



Natural Resources
215 N. Mason
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970.221-6600
970.224-6177 - fax
fcgov.com

**Natural Resources Advisory Board
City of Fort Collins**

TO: Mayor and Fort Collins City Council

FROM: Liz Pruessner on behalf of the Natural Resources Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Cache la Poudre River Initiative: Threats, Opportunities and Recommended Action Plan

DATE: December 12, 2011

The Natural Resources Advisory Board has spent the year researching the health of the Poudre River and has prepared a white paper for City Council discussing our findings and making specific recommendations for an action plan which incorporates the thoughtful consideration of economic, societal and environmental values as outlined in Plan Fort Collins. We are calling on the City to develop a long-term vision for the Poudre River which will protect and preserve this priceless resource so that many, many future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the river as we do today. We want to be proud of the legacy we leave our grandchildren and future citizens. Taking bold action now to protect the health of the Poudre will insure that legacy.

The NRAB is excited to present this paper to City Council and we look forward to working with Council and Staff to put an action plan in place. At our meeting on November 16, the NRAB voted unanimously in support of this initiative with the following motion:

“The NRAB endorses the white paper entitled “Cache la Poudre Initiative: Threats, Opportunities and Recommended Action Plan” and recommends that Council implement the action points therein in an expeditious manner. The NRAB is especially strong in its recommendation that a Poudre River “champion” within the city staff be appointed as soon as possible. The board looks forward to working with this “champion” and the rest of city staff as plans to protect the Cache la Poudre River ecosystem are developed and implemented.”

We would be happy to discuss our recommendations in detail and answer any questions Council may have. We have included monitoring the progress of the action plan in our 2012 NRAB Work Plan and will be sharing the paper with other Boards once we have submitted it to Council.

The NRAB would like to thank staff for their assistance with the research for this paper. During our year of research we called upon the expertise of City staff and enjoyed many excellent presentations, particularly from the Natural Resources and Utilities Departments. We are



indebted to staff for sharing their time and knowledge at NRAB meetings. Much of the information found in this document came from those presentations. We are fortunate as a City to have such a talented and dedicated work force.

NRAB is pleased to present this paper and hope you enjoy reading it. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Liz Pruessner, Chair
Natural Resources Advisory Board

cc: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
John Stokes, Director, Natural Resources Department
Land Conservation and Stewardship Board
Water Board
Parks and Recreation Board