BASIN OVERVIEW

- Drains nearly 2000 square miles, mostly in Larimer and Weld Counties

- Mainstem originates at Poudre Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park

- Significant Tributaries:
  - North Fork
  - South Fork
  - Dry Creek
  - Boxelder Creek
Native Flows

- Average flows = 300,000 AF
- Highest flow = 700,000 AF
- Lowest flow = 100,000 AF
Cache la Poudre River Monthly Average Native Runoff at the Mouth of the Canyon (1950-2005)

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EARLY HISTORY — Developing the Resource

Overview

- **1860s – 1880s:** Ditch Construction
- **1880s – 1900s:** Reservoir Construction
- **1890s – 1910s:** Construction of Initial Transbasin Diversion Structures
- **1930 – 1950s:** Colorado Big-Thompson Project Development
1860s – 1870s: Ditch Construction

- Smaller Private Bottomland Ditches
  - Yeagar Ditch (priority #1) June 1, 1860
  - Dry Creek (Jackson Ditch) June 10, 1861
  - Whitney Ditch Sept. 1, 1862
  - B.H. Eaton Ditch April 1, 1864
  - John G. Coy Ditch April 10, 1865
  - J.R. Brown Ditch May 1, 1865
  - W.R. Jones Ditch Sept. 1, 1867
1860s – 1880s: Ditch Construction

- Larger Mutual Ditch Systems -- the “Big 4”
  - New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company
    - Greeley No. 2 Ditch
  - Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company
    - Larimer and Weld Canal
  - The Water Supply and Storage Company
    - Larimer County Canal
  - North Poudre Irrigation Company
    - North Poudre Canal / Munroe Canal
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  - North Poudre Irrigation Company
  - North Poudre Canal / Munroe Canal
  - Charles Hansen Supply Canal
  - Fort Collins Pipeline
  - Poudre Valley Canal
  - Greeley WTP

- Poudre River Diversions

- North Fork Cache la Poudre River
- Fort Collins Reservoir
- Horsetooth Reservoir
- South Platte River
- B.H. Eaton Ditch
- Whitney Ditch
- Friendly Ditch
- B.G. Eaton Ditch
- B.B. Eaton Ditch
- Ogilby Ditch
- Boyd & Freeman Ditch
- Greeley No. 2 Ditch
- Greeley No. 3 Ditch
- Jones Ditch
- Jackson Ditch
- Little Cache and Taylor & Gill Ditches
- Larimer and Weld Canal
- Lake Canal
- Coy Ditch
- Timnath Res. Inlet
- Fossil Creek Res. Inlet
- Boxelder Ditch
- Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal
- New Mercer Canal
- Arthur Ditch
- Larimer No. 2 Ditch
- Larimer and Weld Canal
- Wellington
- Pierce
- Ault
- Eaton
- Windsor
- Greeley
HEADGATE OF LARIMER AND WELD CANAL
PHOTO BY DAVID BOYD,
1880s – 1900s: Reservoir Construction

- Commenced in earnest in early 1880s
- Total storage volume today exceeds 250,000 AF in Basin
- “Big 4” Reservoir Companies – Plains Reservoirs
  - Cache La Poudre Reservoir Company
    Timnath Reservoir (aka Cache La Poudre Reservoir)
  - Windsor Reservoir Company / Larimer and Weld Reservoir Co.
    Includes: “Big” Windsor, Cobb and Douglas Reservoirs
  - The Water Supply and Storage Company
    Includes: Rocky Ridge, WSSC Reservoirs 2 & 3
  - North Poudre Irrigating Company
    Includes: Halligan Reservoir and Fossil Creek Reservoir
BUILDING FOSSIL CREEK RESERVOIR
CIRCA 1902
PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF GREELEY MUSEUMS, H.E. JOHNSON COLLECTION
1880s – 1900s: Reservoir Construction

- Mountain Reservoirs
  - Main Stem
    - Chambers Lake (Water Supply and Storage Company)
    - Long Draw Reservoir (Water Supply and Storage Company)
    - Joe Wright Reservoir (City of Fort Collins)
  - North Fork
    - Worster Reservoir (Divide Canal Company)
    - Halligan Reservoir (North Poudre)
    - Seaman Reservoir (City of Greeley)
Construction of Initial Transbasin Diversion Structures

- Grand River Ditch
- Laramie Poudre Tunnel
- Michigan Ditch
- Several Smaller Structures
SKYLINE DITCH CIRCA 1897
PHOTO FROM DAVID BOYD
1930s – 1950s: Colorado-Big Thompson Project Development

