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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2011

Colorado River rose 10.8 feet

GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. – On Tuesday, June 7, 2011 the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs rose to 25,643 CFS, which is equivalent to 10.8 feet, flooding some lower level areas. The river did not reach the peaked levels predicted.

Flooding on the Colorado River occurred along I-70 near mile marker 94 east of Rifle, as well as, the Parachute area and the Parachute Ponds. Three homes located near the river in Rifle reported some minor flooding in and around the homes. Local Officials were called on the scene to help assess and assist with sand bagging to help redirect the flow of water away from the homes.

In Glenwood Canyon the Colorado River water level was covering the railroad ties with only the rails above the water in one location and within a foot of the tracks in many other areas. We saw minor flooding in the No Name area, sand bags are holding the river back, but the water seeping through was covering the lower areas.

The Roaring Fork River increased to 8,105 CFS/6.8 ft with no flooding along the river; 600 CFS lower than the levels we saw last year.

Officials are expecting the river's intensity to remain above normal for the next few weeks, with some fluctuation of water levels depending on the predicted weather patterns.

Attached you will find landscape and Aerial photos of the flooding in Garfield County. As well as, a photo of a large catfish trapped in the yard of a local home flooded in Rifle, the catfish was caught by hand and released back into a river access by one of the neighbors.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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