From September 11-15, 2013 the skies poured down on much of Northern Colorado. The St. Vrain Creek, Left Hand Creek, the Poudre River, the Big Thompson River and a number of smaller creeks, rivers, and tributaries all swelled and overflowed far beyond their normal capacity causing flooding from the small mountain town of Glen Haven to the plains of Crook, Colorado. The raging water destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, caused billions in property damage in seventeen different counties, and killed eight individuals. It is estimated the flood caused two billion dollars in damages in seventeen different counties.

This summer, research associates at the PLHC are creating a collection of oral history interviews that document last fall’s flooding. The mission of the 2013 Northern Colorado Flood Oral History Project is to gather oral history interviews on the 2013 flood event in Northern Colorado that will promote effective flood preparation, mitigation, recovery, and management in the future. This oral history collection is a joint partnership between the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), the Water Resources Archive at CSU’s Morgan Library, and the Public Lands History Center. This oral history project is funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, whose mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado’s water for present and future generations. The PI for this project is Dr. Ruth Alexander, who is working closely the project coordinator, Naomi Gerakios Mucci and fellow PLHC research associates Zach Lewis, Tessa Moening, and Mitchell Schaefer. To-date the team has completed eight interviews that range from flood victims to the head of dam-safety for the state of Colorado to city managers and emergency response officials.