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**SAVE THE POUUDRE COALITION VISITS WASHINGTON,
REQUESTS THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ASK ARMY
CORPS FOR A FULL AND FAIR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
FOR NISP/GLADE EIS**

(September 27, 2007, Fort Collins, CO) – Tuesday, September 25th was “National River Action Day,” and the Cache la Poudre River of Northern Colorado got a special audience in Washington D.C. Two members of the Save The Poudre Coalition – Gary Wockner and Mark Easter, both from Larimer County – were brought to the nation’s capitol by the national rivers group, American Rivers, to lobby the Colorado congressional delegation on behalf of the Cache la Poudre River and other American river issues.

Wockner and Easter visited with the staff of Congressmembers Marilyn Musgrave, Mark Udall, Ken Salazar, John Salazar, Diana Degette, Ed Perlmutter, and Wayne Allard. Wockner and Easter made one specific request about the upcoming environmental impact statement on the Northern Integrated Supply Project – to have a full and fair public comment period of six months.

“The NISP/Glade project is potentially devastating for the Cache la Poudre River and for Fort Collins’ economy,” said Gary Wockner. “The public deserves a full and lengthy review period to study and analyze the EIS. We asked our Congressional delegation to ask the Army Corps of Engineers for a full and fair comment period.”

When the draft EIS comes out in a few months, it will have taken over three years to complete and cost over a million dollars. The Save The Poudre Coalition is assembling a team of professionals to analyze the document.

“The Coalition is working with scientific and legal professionals,” said Mark Easter. “The EIS will contain advanced scientific modeling components, and we want to obtain the data and re-run the models to ensure scientific accuracy.”

Longer public comment periods are increasingly the norm in Colorado for projects that have potentially huge environmental and economic impacts. At the bequest of conservation groups and Colorado congressmembers, the public comment period for the Roan Plateau oil/gas drilling project was extended. ([Read Senator Salazar's Roan request here.](#)) Additionally, Congresswoman Musgrave recently requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extend the public comment period on the proposed uranium mine north of Fort Collins. ([read article here.](#))

“The potential negative impacts of NISP/Glade on the Poudre River and our economy are easily as bad as those of the Roan Drilling or the Nunn uranium mine,” said Gary Wockner. “I hope that our congressional delegation contacts the Corps and makes this request on behalf of the citizens of Northern Colorado.”

(A white paper is attached that summarizes the Save The Poudre Coalition's request.)

Wockner and Easter also gave each congressman a copy of the recently released book about the river, [Pulse of the River: Colorado Writers Speak for the Endangered Cache la Poudre](#). Additionally, each congressman received the “[Save The Poudre](#)” poster – the image of naked Poudre advocates that was created by New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins.

“I'm not sure where they'll hang the posters,” said Gary Wockner, “But it brings a smile to everyone's face – that's good.”

Wockner and Easter also lobbied Colorado delegations on behalf of three river-related issues moving through Congress – the Clean Water Restoration Act, the Raw Sewage Right To Know Act, and various bills in support of Wild and Scenic Rivers in America.

“The Congressional staff members were all very friendly and professional,” said Easter. “It's important to go to Washington and make your voice heard. The Cache la Poudre River's voice was heard loud and clear.”

The Save The Poudre Coalition is dedicated to the long-term ecological health of the Cache la Poudre River from its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park all the way to its confluence with the South Platter River near Greeley. The Coalition is made up of several conservation groups in Northern Colorado, including the statewide Colorado Environmental Coalition. <http://savethepoudre.org>.

American Rivers is the only national organization standing up for healthy rivers so our communities can thrive. Through national advocacy, innovative solutions and our growing network of strategic partners, we protect and promote our rivers as valuable community assets that are vital to our health, safety and quality of life. Founded in 1973, American Rivers has more than 65,000 members and online supporters nationwide, with offices in Washington, DC and the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, California and Northwest regions.