



Big Thompson Watershed News

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Big Thompson Watershed Forum

Winter 2003 - 04

Volume 4, Issue 4

Water Quality Results are Flowing In

by Barb Maynard

One of Forum's great strengths is our collaborative water quality monitoring program. The data gathered through this program enable us to assess the health of our watershed, and to pinpoint and address problems where appropriate. After more than three years of sampling, we now have enough data on water quality traits such as concentrations of nutrients, metals, volatile organic compounds, and bacteria to draw some conclusions and take action. Already, the Forum's water quality data have been put to use on several different projects.

Nutrients are a Top Priority

Based on our data, the Forum has identified over 70 water quality issues in the Big Thompson Watershed. Of those, the most serious problems stem from nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) and sediment pollution. Excessive levels of nutrients threaten water bodies worldwide. Nutrient overloads lead to blooms of algae, which can cause a number of problems including depletion of oxygen available for aquatic life. The Big Thompson watershed is no different. With nutrients identified as a key issue, the Forum is focusing our efforts on identifying primary sources of nutrients and ways to reduce the problem.

Reservoir Monitoring Reveals Effects of Nutrients

Reservoirs are especially prone to nutrient problems because they accumulate compounds brought in by their feeder streams. The Forum and the City of Fort Collins cooperate in monitoring the health of Horsetooth Reservoir, which supplies much of Fort Collins' drinking water.

After many years of receiving nutrient-rich water and several years of drought, exacerbated by the lowered water level in the reservoir for dam maintenance, Horsetooth was primed for an algal bloom. Sure enough, in August and September 2003, levels of algae in the reservoir spiked and dissolved oxygen plummeted. Real-time data from reservoir monitoring provided drinking water managers with timely information on the condition of their water supply.

The Forum's monitoring program looks not only at the overall amount of algae in Horsetooth, but also at the balance of different algal species – so far, over 170 species have been identified there. This past summer, a new application of this information came to light. Some species of algae, belonging to a group known as cyanobacteria, are gaining recognition for their ability to produce toxins that cause health problems ranging from liver or neurological damage to skin irritations.

While toxin-producing cyanobacteria have been recognized in marine waters for years, the potential for freshwater contamination is a relatively new area of concern in the United States. Much remains to be learned, including what conditions spur algal production, what the health effects of various levels of exposure are, and how to readily detect the toxins. The Forum is on the cutting edge of recognizing, studying, and dealing with this issue. Read more about cyanobacteria:

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/water/factsheets/blue_green_algae.htm

Making a Difference, One Ditch at a Time

Awareness of sediment issues in the Big Thompson River helped the Forum turn one water quality problem into the beginnings of a solution for another. The Mariano Exchange Ditch drains water from Boedecker Reservoir into the Big Thompson from May through September each year. A quick look at the confluence of the ditch with the river just west of Wilson Avenue indicates a potential water quality impact. Indeed, several concerned citizens have contacted the Forum about what they saw from the Wilson Avenue bridge – muddy brown ditch water clouding the clear river, as shown below. Data collected as part of the Forum's monitoring program supported the visual impression that the ditch could be carrying a significant load of sediment and nutrients into the river.

In 2003, the opportunity arose to apply funds generated from an unrelated water quality violation fine (known as Supplemental Environmental Project funds) to mitigation of the Mariano Exchange Ditch effects. Forum staff and members met with representatives of the Home Supply Ditch Company, which operates the ditch. Home Supply is eager to work with the Forum to improve the situation. In the coming year we'll assess



The water quality effects of the Mariano Exchange Ditch are apparent as turbid ditch water, entering from the left in the photo above, clouds the Big Thompson River.

the nature and extent of the impacts, develop alternatives for mitigation, and work with the community to implement the best alternative.

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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.

The Forum is sponsored by the North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association and maintains a strong partnership with the Thompson R2-J School District. The Forum is a Colorado nonprofit corporation.

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A Message from the Coordinator

“Good order is the foundation of all things.”

