



# 2013 Flood Response

*November 18, 2013*



Rebuilding Roads  
Reconnecting Lives

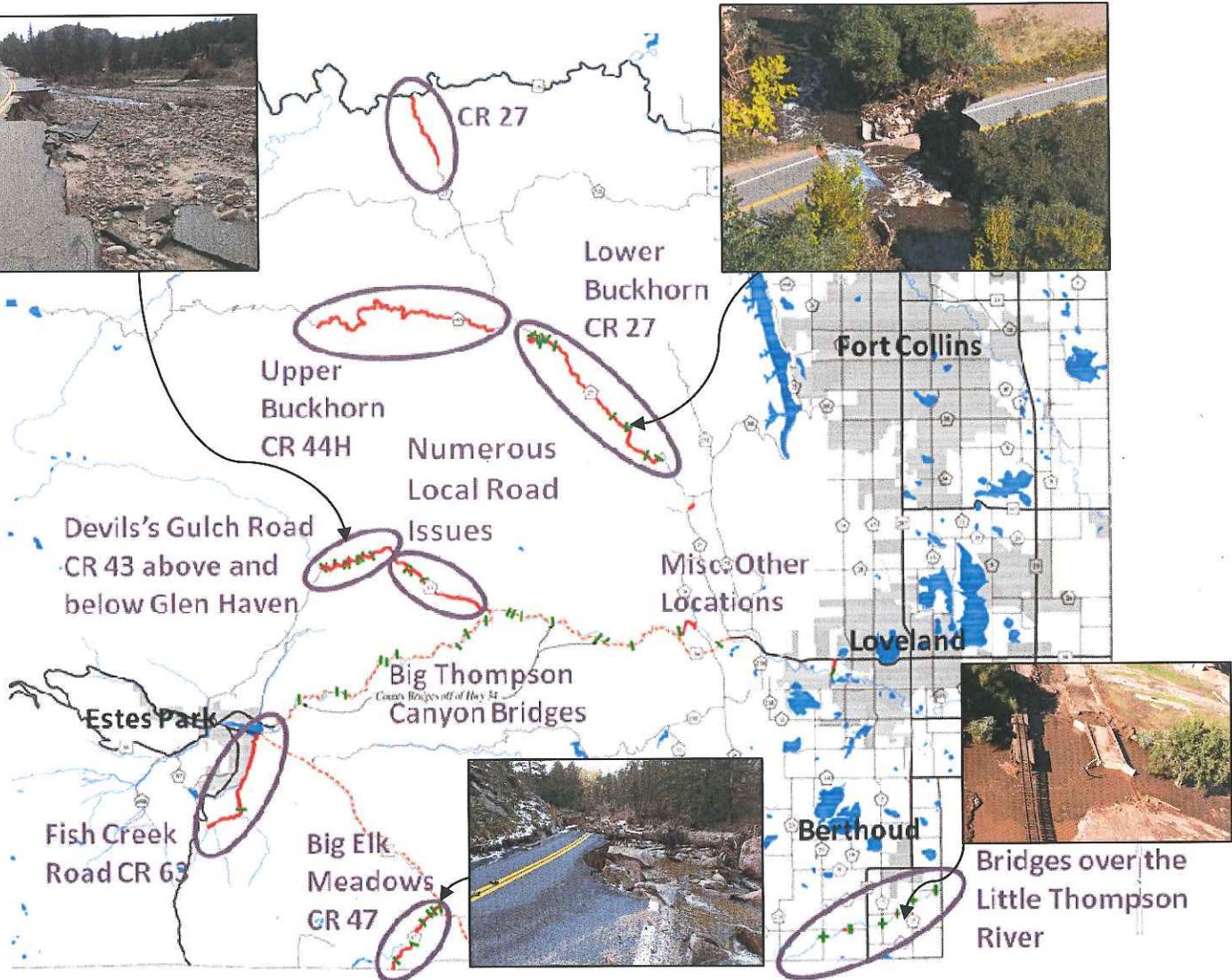
# The Challenges

In September 2013, Larimer County suffered the most significant natural disaster to occur in the history of Larimer County.

In comparison, during the Big Thompson flood in 1976, while loss of life was significant, the scope of the disaster was limited primarily to just one canyon.

And during the High Park Fire in June 2012, while a similar number of homes were lost, transportation infrastructure damage was very limited.

This disaster combined a very wide area of impact, significant personal effect on thousands of residents, and an unprecedented catastrophe on transportation infrastructure.



## Summary Of The Damage (Larimer County Roadways Only)

- **65** bridges significantly damaged or destroyed
- **25-30** miles of roadway completely obliterated
- **2,000+** properties without access
- **Repair estimate \$100 million**

In comparison, the entire transportation effort and budget for the County in a 'normal' year includes:

- 2-3 bridges
- 1-2 miles of road
- Total transportation budget of \$20 million

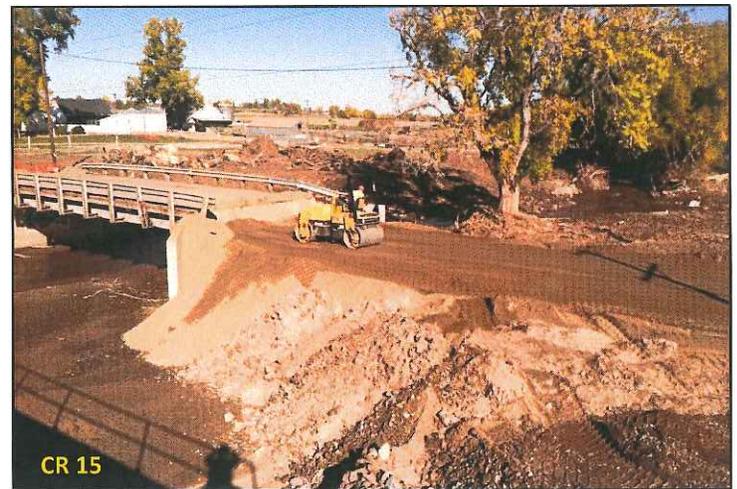
# Addressing the Needs



## Where To Start?

Even as the rain was still falling, Road and Bridge crews were closing roads, and supporting the emergency evacuations underway. As the scope of the disaster became clear, engineering staff began planning for the rapid damage assessment and repair process. Initially, we:

- Assessed all mainline county roads within **7** days (by ground and air);
- Completed county-wide bridge inspections within **14** days;
- Generated damage summaries and costs;
- Began intensive coordination with other agencies (FEMA, CDOT, etc)
- Amended existing contracts to allow construction crews to began work within the first few days.



## County-Wide Progress to Date

- **17** active construction sites
- More than **35** bridges re-opened;
- About **25** miles of temporary primitive roadways built
- **82%** of closed roadways have re-opened.
- About **1,800** properties reconnected

# We Still Have A Ways To Go!

Staff, contractors and consultants together with our partners (FEMA, CDOT etc) continue to work every day on remaining emergency and temporary repairs to the roadway system.

We have several major corridors to finish restoring access and complete the temporary repairs. Those include:

- Fish Creek Road (CR 63)
- Devil's Gulch Road (CR 43)
- Big Elk Meadows (CR 47)

There are also numerous local road issues that are an important component to repairing infrastructure, and we are still working on those, including:

- Big Thompson Canyon access bridges
- Other local road repairs

## Next Steps

Once access has been restored, staff will begin to transition into permanent repair planning and design. This involves:

- FEMA coordination for reimbursement
- Engineering design for roads, bridges, and creek crossings
- Putting together plans and bid packages
- Contracting and construction

Some permanent construction may not take place until 2015 or even later.

