

Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Million Project Highlights River Degradation and Need for Conservation and Efficiency

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The Million Project Highlights Degradation of Colorado Rivers and the Need for Front Range Water Conservation and Efficiency

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Gary Wockner, 970 218-8310

<http://SaveThePoudre.org>

Fort Collins, CO -- On Monday evening, April 20th, Fort Collins residents will get their first look at a massive water project proposed by Aaron Million and his Million Resource Group. The project is called the "Regional Watershed Supply Project," and proposes to pump and pipe 250,000 acre feet of water from the Green River and Flaming Gorge Reservoir of Wyoming to the Front Range of Colorado.

As reference, the entire native flow of the Cache la Poudre River of northern Colorado is about 260,000 acre feet. An acre is about the size of a football field; 260,000 acre feet is equal to the volume of water stacked on top of a football field 49 miles high.

"The Million proposal highlights just how badly depleted Colorado's rivers currently are, and how badly we need a real commitment to water conservation and efficiency along the Front Range of Colorado," said Gary Wockner, spokesperson for the Save The Poudre Coalition. "Conservation and Efficiency are the real path to the New Water Economy in Northern Colorado."

All of the rivers along Colorado's Front Range are already severely depleted and overappropriated. The Cache la Poudre, the South Platte, and the Arkansas are overcommitted, sometimes drained completely dry. The Poudre was even named one of the Most Endangered Rivers in America in 2008, which spawned the website www.EndangeredPoudre.org that shows photos of a drained-and-dried-up Poudre.

"This new proposal would drain and deplete the Green River and the Colorado River," said Mark Easter of the Sierra Club. "Instead, we need to protect and restore our rivers, not drain them dry."

Million has also publicly stated that some of his water could be used to restore flows in the Poudre River. In the December *North Forty News*, Million stated,

"Rather than dewatering river systems on the Front Range, this water supply could actually enhance those flows directly and through exchanges," he said, listing the Poudre, South Platte and Arkansas rivers.

The Save The Poudre Coalition has grave concerns about Million's proposal.

"We cannot support creating new environmental problems to solve others," said Wockner. "Draining one river to fill another would do just that. In addition, piping Green River water into the Poudre would bring in salinity and invasive species problems. Pumping the water would require an enormous amount of energy generating huge greenhouse gas emissions. We stand united with our river partners in Wyoming and Utah to protect the West's rivers."

The Army Corps of Engineers is having a public meeting about the project on Monday, April 20, 2009, 6:30 to 9 p.m., Fossil Ridge High School, 5400 Ziegler Road, Fort Collins, CO.

The public is invited. Save The Poudre Coalition members are encouraged to bring yard signs.

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