



Recovery to Resilience Flood Tour

September 18, 2018

Tour Overview:

Water Education Colorado is excited to offer a 5th anniversary, full-day tour of the 2013 flood-affected zone along the Front Range (to begin and end in Loveland). The 2013 floods wreaked havoc on communities, claimed 10 lives, destroyed homes and businesses, and resulted in billions of dollars of damage. Since then, local community members, nonprofit organizations, coalitions and consultants, along with local, state and federal agency officials have collaborated on a number of multi-objective recovery projects throughout the area. On September 18, jump on the bus with lawmakers, water managers, attorneys, engineers and members of the public to get an up-close look at a few of these important projects. Participants will learn about the initial actions that were taken to protect lives and property as well as the subsequent projects that were undertaken to recover and build resilience.

Tour Goals:

- ***Informed Coloradans:*** Help interested citizens, elected officials and community leaders gain insight into the 2013 flood recovery efforts, including funding sources, successes, challenges and lessons learned.
- ***Collaboration:*** Demonstrate the importance of strategic partnerships in completing these multi-objective recovery and restoration projects. Show how various sectors (agriculture, municipal water supply, recreation, tourism, environment, local business, etc.) were impacted during the floods and how voices from these sectors were included in the recovery process.
- ***New perspective:*** Bring diverse audiences together to learn from one another and foster future collaborations.

Tour Agenda:

Meeting and Parking: The tour will start and end at Fairgrounds Park (700 S Railroad Ave., Loveland, CO 80537). Please note that we will be meeting in one of the pavilions on the western side of the park. You must access the parking lot from the north (via W 1st Street) due to road work.

7:45 am **Arrive at Fairgrounds Park, Sign In and Collect Materials**

8:00 am **Welcome and Logistics**

We will begin the day with a welcome from Water Education Colorado and an overview of the tour

8:15 am **Tour Introduction**

Speaker: Russ Schumacher, Colorado State Climatologist

An overview of the 2013 flood event, including what kind of event this was and the frequency with which similar events may occur in the future

Speaker: State representative

The 2013 flood from the state perspective, including an overview of the roles that myriad stakeholders played in the various stages of flood response, phase 1 early recovery, and phase 2 moving toward resilience. We'll also review the agencies, grants and other funding mechanisms that supported these efforts.

8:35 am **Depart Fairgrounds Park**

Bus speaker: Rod Wensing, City of Loveland

The story of how the flood impacted Loveland, the city's immediate response, and ensuing journey from recovery to resilience, highlighting some of the most significant projects.

Bus speaker: James Usher, Colorado Department of Transportation

The US-34 Big Thompson Project, including lessons learned and money spent, the innovations and resiliencies that were incorporated into Big Thompson Canyon, plus a look back to the post-1976 flood improvements that held

9:15 am **Arrive at the North Fork Project Site**

Speaker: Shayna Jones, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

Speaker: Katie Jagt, Watershed Science and Design

An overview of the North Fork Project site, including the low flow characteristics of the river and the ongoing monitoring process

10:00 am **Depart North Fork**

Bus speaker: Shayna Jones, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

Shayna will point out and provide an overview of the interesting projects the tour will pass on the route, including the Waltonian Mountain site and the Mt. Shadows site

Bus speaker: Lindsay McFarland, Estes Valley Watershed Coalition

Lindsay will introduce the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition and describe their role in the community. She will also provide details about the Fish Creek site, including their efforts to get local high school students involved in this restoration project

10:35 am Arrive at Upper Fish Creek

Speaker: Randy Mandel, Great Ecology

A description of the Upper, Middle and Lower Fish Creek Restoration sites and explanation of the beaver dam analogues included in this project. Plus, an overview of the riparian restoration strategy, including seed banks, seed zones and Colorado State University's cold seed storage.

Speaker: Chris Eshelman, Town of Estes Park

Speaker: Jennifer Stillman, HDR

The Town of Estes' journey to rebuild infrastructure and the strategies that were incorporated

11:25 am Depart Upper Fish Creek

11:35 am Arrive at Lake Estes

Speaker: Lori Hodges, Larimer County

A discussion about Larimer County's Emergency Management program, including some of the steps that were taken in the county before, during and after the floods to reduce risk to lives and property and create sustainable communities.

Speaker: USBR Representative

The impact of the flood on municipal water resources and dam management during the floods

12:05 pm Lunch at Lake Estes

12:45 pm Depart Estes Lake

Bus speaker: Kevin Houck, Colorado Water Conservation Board

An overview of the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) and fluvial hazard mapping work being done by the state

Bus speaker: St. Vrain Creek Coalition

An introduction to the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, including its watershed master plan, as well as a look at the Apple Valley South and North project sites

1:30 pm

Arrive at Black Bear Hole

Speaker: Victoria Simonsen, Town of Lyons

Insight into Lyons' journey through flood response and recovery, including the challenges of urban river projects. A discussion of the importance of Black Bear Hole to the community, including recreation, tourism and agricultural benefits

Speaker: Mike Litzenberger, Supply Irrigating Ditch Company

Speaker: Sean Cronin, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District

We will look at the project to repair the Supply Irrigating Ditch Company diversion and discuss the broader impacts of the 2013 flood on the agricultural and ranching communities and the need to quickly refortify water supply diversions and build resilience against future flood events

2:20 pm

Depart Black Bear Hole

2:40 pm

Arrive at Streamcrest

Speaker: Garry Sanfacon, Boulder County

An introduction to the site and the phase 1 implementation project, including the reconstruction of the bridge and the home buyout

Speaker: Jessie Olson, Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Moving into phase 2 of the recovery project, which includes collaboration between multiple stakeholders and a variety of restoration methods. How participants are conducting ongoing monitoring efforts and incorporating adaptive management strategies

Speaker: Mark Schueneman, LWOG Board Member and Streamcrest Homeowner

The perspective of a local homeowner and the role that homeowners and local community members played in developing the project plan

3:30 pm

Depart Streamcrest

Bus speaker: City of Longmont Rep

The impact of the floods on the Longmont community as well as the role of the City of Longmont in flood recovery efforts

4:00 pm

Arrive at the Resilient St. Vrain Project Site

Speaker: Nick Wolfrum, Resilient St. Vrain Project Manager

An overview of the Resilient St. Vrain Project, including balancing urban needs, ecosystem needs and infrastructure protection

4:50 pm

Depart the Resilient St. Vrain Project Site

Bus speaker: Town of Evans

An overview of flood impacts east of the foothills and their response

Bus speaker: Kevin Houck, Colorado Water Conservation Board

A review of lessons learned, changes to funding and/or legislation moving forward

5:30 pm **Arrive back at Fairgrounds Park - Tour Conclusion**