



Alternatives to the Proposed new Halligan and Seaman Reservoirs

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This is a “working document” from Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. It is meant to stimulate discussion in the Halligan/Seaman SVP and EIS processes. Save The Poudre has not yet taken a position for or against these two projects, but is actively promoting alternatives that are less environmentally damaging.

1. A much larger investment in water conservation and efficiency, especially xeriscaping.
2. Water sharing and leasing (including dry year leasing) with other agricultural and municipal users.
3. Agricultural transfers of already firm water.
4. Buying water from different sources such as “senior direct flow rights” or already “firmed water.”
5. Changing the policies to require developers to turn over “better” water to the cities as new growth occurs – that “better” water would be more senior, be direct flow rights, or be water that is already firmed up.
6. Changing the cities’ drought policies.
7. Using irrigated lawns as drought protection – during severe droughts, lawn water could be used for essential needs rather than for aesthetic purposes.
8. Water exchanges and trades (upstream and downstream, and with other users).
9. Storing Fort Collins’ and Greeley’s large surplus water supply in existing reservoirs or gravel pits.
10. Building new gravel pit storage.
11. Changing the “safety factor” or using other water sources (such as the irrigation water required for lawns) as the safety factor.
12. Having the cities’ “system vulnerability” and “redundancy factor” be equivalent to other Front Range cities.
13. Aquifer storage – the State of Colorado has determined that up to 291,000 acre of aquifer storage exist in the Cache la Poudre basin.
14. Increasing the carryover capacity allowed in the C-BT system.
15. Adopting aggressive “smart growth” policies that promote infill and redevelopment rather than sprawl, and thus require significantly less water for new population growth.

Specific Alternative to Seaman (in addition to the alternatives above): Building water storage out on the plains near Greeley that diverts water from the Poudre or South Platte right beside Greeley, instead of building new storage in Poudre Canyon and diverting water upstream of Fort Collins.