

## Event Calendar

**June 27:** Summer Cookout

**June 27- 28:** Trout Unlimited Weekend

**July 27-30:** River Watch Training

### **Summer Cookout**

Get to know your neighbors! The cookout will be in the late afternoon/evening of Saturday, June 27. Food, drinks, and music will be provided – just bring yourselves! Jeff and Cindy Dragos have generously offered to host this event on their property. RSVP required if you want to eat. Contact Maggie at 719.655.6133 or [margaret.barnes@blm.gov](mailto:margaret.barnes@blm.gov) to RSVP.

### **Trout Unlimited Volunteer Weekend**

The Collegiate Peaks Anglers chapter of Trout Unlimited will be helping with installing silt fences and wattles, transplanting sedge mats, and planting trees by Kerber Creek on June 27 and 28. There will be approximately 30 volunteers. Camping is available by reservation only. This is a great time to get some of your volunteer hours in!

### **River Watch Training**

Are you interested in helping to monitor the water quality of Kerber Creek? Become a River Watch Volunteer! The first training will take place July 27-30 in the Town of Cedaredge. More information on page 2.

## News

### **Kerber Creek in the Science Fair**

Heidi Kritner, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ortega Middle School, won a Center Soil and Water Conservation District Award and an SLV Trout Unlimited award for her project, "Kerber Creek: Tracking the Rawley Mine Cleanup." Congratulations Heidi!



**Moffat High School Students Plant Willows on Kerber Creek**  
Photos by Mike Blakeman

### **Moffat High School Earth Day Project**

On Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, seventeen students and three teachers came from Moffat to volunteer their time and energy to complete a willow planting project on Kerber Creek. Representatives from the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Western Hardrock Watershed Team led planting efforts. They also spoke with the students about project/outdoor safety concerns, the history of mining and restoration in the area, and various career opportunities within land management agencies. The students worked hard, and by the end of the day they had planted several hundred willows on Forest Service land just south of Bonanza. Thank you, Moffat High School!

## River Watch Volunteers Wanted!

### **Real people doing real science for a real purpose:**

Each volunteer group receives the training, support and supplies needed to monitor their respective rivers and provide consistent and accurate data. Volunteers analyze samples for hardness, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, pH and temperature. Additional samples are analyzed by a professional lab for metals, nutrients and macroinvertebrates. Quality assurance is essential in the program operation and in the use of the data and quality control checks are performed regularly through the year.

River Watch data is stored on an Internet server and can be accessed by anyone. All the data is reviewed and validated by the Division of Wildlife before it is made public. The high quality River Watch data is currently utilized by the Water Quality Control Commission, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and many grassroots level watershed groups in the state for the management of Colorado's waters.

-From [www.coloradowater.org/riverwatch.php](http://www.coloradowater.org/riverwatch.php)

### **What does this mean to us?**

As this will be the first year for a River Watch Program on Kerber Creek, we are limited to one sampling site with the option to expand in subsequent years. It's a great deal (about \$1400 in equipment for a one time fee of \$200). River Watch is a commitment; they'd like monthly sampling done for as many years as possible for each sponsored sampling location. A sampling location can be monitored by one person, a family, a group of people who rotate the responsibility, etc.

A River Watch trained person must be present at all sampling events, but no previous water quality sampling experience is necessary. The first training in 2009 will be held from July 27-30 in Cedaredge; a second nearly identical training will be held from October 20-23 in the Poudre River Valley.

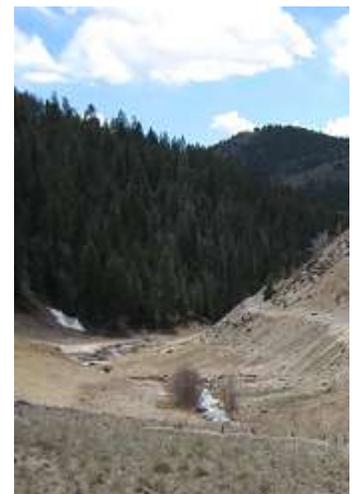
If interested, call or e-mail Maggie Barnes at: 719-655-6133 or [Margaret\\_Barnes@blm.gov](mailto:Margaret_Barnes@blm.gov)

## Fast Facts: Copper

**Copper in Kerber Creek:** Kerber Creek is listed on Colorado's 303(d) list of contaminated waterways for copper. An assessment published in 2008 says that, to meet water quality standards, dissolved copper in the creek must be reduced by 18%.

**Trivia:** Copper's name comes from its association with Cyprus, an island where it was mined. Its original Latin name was *Cyprium*, which was later simplified to *Cuprum*. This is why the symbol is Cu. Copper has anti-microbial properties. Covering frequently touched surfaces (such as doorknobs) with a copper alloy is one strategy public facilities and hospitals use to reduce the spread of pathogens.

