



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 25, 2011

Contact: Gary Wockner, Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, 970-218-8310

<http://SaveThePoudre.org>

## **"The Farm Facts About NISP" Submitted to the Army Corps**

**Scientific Report: NISP could negatively impact up to 123,000 acres of Colorado farmland**

**Fort Collins, CO** -- Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper submitted a new scientific report -- "The Farm Facts About NISP" -- to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review in the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) permitting process. The "Farm Facts About NISP" indicates that NISP could negatively impact up to 123,000 acres of Colorado farm land. ("The Farm Facts About NISP" is here: <http://savethepoudre.org/docs/farm-facts-april2011.pdf>)

"The farm impacts analysis in the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was severely flawed," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. "The Farm Facts About NISP' provides new science that must be analyzed by the Corps in the upcoming Supplemental DEIS."

The "Farm Facts About NISP" provides technical documentation indicating that if NISP is built as described in the DEIS:

1. NISP would accelerate the buy-up and subdivision of irrigated farms in northern Colorado.
2. NISP would accelerate salinization of productive crop lands.
3. NISP would end most "free river" diversion opportunities and impact many existing water users.
4. NISP would submerge and divide productive agricultural land.
5. The "Initial Fill" of 100,000 acre-feet and the ongoing diversions into Glade and Galeton Reservoirs are likely to come from agricultural water from northern Colorado and the West Slope.

Of specific importance, "The Farm Facts About NISP" offers a water supply impacts sub-report indicating that:

1. During the recent drought years -- May 2000 to November 2009 -- NISP water rights would have only been able to divert water into Glade Reservoir for 66 days (out of 900 runoff days), and thus NISP would have required vast amounts of farm water to be leased or purchased from farmers to keep NISP operational.
2. The water proposed to be put in NISP's Glade and Galeton Reservoirs can currently be used by approximately 79 river diverters, approximately 54 reservoir storage rights users totaling about 26,000 acre-feet of storage, and approximately 280 well water rights users. (All of these users have water rights that are junior to NISP and can be negatively impacted.)

3. All farmers in the Poudre or lower South Platte basin who uses "free river" water from the spring runoff during average and wet years will very likely be impacted if NISP is built.

"This new scientific analysis provides a dramatic new picture of the negative impacts of NISP on northern Colorado's farm economy," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre. "If you are an irrigating farmer in the Poudre or lower South Platte basins, please read 'The Farm Facts About NISP' -- NISP could harm your farm."

Save the Poudre's cover letter to the Corps about the "Farm Facts About NISP" is here:

[http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/STP\\_The\\_Farm\\_Facts\\_To\\_Corps\\_cover\\_letter-3-28-2011.pdf](http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/STP_The_Farm_Facts_To_Corps_cover_letter-3-28-2011.pdf)

The water supply impacts cover letter and sub-report is here:

Cover letter:

[http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/STP\\_Water\\_Supply\\_Study\\_To\\_Corps\\_cover\\_letter-3-16-2011.pdf](http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/STP_Water_Supply_Study_To_Corps_cover_letter-3-16-2011.pdf)

Report:

<http://www.savethepoudre.org/docs/2010-12-01-water-supply-impacts-of-nisp.pdf>

NISP is already over 5 years late and at least \$150 million over budget. In January of 2011, the Supplemental DEIS was 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](http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/Healthy_Rivers_Alternative.pdf)

(For a printed copy of "The Farm Facts About NISP," send an email with your mailing address to:

[info@savethepoudre.org](mailto:info@savethepoudre.org).)

--end--

--

Gary Wockner, PhD, Director  
Save The Poudre Coalition: Poudre Waterkeeper  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
<http://savethepoudre.org>  
970-218-8310

**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.