



**For Immediate Release**

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<http://SaveThePoudre.org>

**NISP WOULD CAUSE WORSE FLOODING ON POUDRE RIVER**  
**Save the Poudre requests that Corps do an economic analysis of NISP-caused flooding**

**Fort Collins, CO --** Today, Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting an economic analysis of the costs that will be incurred by citizens and governments caused by flooding that will be caused by the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). STP's letter is here:

[http://poudriver.home.comcast.net/~poudriver/STP\\_letter-to-Corps\\_NISP-CAUSED-FLOODING-6-15-2011.pdf](http://poudriver.home.comcast.net/~poudriver/STP_letter-to-Corps_NISP-CAUSED-FLOODING-6-15-2011.pdf)

Because NISP -- as it was described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) -- will dramatically reduce sustained peak flows in the Poudre River that clean and scour the riverbed, when flood events occur, those floods will be worse.

"NISP would cause worse flooding on the Poudre River," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. "The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for NISP must analyze the financial cost of that flooding in order to comply with federal law."

Save the Poudre requests an economic analysis of NISP-caused flooding associated with:

1. Property damage to private and public property
2. Potential loss of life
3. Increases in costs of emergency services associated with search and rescue
4. Clean-up costs
5. Decreases in business and personal income when a flood occurs or because new flood-prone properties may become undevelopable
6. Decreases in tax revenue to the cities, county, school districts, and state due to the damaged caused by flood events or due to new undevelopable property
7. Increases in the costs of flood-control projects including but not limited to dredging; vegetation removal; and the construction of channels, pits, ponds, and reservoirs to hold and control flood waters (Both Greeley and Fort Collins suggest such projects in their DEIS comments)
8. Increases in the costs of flood-proofing of public and private building and structures, and public infrastructure including roads and bridges.

In their comments submitted to the Corps for the DEIS, both the City of Greeley and the City of Fort Collins have also requested NISP-caused flooding analyses. The City of Greeley's comments include the sentences below, in addition to asking for extensive flood-control projects to mitigate NISP-caused flooding:

NISP will reduce flows through the Greeley Upstream Reach even further, increasing sedimentation and vegetation encroachment and accelerating channel contraction. Fewer instances of high flow scour will also reduce opportunities for channel rejuvenation. Secondary effects caused by decreased flows may include increased bank erosion, increased size of in-channel islands, and flow obstruction and flooding. (<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-tl/eis/nisp.deis-comments.597-618.pdf>, page 10)

The City of Fort Collins' comments are even more pointed with regards to NISP-caused flooding:

Channel contraction and vegetation encroachment from NISP would likely have significant adverse effects on base flood elevations (BFEs) and the resulting extent of flood inundations during large recurrence interval floods such as, the 100- and 500-year flood events. Reduced channel conveyance in the Poudre River would likely increase BFEs through the City. In turn, this would widen the limits of the floodplain and potentially add structures and properties into the floodplain and /or floodway that were not previously at risk of flooding. ... Flood risks could affect property values and business relocations, and, therefore, tax revenues. ... Unless addressed in the DEIS, subsequent costs of designing, constructing and maintaining additional flood protection facilities or modifying existing structures would be borne by the citizens of Fort Collins. Additional multi-million dollar investments may be necessary." (<http://www.fcgov.com/nispreview/pdf/nisp.pdf?20080917>, page 103-104)

NISP is now at least 6 years late and at least \$150 million over budget. The Supplemental DEIS was recently delayed for the third time. Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper has created a plan for a "[Healthy Rivers Alternative](#)" to NISP. This Alternative would be cheaper, better for farms, better for the river, would not increase flooding, and could be implemented faster than NISP.

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**Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper** is a coalition of 20 national, state, and regional groups including: Waterkeeper Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Clean Water Action, River Network 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.