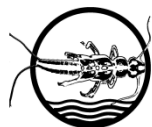


# The Stream Team

June 2021 Newsletter



Timmarie Hamill,  
Program Director

It never ceases to amaze me what dedicated members of our community can accomplish when we rally for a common cause.

Our kick-off monitoring event in May was a great success thanks to all of you! Sixteen volunteers measured stream flow and tested pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, bacteria and other parameters. These parameters help us determine that the water quality conditions in Big Chico Creek are safe for not only swimming, but for the fish and wildlife that depend on the creek for their survival.

Thank you! And, I can't wait to see you for our next monitoring on **Saturday, June 12** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (Centennial Way).

If you can come, please RSVP by calling 530-342-6620 or by e-mailing me at: [timmariehamill@gmail.com](mailto:timmariehamill@gmail.com).

Timmarie

## Thinking About Swimming in Big Chico Creek?

One of the Stream Team's missions is to gather useful environmental information needed to protect the ecological health of the Big Chico Creek watershed – but there are public health issues that we can identify as well.

One of the samples we take during our monitoring for lab analysis is for fecal coliform (bacteria). Ever wonder what the results are? The table on Page 3 provides a summary of the bacteria levels that were documented at a few popular swimming locations on the creek during our May 2021 monitoring.

But, bacteria is just one of the concerns that may affect our health while swimming in the creek. Here are a couple of great links that will help us learn about ways to reduce our use of pesticides *and* some information about harmful algae blooms that are more prevalent during these warmer months:

<https://ourwaterourworld.org/>

<https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>



Bear Hole

## Question of the Month

What is Turbidity?

Turbidity is the measure of water clarity. It is caused by suspended materials, including soil particles (clay, silt, and sand), algae, plankton, microbes, and other substances.

Turbidity can:

- affect water color
- increase water temperature
- reduce dissolved oxygen, and
- lower growth rates of fish

Sources of turbidity are:

- waste discharge/urban runoff
- eroding stream banks
- bottom feeders (such as carp)
- excessive algal growth

Got a question? E-mail to :  
timmariehamill@gmail.com

## Remaining 2021 Monitoring Events:

Our monitoring events always meet from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 noon at the Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (Centennial Way).

Don't be shy! Rest assured – you'll be teamed up with an experienced Stream Team Leader to show you "the ropes!"

Just bring typical personal items for a 3-hour outing on the creek (water, snack, sunscreen, hat, water shoes, etc...).

The remaining 2021 monitoring events are:

- June 12
- July 10
- August 14
- September 11
- October 9

Hope to see you there!

## Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitors



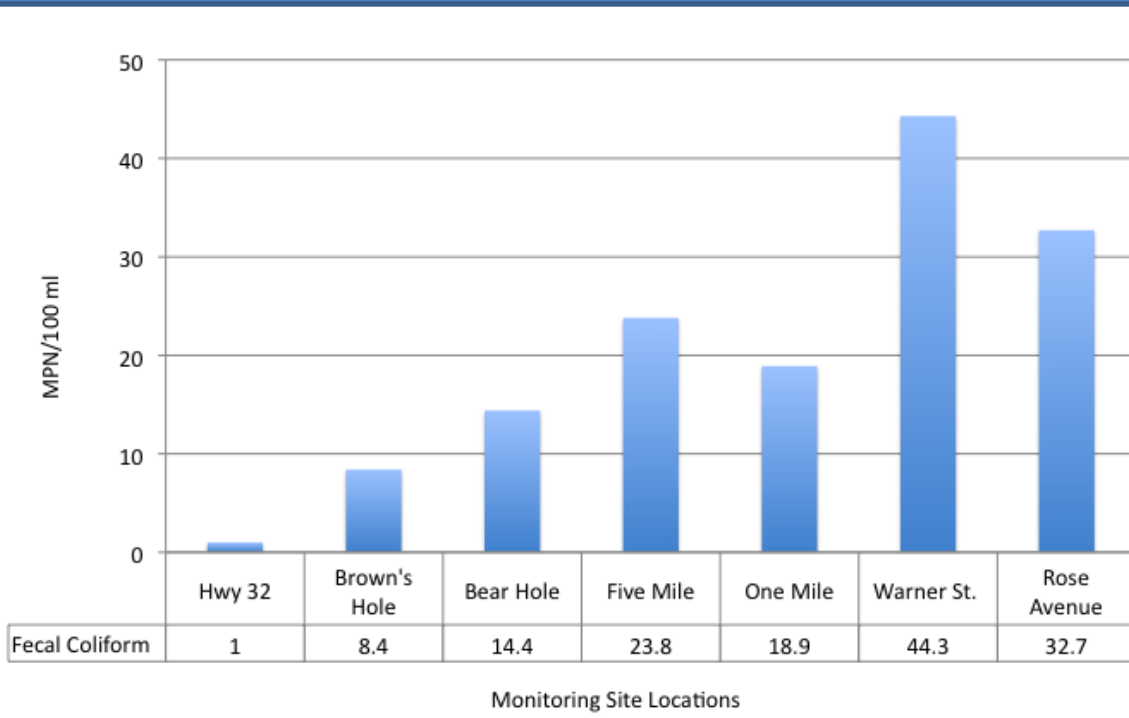
A great way to spend a Saturday morning in the Chico summer is to meet up at Five Mile and head out for Stream Monitoring! We do good work, keep cool, and have FUN!



Suzanne Watroba-Hutchins and her daughter Juniper joined up with Susie and Ryan Hall with their two children Charlie and Rosalie.

Tom Coffin and Connie Lewis-Coffin headed up to Bear and Brown's Hole with Marsha and Dave Missall (behind camera!).

## Big Chico Creek Fecal Coliform Results 5-8-2021



Acceptable levels for swimming:

< 400 MPN or CFU (based on a single sample).

< 100 GM (GM is calculated by collecting 1 sample weekly for 4-6 weeks).

Source: ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans\\_policies/docs/bacteria.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/docs/bacteria.pdf))