For Immediate Release
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Contact: Gary Wockner, Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, 970-218-8310
http://SaveThePoudre.org

EXTREME CONTROVERSY UNDERMINES NISP
State of Colorado Office of Economic Development Won't Support NISP

Fort Collins, CO -- This week, Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper received a memo from Dwayne Romero, Director of the Office of Economic Development for the State of Colorado, stating that his office won't "elevate" issues that "lack a broad consensus of agreement in the region and/or local community." The memo is in reference to the sneak attempt to get economic development support for NISP (Northern Integrated Supply Project and Glade Reservoir) through Governor Hickenlooper's new Bottom Up Colorado economic development process. Using an online petition, Save the Poudre generated over 5,000 individual emails to Romero's office opposing NISP.

Director Romero's memo is here: http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/Memorandum_on_Bottom-Up-6-28-2011.pdf

The online petition is here: http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-the-state-of-colorado-that-destroying-the-poudre-river-is-not-an-economic-development-strategy

"NISP is extremely controversial," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. "The Cache la Poudre River is the lifeblood of Fort Collins and is enjoyed by tens-of-thousands of local citizens and tourists alike. NISP would drain and destroy the Poudre River which would irrevocably harm northern Colorado's economy."

As the NISP controversy increases, groups are shying away from supporting the project. Three weeks ago, Colorado Counties Inc. tried to pass a resolution supporting NISP, but controversy erupted during the discussion and the resolution was pulled from consideration. And on Tuesday, June 28, the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (PVREA) also decided not to support NISP due to the extreme controversy surrounding the project. The extreme controversy is because:

- NISP would drain up to 71% of the water out of the Poudre River through downtown Fort Collins.
- The Fort Collins City Council unanimously opposed NISP.
- The U.S. EPA said NISP "is not in compliance with the Clean Water Act".
- The State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division denied NISP an early water quality certification.
- NISP would require small, struggling Weld County towns to borrow $400 million - $750 million in public debt to pay for the project.
- NISP would help force the dry-up of up to 123,000 acres of Colorado farms.
- One of NISP's proposed reservoir sites is on top of fracked oil and gas wells.
- NISP would increase flooding on the Poudre River.
- A huge coalition of environmental groups opposes NISP.

Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper supports the ability of communities to get more water. Save the Poudre has created a plan for a "Healthy Rivers Alternative" (HRA) to NISP that gets water to communities while protecting the Poudre River.

"The Healthy Rivers Alternative is a better path forward that relies on common-sense water conservation and water-sharing agreements with farmers," said Gary Wockner. "Northern Colorado needs to immediately seek alternatives to NISP -- Save the Poudre intends to fight as long as it takes to stop NISP."

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Gary Wockner, PhD, Director
Save The Poudre Coalition: Poudre Waterkeeper
Fort Collins, Colorado
http://savethepoudre.org
970-218-8310

Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper is a coalition of 20 national, state, and regional groups including: Waterkeeper Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Clean Water Action, River Network Wild Earth Guardians, the Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, American Whitewater Association, Western Resource Advocates, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Lighthawk, 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 3 million American citizens.