**Environmental Issues:** Copper occurs naturally in the environment and is an essential nutrient to many animals and plants. Copper is toxic to many bacteria and viruses. The free copper ion is potentially very toxic to aquatic life, both acutely and chronically. Copper can build up over time in fish tissues. Copper normally binds to soil, reducing the amount which moves into water or plants. Copper is not a known carcinogen.



**Rawley 12, 1994 and 2009**

## Conservation Reserve Program and You!

The Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designed the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. If you live along Kerber Creek, you may be able to enroll a portion of your land in the program. As you'll see below, signing up for this program could provide a significant amount of money towards restoration costs.

### Key Provisions:

- An upfront CRP Signing Incentive Payment of \$100 to \$150 per acre on either a 10 or 15 year contract
- An annual Rental Rate Payment calculated in advance of enrollment, which averages about \$45/acre.
- Pays up to 90% cost-share of the eligible costs to restore the riparian habitat.

For more information, contact Chanda Pettie at:  
[chanda.pettie@co.usda.gov](mailto:chanda.pettie@co.usda.gov)  
 719.589.6432 ext. 134



**Reminders of Kerber Creek's rich history can be found throughout the watershed.**

## Looking Back

W. Staley, Esq., made a flying trip up Kerber creek Sunday last. He was accompanied by a man named "ball," the champion kicker for water on Kerber Creek.

A large body of galena ore has been opened up in the Bonanza mine. It will not have to be treated at the concentrator but will be hauled direct to the smelter.

John E. Ashley has shipped a carload of ore from Copper Gulch as an experiment. Should it prove all O.K. there is more to follow.

It used to be the custom to irrigate all the land possible, situated on Kerber creek, as early in the season as practicable. But this year the "thick headed" residents of the valley put a veto on this custom, and the result is as predicted, the water now ceases to run below the McEntyre ranch. Had the land been well soaked early in the season there would have been a much greater flow for a longer period.

John Ashley is having some work done on his Fire Clay claim near Little Kerber creek. He expects to strike fossils in a few more feet.

Good reports come from the Eagle but we are not allowed to make them public, so will say nothing of the big strike until we are told to do so.

Thermometer 88° to 100° in the shade at various points on Kerber creek. The weeds are now following the example of the meadows and drying up. Even the Quaking Aspen trees on the hill are burning up. We must have rain or the country is gone to the "demnition bow wows."

Mr. John E. Ault, our mayor, says he never intends to grow old, as growing old is all nonsense. To carry out his idea he has shaved off his mustache and is now taking the young ladies of the town to supper. Mr. Monk says he was forced to leave town because he looked so much like young man Ault.

**-Excerpts from Bonanza Bee  
 August 9, 1902**

## \$21,000 for Kerber Creek

In January, Maggie Barnes, an OSM/VISTA Volunteer with the Western Hardrock Watershed Team and the Bureau of Land Management, applied for a \$12,000 Colorado Watershed Restoration Project grant administered by the Colorado Watershed Conservation Board. In April, it was approved. In addition, the USDA Forest Service has agreed to provide \$9,000 in matching funds towards materials and logistics planning.

The grant will go towards hiring a Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew for two weeks. Just downstream of the Rawley 12 mine site on Squirrel Creek, there are nearly vertical slopes eroding quickly. The SCC crew will work to stabilize the slopes with wattles, curlex blankets, and vegetation. The project is expected to occur in mid to late summer 2009.

## Note to Landowners

If you are working to restore your land on Kerber Creek, record your hours! Many whose lands were worked on in 2008 are already out seeding, watering, mulching, etc. Any time you spend helping the project translates into matching funds for our grants. Contact Maggie with any questions.

## Announcements

**Are you artistic?** Both the Bonanza Stakeholders Group and the Kerber Creek Restoration Project could use a better logo than I can come up with. Other artistic volunteer opportunities include helping me (Maggie) spruce up the newsletter, website, and other projects. All volunteer hours are considered in-kind donations to the project.

**Visit us on the web!** [www.kerbercreek.com](http://www.kerbercreek.com)

**Wondering how else you can help?** The easiest way to help the Kerber Creek Restoration Project is to donate! You can donate time, money, materials for projects, etc. 2009 will be a very busy year for the Kerber Creek Restoration Project, but to restore a healthy watershed there is much more work to be done. Help us do more! If you'd like to help us monetarily, checks can be made out to Kerber Creek Restoration Project. For more information, contact:

Maggie Barnes  
Kerber Creek Restoration Project  
46525 State Highway 114  
Saguache, CO 81149  
719.655.6133  
[margaret.barnes@blm.gov](mailto:margaret.barnes@blm.gov)

## Kerber Creek Restoration Project Partners



To volunteer, RSVP, or for more information please contact Maggie Barnes at:  
46525 State Highway 114 Saguache, CO 81149 | 719.655.6133 | [Margaret\\_Barnes@blm.gov](mailto:Margaret_Barnes@blm.gov) | [kerbercreek.org](http://kerbercreek.org)