



Fourmile Canyon Creek in north Boulder before the storm and after the storm.

### **Fall Field Trip 2014** **Boulder Floods of September 11-15, 2013 and Impact On the Landscape**

When: Saturday, September 27

Meeting Location: Foothills Community Park, Boulder at 4590 7<sup>th</sup> St. or at the Park-n-Ride on the west side of the Federal Center, near St. Anthony's Hospital.

**Registration Deadline: September 16**

**Cost: approximately \$15-20, depending on number of vans needed. Carpooling is an option and may eliminate the need for vans.**

Please join us for this Fall's field trip to examine the effects of the 2013 Boulder flood and vicinity. Field trip leaders include Rich Madole (USGS Emeritus), Peter Birkeland (UC Boulder Emeritus), Sheila Murphy (USGS Hydrologist), Jonathan Godt (USGS Geologist), and Dave Sutherland with others (staff from City of Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space).

This trip will meet at the Park N Ride in Lakewood at **8:00am** and depart in vans for Boulder, meeting others in Boulder at Foothills Community Church at **9:00am**. Please bring your own lunch and cold drinks will be provided. We will be walking on trails, but some uneven ground should be expected.

We will begin investigating the small, 10.2 mile<sup>2</sup> drainage basin of Fourmile Canyon Creek in north Boulder that had extensive erosion and deposition over the floodplain (pictured above). Homes in the canyon along Wagonwheel Gap Road suffered considerable damage from the floodwater and from landslides. The Anne U. White hiking trail, a favorite of many Boulderites, was scoured to bedrock and may never reopen. Here, we will look at some of the reasons such a small drainage basin caused so much change to the landscape, including mass wasting deposits and the reasons they formed.

Next, we will visit Bluebell Creek that is normally almost dry in September. During the September 2013 storm it became a raging river carrying the water coming off the Flatirons west of Chautauqua Park. We will look at Bluebell Creek now and see how a little bridge (called the "hero bridge") saved those living downstream from catastrophic damage.

**Please contact** Cal Ruleman for questions and registration.  
cruleman@usgs.gov, (303) 859-0911 or (303) 236-7804