The Poudre Runs Through It
Study/Action Work Group
Action Ideas
Dude! Some K*LLER Ideas for the Poudre River

• Lower Poudre FLEX project
  – Area around ELC, Horsetooth, I25. Cooperative project with Ducks Unlimited, City of Fort Collins, private landowners, CWCB, and SP Roundtable
  – Instream Flows, Agricultural water sharing, supplemental agricultural water, land and habitat conservation, recreation, augmentation, beautification

By: John Stokes
Idea #2: Thornton Water Delivery

Thornton Water Delivery

- Keep it in the river as long as possible
- We support, inform, and encourage this approach

By: John Stokes
Idea #3: Jaw Jaw Poudre River Forum

It’s Better to Jaw Jaw than to War: Poudre River Forum

• Annual congregation of Poudre River enthusiasts, water buffalos, advocates, municipalities, universities, researchers, utilities, you name it

• Forum for presentations, networking, collaboration, reporting out

By: John Stokes
Idea #4: Bucket at the Bottom

Vision B – Bucket at the Bottom

• Storage near South Platte River
  – Could be used for water trades or banking

• Possibly combined with regional water treatment plant
  – May need salinity control or treatment (like in Brighton, Milliken, or Sterling)

• May appeal to Thornton and potentially other Denver metro municipalities

By: John Bartholow
Idea #5: Celebrate the River

Vision C – Celebrate the River

River Cleanup

By: John Bartholow
Idea #5 (Continued): Celebrate the River

Fundraise for flows?

By: John Bartholow
Idea #6: CFS Signage

Vision Q – CFS Signage

By: John Bartholow
Idea #6 (Continued): CFS Signage

Vision Q – CFS Signage

By: John Bartholow
Idea #7: Smoothing

Vision S – Smoothing

By: John Bartholow
Idea #7 (Continued): Smoothing

Vision S – Smoothing

By: John Bartholow
Idea #8: Treetop Perspective

Vision T – Treetop Perspective

Educate public about ecosystem interactions

Provide aerial riverine viewpoint

By: John Bartholow
Idea #9: Underwater Education

Vision U – Underwater Education

In concert with diversion retrofit?

Maybe we would see a mink instead!

By: John Bartholow
Idea #10: Irrigation Efficiency Ranking System

Working Relationships: Municipalities/Water Right Owners & Ag Producers

Water Rental Criteria

- Objective
  - Maximize Water Use Efficiency

- Procedure
  - Establish Ag Producer Efficiency Ranking Criteria
  - Consider Best Management Practices (BMP)
  - Higher efficiency ranking gives priority to the most efficient producers.

- Possible Working Partners To Establish Ranking Criteria/BMP
  - Local Conservation Districts
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Municipalities/water right owners
  - Ag Producers

- Benefits
  - Progressive and innovative producers rewarded for protecting our natural resources
  - Obtain maximum food production with least amount of water (more bang for the buck)
  - Motivate all producers to adopt new practices to become more efficient
  - Avenue for municipalities/water right owners to support agriculture

By: Troy Seaworth
Idea #11: Put People in the Water

By: Brad Modesitt
The New West: Water, Towns, And Cities

(Something we can support that others are doing)

- Not to plan is to plan
- Let’s plan for what we want
- City and rural land-use policies are a hand-in-glove affair—they need to work together

Poudre Runs Through It... February 8, 2013

By: Jim Reidhead
The New West...

“I had to do it, Jeb. He was grilling zucchini.”

What we’ve known all along...

“WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US.”

By: Jim Reidhead
Save that which is irreplaceable

Quirkiness is okay

By: Jim Reidhead
Idea #12 (Continued): Creative Partnerships & Collaboration Are Necessary

• We have Right-To-Farm laws. Do they have any teeth?

• Are we able to create a sustainable urban/riparian environment, not love our rivers to death, and honor all the water users—critters, kids, and farmers, etc.?

By: Jim Reidhead
Idea #13: Speaker’s Bureau

Knowledge is Power

- Speakers bureau (an outreach channel) to educate the public about those topics.
- Actions to be taken by June:
  - identifying the target audiences,
  - identifying the topics to be addressed for each type of audience,
  - identifying who the speakers would be,
  - developing skeleton story lines,
  - setting up a booking office for presentations (Maybe at CWI?)

