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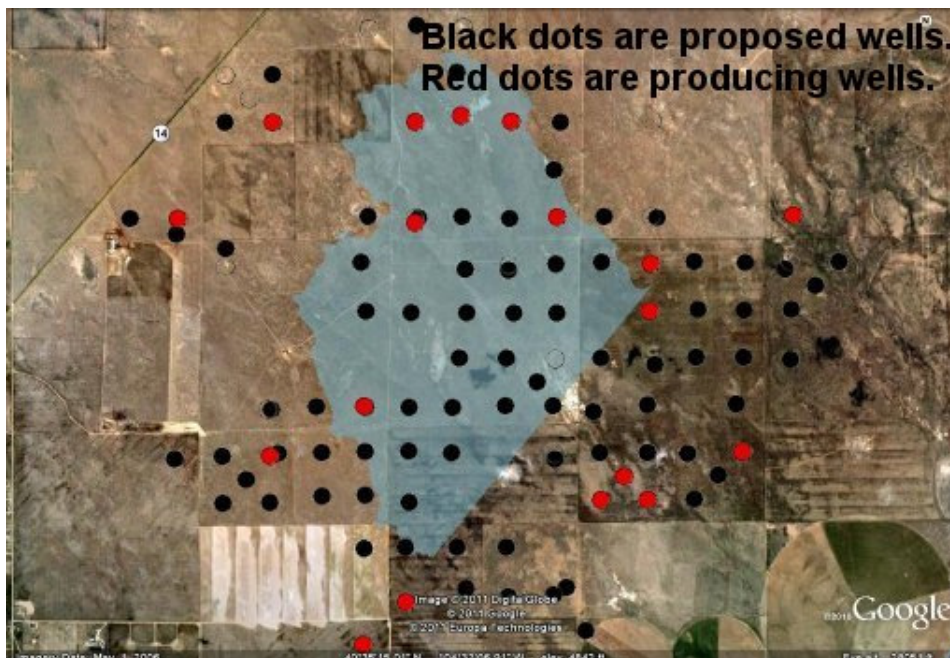
<http://SaveThePoudre.org>

OIL AND GAS WELLS BEGIN PRODUCING ON TOP OF NISP'S PROPOSED GALETON RESERVOIR SITE

6 producing wells and 28 permitted wells on top of reservoir site not yet considered in NISP's environmental analysis or cost estimates

Fort Collins, CO -- The oil and gas boom in Weld County, Colorado will likely further increase the cost and complexity of the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). One of NISP's two proposed reservoirs, Galeton, is smack dab in the middle of the what the president of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association described in the [Denver Post](#) as a "world-class oil and natural gas play."

Three years ago when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for NISP was written, there were no oil and gas wells on top of the proposed Galeton Reservoir. As of January 2011, the site now has 6 producing wells and 28 permitted wells on top of the exact boundary of the reservoir. Additionally, within one mile of the proposed reservoir -- whose water would be used for irrigating crops in Weld County -- dozens more wells are either already pumping or permitted, some of those directly upstream and very close to the proposed reservoir. (see image below)



In an email exchange with Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, Chandler Peter from the Army Corps of Engineers confirmed that no environmental or cost analyses of the wells has yet been figured into NISP. He stated that the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), which is proposed to be released at the end of 2011, would contain that analyses.

The exact value of the wells and mineral rights, as well as the cost of capping the wells and reclaiming and cleaning up the drilling sites, is unknown at this time. One of the main companies producing in the area is Noble Energy. In a report of the Noble's activities in the Wattenberg oil and gas field in Weld County ([pages 10-13](#)), the value of the wells is discussed.

"The presence of these wells will likely further increase the time, expense, and complexity of the NISP permitting process," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. "We encourage all NISP participants to seek alternatives that would be cheaper, easier, and faster ways to secure their future water supply."

NISP is already over five years late and at least \$150 million over budget. The Supplemental DEIS was recently postponed for the third time.

Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper opposes NISP and has proposed a "Healthy Rivers Alternative" to the project. This alternative would be cheaper, better for farms, better for the river, and could be implemented faster than NISP. The summary of the Alternative is here:

http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/Healthy_Rivers_Alternative.pdf

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Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper is a coalition of 19 national, state, and regional groups including: Waterkeeper Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Clean Water Action, Wild Earth Guardians, the Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, American Whitewater Association, Western Resource Advocates, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Lighthawk, 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 3 million American citizens.