

For Immediate Release
Save The Poudre Coalition
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Poudre River Dry-Up No "Mistake" **New Reservoir Project Will Drain Even More Water Out Of The Poudre**

“Streamflows are going to get much worse if this new reservoir project is built. The Poudre River will be a shadow of its former self,” Poudre River advocate, Gary Wockner.

Fort Collins, CO – In the last week of June, during the height of spring runoff, the Poudre River in Fort Collins was drained dry on several occasions as senior water rights holders legally exercised their ability to divert water from the river. While this act was described as a “mistake” in the media, it is an act that occurs many times per year in dozens of locations along the Poudre River as it flows from northwest of Fort Collins to its confluence with the South Platte.

Links to articles about “mistake”:

<http://coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070701/NEWS01/707010336/1002>

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=72926>

AP version: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_6278194

"The most recent dry-up of the Poudre highlights the web of water rights held by other interests surrounding our rivers; unfortunately our rivers don't have those same rights. It's not illegal to drain a river in Colorado," said Becky Long, Front Range Water Coordinator for the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

After the Cache la Poudre River exits Poudre Canyon northwest of Fort Collins, over two dozen diversions drain at least 75% of the water away before it reaches the South Platte. In an average year, about 225,000 acre feet of water flow down Poudre Canyon. By the time the river reaches Fort Collins, only 75,000 acre feet still flows in the river channel, the other 150,000 having been drained and diverted for farms and cities.

“The dry-ups through Fort Collins are pervasive every year,” said river advocate Gary Wockner. “The river commissioner was just doing his job, a job he’s required by law to do many times

every year – drain the Poudre River. Streamflows are going to get much worse if this new reservoir project is built. The NISP project will take out another 40,000 acre feet before the Poudre reaches Fort Collins, leaving only 35,000 acre feet flowing through town – that’s just 15% of the original Poudre River. The Poudre will be a shadow of its former self.”

“We’re very concerned about streamflows through town,” said Dave Karan, Poudre Paddlers Conservation and Boating Access Committee Chairman. “Our members paddle through town. Many others fish, jog, or bike the Poudre River Trail, a section of river that has great recreational potential. We support various river enhancement projects that can improve both the health of the stream and the recreation amenities. Building NISP as proposed would be a step in the wrong direction.”

“Friends of the Poudre has been working on river enhancement projects and a paddling park for more than seven years,” said Matt Evans, a board member of Friends of the Poudre. “The NISP project and Glade Reservoir will further reduce flows and worsen already problematic water quality between the canyon mouth and the confluence with the South Platte River.”

“The bird and aquatic life that uses the Poudre River is in big trouble,” said Phil Cafaro, representing the Fort Collins Audubon Society. “This new dam project will drain even more water out of the Poudre.”

As an example of the many legal dry-ups that already occur on the Poudre River, the Save The Poudre Coalition attaches five photographs taken over the last year along the Poudre River in and near Fort Collins. The sixth image is a map of some of the current dry-ups that are monitored every year by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the organization that proposes to build the NISP/Glade project.

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Bad News: The Poudre is wildly out of balance. Many Dry-Ups and Bad Water Quality.







