

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**GLENWOOD SPRINGS STORM WATER ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATION PROJECT**

Conducted by: Roaring Fork Conservancy

On the Web: <http://www.roaringfork.org/sitepages/pid64.php>

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Project Partners: City of Glenwood Springs, Glenwood Springs High School

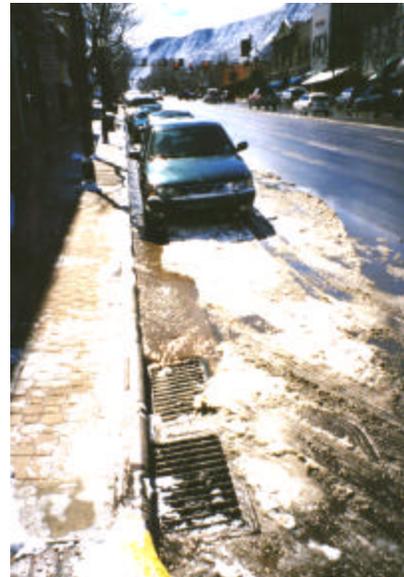
Contract Period: August, 2002 - September, 2004

NPS Funding: \$25,000

Matching Funds: \$15,960

Through the Glenwood Springs Storm Water Assessment and Education Project, adults and kids in Glenwood Springs are learning about the storm water runoff that drains to the Roaring Fork and Colorado rivers. This educational theme applied throughout the project, whose goal was to characterize the City's storm water runoff, assess existing management approaches, establish Best Management Practice (BMP) recommendations for implementation, and develop non-point source pollution education and community outreach activities.

Before the Glenwood project, the Roaring Fork Conservancy, a non-profit watershed conservation organization based in Basalt, coordinated a similar type of storm water evaluation for the Town of Basalt. The idea was to spur local communities within the Roaring Fork Valley to be proactive in addressing storm water issues and protecting water quality. The positive and successful Basalt model helped convince Glenwood Springs to initiate such a project, especially given Glenwood's proximity to two prominent rivers, the Roaring Fork and the Colorado. Both make up a vital part of the area's natural environment for residents and also support a strong tourist industry through activities such as angling and boating. Like Basalt, Glenwood Springs does not presently fall within Phase II regulatory permitting, but the City was willing to learn what would be needed to comply if and when the time comes.



Snow melt on Glenwood Springs roads causes non-point source pollution

The Conservancy was able to acquire a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant to support the technical engineering work. Shea Thomas and Robert Krehbiel of Matrix Design Group performed the project's technical analysis, which culminated in the "Stormwater

Assessment and Education Report” for Glenwood Springs. This impressive synthesis of information includes:

- A summary of the regulatory components of Phase II and Best Management Practices,
- Identification of entry points into the rivers,
- Specific recommendations for storm water management improvements,
- Educational material on non-point source pollution, and
- Electronic mapping that portrays the City’s drainage basins, existing infrastructure, and recommended storm water controls.

This information was presented to the Glenwood Springs City Council in 2003, and next steps include putting the recommendations to work through updating storm water management policies and codes and prioritizing and financing proposed improvements for future implementation by the City.

The report’s resources have also been brought to life by students in Mike Wilde’s River Watch class at Glenwood Springs High School. Using information from the report, the Conservancy’s Education Program collaborated with the River Watch class to develop a non-point source pollution curriculum. The curriculum includes field trips to wastewater treatment plants to study point-source pollution, examination of the various storm water entry points into the rivers and the areas they drain, and actual sampling of storm water runoff. “This is an excellent opportunity for high school students to conduct real science in their own backyard,” says Tim O’Keefe, the Conservancy’s Education Director. “Students learn firsthand how runoff contributes to stream degradation and how they can help the



Glenwood Springs High School students explore a storm water drainage pipe

City fix problem areas.” The curriculum has become a standard part of the River Watch class.

A final leg to the project’s educational flavor was the development of an outreach brochure that explains what storm water runoff is and how residents and businesses can prevent it. Five-hundred brochures were printed and provided to the City of Glenwood Springs for distribution within the community.

In addition to support from the Section 319 program, the project would not have been possible without financial assistance and dedicated staff support from the City of Glenwood Springs, and the educational experience and enthusiasm of both Mike Wilde and Tim O’Keefe, who have brought a complex and increasingly important topic to the attention of high schoolers. The project report and brochure are available on the web at: www.roaringfork.org via the Publications link.