



Big Thompson Watershed Coalition – Permission to Enter Agreement Frequently Asked Questions

The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (Coalition) has distributed a Permission to Enter Agreement to be completed by landowners in project areas that are eligible for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program resources for river restoration projects. Below are several responses to frequently asked questions about the access agreement. For more information, please contact Shayna Jones, Watershed Coordinator, at shayna.jones@bigthompson.co or at (970) 962-2768.

1) What is the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition and what is its role in this project?

The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition is a non-profit organization that was formed after the 2013 Flood. The Coalition is primarily composed of landowners who are interested in long-term restoration of the Big Thompson Watershed. The Coalition's staff have been primarily focused on applying for funds and creating partnerships to execute river restoration in the high priority areas of the watershed, such as the lower canyon area starting at Cedar Cove down to the top of the Narrows. The Coalition's staff have also served as the central coordinator for the multiple parties involved in river restoration projects in the Big Thompson watershed. For the Lower Canyon project, the role of the Coalition is to coordinate among landowners and agencies such as the NRCS, Larimer County, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Loveland Housing Authority to design and construct long-term river restoration in the Lower Canyon area, and conduct ongoing monitoring of the river improvements for 3 years following completion of the project.

2) What are the benefits of participating in this project?

The Coalition has secured approximately \$2 million in funds to be used on river restoration in the Lower Canyon area, and does not require any cost to be paid by private property owners. Benefits of the project include: reducing hazards and increasing flood safety for residents living along the creek, improving ecological conditions, restoring plants and other native vegetation along the river banks, and maintaining water quality.

3) Why is this form needed?

In order to obtain all the funding available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, a written agreement with each of the private property owners in the designated project areas is necessary to indicate a commitment to participating in the design and construction process. This is a necessary step for this project to move forward. Access to private property is also required for other pre-construction river restoration activities, such as conducting environmental reviews needed for the permitting process, or surveying and collecting data and other information needed to create designs.

4) Do I have to sign this form?

A Permission to Enter Agreement is a completely voluntary document. Your land is private and therefore it is your decision to allow access to your property. However, completing and signing this form is a requirement for the project to proceed. Failure to agree and sign may jeopardize the implementation of



a project that could benefit you and/or your community. In some cases the conditions of the agreement can be edited to address concerns and fit individual needs.

5) I already signed a similar form for another entity, such as CDOT etc. Why do I need to sign this form?

In many cases projects overlap government entities and agencies. The Coalition is partnering with multiple entities on river restoration projects throughout the watershed, each of which often has different requirements for how access permission documents are worded, due to the source of their funding. For your privacy and safety, this information is secure within the organization(s) to which you are granting access for each particular right of entry. Therefore you may have to grant permission and sign access agreements for similar projects in the same area.

6) How do I complete and return this form?

1. Review the form and contact the Coalition with questions.
2. Sign the Form in the presence of a licensed notary, and have the form notarized.
 - a. Notaries can often be found at your bank branch, several regional UPS stores, the Larimer County Citizen Information Center, or other locations. Please contact the Coalition if you need help locating a licensed notary.
3. Return notarized form in the pre-addressed envelope included in this mailing. If you misplaced your envelope, please send to:

Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
Attn: Shayna Jones
2525 West 1st. St.
Loveland, CO 80537

7) Why does this form need to be notarized?

After the project is completed, one of the requirements of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is that the Coalition implement a 3-year operations and maintenance (O&M) plan to monitor the river restoration improvements that were made as part of the project. This is so the Coalition can make sure the river improvements are working properly and that nothing happens to modify the work that was completed. In case the parcel is sold during the O&M period, access permission needs to stay with the parcel, so the Coalition may need to have the Permission to Enter forms recorded with the Office of the Clerk and Recorder in Larimer County, and they must first be notarized in order to do this. Should the forms need to be recorded with Larimer County, the Coalition will cover the associated fee.

8) What if I decide later that I no longer want to participate in the river restoration project?

During the design process, landowners will have several opportunities to provide input to the design team on their goals and vision of the property, review and comment on restoration design concepts, and final design plans. The landowner may opt out at any time by providing their request to terminate the Permission to Enter Agreement in writing to the Coalition's Watershed Coordinator at shayna.jones@bigthompson.co or via mail to the Coalition's Office.