



For Immediate Release

Save The Poudre Coalition

<http://www.SaveThePoudre.org>

January 16, 2009

Contact: Gary Wockner, 970-218-8310 (Spokesperson)

Northern Colorado's Premier Business Newspaper Editorializes Against NISP/Glade Reservoir

"NISP is a mistake we can't afford to make. Let's begin work on alternatives."

-- *Northern Colorado Business Report*, January 5, 2009

Fort Collins, CO -- In its most recent edition, the *Northern Colorado Business Report* editorialized against NISP/Glade and ask the Army Corps of Engineers to work on alternatives. The region's business newspaper made its decision after new and scientifically scathing information came to light about the project.

The newspaper states: **"The flaws that the EPA analysis found in the draft EIS are so numerous, and so intricately detailed, that we doubt they can be fixed. There can be no worse economic damage that could be done to this region than to allow environmental quality, especially the health of our rivers, to be degraded."** (underline added)

Full editorial here: http://ncbr.datajoe.com/app/ecom/pub_article_details.php?id=97939

"The business community is leading the charge against NISP/Glade because they know that protecting our environment protects our economy," said Gary Wockner, spokesperson for the Save The Poudre Coalition. "The environment of northern Colorado is our number one economic driver; it's why people live here. Taking water out of the Poudre River is just like taking sales taxes away from the cities and state. Now, more than ever, we need to preserve what makes Colorado special -- its rivers, open space, and quality of life. The City of Fort Collins even calls the Poudre River one of its 'economic engines.'"

Reports generated by the City of Fort Collins, City of Greeley, Larimer County, State of Colorado, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over the last year have highlighted many of the problems with NISP Glade, including:

- it will be devastating for the ecology of the Poudre River.
- it will kill the trout fishery through Fort Collins.
- it will kill Fort Collins' opportunity to have a kayak park in downtown along the river.
- it could cost Fort Collins, Greeley, and Windsor hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade water treatment and wastewater plants.
- it will increase the pace of sell-off and pave-over of farms.
- it will fuel rapid, unsustainable population growth.
- it will cost around \$1 billion, most of it public debt, in the middle of the worst recession in modern America.
- it could violate the State of Colorado Water Quality Standards.
- it will violate the federal Clean Water Act (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

"NISP/Glade is bad for business," continued Wockner. "To have our region's premier business publication editorialize against this project is a massive wake-up call to the Army Corps and to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The NISP ship is sinking fast."

The Save The Poudre Coalition inserted the "Healthy Rivers Alternative" (HRA) into the public record. The HRA falls in line with the recommendation of the *Northern Colorado Business Report* and with the recommendation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We ask the Army Corps again," said Wockner. "Please stop analyzing the NISP/Glade scheme, and please insert alternatives as soon as possible. Millions of dollars are being wasted."

The Healthy Rivers Alternative is a positive solution that will allow cities to get the water they need, will preserve the Poudre River, will allow farmers to be compensated for their water, and will be cheaper than NISP/Glade. The HRA is described here:

http://savethepoudre.org/docs/stp_healthy_rivers_alternative.pdf

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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.