



AFTER THE STORM

Fact Sheet 18 Historic September 2013 Flood Score Card
Updated June 6, 2016

The Bear Creek Watershed Association protects and restores water and environmental quality within the Bear Creek Watershed from the effects of land use.

- Clear Creek County
- Jefferson County
- City of Lakewood
- Town of Morrison
- Aspen Park Metropolitan District
- Brook Forest Inn
- Conifer Sanitation Association
- Conifer Metropolitan District
- Denver Water Department
- Evergreen Metropolitan District
- Forrest Hills Metropolitan District
- Genesee Sanitation & Water District
- Geneva Glen
- Jefferson County School District
- Kittredge Water & Sanitation District
- Tiny Town Foundation, Inc.
- West Jefferson County Metropolitan District
- Evergreen Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Creeks in the Bear Creek Watershed changed lives, communities and landscapes during five days in September 2013, but no change was greater than within Bear Creek itself. First reports thought we had a 1,000-year event along parts of the Front Range. The best guess is the Bear Creek flood event was only a 25-30 year event.

The September 2013 flood event — across a total of 24 counties — took nine lives, damaged 26,000 homes, destroyed more than 1,800 homes, damaged 765 businesses, destroyed 203 businesses, damaged or destroyed almost 500 miles of road, triggered inspections of 207 dams, caused nine small dams to fail, damaged or destroyed more than 160 water-diversion structures, damaged a roughly estimated 32,000 acres of croplands and swept away \$350,000 in stream-gauge equipment.
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The flood made some changes to the mainstem of Bear Creek in both Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties. The bad from a large scale storm event will outweigh the benefits.

The Bad	The Good
Property damage and human suffering	Reduced stream sediment embeddedness
Stream channel and bed altered	Improved some in-channel habitat
Infrastructure damage (roads, bridges, pipes, crossings)	Flushed organic and woody deposits
Changed water quality by increasing loadings	Flushed stream corridor nutrients/pollutants
Heavy erosion and sediment deposition	“Ecological reset”
Massive sediment transport in streams	Federal dollars can be used for improvements
Moved fish populations/ losses	Increased public awareness
Flushed macroinvertebrates and altered stream ecology	Identify potential problem areas
Introduced new pollutants	Re-evaluation of management
Damaged stream corridor habitats	Nutrient enrichment of adjacent flood areas
Disrupted wildlife and killed animals	
Transported invasive species	
Deposited nutrients into lakes and reservoirs	
Revise monitoring programs and management strategies	

