in the district for several years, expanded the project this year to tell the story of the Big Thompson Flood of 1976, which killed more than 130 people. During a two-week period last fall, students collected names, interviewed survivors and relatives of victims, took photographs, printed and mounted the art, and wrote essays for "Flood of Art: A Photographic Perspective," which was displayed at the Loveland Public Library last fall. The project brought to life the catastrophic events that defined the area 30 years ago.

"This is a very powerful project," Campagna said at the library reception. "With the blending of photographs, interviews and writing, you feel the story of Colorado's largest natural disaster told by a new generation."

Photos from the fall of 2005 reflect the aftermath of the flood through faces as well as watermarks, scars on trees and other evidence, Campagna said. Sixth, 7th and 8th graders in gifted and talented classes at Walt Clark, Conrad Ball, Turner, Bill Reed, and Lucile Erwin middle schools spent a week collecting information and a week in the darkroom producing 136 exhibit prints, he said.

Students were pleased with their work and learned a lot from getting firsthand accounts from people who experienced the event. "This was a phenomenal project because of the story, the history" said Walt Clark gifted and talented teacher Linda Pfeiffer, whose 8th grade son, Ryan, was one of the photographers. "The way some of the people told their stories, you felt like you were there," Ryan said. "Their stories were so detailed," Pfeiffer said.



*Visitors view photos of the Big Thompson Flood at the Thompson School District Administration Building.*



## We'd be Up a Creek without You...

*This feature is dedicated to those individuals who are so essential to the Forum's success - our volunteers.*

by **Jeffrey Boring**

Protecting and improving a watershed, like the Big Thompson, requires a sophisticated geographic information system (GIS). GIS is used to capture, manage, analyze and display geographic information such as water bodies, roads and cities. The Forum uses GIS to model the entire Big Thompson Watershed, a landscape that is over 900 square miles in area. Without GIS, the Forum would not be able to map the location of our monitoring sites or represent data within a spatial context.

The Forum has used GIS since the late 1990s, but has always gotten by with older versions of GIS software. Recently, ESRI, the developer of the world's leading GIS technology, provided the Forum with an Evaluation Edition of their successful ArcView 9.1 software. This application was used to update the Forum's monitoring program maps and create the placemat used for our 8th Annual Meeting and Symposium in February.

While the Evaluation Edition provided a temporary solution to the Forum's GIS needs, a long-term solution was necessary.

Welcome Jennifer Morgan. Jennifer is a Graduate Research Assistant and PhD candidate in the Civil Engineering Department at Colorado State University. Jennifer contacted the Forum looking for volunteer opportunities, and we quickly realized that her writing skills and overall understanding of GIS could be applied to this project.



*Jennifer Morgan assists the Forum in mapping and interpreting geo-spatial information in the Big Thompson Watershed.*

Jennifer successfully completed an ESRI Conservation Program grant in June. The grant included requests for two licenses of ArcView 9.1, the most common GIS software used for visualizing, analyzing, creating, and managing geographic information. The following extensions were also requested: Spatial Analyst, 3D Analyst, Publisher, ArcPress, Maplex, and Network Analyst. These extensions will enhance the analytical capability of the software.

Thanks to Jennifer, the Forum is making major strides in mapping and interpreting geo-spatial information. The interpretation of this information will improve the Forum's ability to protect and improve water quality in the Big Thompson Watershed.



## Sounding Board

### Spring Blooms in the City of Greeley

by Ed Young

Greeley Water Department's participation in the Big Thompson Watershed Forum is part of our overall treatment strategy in our mission to produce safe, palatable drinking water and to lower treatment costs through cooperative assessment of our watershed.

This spring we were reminded of how vulnerable our system can be to a nutrient-induced algae bloom. One of our two supply lakes, Lake Loveland, was discovered to be full of algae oils produced over the winter and early spring by a normally innocuous algae growing under the ice. Strong winds churned the lake in March, bringing nutrients to the surface and producing an unusually grassy smell indicative of an algae bloom.

Our independent monitoring program later identified the principal offender as chlorocystis, a normally harmless algae, that had been growing under the ice through the winter and had flourished during the turnover of the lake in spring. As we began treating the water, we immediately noticed a bitter, moldy taste and attempted to adjust our process to remedy it. After three days and confirmation that the source of the problem was Lake Loveland, we switched entirely to Boyd Lake as our sole source. Over a period of two weeks the algae oils diminished, but by this time we had put enough "tasty" water into our system to generate hundreds of complaints from customers in Greeley, Windsor and Milliken.

The experience has strengthened our resolve to work with the other members of the Forum in looking for ways to control the nutrient levels in the Big Thompson River that supplies Lake Loveland and Boyd Lake.

## BTWF Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please tell us more about yourself:*

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip and mail this form to the Forum, or join online at [www.btwatershed.org](http://www.btwatershed.org). Thanks!**

### Please Consider Making a Donation

We rely entirely on voluntary contributions for our operating funds. Only with your help can we continue to protect water quality. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please mail your check, payable to the Big Thompson Watershed Forum, to us today. Thank you! In-kind contributions and volunteer services are also greatly appreciated.

Contact Diana Johnson at [djohnson@btwatershed.org](mailto:djohnson@btwatershed.org) or (970) 613-6162 for more information.

*Note that we will begin charging membership dues later this year.*

### Does your employer have a Donation Matching Program?

*This space is dedicated to the partners that are critical to the Big Thompson Watershed Forum's vitality and success as an organization.*

#### City of Loveland Parks & Recreation



*Adam Clark removes a shopping cart from Dry Creek at our Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup.*

The City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department has been a most willing and able partner of the Forum. From lending a significant hand at our cleanups to designing and installing kiosks along the Big Thompson River, Parks & Rec gets the job done.

At our annual spring and fall cleanups, Parks & Rec disposes of trash collected by our volunteer crews. In April, faced with steep banks and muddy waters at Dry Creek, the Parks and Rec crew, under

the direction of Adam Clark, brought in heavy equipment and hauled out, literally, tons of trash. Last fall, Danny Flynn supervised the cleanup at Jayhawker Ponds.

The Forum is partnering with Parks & Rec on the upcoming commemoration of the Big Thompson Flood, the Big Thompson River Self-Guided Tour, and the Loveland Rotary Centennial Project. Our thanks to Gary Havener and his entire staff for all their invaluable assistance!



## BIG THOMPSON WATERSHED FORUM

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*Mark your calendar!*

**BIG THOMPSON FLOOD  
COMMEMORATION**

**July 31, 2006**

THE FUTURE OF WATER QUALITY IS IN OUR HANDS

### Join the Forum Today!

Since 1997, the *BIG THOMPSON WATERSHED FORUM* has worked to fulfill its mission to protect and improve the quality of water in the Big Thompson Watershed. We need you! Your participation broadens our representation and enriches our knowledge and ability to protect water quality.

To join the Forum, visit our website, call, or complete the form on page 7.

### WET'S HAPPENING:

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**April - October, 2006: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado** Habitat and trail restoration projects. For more information, visit /www.voc.org or call (303) 715-1010, toll free (800) 925-2220.

**July 18, 2006: BTWF Board Meeting** 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Thompson School District Administration Building, 800 S. Taft Avenue, Loveland.

**July 31, 2006: 30-Year Commemoration of the Big Thompson Flood** Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park, Loveland. Call (970) 613-6166 for more information.

**September 23, 2006: 5th Annual Big Thompson River Revival** Centennial Park, Loveland. Visit [www.btwatershed.org](http://www.btwatershed.org) or call (970) 613-6166 for more information and to register.

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