By: Sean Cronin/ Rocky Mountain Flycasters
Coalition for the Poudre River (CPR).  
- Nonprofit Watershed Group
- Formed from the High Park Restoration Coalition (HPRC) that was created in response to wildfire remediation

Request CPR create a website that can...  
- Interactive web site page where water interests could simply log in and update activity on the river.
- That information then is available publicly for view and becomes an information resource for everyone – anglers, rafters, outdoors enthusiasts etc. as they are able to simply go to the CPR website and see what is happening at any point in time.

By: Sean Cronin/ Rocky Mountain Flycasters
Idea #15: Poudre Operations Conference Call

Something that can be done...

- Regular Poudre Operations Conference Call
  - Used as a way to inform the public of water users operations
  - Implies there is not currently communication on the Poudre.
    - That is not the case, operations staff communicate on a regular basis between themselves, other organizations, and the river commissioner.
    - This call would however allow those parties who have a personal vested interest in the river to get a better understanding of who is doing what and for what purpose.
    - Believe this will raise the bar on the Poudre both in way of awareness and transparency.

By: Sean Cronin/ Rocky Mountain Flycasters
Idea #16: Lobby for Increased Water Use Flexibility

- Change water law governed by State Legislature by:
  - Convening a stakeholder group of water rights owners to
  - Determine how to best maximize
    - Retention of existing water rights
    - Flexibility in the legitimate use or non-use of water rights
    - Economic value and benefits of rights owned
    - Beneficial uses not currently recognized by water law

By: Wynne Odell
Idea #16 (Continued): Lobby for Increased Water Use Flexibility

- Support stakeholder group by:
  - Facilitating
  - Providing non-stakeholder scientific, recreational and ecological input from other groups
  - Building grassroots lobbying support
  - Funding legal and professional lobbying services

By: Wynne Odell
Idea #18: Conservation Banking

Conservation Banking Along the Poudre: A Win/Win for Water Development and Stream Health?

By: Jeffrey Boring
Idea #19: Poudre River Wiki

Specific Actions – Collaboration on Tools

- Poudre River Wiki
  (http://poudre.library.colostate.edu)

Desired result: Collaborative, transparent access to water data for education, policy analysis, monitoring, and operations

By: Steve Malers
Idea #20: Data Transparency

Specific Actions – Collaboration on Tools

- Nonprofit open source software for water resources:
  - Neutral space for collaboration and innovation
  - Government/Private/University/Research/Nonprofit
  - Databases/Models/Analysis/GIS/Web

Desired result: Collaborative, transparent access to water data for education, policy analysis, monitoring, and operations

By: Steve Malers
Idea #21: Dam Rehab

Vision D – Dam Rehab

By: John Bartholow
Vision D – Dam Rehab

Ownership unclear -- may be Greeley, probably Graves Dairy, ...

By: John Bartholow
Idea #21 (Continued): Dam Rehab

Vision D – Dam Rehab

Also need to look east of I-25

By: John Bartholow
Idea #22: Define a Health/Working River

Starting with the draft definition of a Healthy River that previously has been provided to the Working Group, agree upon qualitative and/or quantitative goals for water quality, fish populations, channel condition, and riparian condition. This could be made somewhat easier by defining desired conditions rather than streamflow rates.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #23: FLOWS
Stage 1

Flows (minimum): Commit to eliminating dry up points on North Fork and mainstem. To do so, determine, design, and develop financing for operational, infrastructure, and market mechanisms to keep water flowing at all points of the river.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #23: FLOWS
Stage 2

Flows (harder): Agree upon ecologically-relevant minimum flows at all points on the Poudre. Determine how, when, and where these can possibly be met through operations, infrastructure, and water acquisition/leasing.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #23: FLOWS
Stage 3

Flows (hardest): Agree upon a goal to maintain peak flows that maintain and create habitat for fish and invertebrates, etc. Use the ‘Healthy River’ definition as a starting point.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #24: Water Bank

Establish a water bank that would give Poudre River irrigators an alternative to participating in buy-and-dry strategies that could result in the export of more Poudre River, including creating additional flexibility for leasing water between consumptive users and creating mechanism(s) to allow environmental interests could lease at market rates for instream flows.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #25: Working/Healthy River Poudre Fund

Create a GOCO or open-space type fund dedicated to river health and sustainability to help pay for the above actions.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #26: Healthy River Improvements Smorgasbord

• Bank sloping, bioengineering with plants for reinforcement
• Maintain flood conveyance by managing vegetation encroachment
• Manage invasive species
• Reduce nutrient loading
• Reduce fine sediment delivery

