

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Save The Poudre Coalition**

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For details on the NISP/Glade project, please go to www.SaveThePoudre.org.

**NISP/GLADE FINANCING SCHEME CLOUDED IN
UNCERTAINTY**
Housing Starts Plummet. Reservoir Costs Soar.

“NISP isn’t smart water planning – NISP is a billion-dollar boondoggle.” – Mark Easter

Fort Collins, CO -- According to recent information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the estimated cost for the proposed NISP/Glade project jumped again by \$26 million to a total of \$431 million. When initially proposed, the project’s cost estimate was \$350 million. Since that time the price-tag has been revised upwards at least twice, increasing the cost by \$81 million (23%). With capitol construction costs nearing \$450 million, the pay-back including interest is nearing \$900 million and headed for a billion dollars.

“This may be the worst water project proposed in Colorado history. The news about it just keeps getting worse,” said Mark Easter of the Sierra Club Poudre Canyon Group. “Assuming that interest payments could even be made during this recession, the total financing cost is headed for a billion dollars. NISP isn’t smart water planning – NISP is a billion-dollar boondoggle.”

The financing message coming from the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD), the project’s proponent, has been clouded in uncertainty in recent weeks. In a presentation to the Larimer County Commissioners, Brian Werner, NCWCD Public Information Manager, said the proposed project would cost \$425 million in capital costs, and could be delayed because of the recession. However, two weeks later at a presentation to the City of Fort Collins Water Board, both Werner and Eric Wilkinson, NCWCD Executive Director, repeatedly said the proposed project would only cost \$400 million. Meanwhile, a week later the Army Corps of Engineers said NISP/Glade will really cost \$431 million.

“NCWCD is very nervous about the financing scheme,” said Gary Wockner of the Save The Poudre Coalition. “Every time they talk, the price-tag changes. NISP/Glade is looking like a very risky billion-dollar drain pipe from the Poudre River.”

Housing starts in Northern Colorado have plummeted by two-thirds from 2006 and 2007 levels, according to research by the Northern Colorado Homebuilders Association, raising even more uncertainty about the project's finances. The project would be financed by revenue bonds, paid back by new housing permits and tap fees. A slowing economy and coming recession jeopardize the project's financing scheme.

"If I were a citizen in one of the NISP-subscribing communities, I think I'd wonder whose future they are mortgaging to pay for the project," said Becky Long of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

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