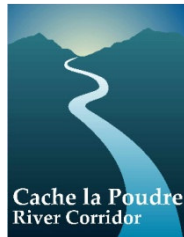


Cache La Poudre River Corridor



Draft Interpretive Plan

Prepared for the Poudre Heritage Alliance

*Summer 2001
Revised Fall 2002*

Rocky Mountain National Park

Preface
Cache La Poudre



Northern Colorado has an opportunity to set an example for the rest of the nation. The upper reaches of the Poudre stretching to the edge of Fort Collins have been designated the state's first and thus far only wild and scenic river. The designation preserves for future generations some of the most picturesque and scenic areas of the river. Along with preservation it maintains sites for water storage that are an integral part of preserving northern Colorado's environment.

The Poudre also enjoys the state's only National Heritage area. This Heritage area runs from the confines of Fort Collins, east to the confluence with the South Platte. Our heritage area provides for ways to acquire the flood plain from willing sellers through exchange of surplus federal ground. In addition the cities of Fort Collins, Windsor, and Greeley along with Larimer and Weld counties are moving to develop an extraordinary trail and recreation area along the Poudre.

Few areas of the world have had the vision and foresight to set aside and preserve adequate open space in a growing urban area. Those of us fortunate enough to live close to the Poudre have an opportunity to set an example for the world. The population of northern Colorado will grow, but with dedication and commitment we can preserve some of the most attractive aspects of the flood plain and open space that drew us to this part of the country in the first place. Preserving our water heritage is a happy blend with preserving the flood plain. Just as the pioneers of the 19th Century, we can enhance our environment and improve the quality of life.

Hank Brown, July 2001

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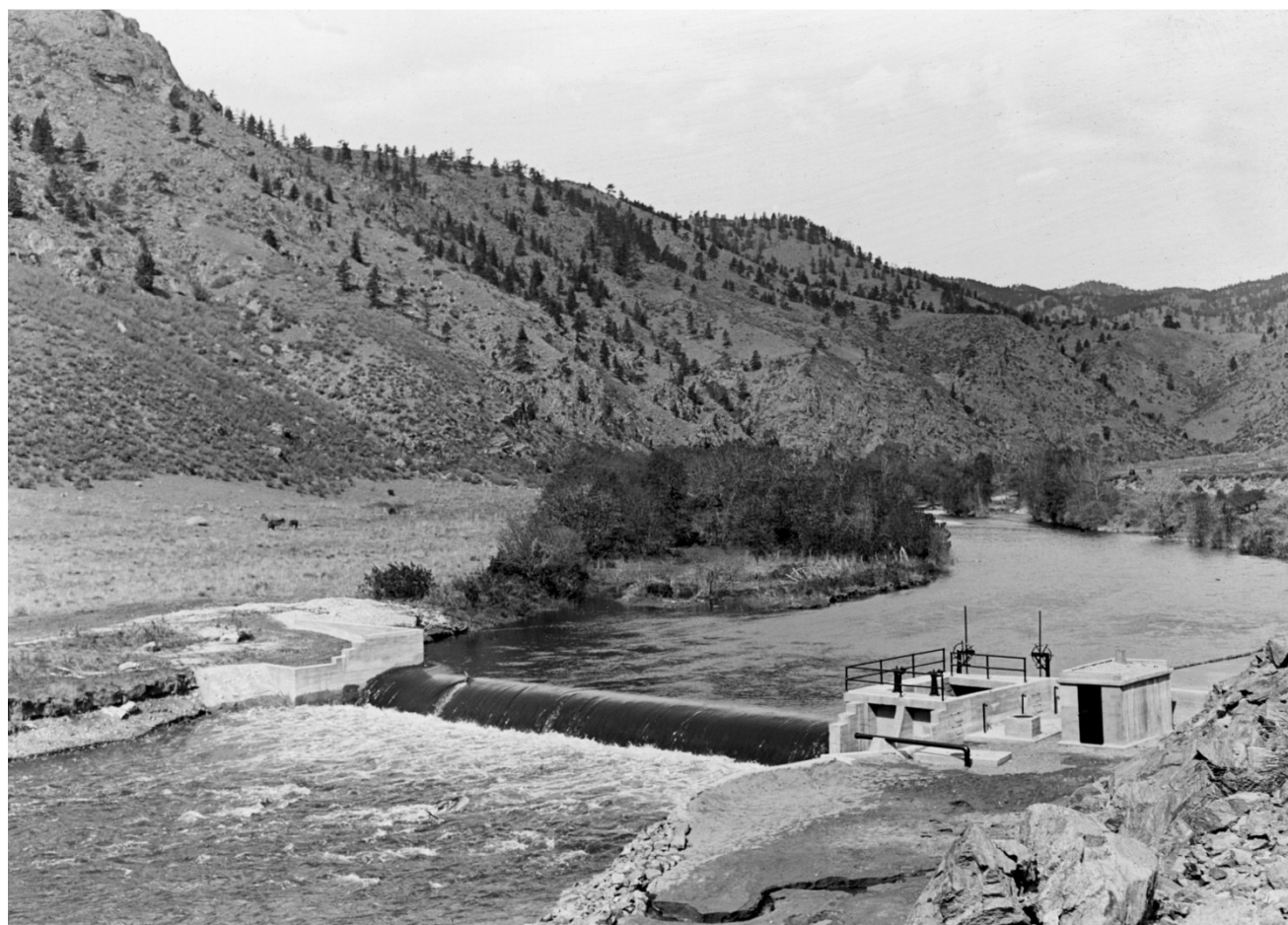
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Greeley Pipeline Diversion Dam, pre-1922.

Cache La Poudre River Corridor Introduction

In October 1996, Congress enacted Public Law 104-323 establishing the Cache La Poudre River Corridor (Map 1), and providing for the interpretation of the “unique and significant contributions to our national heritage of the cultural and historical lands, waterways and structures within the Corridor.” The law also calls for the establishment of a Commission of local citizens who will be responsible for the preparation, approval, implementation and support of an interpretive plan for the Corridor.

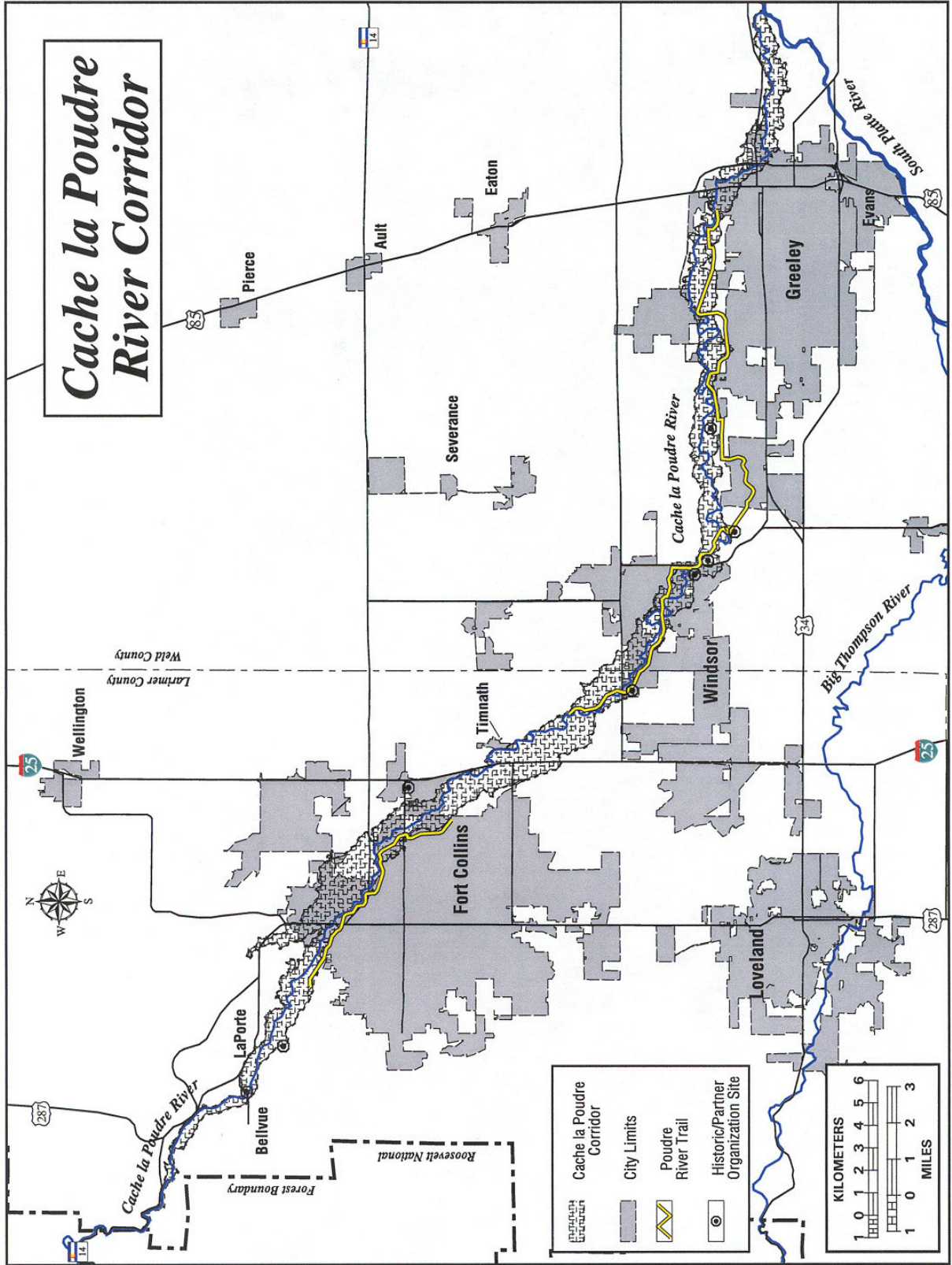
This draft document has been prepared to satisfy the requirements identified in the legislation designating the Cache La Poudre Corridor. This document will remain a draft until the Commissioners are officially appointed. The plan will then be submitted for examination to the partners and the public who will provide comments. Once the comments are incorporated the Commissioners will submit the plan to the governor, who may review it. If the Governor concurs in the plan, he may then submit it to the Secretary of Interior for final approval.

