



For Immediate Release

Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper

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Poudre River Dam Delays Lengthen

Fort Collins, CO -- On Monday January 3, 2011, Chandler Peter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers confirmed that the permitting processes for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) and other proposed dams and reservoirs on the Poudre River (Halligan and Seaman) have been delayed even longer.

The initial release for the Supplemental DEIS for NISP was supposed to be in June of 2010, and was initially delayed until the summer of 2011, but is now estimated to be delayed until the "latter part of 2011" according to an email from Mr. Peter to Save the Poudre.

Additionally, the Draft EIS for the new Halligan (Fort Collins) and Seaman (Greeley) dams and reservoirs on the North Fork of the Poudre was slated for the summer of 2011, but is now delayed for a half year after the release of the NISP SDEIS (according to the email from Mr. Peter), which will put them into 2012 and well beyond previous estimates.

"Every delay and corresponding cost escalation is an opportunity for these cities to invest in alternatives to these projects," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. "We believe that water conservation, cooperating with farmers, and projects that don't dam or drain the Poudre would be cheaper, faster, and easier, and would help guarantee water supply security for these cities."

NISP is now over 5 years late and at least \$140 million over budget. Halligan and Seaman are also several years late. Halligan's cost estimate has increased at least 50% over the last 5 years; Seaman's cost escalation is unknown to Save the Poudre.

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 immediately. The summary of the Alternative is here:

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

Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper is awaiting the release of the DEIS for Halligan and Seaman before the group takes a position for or against these projects, but has offered alternatives to the projects here: <http://savethepoudre.org/stp-correspondence/2010-07-18-stp-alternatives-to-halligan-seaman.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.