Edmund Burke, 1790

by Rob Buirgy

WOW! The past year has been a whirlwind of progress for the Forum, and this issue of BTWNews finds us looking ahead with confidence and enthusiasm. For the past six years we have carefully laid our foundation in four program areas - Administration, Fundraising, Assessment and Outreach - to establish a base of operations from which to accomplish our mission *to assess and protect water quality in the Big Thompson Watershed*. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the highlights of 2003 and take a brief look at our plans for 2004.

Administration experienced the most dramatic development during 2003. We completed the process of incorporating as a Colorado Nonprofit organization, including the transition to a new bookkeeping system, full-time staff, and a larger office space. With Barb Maynard's arrival as Assessment/ Communications Manager, our newsletter and website have risen to new heights (have you visited our website lately?). Throughout the year, our Directors have provided insight and leadership to maintain our momentum.

Fundraising continues to be a crucial function of the Forum. We must ensure the funding necessary to conduct our regular operations, but also to support our work on education and improvement projects. Our Program Director, Janeen Simon, has established strong relationships with our contributors, and we have made progress toward diversifying funding sources. New partnerships with the Town of Johnstown and with Loveland Rotary Club are fine examples of the good work we can accomplish through joint planning and with dedicated funding.

Our **Monitoring & Assessment** program remains a high priority – over half of the Forum's fiscal resources and significant portions of our time and facilities are dedicated to this effort. The continuing support of several local partners has allowed us to coordinate the collection and analysis of water samples from 19 flowing water sites and 4 reservoir sites. We also coordinate volunteer monitoring at 7 reservoir and 15 flowing water sites. Current data from all these sites are available through a

password-protected link on our website. By measuring stream discharge during sampling events and gathering flow data from several of our partners, we are approaching the day when accurate pollutant loadings and trend analyses can be calculated throughout the watershed. We achieved two important milestones in 2003 by providing high quality data to support regulatory decisions by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division and by producing the first edition summary report of water quality in the Upper Big Thompson Watershed.

Finally, our **Outreach** programs achieved several stellar accomplishments. **Education** highlights for 2003 include the growing success and popularity of our annual events – the River Revival and National Water Monitoring Day. I know our river is cleaner and our students are wiser, thanks to the hard work and materials presented at these events. **Improvement** activities include on the ground (or in-the-water!) projects to reduce pollutants or mitigate the consequences of pollution. Two exciting improvement projects were inaugurated in 2003 – our Small Lakes Focus Group installed a SolarBee water circulator in Silver Lake, and several of our members initiated the Mariano Exchange Ditch mitigation project.

Looking ahead to 2004, we plan to settle into our new role as an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit by solidifying relationships with our major contributors and monitoring program participants. We will initiate a comprehensive watershed management plan and begin the planning process for mitigation of the Mariano Exchange Ditch. Monitoring and data analysis will continue full-tilt and we may have the opportunity to expand both our professional and volunteer programs. We will continue to grow our annual events, including our annual meeting, river revival, and national water-monitoring day. If all goes well, we will re-establish the Loveland Water Festival – a tradition that our community has been missing for 3 years. Last but not least, we will provide a host of volunteer opportunities in water monitoring, river cleanups, outreach and more – so that each and every member of the Forum can be involved with accomplishing our mission, and have a little fun in the process! 💧



Rob Buirgy



The State of the Upper Big Thompson Watershed

In 2003 the Forum asked expert limnologist Dr. Alan D. Jassby to review the data collected by the Forum's professional water monitoring program and provide us with an analysis of the effectiveness of our program and of the state of the Upper Big Thompson Watershed. Below is an excerpt from Dr. Jassby's report. This current report was focused on the upper watershed, to cover drinking water intakes for the Forum's primary sponsors. We look forward to expanding future analyses to encompass the entire watershed.

The Big Thompson Watershed drains approximately 900 square miles of mixed mountainous and plains terrain east of the continental divide. The headwaters of the Big Thompson River are in Rocky Mountain National Park. Water also enters the watershed from the west slope of the divide via a tunnel. Together with precipitation, these waters provide drinking water to over 600,000 people and irrigation water to 630,000 acres. The water also generates electricity through six power plants in the watershed.