Furthermore, since there is no legal entity that can represent the Corridor until the Commission is officially appointed, it is not possible at this time to provide for more detailed programs and finalize agreements with the many partner organizations that should play a vital role in the future of this heritage area.

This document has a dual purpose: I) It documents the background of the Cache La Poudre River Corridor project, and II) it presents a draft Interpretive Plan for the Corridor. It includes a series of appendices as a separate volume for ease of reference.



Jones Ditch Dam and Headgate



Project Background
A. National Recreation Area (NRA) Study

In 1986 Congress designated the Upper Cache La Poudre River as a Wild and Scenic River encompassing 75 miles of river above the community of Poudre Park, northwest of the city of Fort Collins. At the same time Congress mandated a National Recreation Area (NRA) feasibility study on the lower stretches of the river. The city of Fort Collins and the USDA Forest Service were the lead agencies. The NRA study, undertaken between 1986 and 1989, covered an 18.5-mile segment of the river (from Taft Hill Road at the northwest corner of the city of Fort Collins Urban Growth Area to the Larimer-Weld County Line). It included a corridor approximately one-mile wide encompassing the 100-year floodplain. The report was intended to be a resource document for the city, county and federal decision-makers and potentially affected land and property right owners with the study area. It did not intend to make a recommendation on National Recreation Area designation. Endorsement, or recommendation against NRA designation was to be made by the city of Fort Collins and Larimer County after extensive public involvement. The authors of the report indicated, "the most fundamental purpose of the study is to explore the most desirable future or planning direction for the river and how this may be best achieved."¹

The study concluded that the Cache La Poudre River was feasible for NRA designation. However, an NRA designation would require a federal lead agency and this lead agency could only administer federal policy and regulation on federal lands, and this limited federal ownership presented a potential dilemma. Even assuming some modest level of federal land acquisition over the course of several years, there probably would not be substantial federal land ownership.

Out of the series of public meetings came a clear signal and set of concerns from potentially affected landowners. Considerable anxiety was expressed over the issue of private property rights, the use of condemnation, impacts of private property owners and mistrust in federal and local governments. At the request of the landowners, a meeting was held with then Congressman Hank Brown to discuss his vision for the area and to address their concerns. He encouraged their involvement in drafting of a set of "landowner policies" to be utilized in the formulation of any potential NRA, and most importantly to assure that basic rights and concerns be addressed and adhered to.²

B. National Heritage Corridor

Late in 1989 the city of Fort Collins named a task force to investigate the legislative and management issues related to the NRA. The task force advised against NRA designation and recommended instead designation as a National Heritage Corridor (NHC). The Fort Collins City Council continued to push for a strong local planning initiative to set the stage for NHC designation. Eventually the NPS was invited to carry out a feasibility study for the 18.5-mile stretch of river that had been the focus of the NRA study. This evaluation was completed in December 1990. The study concluded that the entire Cache La Poudre basin has national

¹ Shalkey Walker Associates, Inc. *National Recreation Area Study--Cache La Poudre River*. Unpublished report prepared for the city of Fort Collins and Larimer County, 1989, I-1.

² *Ibid*, II-5.

significance since it possesses exceptional value in illustrating or interpreting "the history of Water Law and Water Development in the Cache La Poudre River Basin and the Rocky Mountain West." However, this study also determined that resources related to this theme within the proposed NHC were fragmentary and lacked sufficient scope to qualify for national significance using criteria in the NPS management policies. Also the opportunities for recreation, public use and enjoyment, and scientific study were found to be similar to other rivers along the front range of Colorado and were not considered superlative.³

Heritage Areas

The National Park Service has proposed the following definition for a heritage area: *a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by the people whose traditions helped shape the landscapes enhances their significance.* The focus is on the protection and conservation of critical resources. In the case of the Cache La Poudre River, the critical elements are the cultural resources that have shaped the communities in north central Colorado.

Heritage conservation efforts result from a community's pride in its history and traditions and its interest in seeing them preserved. Preserving the integrity of the local stories and the cultural landscape means that future generations of the community will be able to understand and define who they are, where they come from, and what ties them to their home. Heritage areas can thus ensure key educational and inspirational opportunities in perpetuity, without compromising local control over use of the landscape. It is the responsibility of the people living within a heritage areas to protect, interpret and preserve the heritage area's resources. In his statement before Congress on October 26, 1999, Denis Galvin, Deputy Director of NPS, added "it is the National Park Service's responsibility to assist them in that endeavor."⁴

The designation of a National Heritage Area is recognition of a community's efforts to identify the natural and cultural resources, which define its sense of place and its stories. Designation recognizes nationally distinctive landscapes and the role of these distinctive landscapes in defining the collective American cultural landscape. Designation also provides important recognition of local community-based efforts to preserve this distinctive character.

Heritage Areas are based on partnerships. The partnership approach generates opportunities for creative input on the desired future of a community from a broad range of constituents and their diverse perspectives. Collaborative idea sharing and planning fosters a spirit of cooperation and can unite a community in pursuit of a common cause. The participants are able to refresh continually the sense of place they seek to preserve. Association with the National Park Service makes significant technical expertise available to assist the community with all stages of this

³ National Park Service. "Resource Assessment: Proposed Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Corridor." Unpublished report, 1990, iii.

⁴ Statement of Denis P. Galvin, Deputy Director, NPS, before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, concerning H.R. 2532.

process, from the identification of important resources to planning for preservation, interpretation and the education of future generations (Appendix I presents a list of current National Heritage Areas and contact information).

C. Designation of the Cache La Poudre River Corridor

In June 1990, Congressman Hank Brown introduced H.R. 5172, proposing the designation of the lower Poudre as a National Heritage Corridor; it did not pass. Further refinements of the legislation continued, and Senator Hank Brown presented S. 1174 in May of 1991 and S. 1270, the Cache La Poudre National Water Heritage Area, in July 1993. Neither of these bills was successful. Finally, in February of 1995 Senator Hank Brown introduced S. 342, the "Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act," which was eventually approved by Congress in October 1996 (see Map 1).

