



October 13, 2011

SAVE THE POUDDRE (STP): Statement on NISP for the Colorado State Legislature

1. STP supports the right of NISP communities to obtain the water they need for the future. STP is not trying to stop anyone from getting water. In fact, STP has proposed alternatives that will be the least environmentally damaging and most practicable ways for NISP communities to have a secure future water supply.

2. NISP is now over 6 years late, at least \$150 million over budget, and the "Supplemental Draft EIS" has been delayed for the third time. This SDEIS is supposed to be released in 2012. A final permitting decision will likely be years in the future. STP will do everything it can to stop NISP and STP will fight to stop NISP for as long as it takes.

3. STP opposes NISP primarily because NISP would further drain and destroy the Cache la Poudre River – NISP would drain over 40% (on average) of the water out of the river, and up to 71% in some months. This new drain of water is in addition to the 60% of water that is already drained and diverted out of the Poudre River.

4. In addition to further draining and destroying the Poudre River, NISP would:

- Negatively impact the downtown, recreation-based economy in Fort Collins.
- Negatively impact farms, leading to the dry-up and subdivision of up to 123,000 acres of farms in northern Colorado and the West Slope.
- Negatively impact the Colorado River because West Slope Colorado River water could be used to fill and re-fill the proposed Glade and Galeton Reservoirs.
- Negatively impact the ecology of the river corridor, including wetlands, through Fort Collins.
- Increase the likelihood of flooding on the Poudre River downstream of the proposed Glade Reservoir.
- Negatively impact water quality in the Poudre River, in Horsetooth Reservoir, and in the South Platte River.
- Negatively impact river water quality and drinking water quality through TCE contamination from the abandoned missile site.
- Negatively impact fish and wildlife due to higher water temperatures in the river and lower water levels.
- Force small, struggling towns into exorbitant public debt loads.
- Involve significant interactions with oil and gas drilling and fracking – the proposed Galeton Reservoir has active, fracked wells on top of the Reservoir footprint.

5. STP has proposed a "Healthy River Alternative" to NISP that relies on:

- More aggressive water conservation in cities.
- Better land-use planning and growth management to reduce water use in cities.
- Water re-use and water recycling.
- Using water that is transferred from farms directly surrounding NISP communities that will be suburbanized anyway.
- Using water that is transferred from rotational fallowing and "Super Ditch" projects that allow farmers to stay in business.

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