

For Immediate Release

Save The Poudre Coalition

www.SaveThePoudre.org

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Sierra Club National Executive Director, Carl Pope, says:

"The West is addicted to reservoirs just like America is addicted to oil."

Fort Collins, CO -- On Sunday, August 24th, on the banks of the Cache la Poudre River in downtown Fort Collins, Sierra Club National Executive Director **Carl Pope** spoke at a rally for the Save The Poudre Coalition. With dozens of Coalition supporters in the background, Pope spoke in opposition to the Northern Integrated Supply Project and its Glade Reservoir.

Pope made five important points during his speech:

1. Global warming will dramatically impact water supplies in the West, and will impact the role that reservoirs play in water storage systems.

2. Given the increased impacts of global warming, reservoirs are outdated 20th century answers to 21st century problems. Storing water underground in aquifers makes much more sense than building reservoirs.

3. Water conservation is woefully underutilized as a water source in the West. **"When we take water out of the river, we need to make sure every drop counts," he said.**

4. Projects like NISP can be stopped. **"To stop a project like this, you need two things -- 1) local people who care, and you have that right here," he said, "and 2) a positive alternative that will meet water supply needs. The Save The Poudre Coalition will be presenting just such an alternative in the near future."**

"We need to stop NISP and Save The Poudre," said Pope. **"The West is addicted to reservoirs just like America is addicted to oil. When your addiction runs out, you need another hit, but a new reservoir will not solve this problem."**

Save the Poudre spokesperson, Gary Wockner, said that Pope's visit meant that national environmental groups are increasingly involved with the Poudre River issue. "What Pope's visit means is that the American environmental movement -- from the top in Washington D.C., to the ground-level here in Fort Collins -- is committed to stopping NISP/Glade and saving the Poudre River."

State Representative Randy Fischer (HD 53) also spoke at the rally, and said, "I'm committed to

doing everything I can to find an alternative to this project that does not destroy the Cache la Poudre River."

On Sept. 10th, the Save The Poudre Coalition will host a public meeting at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins where they will present their comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement as well as a "Healthy Rivers Alternative" to NISP. (More details about this meeting will come in future press releases.)

Hi resolution photos of the Pope press conference here: <http://photos.danbihn.com/p745230582/>

Photo 1: Gary Wockner introduces Carl Pope and Randy Fischer.

Photo 2: State Representative Randy Fischer speaks to the audience.

Photo 3: Carl Pope says, "The West is addicted to reservoirs just like America is addicted to oil."

Photo 4: Carl Pope and Gary Wockner speak to the audience.

(Dan Bihn, photographer, grants all permission to use these hi-res photos. Not photo credit necessary. Dan's phone number: 970-218-1962)

The Save The Poudre Coalition is made up of 12 national, state, and regional groups including Clean Water Action, Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Environment Colorado, Sierra Club – Rocky Mountain Chapter, Fort Collins Audubon Society, Citizen Planners, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Poudre Paddlers, Friends of the Poudre, Cache la Poudre River Foundation. Membership in these groups totals over 2 million American citizens.

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