D. Main Features of the Existing Legislation

The Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act (Appendix II) "...provide[s] for the interpretation, for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations, of the unique and significant contributions to our national heritage of cultural and historical lands, waterways, and structures within the Corridor."

The Corridor includes "...the lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Cache La Poudre River Basin, beginning at a point where the Cache La Poudre River flows out of the Roosevelt National Forest and continuing east along the floodplain to a point ¼-mile west of the confluence of the Cache La Poudre River and the South Platte River in Weld County, Colorado..."

The law also stipulates that, "...upon the recommendation of the Governor, the Secretary [of the Interior] is authorized to recognize for the purpose of developing and implementing the plan... the Cache La Poudre Corridor Commission, as such Commission may be established by the State of Colorado or its political subdivisions." The Commission, reflecting a cross-section of interests (see Appendix III for a list of prospective Commissioners), "shall be composed of 15 members appointed not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act." The Commission will be responsible for the preparation, approval, implementation and support of an interpretive plan for the Corridor. In developing the plan, the Commission should consult on a regular basis with appropriate officials of any Federal or State agency, or local government that has jurisdiction over, or an ownership interest in land, water, or water rights within the corridor. The Commission should also conduct public hearings for the purpose of providing interested persons the opportunity to testify about matters to be addressed by the Plan. The Interpretive Plan shall also recognize any existing Federal, State and local plan. It shall not interfere with the implementation, administration or amendment of such plans, and to the extent possible, shall seek to coordinate the existing plans and present a unified interpretation plan for the Corridor (Appendix IV includes a listing and brief summary of pertinent plans).

Finally, the law establishes that the Commission may only acquire real property in the Corridor "a) by gift or device; b) by purchase from a willing seller with money that was given or bequeathed to the Commission; or c) by exchange." But any real property acquired by the

Commission shall be conveyed by the Commission to an appropriate non-federal public agency, as determined by the Commission. The conveyance shall be made a) as soon as practicable after acquisition; b) without consideration; and c) on the condition that the real property so conveyed is used in furtherance of the purpose for which the Corridor was established.

E. Need for Technical Corrections

Soon after passage of the bill, mistakes were identified and questions arose about the wording of some sections. Proposals to amend the legislation were presented and discussed in Congress during the spring of 1998, but disagreements between the Colorado Congressional delegation and solicitors from the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior over the corrections were not resolved. On February 3, 1999, Senator Wayne Allard introduced S. 340, which proposed technical corrections to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor (see Appendix V), but no action was ever taken on this bill.

In September 1999, notwithstanding the continuing lack of clarity in the appointment clause of the legislation, Colorado Governor Bill Owens transmitted the names of the prospective Commissioners to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, the Secretary of the Interior, for approval (see Appendix III). Then NPS Director Robert Stanton replied to this transmittal explaining that Commission appointment could not be made until Congress addressed the technical corrections issues by legislative amendments

Late in 1999, the prospective Commissioners formed the Poudre Heritage Alliance (PHA) to carry out the intent of the legislation until the Commission is officially appointed. By the spring of 2000, the PHA decided to continue with the project and try to implement the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act as a local entity, even if a resolution on the federal legislation could not be reached.

In the spring of 2001 revised technical corrections bills were introduced in both houses of Congress, S. 903 and H.R. 1880 (see Appendix V), but as of August 2001 the issue of technical corrections had not been resolved.

F. Accomplishments to Date

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Appendix VI) was signed in February 1999 between the National Park Service and Larimer and Weld Counties to initiate preparatory work on the Cache La Poudre Interpretive Plan. A second MOU (Appendix VII), signed in September 1999, added the cities of Fort Collins, Greeley and Loveland to Weld and Larimer Counties, to proceed with the work of the Cache La Poudre river Corridor Act until the Commission is officially appointed.

The PHA has developed an organizational structure and explored options to attain non-profit status as well as state heritage area designation. While no further action has been taken on these options, the PHA has developed a vision statement and a list of goals and objectives for the Corridor.

Vision Statement for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor

The Cache La Poudre River Corridor Commission, in partnership and cooperation with local entities and the public at large, will provide current and future generations the opportunity to understand and celebrate the river as a dynamic system, with water as the central theme, emphasizing the evolution of competing uses, values, and demands.

Goals and Objectives for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor

General

- Prepare and implement a comprehensive interpretation plan for the Corridor
- Establish an effective and continuing means to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the interpretive plan and other Commission's action
- Identify, evaluate, and develop protection strategies for the significant natural and cultural resources within the Corridor boundary
- Provide a forum for the continuing discussion and appreciation of water-related resources and issues

Specific Strategies

- Present an overview of the importance of the river and its development and use from pre-settlement through modern times in a thoughtful and exciting manner
- Provoke thoughtful reflection about the river's role and future
- Provide opportunities for individuals to forge their own intellectual and emotional connections to the ideas and meanings inherent in Corridor resources
- Present a unified interpretation program for the Corridor
- Develop a coordinated, focused, and compelling educational program

In the spring of 2000 the PHA joined the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA), a private organization made up of existing national heritage areas. In October 2000, the PHA hosted a national meeting of the ANHA. The members of the ANHA met with the PHA to identify and recommend meaningful tasks for organizing a heritage area. Their recommendations included the following (Appendix VIII includes a more detailed description of the results of the workshop):

- Clarify your vision
- Establish your identity;
- Refine your organization structure
- Rewrite the legislation
- Use public relations to help build identity
- Identify "quick win" projects that demonstrate the possible.

Chuck Wanner and Rick Brady, respectively the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the PHA, have attended meetings of the ANHA in Washington D.C., Rhode Island, and Charleston, South Carolina. They also traveled to Washington D.C. to confer with the Colorado Congressional delegation regarding modifications to the bill. The PHA prepared language to address some of the issues raised by Department of Interior and Department of Justice solicitors. Following the suggestions of the ANHA they also prepared a draft set of articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Poudre Heritage Alliance with the purpose of preparing the PHA to become a non-profit organization.

In the spring of 2001 the PHA conducted open houses at Fort Collins, Greeley and Windsor to inform the public about the project and to help establish its identity. The PHA has also developed a logo and begun a tentative effort to develop signs to mark the Corridor. In April 2002 the PHA organized an interpretive themes workshop. Judge Greg Hobbs and State Engineer Dick Stenzel addressed the group. Later on the attendees developed the interpretive themes that are incorporated later in this document.

The NPS technical staff assigned to this project has supported local efforts by organizing an interpretation workshop, preparing a report on national heritage areas summarizing and comparing those elements of their management and interpretive programs that might be of assistance to the PHA and organizing a field trip to familiarize the prospective commissioners with the Corridor resources. They have also developed a photographic inventory of the resources (three sets of slides and one set of photographs), a brief informative brochure providing essential background on the project, four traveling displays that include both text and photographic materials. Two computer-generated Power Point presentations have also been prepared.

Through the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit program the NPS has funded five studies. The first was an inventory of water-related resources along the corridor (Appendix IX). The material from this report forms the basis for the interpretive program presented in section II of this document. The second study is an analysis of the evolution of the landscape of the Cache La Poudre River. It furnishes the Commission additional materials for the future interpretive program. The third project, which started late in 2001, provides funding for the formulation of management alternatives for the Corridor (Appendix X includes a brief summary of the project). Two additional studies have started in the summer of 2002. The first one is a set of interviews with long-time residents of Weld and Larimer County. The second one is a study of the evolution of the water-delivery system along the Cache La Poudre River.

