CLEAN WATER ACTION
COLORADO

Summer 2009

Colorado CURRENTS

Bobby Magill

PROTECTING OUR WATER QUALITY
FIGHTING FOR COLORADO RIVERS

Clean Water Action is helping to lead the fight to protect water quality in the Cache la Poudre River and Colorado River basins. Multiple dam and reservoir projects are planned that will severely impact water quality and river health in both basins.

In the Colorado River basin, a large project called the "Windy Gap Firming Project" will drain more water out of the Colorado River and pipe it over to the Front Range to supply water for sprawling growth.

The U.S. EPA "objected" to the project and stated that the project might violate the Clean Water Act.

Clean Water Action is helping to lead a coalition of groups that have inserted comments into the Army Corps' EIS process – we are calling for more water conservation in cities, less sprawl, and no impacts on the already beleaguered Colorado River.

In the Cache la Poudre River basin, Clean Water Action is leading an effort to provide comments to the City of Fort Collins about its proposed expansion of the Halligan Reservoir. Clean Water Action is calling for more water conservation, less sprawl, and an "instream flow program" that provides permanent legal protections for the Poudre River.

Also in the Poudre River basin, Clean Water Action is a partner in the effort to stop the Northern Integrated Supply Project and its massive new Glade Reservoir. Clean Water Action is partnering with 15 regional, state, and national groups to provide an official alternative to the project— the "Healthy Rivers Alternative" that provides water to cities and protects the Poudre River.

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Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

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Nicholas A. Tonelli

PASSING THE RESTORATION ACT
PROTECTING AMERICA'S WATERS

Clean Water Action has been knocking and rocking the Front Range of Colorado to help pass the Clean Water Restoration Act!

Clean Water Action has knocked on over 100,000 doors in the Metro Denver and Northern Colorado area, generating letters to U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall; and to U.S. Representative Betsy Markey.

So far, over 11,000 letters have been sent to the three congress members. We are also working with a coalition of groups in Colorado to help pass this legislation.

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, we have made great progress in cleaning up our nation's waters. But these protections have been rolled back in recent years, and the Clean Water Act, long considered one of the country's most successful environmental laws, is now failing to protect all of America's waters.

But in 2001, a bare majority of the Supreme Court held that non-navigable, intrastate waters are not protected by the Clean Water Act. This gave polluters an opening to ramp up a decades-long effort to pressure the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to weaken their rules.

Passing the Clean Water Restoration Act in 2009 will restore long-standing safeguards for America's water resources and put us back on the path toward protecting all of our drinking water, lakes, rivers and streams.

Alan Cleaver

JUMPSTARTING THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

Clean Water Action is partnering in a coalition effort to jumpstart the clean energy economy in Colorado, help pass the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009, and keep a close eye on polluting and destructive coal power. Our current fossil fuel driven energy industry taints our drinking water and damages essential habitats with heavy metals and chemical pollution.

Through our Fort Collins office, Clean Water Action is contacting members of the Colorado State Legislature and U.S. Congress to educate them about clean energy, solar power, and related important state and federal bills. We are also beginning a "watchdog" effort to keep track of coal power plants in the metro area and northern Front Range.