

**For Immediate Release**

Save The Poudre Coalition

<http://www.SaveThePoudre.org>

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## **BIASED PUSH POLL DECEIVES AND MANIPULATES TAXPAYERS**

### **“TRUTH TEST” REVEALS FALSE INFORMATION, THREATS, and SCARE TACTICS in the POLL**

**“This push poll is a desperate last-ditch attempt to prop up a dying project,” said Gary Wockner. “The NISP ship is sinking.”**

**Fort Collins, CO** – After careful analysis of the telephone poll recently publicized by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD), the Save The Poudre Coalition has determined that the poll was a “biased push poll” aimed at manipulating and deceiving the public.

“It was in fact a biased push poll,” said Gary Wockner, spokesman for the Save The Poudre Coalition. “The push poll is filled with false information, manipulates the person on the phone, and never mentions any of the project's problems like that this reservoir scheme will cost over a billion dollars, dry up and pave over farms, threaten Fort Collins’ economy, and nearly drain the already degraded Poudre River.”

**“It’s like telling people about the benefits of nuclear power, but not mentioning that uranium causes cancer,” said Wockner. “The push poll’s a total sham.”**

As just one of dozens of examples of deceit and manipulation in the push poll, the poll’s description of NISP/Glade to callers (**question 18**) – *on which all of the push poll’s purported results rest* – says that NISP/Glade will “store excess water.”

“It’s outrageous to say there’s ‘excess water’ in the Poudre,” said Wockner. “The Poudre is already severely depleted and sometimes dry from the mouth of the canyon all the way through Fort Collins and out to Greeley. Sixty percent of its water is already drained out. The State of Colorado is considering putting the river on its official 303d list of ‘impaired waters.’” (see photo and graph below)

Another gross example of deceit and manipulation in the push poll is in **question 24**, where the survey suggests that the Budweiser plant in Fort Collins won’t get water if NISP is not built.

“A totally false statement,” said Wockner. “Budweiser gets its water from the City of Fort Collins, and Fort Collins is not even participating in NISP.”

The NISP/Glade project has been under intense scrutiny by citizens, scientists, and other municipalities. Recently, the City of Fort Collins unanimously voted to oppose NISP. A large coalition of 46 scientists and attorneys representing the Save The Poudre Coalition issued a scathing report against the project, calling for a “Do-Over” of the Environmental Impact Statement.

“This push poll is a desperate last-ditch attempt to prop up a dying project,” said Wockner. “The NISP ship is sinking.”

The NISP/Glade push poll is filled with false information and threats that deceive and manipulate its respondents. The STP Coalition identifies many of those claims and threats, and provides a “Truth Test” below.

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### **TRUTH TEST FOR NISP/GLADE PUSH POLL:**

**Question 18:** "The Project's primary purpose is to **store excess runoff** for use by cities and towns...Based on what you know at this time would you say you strongly favor the project, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the project?"