G. Potential Partners

- Cities of Fort Collins, Greeley, Windsor, Loveland
- Other communities, such as Timnath, LaPorte, Bellvue
- Larimer and Weld Counties
- Colorado Division of State Parks
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Historical Society/State Historic Preservation Office
- Office of the State Engineer—Division of Water Resources
- Colorado Heritage Areas Partnership (CHAP)
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Cache La Poudre Water Users Association
- Fort Collins and Greeley Convention and Visitors Bureaus
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service
- Larimer County Sheriff Department
- Weld County Sheriff Department

- National Association for Interpretation
- Various public school districts and private schools
- Institutions of Higher Education (Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, Aim Community College, Front Range Community College)
- Environmental Learning Center / Welcome Center
- Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce
- Greeley Chamber of Commerce
- Fort Collins Community Foundation
- Greeley Community Foundation
- Service Clubs (Rotary, Elks, others)
- Friends of the Poudre
- Poudre River Trail
- Poudre River Trust
- Water Supply Storage (and/or other irrigation companies)
- Sierra Club
- National Audubon Society
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Poudre Landmarks Foundation
- Local Businesses and Industries



Greeley # 3 Municipal Distribution Box

Interpretive Plan

A. Purpose of the Interpretive Plan

- To outline a regional, comprehensive, integrated approach to interpreting the Corridor
- Develop a clear strategy for delivering interpretive products and services to a growing number of visitors as well as to targeted communities
- Create a connection between the visitor and the resource in such ways as to enhance visitor understanding, appreciation, and safe use of those resources.

B. Goals for the Present Plan

- Coordinate and improve interpretation among the Cache La Poudre River Corridor partners
- Promote cooperative efforts among the various jurisdictions
- Minimize interpretive fragmentation
- Recommend programs and materials that are engaging, effective and financially sustainable
- Appeal both to visitors from outside the area and local residents
- Develop a marketing strategy. This is a very important goal, but it is an area where the NPS has limited expertise. For this reason, this document only includes a brief summary of ideas on the topic (Appendix XI).

C. Goals for the Future

(As envisioned by the Poudre Heritage Alliance)

- Presenting an overview of the importance of the river and its development and use from pre-settlement through modern times in a thoughtful and exciting manner
- Provoking thoughtful reflection about the river's role and future
- Providing opportunities for individuals to forge their own intellectual and emotional connections to the ideas and meanings inherent in Corridor resources
- Presenting a unified interpretation program for the Corridor
- Developing a coordinated, focused, and compelling educational program

D. Issues Affecting Interpretation

- Failure to appoint the Federal Commission. This is the most critical issue that has delayed and hampered this project. It is in many respects that factor that links the following six issues. It has hampered the preparation of this document since the legislation provides that the interpretive plan be prepared by the Commission working in conjunction with the partners and the public. Agreements with the various partners cannot be concluded and most of the programs and services identified in this document cannot be implemented until the Commissioners are formally appointed. The effort and energy spent on the technical corrections for the legislation has impeded progress on other areas.
- Need for long-term management strategy / lack of clearly articulated vision. The failure to designate the Commissioners for the Cache La Poudre makes it difficult for the local interested citizens to plan for the future.

- Extent of support from partners. It has not yet been possible to establish formal relationships with the various partners because of the unofficial nature of the PHA.
- Need for long-term cooperative commitment by the partner organizations.
- Extent of public interest and support for this project. Public meetings were poorly attended, but this might be due to the lack of an effective strategy to draw interested groups.
- Need for aggressive fund raising strategy. All the programs identified under Section F (phase III) of this document would require additional funding.
- Need for aggressive marketing strategy. Competition with nearby attractions will require innovative approaches to catch the attention of visitors to the state. While the importance of the story of the Cache La Poudre can be easily recognized the nature of the resources requires substantial understanding before they are duly appreciated. Casual visitors are not likely to appreciate the quality of the working Cache La Poudre, particularly when compared with other areas in the state and even the upper stretches of the Poudre itself.
- May need to develop agreements with individual landowners to allow access (possibly on a yearly basis) to some privately owned resources.
- Need for highway pullouts/safe access to resources. Driving the Corridor looking for historic resources could be dangerous.
- Safety (because of proximity to dangerous water bodies). The resources that the plan will interpret are in almost all cases closely linked to potentially dangerous running water. While most of the stretches of the Cache La Poudre included in the study are quite shallow, there is always an element of risk in encouraging visitors to explore the river. In addition the irrigation structures also pose major risks to those who are not aware of the danger of swift waters. Because of the length of the Corridor and since it is not likely that the Cache La Poudre Corridor will ever have rangers fully devoted to protection and interpretation, it is important to clearly post the risks of visiting certain resources and making sure the public is not encouraged to visit dangerous sites.
- Need for the interpretive program to include resources and water development processes that are located outside the Corridor boundaries, such as the reservoirs up the Canyon.

E. Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes are the key ideas through which the area's significant resource values are conveyed to the public. They connect resources to the larger ideas, meanings, and values of which they are a part. They are the building blocks—the core content—on which the interpretive program is based. Each primary theme may connect to a number of

specific stories or subthemes. These elements can be helpful in designing individual services ensuring that the main aspects of primary themes are addressed.

At this time the interpretive focus is limited. It is geographically limited to the lands included in the Corridor boundaries, and topically limited to the nationally significant theme identified in the NPS *Resource Assessment: Proposed Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Corridor*--"The history of water law and water development in the Cache La Poudre Basin and the Rocky Mountain West."⁵

Once the Commission is appointed the scope of the interpretive program might be expanded to include other important aspects of the natural and cultural resources of the Corridor. If that were the case, the nature and scope of the interpretive themes identified below would have to be modified.

The following are interpretive themes for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor.

- The settlers along the Cache La Poudre River Valley abandoned previous legal practices and institutions to develop new, more practical laws and institutions, which resulted from their adaptation to a new environment.
- The Colorado System of Water Allocation is centered on the concept of priority of water use--first in time, first in right. Under this system water allocation depends on the application of water to a beneficial purpose or use within a reasonable time.
- Western water allocation methods and water laws are largely based on doctrines, solutions, and methods developed in the Cache La Poudre River basin.
- The Colorado doctrine of water allocation is nationally significant because of its impact on the development of water law and water-related institutions throughout the semi-arid, mountainous, American west.
- The legislation, constitutional provisions, and court decisions associated with Colorado's system of water management can in large measure be traced to historical events and resources within the Cache La Poudre River basin.
- Water use and development in the Cache La Poudre corridor has evolved to meet economic and social changes.
- The world's most commonly used device for measuring flow in irrigation channels, the Parshall flume, was designed at the Bellvue Irrigation Hydrology Laboratory on the Cache La Poudre River Corridor.

⁵ National Park Service. "Resource Assessment: Proposed Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Corridor." Unpublished report, 1990, iii, 15-18, 25, Appendix B 1-14..

F. Interpretive Database

To assist in the preparation of the interpretive plan identified in the legislation, an inventory of irrigation-related structures along the Corridor was compiled (Appendix IX). The completion of this document was the first step in the development of a comprehensive resource database that will become an important tool for future researchers, managers and interpreters of the Corridor. It will also increase public awareness of the river resources and of the heritage of north-central Colorado.

Problems were encountered while conducting research. One was the difficulty of obtaining information. Some of the records from the irrigation companies are not available. They might not exist or might not have survived. Another problem was gaining access to some of the pertinent existing documents, which are privately owned and unavailable for research purposes. Finally, the names of the resources are often confusing because several irrigation structures have quite similar names. In addition, ownership of many of the ditches and irrigation entities has evolved over time, and their names have changed reflecting this evolution. The inventory records all of the known names, but the structures are organized alphabetically by their most prevalent name.

The inventory of irrigation-related structures includes an introductory essay about the history of irrigation in the Corridor and summarizes water storage and distribution techniques and the evolution of Colorado water law as it responded to the needs of the residents along the lower Cache La Poudre River. This essay is incorporated in the following section of this document to provide some background for the interpretive themes.

The resource inventory provides descriptions of over 40 irrigation-related structures including their location, approximate length, original construction date, water use priority, description of existing structures, additional pertinent information, photographs (when available), and sources of information. A map locating specific resources, a bibliography, and a glossary of water-related terms are also part of the document, which concludes with a series of recommendations for further study.

The irrigation-related resources are those located within the Corridor, which facilitate the diversion and transportation of water. They include ditches, canals and associated structures such as chart houses, diversion dams, headgates, sand gates, overflow gates, Parshall flumes, weirs, chart boxes, and gauging stations.⁶ More than 90 percent of them date from the 19th century and more than half of those from the 1860s. The ditches range in length from less than two miles (Coy ditch) to close to 60 miles (Larimer County Canal). The NPS 1990 resource assessment, which was limited to only an 18-mile stretch of the Corridor, indicated that some of these structures might possess national significance, such as the Larimer and Weld Canal (determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on April 2, 1980), the Greeley # 2 (determined eligible for the National Register on June 20, 1989) and the Lake

⁶ The reservoirs, an integral part of the water-delivery system, have not been included at this time because they are physically located outside of the Corridor.