Rapid population growth is occurring in the watershed, which maintains ever-increasing demands on the water supply for drinking water, waste disposal, and recreation. A slow decline in water quality has been observed at certain locations, especially in downstream reservoirs such as Lake Loveland and Horsetooth Reservoir. Water quality problems need to be addressed on a watershed-wide basis in order to find problem sources and solutions. This geographic scope requires cooperation among localities within the watershed....

Although average water quality conditions in the upper watershed show only slight human impact for most variables, there are frequent and significant excursions above existing criteria for humans and aquatic life for some of these variables. Nutrients, total organic carbon, copper, turbidity, and *E. coli* currently deserve the most consideration.

Nutrients foster phytoplankton growth and poor water quality in downstream reservoirs and canals. Nutrient reduction would be accomplished most efficiently by reducing phosphorus levels in wastewater effluent from the Upper Thompson and Estes Park Sanitation Districts.

The highest total organic carbon concentrations are due to sources upstream of the current monitoring stations in spring. The sources appear to be natural organic matter. As the most significant fecal contamination also originates in that area, it

would be worthwhile to locate and identify these sources in order to consider possible remedial measures.

Copper is high in the canals because of copper algacide applications to reduce phytoplankton levels. Some phytoplankton species, however, contain toxins that are released from cells as a result of algacide application. Other problems include copper toxicity to non-target organisms and locations such as the river, especially in cases of operational changes that may not be well coordinated with algacide applications. If feasible, nutrient reduction is the preferred way to minimize these phytoplankton blooms.

Although definitive statements are hard to make at this early stage of the program, there is some evidence that turbidity is increasing in the lower canyon because of mineral suspensoid inputs, phytoplankton growth, or both. The increased turbidity enters downstream reservoirs via the river mainstem and also the Hansen Feeder Canal through the Dille Diversion Tunnel.

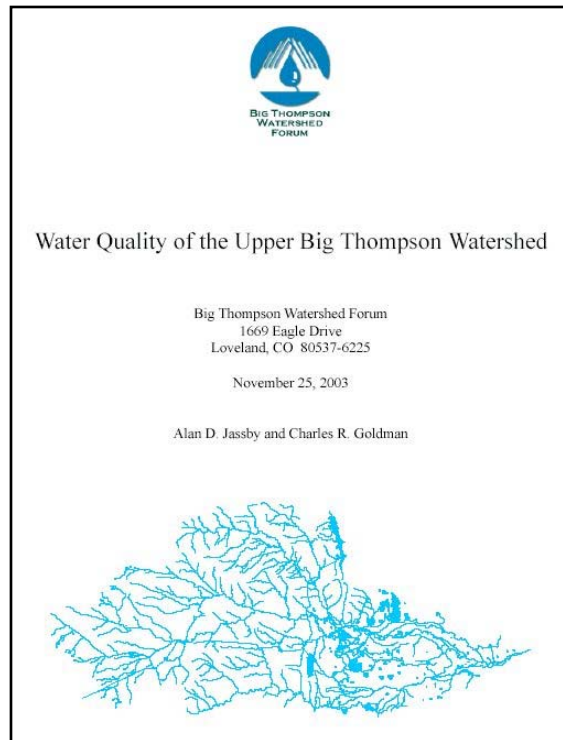
Higher turbidity increases the burden of treating reservoir water for drinking, and has food web effects by limiting the production of phytoplankton and attached algae.

E. coli concentrations, indicative of fecal contamination, occasionally exceed water quality criteria for single sample measurements. Measurements are generally highest at stations closest to headwaters and suggest that the sources are upstream of the current monitoring stations. Both animals such as elk and human sources may be contributing.

