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Cache La Poudre Among Top 10 Endangered Rivers

River Among Most Threatened Rivers In Country

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FORT COLLINS, Colo. --

An organization that advocates healthy rivers has named the scenic Cache la Poudre River in northern Colorado among the 10 most endangered rivers in America.

American Rivers says the river, which is a hot spot for fishing, rafting, camping and hiking, is threatened by a proposal to divert water to serve the fast-growing population on the Front Range.

The Northern Integrated Supply Project proposes new reservoirs and pipelines to provide 40,000 acre-feet of new supplies to about 15 water providers. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District says providers need new water supplies to serve a growing population, or they run the risk of shortages or of drying up farmland.

"The Poudre, which is the ecological heart of Fort Collins and Colorado's only Wild and Scenic River, faces an imminent threat to its future from the Northern Integrated Supply Project," said Gary Wockner of the Save the Poudre Coalition.

The project would harm the ecological health of the river, dry up farmland, and threaten the economy of the region, Wockner said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing the proposal.

A river that flows between North and South Carolina has been named the most endangered waterway in the nation by an environmental advocacy group that considers it threatened by potential overuse and the region's persistent drought.

American Rivers put the Catawba-Wateree River on the group's top 10 list for 2008.

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