Canal.⁷ The Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory can be potentially eligible to be a National Historic Landmark.

A substantial number of the resources inventoried (more than 40 percent) are no longer in use. However, some of these resources are of great historic value for explaining the evolution of irrigation along the river. The Yeager ditch, dating from 1859-1860, was the first canal constructed along the Poudre. As such it held the number one priority in the water allocation system until 1921 when the city of Fort Collins purchased its water rights. The Bellvue Hydrologic Irrigation Laboratory, located near the Jackson Ditch diversion headworks, is a historic site that still retains a high degree of integrity and best documents the development of a technical solution to the need of an accurate and efficient method to monitor the flow of irrigation canals.⁸

Appendix XII includes a brief description of other related resources along the Cache La Poudre River Corridor. They help provide understanding and provide for historic water developments in the region. Although they are important local sites, they are only indirectly related to the interpretive themes identified for this project.

Historic Overview

The system of water allocation that evolved in Colorado was partially born from conflicts experienced along its rivers, and particularly the Cache La Poudre River. However, lessons learned in other regions strongly shaped the evolution of the system.

When the early American colonists settled the eastern seaboard they gave little thought to a legal framework to govern water use. Their new climate and topography, with plentiful precipitation, resembled closely their native England. English water laws and customs, based upon the riparian doctrine were easily put to use.⁹

One strong influence came from the industrialized northeast where industrialization gave birth to the concept of Prior Appropriation. It was there that the need for water to power the mills during the early industrial revolution forced New Englanders to develop a system of water management based on "an exclusive right to dam streams and regulate their flow."¹⁰ Another important influence came from the California gold fields, where miners' fierce competition over water led to a system that prioritized water use by seniority.¹¹

⁷ National Park Service. "Resource Assessment: Proposed Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Corridor." Unpublished report, 1990, Appendix C, 1-4.

⁸ A determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places remains to be conducted on this site.

⁹ Johnson, Norman K., "The Doctrine of Prior Appropriation and the Changing West," (unpublished report, Staff of the Western States Water Council, 1987), 1-2.

¹⁰ Donald J. Pisani. *Water, Land and Law in the West* (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1996), 1.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 7-37.

Permanent settlement along the Cache La Poudre River began in 1840s when Antoine Janis claimed squatter's rights near the river. In 1858, Colona, the first Anglo-American community on the Cache La Poudre River, was established at the site of the present-day town of La Porte.¹²

The early settlers generally avoided agriculture, primarily relying on trapping and hunting to survive. However, in 1859 the discovery of gold along Cherry Creek in Denver sparked a dramatic change throughout the Colorado Territory. The population grew suddenly and dramatically as thousands of miners and pioneers descended on the area. Mining camps appeared overnight along the South Platte River and extended into the foothills. The miners had little inclination toward either agriculture or permanent settlement. Other pioneers, however, saw Colorado's agricultural potential as the more promising and enduring path to riches, especially as hungry miners turned to local farmers for sustenance.

The early Colorado farmers understood the necessity of irrigation to assure successful agriculture.¹³ They had to adapt to a new landscape and climate. Creating an effective and fair water delivery system was essential. The process turned out to be long and difficult because many of them came from areas in the eastern United States where rainfall was abundant and had no appropriate legal framework to regulate conflicts over water use. East of the Mississippi farmers had relied on the Riparian doctrine to solve disputes over water. The Riparian doctrine limits the use of water in a waterway to those who own land adjacent to the body of water. The owner of the land is allowed "reasonable use" of the water, including irrigation, but the water's flow must remain undiminished to allow navigation and use as a power source.

Farmers began irrigating along the Cache La Poudre River basin as early as 1860, when small-scale canals and ditches appeared along the river. These ditches were single-farmer operations that watered one or two farms. Even at this early stage, Colorado settlers realized that the use of the river water needed to be controlled, and the territorial legislature passed its first law concerning water management in 1861. That law stated that when there was not enough water to satisfy a community's needs, "the nearest justice of the peace shall appoint three commissioners ... whose duties it shall be to apportion [water] in a just and equitable proportion ... to different localities as they, in their judgment, think best for the interests of all parties."¹⁴ This first law would later prove too vague to resolve any serious conflict over water, but because the territory's population was still sparse and only simple, short canals existed, there was still plenty of water for all of the irrigators. Only when the demand for water surpassed the available supply would agriculture and irrigation undergo an important transformation.

¹² Ansel Watrous, *History of Larimer County* (Fort Collins, CO: The Old Army Press, 1972), 44.

¹³ Edward Bliss, *The Territory of Colorado: Its Soil, Its Climate, Its Mineral Products and Resources* (1861).

¹⁴ Robert Dunbar, "The Origins of the Colorado System of Water-Right Control," *The Colorado Magazine* 27 (October 1950), 241.

The arrival of the Union Colony in 1870 changed the nature and scale of irrigation in northeast Colorado. The Colony, located close to the junction of the Cache La Poudre with the South Platte, envisioned ditches large enough to serve all their community's members, and almost immediately after their arrival, they began construction on the first of four proposed ditches. Their first canal, Greeley No. 3, provided domestic water for their municipality and its gardens. The second canal, Greeley No. 2, was for the irrigation of crops. It was the first long canal constructed in Colorado. By 1876 it was 36 miles long and 22 feet wide. The other two canals were never built. Greeley No. 2 and No. 3 set powerful precedents by their size, the numbers of farmers they served, and by proving the importance of a cooperative effort to develop a water supply system. The Union Colony's success demonstrated that large canals were the most effective method of irrigating along the Cache La Poudre River because one ditch could satisfy the needs of numerous farmers, and a large ditch could supply adequate amounts of water to farmsteads located miles from the river.

Other farmers and entrepreneurs soon copied the cooperative methods of the Union Colony and created their own extensive ditch networks. A new agricultural colony appeared in Fort Collins in 1872, and shortly thereafter began the construction of two new large ditches, the Lake Canal and Larimer County Canal #2. These new structures had the capacity to divert a significant portion of the river's flow and, due to their position upstream from the Union Colony ditches, they had the first opportunity to use the water. It only took one dry spell to spark a controversy. The summer of 1874 was exceptionally dry and hot, and the river's flow was low. The Fort Collins water users diverted the water they needed, but this left only a small flow in the river and it was inadequate to serve the Union Colony. The lack of water infuriated the Greeley irrigators and resulted in a confrontation between the two communities. Representatives from the two groups met at the Eaton schoolhouse, halfway between the communities, to resolve the problem. The Union Colony's spokesman, Nathan Meeker, proposed "to make the river an irrigation canal, subject to such superintendence as is established in our Number Two." Meeker also insisted that Greeley's prior rights to the water must be recognized. The Fort Collins delegation agreed that a river commissioner must be appointed, but they were unwilling to acknowledge Greeley's prior claims to the river. The Fort Collins irrigators did consent to lower their headgates, which would allow more water to reach Greeley, but before the problem could be resolved the drought ended, controversy subsided, and both sides fell silent. However, the issues raised at the Eaton School meeting were still unresolved and all parties realized that a more effective system was needed in order to avoid future conflicts.

Demands on the state's limited water resources kept growing, and the frequency of conflicts over water increased throughout the state, sometimes resulting in violence. The need for a uniform system of water regulation became clear. It also became evident that the territorial law of 1861 was inadequate to address the problems faced by irrigators. The power of the State of Colorado to regulate water had to be strengthened.

