

Instead of pipeline, Greeley should let Poudre have water

Greeley is spending millions to mitigate flooding caused by excess sediment in the Poudre River, and the federal government is matching those funds.

Sediment buildup is a result of two main factors: poor upstream land use that generates the sediment and a lack of regular, sediment-scouring high spring flows.

At one time, the Poudre was powerful enough to flush sediment downstream into the South Platte. Now, after 150 years of diverting ever more water from the river, the Poudre no longer has the power to flush out the sediment.

Why does Greeley want to remove yet more water from the Poudre by running an ever larger water pipe from its upstream treatment plant? And why should all American taxpayers be asked to pay for a flood control project that the city will just make worse by removing more water from the river?

Wouldn't it be nice to treat the problems rather than the symptoms? Wouldn't it be nice to spend the money to restore flows to the Poudre so that sediment could once again be flushed from the system, reducing Greeley's flood risk?

It would be money well spent and benefit all communities along the Poudre.

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