The remaining issues appear to be relatively minor. Dissolved oxygen deficiency, excessive pH, and high manganese levels are all usually a by-product of phytoplankton activity, so nutrient reduction has the potential to eliminate these sporadic problems as well. Although road salt-enhanced sodium concentrations do not reach problem levels in the upper watershed, they do contribute to downstream

excesses and may need to be managed in the future. Finally, benzene concentrations do indicate sporadic incidents of (perhaps fuel) spills and the continuing need for education in service of watershed protection.

Overall the monitoring program has succeeded at this early stage in characterizing the general water quality of the upper watershed and in identifying priority problems. Although the program is still too young to examine trends, the current picture will serve as a reference against which to compare changes in the coming years. 💧



Read Dr. Jassby's full report online at www.btwatershed.org



For All You Do... Many Thanks to Our Volunteers

by Janeen Simon

One of the most rewarding aspects of working for the Big Thompson Watershed Forum is interacting with passionate and dedicated volunteers who generously give of their time and expertise to help protect the Big Thompson Watershed. As a small organization with a big job we wouldn't be able to accomplish our goals without extra help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated their time this past year. I'll list many of you here, but this list can't even begin to cover the large numbers of volunteers who have helped us over the years. Our thanks go to each and every one of you!



Students in Rob Buirgy's Thompson River Project class have been essential to the Forum's volunteer monitoring program over the years.

Our **water monitoring** program enjoys the largest boost from volunteers. The back-bone of that program is Thompson Valley High School's Thompson River Project students. Others include Cindy Wright-Jones and Marcelo Calle, Jon Anderson of Eagle Rock School of Estes Park, students and teachers at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, and our most recent additions to the Rocky Mountain National Park sampling team, Dallas Maurer, Maggie Claiser and Trigg White. Thank you also to the staff of Rocky Mountain National Park!

The Forum's community outreach and education events require short-term, concentrated efforts of large numbers of people. The annual **Thompson River Revival** has been hugely successful thanks to the fabulous outpouring of support from communities near and far. While too numerous to name everyone individually (over 250!), I would like to extend a special thanks to George Parrish, Bob Worrall, Angie Welch, Cole Wild, Ken Nicholls, Mary Buirgy, Stephanie Balter, Jeremy Monroe, Tara Moberg, Alison Meeks, Amanda Suedmeier,

Debbie Eley, Joe Chaplin, Dave Cole, Teresa Steely, Kathy Luscher, Jeff Crane & Family, Terry Schueler and Peter Groepler whose continued support and enthusiasm keep us going. Special thanks, also, to local businesses and community associations that organized volunteer groups. Finally, the event could not happen without the huge support from the City of Loveland, including Bruce Filbrick of Solid Waste and Danny Flynn of Parks & Recreation.

Other events requiring mega-volunteer support were **National River Cleanup Day** and **National Water Monitoring Day** (NWMD). Thank you to all those who helped pick up trash and to Haag Sand and Gravel, Coulson Excavation and the Osborn Family for allowing us access to their land so we could thoroughly clean the river east of US 287. The NWMD crew of Greg O'Neill, Aimee Ryel, Fred Renner and George Parrish all lent their time, expertise, resources, materials, staff and sense of humor to the highly successful workshop. All of these incredible efforts represent thousands of hours of volunteer time! Please give everyone a mental pat-on-the-back. We hope that the experience of protecting the Big Thompson proves to be as rewarding to all of you as it is for us.

We would like to invite **you** to join our team. The more people we have, the more we can accomplish. We have a variety of opportunities – not all of them outdoors. I know that some of you love to organize files, do data entry, play with websites and keep the office running ship-shape. This is your chance. Thank you again.💧

Interested in volunteering for the Forum?

Come help us with:

- water quality monitoring
- public events
- office work
- website design

Call Janeen at 970-613-6974 to learn more or sign up.



Tax Check-off for Watersheds

Colorado taxpayers showed their support for forests, rivers and streams through a new tax refund checkoff on their 2002 Colorado Individual tax forms.