By: Brian Bledsoe
Idea #27: Improve Flows, Remove Impediments

• Stop dry-ups
• Reduce flow variability
• Environmental flows for habitat, sediment flushing
• Remove or retrofit channel spanning structures for fish passage, sediment movement, and boaters

By: Brian Bledsoe
Idea #28: River Safe Zones

Setback or remove artificial lateral constraints on channel migration in prioritized safe zones – for the riparian forest

By: Brian Bledsoe
Idea #29

Educate, for example:

- Photos / videos of the river at different flows along the entire corridor in Google Earth
- Educational signage on balancing river health and human demands
- Produce educational video for Discovery Museum

By: Brian Bledsoe
Idea #30: River System Evaluation

Encourage, or lead charge for comprehensive evaluation of entire river system.

By: Wade Willis
Idea #31: Working/Healthy River Management Strategies

Identify and encourage management strategies that improve river health while still satisfying current demands and rights.

By: Wade Willis
Idea #32: Encourage Conservation; Home Remodel Regulations

Develop rules and regulations that address home remodels to be more efficient in terms of water use. I.e. recycling waste, gray water, low flow toilets, inclusion of landscape waters to domestic in house use, etc.

By: John Bustos
Idea #33: Poudre River Newspaper with PSD

Newsletter on actions related to the river and its use by season sponsored by the Poudre School District.

By: John Bustos
Idea #34: Encourage Conservation; Water Use Apps

Develop an inexpensive mechanism, like a pedometer, to help people track their daily water use, maybe a cell phone app. For example, at a restaurant, you type in, "had water with meal" and app reports 16 ounces of water used to provide a clean glass and 8 ounces in glass = 24 ounces of water for glass of water in restaurant.

By: John Bustos
Coalition for the Poudre Watershed

Hewlett Gulch Wildfire and High Park Wildfire
February 2013

By: Eric Reckentine
Idea #35 (Continued)

By: Eric Reckentine
CPW Formed from HP Fire Coalition

- Established - Non Profit CPW
- Trees Water People, FTC, Greeley, TU, Wild Lands, CCE And many others

Focus
- Assist with grants and funding
- Permitting and Outreach
- Manage projects – on the ground
- Monitoring

Stakeholders –
What can we do to enhance the river while we mitigate?

By: Eric Reckentinie
Idea #36: River Diversion Reconstruction

Create plan to re-construct all diversions so that they are easily manageable for minimum instream flows, passable by fish, and safe for boaters.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #37: Adjudicated Instream Flow Rights

Establish an adjudicated instream flow right for the Poudre, both North Fork and mainstem.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #38: Poudre Ag/Urban Water Sharing Task Force

Establish an Ag-water sharing task force to determine how land-preservation and long-term water agreements can be used to meet future municipal water needs in the watershed while providing security to irrigators.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #39: Collaborate with Thornton

Determine how best to encourage Thornton to draw their water at the bottom of the Poudre rather than from the canyon mouth.

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #40: Active River Zones

To accompany Master Plan for bike path along the river, identify ‘active river’ zones where the river is allowed to erode and aggrade over time in an unconstrained but prudent manner. In these zones, plan to remove bank armoring where present, and build future infrastructure to accommodate the resulting ‘active river.’

By: Doug Robotham & John Sanderson – TNC
Idea #41: Water Diversions: Technology and Funding

- Technology and water diversion today
- Where is technology headed?
- Ag interests identify the opportunities
- Others help fund it

By: Rich Shannon
Big Idea: Let’s love the river to health

- The population of Northern Colorado is projected to double within the next 3 decades.
- How will the people use the river? What will be the recreation patterns? How many people; when and where?
- The Greenway Foundation in Denver has done an exceptional job of reconciling environmental, recreational, and urban needs on Cherry Creek and the South Platte.

By: Bill Sears and Jim Reidhead
• This foundation can serve as a model for effective inter-jurisdictional collaboration along the full reach of the Poudre River.
• There are currently two private non-profit entities in Northern Colorado that deal with the full reach of the river: the Poudre Heritage Alliance and the Poudre River Trust.
• We have both an opportunity and responsibility to prevent over-use and foster balanced recreation, restoration, and sustainability based on innovation, compromise and collaboration.

By: Bill Sears and Jim Reidhead
Idea #43: Low Flow Enhancement Pilot Project

By: Dan Brown and Dale Trowbridge