In 1876, the framers of the Colorado Constitution recognized the importance of water issues and attempted to address them in the state's constitution. This effort proved inadequate and it would take another conflict along the Cache La Poudre River to force the State to take action. That conflict occurred in 1878, when Benjamin Eaton, with the backing of an English

investment company, began construction of the Larimer and Weld Canal, which had a massive capacity and was located upriver from all of the other major ditches. Without regulations, the Larimer and Weld canal could divert the entire river, leaving both Greeley and Fort Collins with no water and no legal recourse. State legislators S. B. A. Haynes and J. L. Brush called a meeting of area farmers to discuss the potentially devastating situation. The meeting was held in October 1878, at Barnum Hall in Greeley. At this meeting the "embryo of the Colorado System" was crafted. The Barnum Hall attendees believed that legislation must be passed which: (1) created a state agency to superintend the rivers, (2) divided the state into water districts, (3) measured the flow of all streams and (4) clarified all earlier legislation. They called for a statewide convention to address those issues in an attempt to force the Colorado legislature into action.

The convention took place in Denver a couple of months after the Greeley meeting. The delegates' debate covered the same topics identified at the Barnum Hall meeting and finally appointed a five-member committee to draft a legislative proposal. Two members of that committee were from the Cache La Poudre region. After much deliberation and debate over the "nature of prior rights," the bill was submitted to the Colorado General Assembly in 1879. The bill was passed, but only after considerable rewriting. Several essential aspects of current Colorado water law were evident in the resulting legislation, including the creation of water districts and water courts. One of the most fundamental tenants of Prior Appropriation also emerged from this law; the idea that only enough water that could be *beneficially used* could be diverted from a stream. However, the legislation did not create a state commissioner or regulate the measurement of the rivers, which left many unsatisfied and would cause further problems in the future.

Another hot and dry season hit Colorado in 1879 and lasted through 1880, and the old unresolved issues resurfaced. Greeley farmers again accused Fort Collins irrigators of using too much water, but this time they turned to the new legislation to resolve the situation. It was then that the process of determining the dates of construction for all of the ditches began. Ditch owners had to appear before the Water Court to testify and provide adequate evidence of their water right(s). The dates of those proven claims would establish an order of priority. Even with the accepted testimony and evidence, the priorities proved impossible to enforce because it was popularly believed that they violated the principles of Anglo-American law, particularly the Riparian Doctrine. But the Greeley irrigators continued to push for irrigation regulation and elected James Freeman and J. L. Bush to the state legislature. Both men were dedicated to changing Colorado's existing water legislation. Freeman became chairman of the Senate Irrigation Committee and introduced legislation that finally seemed to satisfy the needs of Colorado irrigators. It included the necessary measurement of streams and the appointment of a state commissioner.

The efficient measurement of streams was an issue that would not be solved until the 20th century when Ralph Parshall, a graduate of the Colorado Agricultural College (which would later become Colorado State University) designed a flume that gave irrigators and water commissioners an important new tool that simplified their work. It has been described as "the most commonly used device for measuring flow in irrigation channels all over the world."¹⁵

¹⁵ Herman J. Finkell, ed., *CRC Handbook of Irrigation Technology*, vol. 1 (Boca Ratón: CRC Press, Inc.,

Between 1922 and 1926 Parshall conducted his experiments on a site located near the Jackson ditch's main diversionary headworks on the Cache La Poudre River Corridor.

The Colorado system of water allocation, and particularly the concept of Prior Appropriation, evolved to fit the needs of the arid west. Evolving throughout the 1870s and 1880s the concept of Prior Appropriation asserts the simple principle of "first in time, first in right," and further defines it with the caveat of *beneficial use*. This means that the first individual or corporation that diverts the natural flow of the river and puts the water to beneficial use has the right to its use. The diversion has to be a physical feature engineered to alter the flow of the river, and the beneficial use must be for social or economic reasons, with as little waste as possible. In Colorado, water is considered public property and the state has the duty to regulate the management of the resource. A system of priorities based on the dates (seniority) of the creation and use of irrigation structures regulates Colorado's rivers. All river users are assigned a priority number based upon those two factors, and those with early appropriations are essentially guaranteed use of the water. Those who hold senior water rights receive their share of water before anyone else and, as long as there is enough water, the right to use the river's water moves down the list to junior claimants. The actual use of the water also affects the seniority of a water right. The state gives preference to domestic use, then to agriculture, and finally to manufacturing. Water commissioners are appointed by the state to assure fair access to, and use of, the limited water resources.

The Colorado system of water allocation and the process of prior appropriation momentarily alleviated pressure on the rivers, but irrigation was becoming increasingly complex as more and larger ditches were built. There was a constant need to find new ways to manage water. The proliferation of canals and irrigated acreage attracted more population to the Cache La Poudre River and soon its water resources and the state's fledgling system of water management were again taxed to their limits. In addition, Colorado's consumer tastes and market economics were changing. Farmers were growing new crops to satisfy consumer demand. They began to raise onions, cabbage, fruit, potatoes, and alfalfa because demand for those crops promised good monetary returns if they could be grown successfully. Water was the key to the success of those crops, but orchards need water all summer; potatoes need water until late summer; and alfalfa needs water in early spring. The Colorado climate, the river, and the irrigation ditches could not provide enough water at the right time of the year to allow all those products to flourish. Irrigators needed to expand their supply of water. They needed to capture and store water that fell during non-growing seasons and during times of flood. To do that, in the 1880s and 1890s a network of reservoirs and a system of water exchange were established. The reservoirs were linked to the canal and ditch system, as well as to the rivers and streams. They held "surplus" water from the rivers and stored it for later use. The stored water could be released into the river's flow for delivery to the proper ditch when needed. Water exchange allows a ditch in need of water, but located upriver from a reservoir, to take another ditch's water from the river at the point where it is needed, and replace that ditch's water with water from the reservoir at the appropriate point down river. The system of water exchange enabled the reservoir system to operate successfully.

1982), 151.

To assure access to sufficient water during drought years a series of structures were built in the upper stretches of the river in the 1890s. Skyline Ditch, Columbine Ditch, Wilson Supply Ditch, and the Laramie Poudre Tunnel are well-known landmarks that document the shift of water from the Pacific to the Atlantic watershed as they divert water from the Laramie River into the Poudre. Two other major transmountain diversion structures dates from this period: Michigan Ditch which drew water from the Michigan River and Grand Ditch that had the Colorado River as its source.

Even with wide acceptance in the west, the Colorado System still had flaws. Prior Appropriation served those with senior water rights, but the population along the Cache La Poudre consistently exceeded the capacity that the river could support. More water was appropriated than could possibly flow during the peak agricultural months. Also, new crops such as alfalfa and potatoes required water at different times of the year. Reservoirs constructed throughout the Cache La Poudre basin in the 1890s alleviated this problem by capturing runoff from heavy winter snows, storing it, and allowing it to be used when most needed. Although always junior to direct irrigation rights, the Prior Appropriation Doctrine was applied to the reservoirs, with each having a specific priority. The system of water exchange increased the reservoir system's efficiency by permitting the maximum benefit from stored water, extending water resources even farther.

Today, the river is still key to life in Larimer and Weld Counties. A larger, more diverse population is forcing the reexamination of the values inherent in the river and has begun to impact local and regional growth and development policies. Agriculture is no longer the major industry along the river, and recreation is slowly becoming the dominant use on the river.

G. Audiences

Interpretive audiences are those distinct groups of individuals for whom interpretive services are specifically designed. By definition, services designed specifically for one primary audience will be less effective for other audiences. The following is a list of primary audiences that this interpretive plan is designed to take into account. The programs identified in Section I should be prepared with these audiences in mind.

Development of educational programs will be done in conjunction with the schools' curriculum coordinators who will identify the various age groups and subject matter areas for which the educational materials would be best suited.

- Local Public and Private Schools
 - School children (K-6)
 - Jr. and Sr. High
- Colleges (Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College, Front Range Community College)
- Elderhostel, other groups
- General Local Audiences
- Regional Audiences (possibility to explore: River Demonstration Area--physical display SW of Denver Museum of Nature and Science)

- National Audiences
- International Audiences

H. Visitor Experience Considerations

The desired outcome of an interpretive program is the management of visitor-resource interactions so that resources remain “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” while ensuring that opportunities exist for the widest variety of visitors to forge meaningful connections with those resources. The following list of visitor experience considerations should serve to guide the development of services and programs offered by the Cache La Poudre River Corridor desired future interpretive program.