The Colorado Checkoff Program allows taxpayers to donate a portion of their tax refund to one or more charitable organizations or social programs. The Colorado Watershed Protection Fund made its first appearance on 2002 tax forms, raising over \$98,000. The fund provides money for a competitive grant program to help local watershed protection groups to restore and protect rivers, streams and lands within Colorado's watersheds.

The Forum was one of six watershed groups to be awarded support from the Fund's first year of operation. The Forum will use this money to develop a watershed management plan, which will allow us to implement successful and sustainable on-the-ground projects to restore and protect the quality of water within the Big Thompson watershed. Read our full proposal under Current Projects at www.btwatershed.org; read more about the Colorado Watershed Protection Fund at www.cowaterfund.org.💧

Contributing to the Colorado Watershed Protection Fund on your 2003 state income tax form will put your refund to work protecting watersheds throughout the state.



Reaching out to Our Watershed Community

by **Janeen Simon**, Big Thompson Watershed Forum Program Director

How many residents of Loveland, Greeley, Estes Park or other Big Thompson communities have fond memories of a favorite swimming hole or fishing spot? The Forum exists to protect these places, and the entire river system. To achieve this goal, our watershed needs the protection of the entire community.

One of the Forum's top priorities is to raise public awareness of our reliance on precious water resources, and how daily actions can affect them. Our Public Outreach program is designed to educate folks about the watershed, its importance to our community health, what issues are currently challenging water quality, and what can be done collectively and individually to restore and protect our waters. Our signature event, the **Thompson River Revival**, takes place every September. Participants take part in removing trash and restoring the streambanks of the Big Thompson River. Besides the cleanup we offer educational programs, fun and interesting activities for the youngsters and good food all wrapped in a festival atmosphere.

In May 2003 we also initiated another volunteer opportunity in collaboration with **National River Cleanup Week**. The long-term goal for that event is to include all the water bodies of the Loveland area and send out trash removal teams to scour the river's edge. This is a good opportunity for local businesses or neighborhood groups to get out and clean the section of river or other water body nearest to them.

National Water Monitoring Day occurs in October, also in conjunction with a national event. Our local celebration has developed into a "train-the-trainer" style workshop. Last year along with US Geological Survey, US EPA, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State University, the Colorado Division of Water Resources and River Watch we hosted the Thompson R2J School District's ninth grade Earth Science teachers plus representatives from schools in Ft. Collins and Greeley, and educators from Rocky Mountain National Park and offered

them interactive ways to teach their students about water quality issues.

In 2004 we will once again participate in the Greeley and Ft. Collins **Children's Water Festivals** aimed at "starting them young". This is outreach and education for elementary students from their respective school districts.


Media outreach has always been an interesting challenge for us. In 2003 the Forum was chosen by River Network, a national river protection group, to participate in a nationwide media campaign called **RiverSmart**, designed to educate the public about water conservation practices. The generous financial and technical support that we received from River Network allowed us to send locally relevant messages about practical and easy-to-do ways to conserve and protect water from your own backyard.

In order to cover more than our "own backyards," the Forum continues to maintain the Big Thompson Watershed's **Self-Guided Tour**. There are nine kiosks distributed strategically between the Loveland Visitor's Center and Rocky Mountain National Park. Each kiosk has a different message regarding ecological and physical aspects of the watershed and the importance of protecting the unique ecosystems.

A new program that we will be implementing this year in collaboration with Loveland's Stormwater Division will be the **Adopt-A-Waterway** program. This program, still in its developmental stages, will encourage local businesses, neighborhood and other citizen groups, and/or individuals to "adopt" a particular section of the Big Thompson River or other local waterbody and commit to keeping that section clean. Where appropriate, streambank restoration projects may be undertaken, as well. Signs indicating the local sponsor or sponsors will be erected where possible.

Finally, look for us at other local community events such as the Larimer County Fair with *educational displays* about important water quality issues.

All of these events require a tremendous amount of help from volunteers to organize and implement. I want to thank each and every one of you, past, present and future. If any (or all!) of these public outreach activities appeal to you and you are looking for ways to spend some free time, please let me know.