- C-BT Project Constructed from 1938 - 1957
  Brings about 100,000 AF to Basin annually
- Horsetooth Reservoir and Hansen Supply Canal
- C-BT waters are “fungible” and widely traded / leased
- North Poudre – 40,000 Units
  Diverted by exchange at Munroe Canal and North Poudre Canal
Poudre Basin General Adjudication Decrees

Three Major General Adjudications:

- **Civil Action 320 (1882)**
  
  108 water rights for 65 structures
  
  Senior direct flow water rights

- **Civil Action 1591 (1904)**
  
  61 storage rights for 45 structures
  
  Initial Reservoir Adjudication

- **Civil Action 2031 (1921)**
  
  61 storage rights for 45 structures
  
  First true supplemental adjudication
Managing the Resource — Cache La Poudre Administration

- **Senior Direct Rights Generally Downstream**
  - Greeley #3 Ditch (Greeley Irrigation Company)
  - B.H. Eaton Ditch
  - Whitney Ditch
  - Greeley No. 2 (New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company)

- **Junior Direct Rights Generally Upstream**
  - North Poudre Canal
  - Larimer and Weld Canal

- **Exchanges Keep Juniors “In” When Call Comes On**
  - Fossil Creek Exchange
  - North Poudre C-BT Exchanges
Managing the Resource -- Era of Cooperation

- **Cache La Poudre Water Users Association (1933)**
  Created as organization to promote C-BT project
  Comprised of all major water users in the Basin

- **Well Integration**
  Civil Action 11217 – Coffin Decree (1953)
  Cache La Poudre Augmentation Plan (entered 1975)

- **Wild and Scenic Designation (1985)**
  Wild and Scenic Compromise brokered by Hank Brown
  Decree entered in 86CW367
Managing the Resource – Era of Cooperation

In-Channel Issues

- Fort Collins In-Channel Recreation Right
  First in-channel diversion
  *City of Thornton v. City of Fort Collins*, 830 P.2d 915

- Bellevue Fish Hatchery Right
  Case 85CW201
  50 c.f.s. claim for flows into Watson Lake (near Laporte)
  Exchange “bottleneck”

- CWCB Instream Flow Rights
  Several claims in Poudre headwaters and on North and South Forks.
Meeting Changing Needs

Significant Local Municipal and Industrial Water Users

- City of Fort Collins
- City of Greeley
- Town of Windsor
- Tri-Districts
  - East Larimer County Water District
  - North Weld County Water District
  - Fort Collins Loveland Water District
- Platte River Power Authority
- Breweries!
  - Budweiser
  - New Belgium
  - Odells
Meeting Changing Needs

**Significant Decreed Municipal Change Cases**

- Thornton WSSC change: 86CW401, 86CW402, 86CW403, 87CW332
  
  *Thornton v. Bijou, 926 P.2d 1.*
  
  Change of 283 shares in the Water Supply and Storage Company

- Fort Collins: 92CW231.
  
  Change of “South Side” Ditch Companies Shares
  
  Arthur Irrigation Company
  
  Larimer County Canal No. 2 Irrigating Company
  
  New Mercer Company
  
  Warren Lake Reservoir Company
Meeting Changing Needs -- Future Challenges

Pending Municipal Change Cases

- Fort Collins: 05CW323 ("2nd generation" South Side Ditch change case)
- East Larimer County Water District: 03CW422 (WSSC change)
- North Weld County Water District: 03CW421 (WSSC change)
- City of Greeley: 06CW258 (Change of Tunnel Water Rights)
- City of Greeley: 07CW190 (WSSC change)

Future Change Cases?

United Case 02CW404/04CW442 signaled more to come
Meeting Changing Needs -- New Proposed Projects

Northern Integrated Supply Project “NISP”

Proposal to supply water to 15 Front Range Entities
Basically a large exchange from SP near Kersey to Poudre Valley Canal
Two Reservoirs to complete Exchange: Galeton and Glade
  Galeton: 45,000 AF Capacity; in Weld County
  Glade: 170,000 AF Capacity; in Larimer County

Glade Reservoir

Alternate place of storage for Grey Mountain Reservoir (80CW335)
Alternate place of Storage decreed by NCWCD Decree in 03CW405
WORTHINGTON WHITTREDGE
ON THE CACHE LA POU DRE RIVER 1876

Amon Carter museum,
Fort Worth, Texas