

Letter: Support alternatives to new dams, reservoirs

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You've heard the saying: If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten. Here it comes again.

What we have "always done" is divert more water from our rivers to grow more crops and, now, more bluegrass. And what do we get?

Researchers report that of the 38 plains fish native to Colorado, six are extinct and another 13 are either endangered, threatened, or of special concern. That is, half of our fish are either going or gone. Amphibians, mussels, and aquatic insects are in even worse peril.

Not only have we dewatered our rivers, but we have polluted them. Twenty five pesticides have been found in South Platte basin surface waters and another 15 in groundwater. Some fish in the South Platte have both male and female sex glands. Fort Morgan must import clean drinking water because their children were dying of Blue Baby syndrome.

We have literally poisoned the well — and our rivers.

The proposed "solution" to our growing water shortage is to do what we've always done: build more large reservoirs and further deplete our rivers. One proposal on the Poudre River would remove 71 percent of the spring runoff.

Why should we expect something different this time around?

Come to the Senior Center from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17 to let your state legislators know that the draft state water plan should not call for yesterday's damaging ideas. There are better, proven alternatives, including conservation and reuse.

John Bartholow,

Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper

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