

For Immediate Release
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Save The Poudre Coalition

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Water District April Fools
“The Poudre is Protected.”

Fort Collins, CO – April Fools day is a day for jokes, and the Save The Poudre Coalition is delighted to see that the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is up to a joke of their own. In repeated public meetings, on their website, and in fliers promoting the NISP/Glade project, the District repeatedly states: “The Poudre is Protected.”

http://www.ncwcd.org/project_features/nisp_main.asp

“This is a joke, right?” said Mark Easter of the Sierra Club Poudre Canyon Group. “The Poudre is dry or nearly dry in more than a dozen places for much of the year. Why is the District saying this?”

To prove the point, members of the Save The Poudre Coalition took a photo of the Poudre River in downtown Fort Collins on Friday March 28, 2008. The photo (below) is taken at the Gustav Swanson Natural Area, just behind the Northside Aztlan Center in Fort Collins. Just a sprinkle of water was flowing in the Poudre through downtown, as is often the case for 6 to 8 months per year. The entire riverbed was exposed. Coalition members stood in what historically would have been calf-deep with flowing water this time of year, but instead was almost completely dry.

Meanwhile on March 28th, about 50 cubic feet per second of water was flowing up in the Poudre Canyon prior to all the diversions that drain the Poudre River through Fort Collins. In downtown, on the other hand, the flow was about 3 cubic feet per second, or about 95% less.

“The NISP/Glad project, if built, would make every year on the Poudre a dry year, and make low flows and dry-ups like this worse,” said Becky Long of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

“I hope the District is not using our property tax dollars to pull the wool over our eyes,” said Phil Cafaro of the Fort Collins Audubon Society.

“I’m sure it’s just a joke,” said Rico Moore of the Cache la Poudre River Foundation, a Coalition member group.

“The taxpayers of our water conservancy district – which includes every nearly every home in the northern Front Range – will be happy to know that the District has a sense of humor,” said Gary Wockner of the Save The Poudre Coalition.

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Hi-res version is available for download at: <http://users.frii.com/measter/poudre-4.jpg>