The interpretive program should provide opportunities for all visitors to:

- Understand the interpretive themes developed for the Corridor
- Understand the development of the water delivery system associated with the Cache La Poudre River Corridor
- Understand the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation and the role it has played in allowing for the development of the Front Range
- Understand the evolution of the water delivery system associated with the Cache La Poudre River System
- Understand the need for the development of a system to accurately measure irrigation water
- Understand the significance of the development of Parshall's System of water measurement
- Feel welcome
- Be able to find and understand the resources
- Leave the area wanting to learn more
- Enjoy resources safely
- Safely participate in recreational activities, such as fishing, boating, hiking and bicycling
- Make self-discoveries
- Reflect on their own role / responsibility in the wise use of water
- Pass down values / experiences to their children and generations beyond
- Behave in such manner so as to minimize impacts on resources
- Enjoy a variety of educational opportunities

I. Programs

In developing high quality, successful programs it is important to bear in mind the following tenets for interpretive planning:

- *Universal accessibility:* The interpretive program includes interpretive services that are designed to be as universally accessible as possible to best meet the varied physical and cognitive needs of interpretive audiences.

- *Hierarchy of sophistication:* The interpretive program treats subject matter in a range of ways — from simple-and-basic to complex-and-advanced — to best meet the varied interests of interpretive audiences.
- *Range of interpretive services:* The interpretive program includes a range of personal and non-personal interpretive services to best meet the varied learning styles of interpretive audiences.
- *Multiple points of view:* The interpretive program treats subject matter from a variety of perspectives to aid in accuracy and relevance to varied interpretive audiences.¹⁶

This document proposes that the programs for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Interpretive Plan be phased in three stages according to the following strategy:

Phase 1. These are programs that can be implemented with limited funding and do not require formal agreements with partners. These would include the traveling displays that have already been produced, brochures, presentations to service organizations, etc. These are projects that can be successfully undertaken in a relatively brief period of time.

Phase 2. These are programs that could be implemented through formal agreements with partner organizations. This phase would include programs such installing corridor signs, tours of privately owned resources, such as the Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory, and others. These projects would not require substantial funding, but would require a moderate amount of planning and preparation.

Phase 3. These would be more ambitious programs that would require substantial planning, funding and backing from private or public entities, such as a film of the Corridor or the production and installation of interpretive waysides.

As more resources become available, some materials / programs generated under phase I could be refined and improved. For example, the black-and-white brochure produced in the spring of 2001, could be enlarged to include interpretive themes, information on resources, Corridor activities, and possibly others and could be reproduced in color.

As the basic interpretive program is implemented, it might be possible to expand the content of the interpretive themes to include resources and water delivery developments that are physically outside the Corridor, but are essential to understand its history. For example, some of the major water diversion structures, such as Michigan Ditch, are outside the Corridor.

¹⁶ Richard Kohen and Kim Sikoryak, "CIP Guide: Effective Planning of Parkwide Interpretive Programs," Intermountain Support Office, National Park Service June 2001, 7.

The following is a proposal for phasing programs and materials:

Phase I

- Brief written materials (brochures)
- Completed publications (i.e. Inventory of Water-Related Structures)
- Special tours for community leaders
- Power Point presentations
- Slide shows
- Web Site
- Presentations by Poudre Heritage Alliance members (Commissioners Speakers Bureau)
- Annual meeting, such as a River Forum with a different focus each year

Phase II

- Specific site bulletins
- Identification and promotion of auto tours routes (of different lengths and with varied geographic emphasis)
- Bike tours (same as above)
- Signage of the corridor (not just at the east and west ends, but possibly mark the boundary of the 100-year flood plain)
- Signage of individual resources along the corridor (signs with the names of the ditches and canals)
- Guided tours

Phase III

- Interpretive displays in existing facilities (i.e. Fort Collins Museum, Greeley Museum, Colorado Welcome Center, etc.)
- Interpretive displays in “new” sites (i.e. Poudre Learning Center, Fort Collins Waterworks, Gateway, etc.)
- Interpretive waysides along the Corridor
- Videos
- Film
- Audio waysides
- Educational Programs
 - Public and private schools (Ft. Collins, Greeley, Windsor)—Curriculum Development
 - Teacher activity guides
 - Teacher workshops
 - Specific school activities
 - Universities (various levels of commitment)
 - Elderhostel
 - Fort Collins and Greeley Water Festivals
 - Traveling trunks
- Cooperative Program with Institutions of Higher Learning (University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, Aims Community College)

J. Locations Where Interpretation Can Take Place

Some of these are potential future sites. Although in some case they are outside the Corridor itself, they provide excellent opportunities to forge partnerships and implement the interpretation strategy envisioned in this plan.

- Western End of the Corridor
- Gateway (outside Corridor)
- Fish Hatchery by Parshall Site
- Ted's Place
- Lyons Park
- Fort Collins Waterworks
- Sites along the Poudre Trail in Fort Collins
- Lee Martinez Park
- Legacy Park
- Fort Collins Museum
- Pickle Factory site in Fort Collins
- Riverbend Ponds (North of Prospect)
- Box Elder Ditch at Prospect Ponds (S. of Prospect)
- Colorado Welcome Center / Environmental Learning Center
- Timnath
- Kaplan Hoover Site
- Windsor Museum
- Sites along the Poudre Trail in Windsor
- Whitney Ditch (by Kodak—Poudre Trail)
- Kodak Watchable Wildlife
- Missile Park
- Greeley # 2
- Sites along the Poudre Trail in Greeley
- Poudre Learning Center
- Greeley # 3 (unsafe, but we might be able to pull at Girls/Boy Scouts site)
- Diversion Boxes in Greeley (?)
- Great Western Sugar Plant in Greeley
- Ogilvy Ditch
- Centennial Village
- Eastern End of the Corridor
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Pawnee Prairie National Grassland
- Colorado Visitor Centers (by Pueblo, Limon, and Grand Junction)

K. Evaluation of Programs and Services

Periodic evaluation of programs and services would ensure that they meet the quality interpretive standards identified in Section I of this Interpretive Plan.

The Cache La Poudre River Commission, in cooperation with the partner organizations, would develop the specific features of the evaluation process.

L. Recommendations for Future Research

American Indians (pre-historic and historic)

Hispanos (historically and in the present)

French/trappers/early settlers

Colorado Water Law – Historic Background

 American Indians

 Hispanos

 Mormon

 Industrial Use in the East

 California Mines

 Development of Water Law within the State

Oral Histories

Landscape Study of Corridor (integrating natural and cultural factors)

Evolution of the Water Delivery System



Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory, ca. 1921.

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Appendix I

National Heritage Areas--Contact Information

Appendix II

Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act

Appendix III

Cache La Poudre River Corridor--Prospective Commissioners
(listed in alphabetical order and followed by the organization/group they represent)

Peter Allen(ex-officio)	National Park Service
Dick Bond	Weld County--at large
Richard Brady	City of Greeley
Kathy Gilliland	City of Loveland
Glenn Haas	Colorado State University
Tim Johnson	Larimer County
Frank Lancaster	Larimer County
Joe Maurier	Colorado State Parks
Richard Seaworth	Larimer County--agriculture
Dan Tyler	Larimer County--at large
Glenn Vaad	Weld County
James Vetting	Weld County--agriculture
Ellen Vollmer Hodges	USDA Forest Service
Chuck Wanner	City of Fort Collins
Brian Werner	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Appendix IV

Pertinent Regional and Local Plans

Several plans for the Corridor have already been adopted, and many are either completed or are well into their development and implementation phases. The Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act specifically directs that the Corridor Interpretive Plan recognize all existing plans, and to the extent possible present a unified interpretation plan for the Corridor. The local plans that have been examined in preparing this document do not systematically address the issue of interpretation.

Organizational or Cooperatively Prepared Plans:

Cache La Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan – 1998

This plan addresses the management of all four regions of the Scenic Byway route from Interstate 25 in Fort Collins to Walden, Colorado, via Colorado Highway 14. It sets goals, identifies resources, and outlines actions to be taken to conserve and interpret those resources.

Interpretive Addendum to the Cache La Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan – 1998

This document springs from the Byway management Plan and covers the same geographic area. It identifies the resources and stories and recommends the types and locations for appropriate interpretive facilities along the route.