Protecting the Big Thompson is a rewarding experience. 



Elementary students learn all about water at Children's Water Festivals.



Students from Eagle Rock School removed Russian olives at the 2003 River revival.



Residents of Silver Lake cleaned up during National River Cleanup Week.



Local teachers learned about water at National Water Monitoring Day.



Results Flowing In, *continued from p. 1*

Comments on the Windy Gap Firming Project

Identifying nutrients as a pollutant of concern in the Big Thompson River helped the Forum respond constructively to a proposed reservoir project. In the 1980's Windy Gap Reservoir was built and connected to the Colorado-Big Thompson system to divert water from the Upper Colorado River to east slope shareholders. However, the full capacity of this project has not yet been realized, in part because there has not been east slope reservoir capacity to receive and hold water. To more fully utilize this project, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District has begun the Windy Gap Firming Project – so named because it would firm up the capacity of the original project. Currently the District is assessing several potential sites for one or more east slope reservoirs.

The Forum's water quality data indicate that water pumped through the Colorado-Big Thompson project to the Big Thompson River brings a significant nutrient load; therefore, any project that would bring more water through this system has the capacity to exacerbate the nutrient problem in the Big Thompson Watershed. During the Fall 2003 public input period, the Forum submitted the following comments:

"The Big Thompson Watershed Forum requests that the Environmental Impact Statement for the Windy Gap Firming Project include a detailed analysis of all potential changes in East and West Slope concentrations and total loadings of nutrients and other constituents that may occur as a result of the Project. This analysis should include potential water quality impacts to existing lakes, reservoirs and water supplies from both (1) increased deliveries of Windy Gap water and (2) the construction and operation of all Windy Gap Firming Project alternatives.

The Forum and our partners conduct water monitoring on many portions of this system and will be glad to provide data from these and other studies upon request."

Read more about the Windy Gap Firming Project:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2003/September/Day-08/i22711.htm>

<http://www.usbr.gov/gp/eca/windygapscoping.htm>

State Uses Data to Pinpoint Problems

Every two years, the Colorado Water Quality Control Division reviews the health of waters throughout the state, as mandated by the federal Clean Water Act. Any sections of rivers, lakes or reservoirs that do not support their designated uses are considered impaired, and are placed on the 303d List, so named for the applicable section of the Clean Water Act. For example, a given stretch of river used for recreation could be listed for having unacceptably high levels of bacteria. Once a river section, lake or reservoir is placed on the list, a cleanup plan is designed to try to solve the problem.

One hundred and twenty-five river sections, lakes, or reservoirs are listed on the draft 2004 303d list for Colorado. This is an increase of 30 over the 2002 list, but state personnel


have said that the change reflects better information on which to base decisions rather than drastic decreases in water quality in that short time. Of these 125 listings, four are in the Big Thompson Watershed. As elsewhere in the state, high levels of selenium have become problematic as irrigation water leaches natural supplies of this mineral from soils. The lowest reaches of the Big Thompson River, from I-25 to the confluence with the South Platte, the Little Thompson River from Culver Ditch to its confluence with the Big Thompson, and tributaries to the Little Thompson were all listed for high levels of selenium. Parts of the Little Thompson River were also listed for elevated levels of *E. coli*, which indicate the presence of fecal contamination. A section of the Big Thompson River at the mouth of the Big Thompson canyon was listed for elevated levels of copper, which can be toxic to aquatic life.

Some water bodies show signs of deterioration, but they are either not in bad enough condition to merit listing or the available data are inconclusive or insufficient to support a listing. These waters are put on a "Monitoring and Evaluation" list for future study. Statewide, there are 143 listings on the draft 2004 Monitoring and Evaluation list, three of which fall in the Big Thompson Watershed. Horsetooth Reservoir was listed for low dissolved oxygen levels – a common effect of elevated nutrient levels. The Big Thompson River on the south side of Loveland is under watch for selenium concentrations, and the Little Thompson River from Culver Ditch to the confluence with the Big Thompson is marginal for aquatic life use - a category typically based on the number and species of fish or other animals present, an evaluation of the habitat, or the levels of ammonia present.