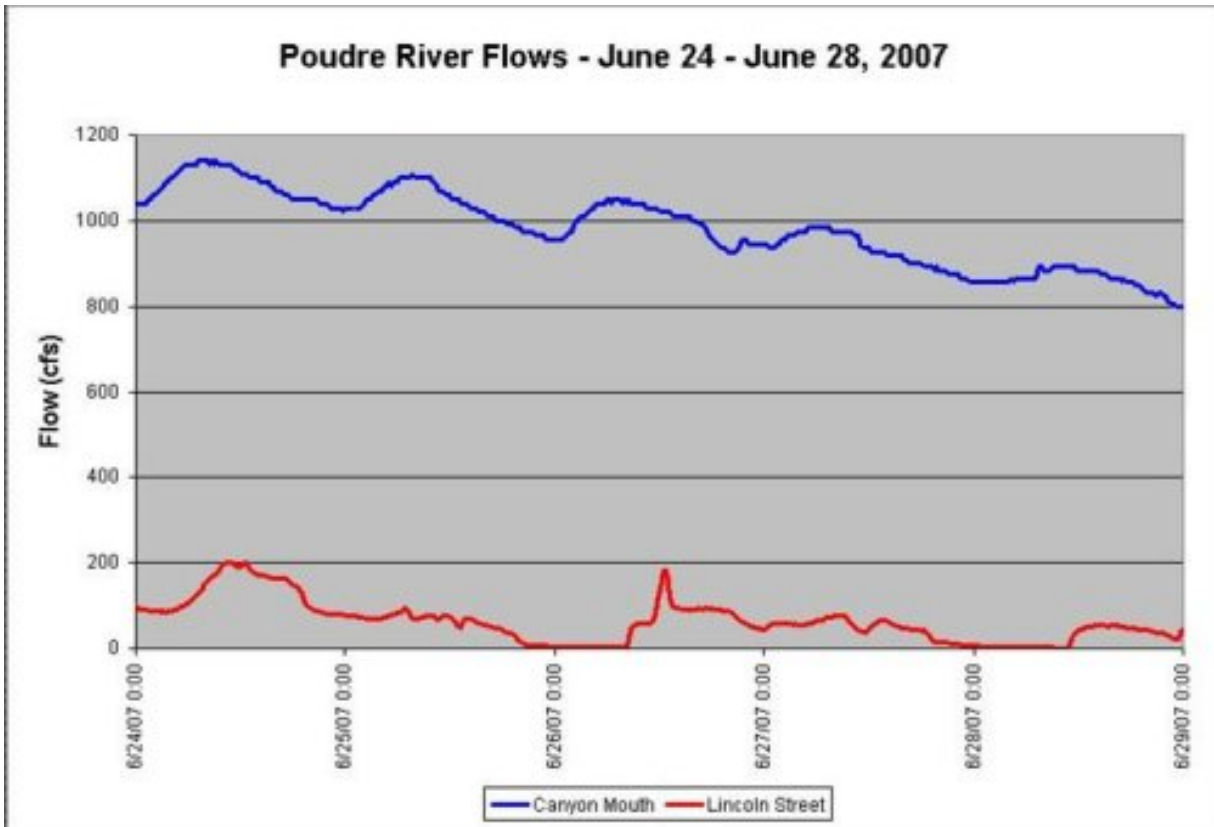
**Truth Test:** This is a totally deceptive question. The Poudre is already severely depleted and sometimes dry from the mouth of the canyon all the way through Fort Collins and out to Greeley. Sixty percent of its water is already drained out. If built, NISP will drain out 40% of what's left. The State of Colorado is considering putting the river on its official 303d list of ‘impaired waters.’ See photo #1, and graph #1 below (hi-res photos/graphs available to press).

#### **Here's just one example of what the poll DID NOT tell telephone respondents:**

Photo #1 below: This is a photo of the Poudre River completely drained in downtown Fort Collins near the end of June, 2007, during the height of spring runoff when NISP/Glade would be diverting water, and when the push poll says the Poudre has "excess water."



Graph #1 below: This is the USGS stream gage measurements in two places – in the mouth of the canyon (blue line), and in downtown Fort Collins (red line) – over a 5-day period when photo #1 was taken. Again, this is near the height of the spring runoff when NISP/Glade would be diverting water from the Poudre. Ninety percent of the Poudre's flow has been drained out before it reaches the Fort Collins; in some hours over this 5-day stretch, 100% has been drained out. Again, this graph depicts the period when the push poll says the Poudre has "excess water."



**Statement 21:** “Glade Reservoir will increase the ability to manage water flows through Fort Collins.”

**Truth Test:** False. Glade Reservoir will drain 40% of the water out of the river through Fort Collins, and that is in addition to the 60% already drained out. If it has the ability to manage anything, it will be to manage the near-trickle of water that remains in the Poudre through Fort Collins if NISP/Glade is built.

**Statement 22:** “The area will have another drought. It is good Glade Reservoir can store more than a year’s supply.”

**Truth Test:** This is a scare tactic to threaten the public. Further, the NISP DEIS says nothing about drought protection – the "purpose and need" for the project says absolutely nothing about drought protection. The project is not proposed for "drought protection" at all. Beyond that gross deception, northern Colorado survived the worst drought in history (2002) even with Horsetooth Reservoir offline. Further, due to climate change, there may not be enough water to even keep Glade Reservoir full. In addition, there are plenty of ways for NISP cities to get water and protect themselves from drought (if they ever need to) without building NISP and draining the Poudre River.

**Statement 24:** “Local water providers should continue to provide water to major industries and businesses, such as Anheuser-Busch.”

**Truth Test:** This is a scare tactic to threaten the public. Anheuser-Busch (Budweiser) gets water from the City of Fort Collins, and Fort Collins is not even a participant in NISP/Glade.

Anheuser-Busch is under no threat of losing its water. Further, during Fort Collins City Council meetings, it has been stated by City staff that Fort Collins breweries are very concerned about NISP because NISP is a threat to their water quality and their profits.

