

Flood Recovery News

2/9/2014

News from the Big Thompson

This letter, from the Big Thompson Restoration Coalition, highlights a number of positive steps happening on the Big Thompson River, including upcoming exigency work for affected landowners, volunteer projects, river restoration master planning, and more.

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT: Please keep logs intact! We continue to receive notices that tree trunks are being cut up for firewood and for other purposes. Note that tree trunks (whole, at least 10 inches in diameter) are some of the best bank stabilization and river restoration materials available. PLEASE encourage your neighbors to keep the logs in one piece, and set them aside for later restoration work. The coalition will be sending announcements out in later winter to solicit your request for debris management/removal projects along the river. Please stay tuned.



GRANTS AWARDED FOR COALITION WORK

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, the fiscal sponsor for the coalition, just received a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado to help fund our River Restoration Master Planning efforts, as well as volunteer projects and other exigency work this spring. The community foundation funds will add to the funds already received from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and New Belgium Brewing, as well as Rotary.

JANUARY 31 GOAL OF RAISING \$50,000 FOR THE BIG THOMPSON & Win a Bamboo Fly Rod

We have exceeded the \$5,000 (including checks sent directly to WRV) fundraising mark for the Big Thompson River Restoration Fund (a fund to support restoration projects that on the Big T). Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by January 31 needs much more support. To support this effort, please spread the word far and wide, and go to www.youcaring.com/btrrc to donate before January 31. Enter to Win Custom Bamboo Fly Rod and Help Support Big T Restoration Brian Chavet (BTRRC Fiscal Committee Chair) of Elkhorn Fly Rod and Reel is organizing a raffle for a top quality Bamboo Fly Rod, built by Fred San Martin. Please go by his shop on 3121 W. Eisenhower Blvd. in Loveland and enter to win the rod (\$10/ticket). For more information about the contest, call 970-227-4707. www.elkhornflyrodandreel.com.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR IMPACTED PROPERTIES Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and other coalition members will be organizing dozens of river restoration and debris management projects beginning this March. Once our project selection and approval process is

solidified, we will be soliciting project requests from stakeholders in need of assistance. As our restoration fund grows, we will also be soliciting restoration project requests from stakeholders. Funded projects will need to be directly related to the River Restoration Master Plan. Other details will be announced by June 2014.



MORE STAKEHOLDERS NEEDED

If you are receiving this e-mail, it means you are a stakeholder of the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition. Please forward this announcement to others who you think are not yet a stakeholder, and encourage them to become a stakeholder. Or better yet, please deliver a copy of this form to your neighbor if you know they are not able to receive mail or email. Here is the stakeholder participation form: [Big Thompson River Stakeholder Participation Form](#)

RIVER RESTORATION MASTER PLANNING TO BEGIN THIS WINTER

Thanks to support from the funders listed above, the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition will be selecting a river restoration consulting team (by February 7) to undertake master planning efforts from the Olympus Dam to the confluence with the South Platte River, including the North Fork. Your input as a stakeholder is essential to this plan moving forward, which will in part determine how this river will be restored to a more resilient, healthy, and desirable place to live. An important product of the master plan is how to best rebuild in the river floodplain in a way that reduces risk to roads, bridges, and homes when the next flood strikes. Stakeholders will receive periodic updates as to when and where public meetings will be held as part of the master planning process. The Consulting Team will also be collecting important hydrologic, biologic, and geomorphic data along the river, such that the most informed restoration decisions can be made. Once the river restoration master plan is complete, the coalition will be working to raise funds necessary to implement restoration projects, handle permitting needs, and to coordinate volunteer projects. But the first step is for land owners to become stakeholders in the process and provide their input to help shape the master plan.

EXIGENCY PROJECTS UPDATE

The NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) has identified initial sites along the Big Thompson Canyon, Glen Haven, and Fish Creek, that are expected to be at risk during spring runoff. In a joint effort between the NRCS and the County, they will determine which sites in unincorporated Larimer County should be pursued for exigency work. It is important to know that just because a property is on the list does not mean it will receive repairs/treatments. Conceptual costs only have been developed for each of the approximate 50 sites identified by the NRCS Damage Assessment Crew, and those costs may change as the County and NRCS move into the design phase. If the costs come in higher than the funds available, NRCS and Larimer County will have to prioritize what does or doesn't get done. Additionally, the NRCS and Larimer County will look closely at identified properties to determine if repair costs are greater than the value of the property. If this is the case, it may be decided that repairing the property is not the best fiscal choice with limited funds available. The locations have been identified by GPS coordinates and now the county is matching that data up with the parcel maps and will notify landowners shortly. Joe Temple, one of the Larimer County project engineers will serve as the project manager for the county and will work with Todd Boldt and his team at the NRCS.

COALITION FUNDS FOR RIVER RESTORATION WORK

To the extent that we have funds available, the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition will help fund river restoration and bank stabilization projects that are not covered by the Exigency funds from the NRCS. Guidelines for that work are being developed, and we will share those guidelines with impacted residents on the Big Thompson in late Winter. **Larimer County Hosting Flood Recovery Open House on January 29** Flood recovery open house planned for January 29. For more details on the open house, visit: [Flood Recovery Announcement](#).

MORE INFORMATION, QUESTIONS

For more information please go to the coalition website, www.bigthompsonriver.org or contact John Giordanengo at john@wlrvt.org or 970-493-2075. Please recognize that, due to an extreme volume of e-mail and phone messages, we may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

Thank you!

The Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition Steering Committee

John Giordanengo, BTRRC Coordinator, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers; **David Jessup**, Sylvan Dale Ranch; **Dan Stubbs**, Landowner and Teacher, Big Thompson School District; **Ralph Trenary**, Landowner; **Chris Carlson and Greg Dewey**, City of Loveland (Stormwater Engineer and Water Resources Engineer, respectively); **Brian Chavet**, Elkhorn Fly Rod and Reel; **David Piske**, Trout Unlimited, **Katie Jagt**, Welsh environmental; **Matt Lafferty**, Larimer County Planning Department; **Walt Graul**, Colorado Wildlife Federation; **Gordon Gilstrap**, Big Thompson Conservation District; and **Casey Cisneros**, Larimer County Natural Resources.

NOTE: Nominated members (Serve 6.8, NoCo Rebuilding Network, Laura Emerson, and Shar Wamsley) will be voted for at the next BTRRC steering committee meeting.