The data used by the state to develop these lists are gathered from agencies throughout the state, including volunteer watershed groups, government agencies, and private contractors. The Forum submitted our water quality data for consideration. In turn, the state-wide predominance of selenium problems has prompted the Forum to add this mineral to the list of contaminants measured in our monitoring program.

Special Monitoring Programs for Post-Fire Impacts

Large forest fires can have devastating effects on nearby waterbodies if large loads of ash and destabilized soils wash into streams during heavy runoff following the fires. After the Bobcat Fire burned nearly 10,000 acres near Drake in June 2000, the Forum was instrumental in promoting and maintaining an early warning system for heavy precipitation events that were likely to send a slug of sediment down the Big Thompson River. Rain gages triggered by heavy precipitation automatically sent pager messages to water plant operators and ditch riders warning them to close head gates until the sediment had passed.

The Forum's post-fire monitoring also discovered that samples of runoff from the Bobcat Fire contained mercury levels in excess of 100 times the stream standard. Read more about forest fire impacts on watersheds and about the Bobcat Fire: <http://btwatershed.org/Newsletter/Fall2002/Forest%20Fires.htm> <http://btwatershed.org/Newsletter/November%2000/newsnov4.htm> 



**A huge
Thank You!
to all of our
financial
contributors for
2003**

We operate entirely on voluntary contributions, so we greatly appreciate your financial support.

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- City of Ft. Morgan
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- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Facilities
- Left Hand Water District
- West Greeley Conservation District
- CO Division of Wildlife
- US Geological Survey
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Clip and mail this form to the address on the back of the newsletter, or join on-line at www.btwatershed.org. Thanks!

Donations

Please consider donating to the Big Thompson Watershed Forum today. We rely entirely on voluntary contributions for our operating funds. Only with your help can we continue to protect water quality. Your donation is completely tax deductible. Make your check payable to the Big Thompson Watershed Forum and mail it to us at the address on the back of the newsletter. For more information, contact Janeen Simon, jsimon@btwatershed.org, (970) 613-6974. In-kind contributions and volunteer services are also greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Does your employer have a Donation Matching Program?


Each issue we feature one of our sponsors, to thank them for their support and to introduce our readers to other members of our watershed community.

Thank you, Amgen!



We would like to thank the Longmont office of Amgen, Inc., for two years of significant financial support. Amgen, the world's largest biotechnology company, uses science and innovation in an effort to improve people's lives. Their researchers harness the powerful tools of cellular and molecular biology and medicinal chemistry to discover, develop and commercialize naturally occurring proteins, antibodies and small molecules, with the goal of extending the reach of science to unleash the body's own powerful therapeutic responses.

"Amgen realizes what an important resource water is," said Amgen's Jess Graziano. "BTWF does a great job educating people and fostering awareness on the importance of water in our communities and our lives. Amgen's goal is to dramatically improve people's lives, and we support programs that do the same. Since the human body is made up of 60% water, you are improving our lives!"

Amgen employs more than 9,200 people located in 19 countries around the world. 650 of those employees are in Boulder or Longmont Colorado. Read more at www.amgen.com. 



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*To join, visit our web
site, call, or complete the
form on page 7 inside.*

WET'S HAPPENING:

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 19, 2004: BTWF ANNUAL MEETING. 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., McKee Conference Center, 2000 N. Boise Ave., Loveland. RSVP to 613-6974.

March 18, 2004: BTWF BOARD MEETING. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Loveland Water & Power Board Room, 200 N. Wilson Ave., Loveland.

April 15, 2004: BTWF BOARD MEETING. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Loveland Water & Power Board Room, 200 N. Wilson Ave., Loveland.

May 20, 2004: BTWF BOARD MEETING. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Loveland Water & Power Board Room, 200 N. Wilson Ave., Loveland.

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