**Statement 25:** “Agriculture is important for northern Colorado, and the buying up of local water and drying up of farm land by the cities should be avoided.”

**Truth Test:** NISP will do the exact opposite. An analysis done by Save The Poudre scientists has shown that NISP/Glade will actually dry up more than 18,000 acres of irrigated farmland. The water that would be stored in Glade Reservoir is already being used by farmers downstream whose water will be cut off if NISP/Glade is built. Further, NISP cities are planning for growth that will occur on top of 76,000 acres of farms, about 48,000 of which are currently irrigated. All of these farms will be dried up, subdivided, and paved over.

**Statement 26:** “It is good Glade Reservoir is off-stream and that the NISP project has no new structure or dam on the Poudre.”

**Truth Test:** This is a deceitful statement. It fails to mention that NISP/Glade will nearly drain the river, deplete the riparian ecosystem, kill the trout fishery through town, and kill the kayak park.

**Statement 27:** “One good aspect of the NISP project is the regional cooperation among smaller and larger cities and the urban areas and agricultural communities.

**Truth Test:** False. First, the three largest cities in northern Colorado – Fort Collins, Greeley, and Loveland – are not participating in NISP. Second, see the “Truth Test” for Statement 25 above.

**Statement 28:** “Maintaining agricultural open space and the farm economy is important to our area.”

**Truth Test:** This is a deceitful statement. NISP/Glade won't do that. For what NISP/Glade will do, see the “Truth Test” for Statement 25 above.

**Statement 29:** “The NISP project will improve habitat and the fisheries by providing wintertime water flows through Fort Collins.”

**Truth Test:** False. This is blatantly false, and runs strictly counter to the technical analysis done for the NISP DEIS, which agreed that the project would greatly harm the Cache la Poudre River through Fort Collins. A group of independent fishery scientists who studied NISP believe it will kill the trout fishery through Fort Collins. The habitat along the Poudre will also be even more severely degraded.

**Statement 31:** The Poudre River does a good job providing water for multiple purposes, such as cities, agriculture, industry and recreation.”

**Truth Test:** This is a deceitful statement. The Poudre River is severely degraded and often dry through Fort Collins. It is being considered by the State of Colorado as an officially “impaired water” – the survey never mentions this and many other serious problems posed by NISP.

**Statement 32:** “Glade Reservoir will be a great new recreation area with open space, boating, picnic areas, walking trails and fishing.”

**Truth Test:** To Be Determined. It has not yet been determined if Glade Reservoir will be

suitable for recreation. Unlike Horsetooth Reservoir, Glade will not fill up every year, but rather will have giant bathtub rings and, on average, be only slightly more than half full. One third of the time the reservoir will be near “dead pool”.

**Statement 33:** “It is important to protect northern Colorado water from being sold and moved to cities in the Denver metropolitan area.

**Truth Test:** This is a deceitful statement. NISP will not do this. First, a few of the NISP cities are geographically located in the Denver metropolitan area. Second, most of the future residents who would receive NISP water will be Denver commuters who live in far-flung exurbs along I-25. Third, the spokesperson for NCWCD is on record as saying that if cities in northern Colorado don’t want NISP water, then NCWCD will just provide the water to Denver metropolitan cities. Fourth, nothing will stop NISP cities from selling NISP water to anyone they want – they could simply buy into the project and then sell all of their shares to a Denver metro city for a higher profit.

**Statement 38:** “develop additional water storage to help maintain agriculture and agricultural open space in the area”

**Truth Test:** Deceit. See Truth Test for question 25 above.

**Statement 40:** “develop additional water storage to ensure that water remains available for northern Colorado residents”

**Truth Test:** Deceit. All of the NISP cities have other ways to meet their water supply needs rather than using NISP and draining the Poudre. No one’s water needs will not be met if NISP is not built. See also Truth Test for question 33 above.

**Statement 42:** “develop additional water storage to deal with the shortage and the next big drought.”

**Truth Test:** Deceit. See Truth Test for question 22 above.

**Question 48:** (It’s long...see link below)

**Truth Test:** See Truth Test for Question 25 above.

**Question 50:** (It’s long...see link below)

**Truth Test:** This is a deceitful statement. The survey provides no information about the truth along the Poudre River. The NISP project will dry up the Poudre even more than it is now. For examples of current dry ups, visit [www.EndangeredPoudre.org](http://www.EndangeredPoudre.org).

The complete push poll and push poll results are here:

<http://www.gladereservoir.org/Docs/Cirulisurveyresultsfinal.pdf>

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