

**For Immediate Release**

Save The Poudre Coalition

<http://www.SaveThePoudre.org>

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# EPA Publicizes VETO Threat

**Document released today says NISP/Glade "is not in compliance with Clean Water Act"**

**Fort Collins, CO** -- In a document released to the public on November 20, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency leveled its harshest criticism against the proposed billion-dollar NISP/Glade Reservoir scheme. The document is a follow-up of the EPA's comments on the NISP/Glade DEIS and is dated October 16, 2008.

The document states:

"Based on the currently available information, EPA believes the proposed action fails to comply with the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines due to:

- 1) availability of less environmentally damaging practicable alternatives,
- 2) potential for violations of the state water quality standards,
- 3) potential for the proposed action to cause or contribute to significant degradation to the waters of the U.S., and
- 4) lack of a detailed mitigation plan." (page 2)

The letter goes on to say that the DEIS used inappropriate screening criteria that limited the evaluation of competing alternatives, and states, "**Therefore the 'No Action' alternative, or similar regional coordinated supply projects that do not require a large reservoir for storage, should be considered as practicable alternatives.**" (page 3)

The document concludes by saying: "**Therefore, at this time, the proposed action [NISP/Glade] is not in compliance with the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.**" (page 6)

"The EPA confirms what we and other experts have been saying all along," said Gary Wockner, spokesman for the Save The Poudre Coalition. "Building the proposed Glade Reservoir would be a colossal mistake."

The U.S. EPA has final "veto" authority over NISP/Glade as it also had over a similar failed reservoir proposal called "Two Forks" in the 1990's west of Denver. Two Forks was vetoed by the EPA because Denver Water (the project's proponent) did not adequately address other alternatives to meet its water supply needs.

The Save The Poudre Coalition and Western Resource Advocates propose an alternative to NISP/Glade that directly follows with EPA's conclusion. Called the "Healthy Rivers Alternative", the Coalition is immediately requesting that the Army Corps of Engineers insert the Healthy Rivers Alternative into its future analysis of this project.

"The Healthy Rivers Alternative would meet growing municipal water demands while also protecting the incredible values of the Poudre," said Bart Miller, Water Program Director of Western Resource Advocates. "We have to keep both things in mind."

**"We request that the Army Corps of Engineers immediately insert the Healthy Rivers Alternative into its EIS evaluation process," said Gary Wockner. "To not do so would waste more years and millions of dollars on this fatally flawed project."**

The HRA is cheaper than NISP, will better protect agriculture, will protect the Poudre River, and will allow cities to get the water they need through win-win solutions on a pay-as-you-go basis rather than a massive 30-year debt-ridden reservoir scheme.

The EPA's comment letter is signed by Carol Rushin, Acting Regional Administrator, US EPA Region 8, Denver CO, 800-227-8917.

**1. The EPA's new letter is [available here for download \(click\)](#).**

**2. The Save The Poudre Coalition's Healthy Rivers Alternative is [available here for download \(click\)](#).**

The Save The Poudre Coalition is made up of 13 national, state, and regional groups including Clean Water Action, Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, Western Resource Advocates, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Environment Colorado, Sierra Club – Rocky Mountain Chapter, Fort Collins Audubon Society, Citizen Planners, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Poudre Paddlers, Friends of the Poudre, and the Cache la Poudre River Foundation. Membership in these groups totals over 2 million American citizens.

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