Colorado State University Environmental Learning Center/Visitor Center Plan – 1998

This facility is the joint effort of the State of Colorado and Colorado State University. It serves as both a visitor welcome center and an environmental education complex. It offers tourist information, environmental education programs, and access to natural areas and cultural resources.

Cache La Poudre River Trail Master Plan – 1995 (Greeley, Windsor, and Weld County, Colorado)

This plan establishes the recreational trail alignment along the Cache La Poudre River from Greeley to the Weld/Larimer County Line. It locates facilities points of access, natural and cultural educational opportunities, and defines recreational uses for that segment of the overall Poudre River Trail.

Northern Colorado Regional Planning Study – 1995 (Larimer and Weld Counties, Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, and Windsor)

This cooperative planning effort covers Larimer and Weld Counties and the communities within them. It focuses on the waterway corridors connecting the counties and communities. The plan goals are to preserve and protect the natural areas and floodplains along the waterways, provide linkages between their core resources, protect open space from development, protect view sheds and vistas, and develop trails along those corridors.

Cache La Poudre River way Trail Study – 1984 (Larimer and Weld Counties)

This plan identifies the physical and cultural resources along the Cache La Poudre River in Weld and Larimer Counties. It identifies issues related to those resources and the establishment of a river trail. The goal of this study is the enhancement and protection of the Cache La Poudre River, which “is the economic, natural, cultural, and scenic lifeblood of the region.”

Poudre-Big Thompson Rivers Legacy Project – 1996

This partnership plan is a detailed background and vision statement developed initially to obtain a funding grant from Great Outdoors Colorado. It encompasses the watersheds of the Cache La Poudre and Big Thompson Rivers. It is an active, on-going partnership aimed at protecting the two river systems that are the essence of an entire region—ecologically, historically, and culturally.

Gateway Park Plan – 1998

Town of Windsor:

Comprehensive Plan Update – 1998

This document is a guide for Town officials to use in making decisions regarding development and growth. It covers the Growth Management Area of the Town of Windsor. It addresses the Town’s overall land use and planning management and development goals for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor within the GMA.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, A Planning Guide – 1998

The *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is an extension of the *Comprehensive Plan Update*, which describes the needs, and goals of the Town relative to parks, recreation, and open space within their GMA. The Cache La Poudre Corridor (and its floodplain) within the GMA is a major facet of the Town’s future recreation and open space goals. The plan policies and objectives are outlined in this document.

City of Fort Collins:

Parks and Recreation Policy Plan – 1996

The *Parks and Recreation Policy Plan* is an element of the Fort Collins *Comprehensive Plan* that sets goals, policies, and management direction for parks and recreation facilities in the city for at least the next ten years. The plan also identifies needs and makes parks, recreation, and open space development and/or acquisition recommendations. Policies state that using trails to connect parks and natural areas by developing public access along streams and irrigation ditch corridors is appropriate and a goal of the plan. Other policies direct that natural areas, and specifically the Cache La Poudre River, will be protected and managed for wildlife and recreation.

North College Avenue Corridor Plan – 1995

The *North College Avenue Corridor Plan* is an element of the Fort Collins *Comprehensive Plan* that deals with the 1,000-acre area along North College Avenue from the intersection of Colorado Highway 1 south to LaPorte Avenue. The primary focus of this plan is to remove constraints to development and redevelopment in the area, and to encourage development along the corridor that creates desirable relationships with its surrounding areas and uses. Within this area are the Eaton Ditch, Lake Canal, Dry Creek, and the Cache La Poudre River. Flood control and the

special natural features inherent to those waterways are values the plan seeks to protect and incorporate into any development plans.

Harmony Corridor Plan – 1995

The Harmony Corridor extends for five miles from I-25 to the Burlington-Northern railroad tracks west of College Avenue. Harmony Road is envisioned as the major entrance, or gateway, to the city in the future. This plan focuses on encouraging a land use pattern and urban design framework that protects community values but is flexible in response to development market demand. Mainstays in this concept are the corridor's unique physical and cultural features, which are anchored on the east by the floodplain and floodway of the Cache La Poudre River, which extend ½ mile into the corridor, west of I-25. The dominant physical feature of the floodplain is the western floodplain wall of the Cache La Poudre River. This area is largely undeveloped and retains many natural resource characteristics that the plan seeks to maintain. The river itself is about ½ mile north of the I-25 interchange and flows southeast to cross Harmony Road about ¼ mile east of the interchange. The Fossil Creek Reservoir Inlet crosses Harmony Road ½ mile west of I-25.

Natural Areas Policy Plan – 1992

This plan was adopted to set the future direction for management of natural areas in the City of Fort Collins. To do this it must compatibly meet the needs for both human habitat and conservation habitat. The plan identifies and evaluates natural areas within the Urban Growth Area, defines ecosystems, recognizes the contributions of natural areas to human quality of life, correlates natural resource goals with existing plans and policies, and recommends strategies to achieve the plan goals. The Cache La Poudre River is one of eight natural resource areas identified within the city and the only one of the eight to transect the entire Urban Growth Area of the city.

Strategy for Gravel Lands along the Cache La Poudre River – 1998

Poudre River Land Use Framework – 1995

Several initiatives are actively being considered and implemented in the Cache La Poudre River corridor within Fort Collins. This plan coordinates and integrates the various river-related plans and projects to clarify the City's Comprehensive Plan provisions for the river.

Cache La Poudre River Landscape Opportunities Study – 1992

This study identifies issues, opportunities, and constraints along the Cache La Poudre River relative to potential developments and land uses. The study area is 8 ½ square miles along the river between Mulberry and Harmony road in Fort Collins.

Downtown Plan – 1989

The *Downtown Plan* is an element of the Fort Collins *Comprehensive Plan* that deals only with the urban heart of the community, and is the guiding document for decisions affecting the Downtown area. The planning area for this study extends from Lemay Avenue west to Whitcomb, and East Vine south to Mulberry. The Cache La Poudre River Corridor is part of the Downtown area, and this plan recognizes both the unique contributions that the river resources make to the Downtown, and the need to mix river-related cultural and natural activities into the overall

downtown fabric. It recommends developments within the river corridor that are compatible with the scenic, natural, recreational, and historic values of the river.

Downtown River Corridor Implementation Program – 1999

This program is an outgrowth of earlier plans, most notably the Fort Collins *City Plan*. The program is an action/implementation whose purpose is to achieve the values outlined in *City Plan* within the Downtown River Corridor. The corridor extends from Mulberry to College Avenue along the Cache La Poudre River. The program (at this time) presents a range of proposed projects that address specific natural and cultural issues identified within the corridor.

U.S. Forest Service:

Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest/Pawnee National Grasslands Forest Plan – 1998

Wild and Scenic River Interpretive Plan – 1998

State of Colorado:

State Trails Strategic Master Plan – 1999

The State of Colorado long-range trail plan was developed cooperatively through extensive public involvement. The plan outlines seven categories of strategic goals and introduces new program and funding initiatives to achieve those goals. The goals include: 1) developing a statewide system of trails; 2) employing a comprehensive planning approach for trails; 3) building environmentally appropriate trails; 4) increasing the availability of trails information and education; 5) expanding trail stewardship programs and opportunities; 6) promoting trail ethics and cooperation among trails users, planners, and managers; and 7) providing stable, long-term funding sources for trails development and maintenance.

Division of Wildlife Long Range Plan – 1994

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – 1991

Comprehensive Long Range Park and Recreation Plan

Larimer County:

Comprehensive Parks Master Plan – 1993

This plan is the guide for development of all parks and recreation facilities in Larimer County. It specifies areas along the Cache La Poudre River that the county will develop for open space and trails. These include the areas from LaPorte to the mouth of Poudre Canyon and from Strauss cabin in Fort Collins to the Larimer/Weld County line. These trail development areas are part of the Cache La Poudre River Trail that is being cooperatively developed by county and local jurisdictions in Weld and Larimer Counties.

LaPorte Area Land Use Plan – 1992

The Community of LaPorte is unincorporated, therefore this plan was prepared and adopted for that community by Larimer County, at the request of the LaPorte Area Planning Advisory Committee, to meet the needs of strong urban residential development in that area. At issue for the plan was the protection of the quality of life in LaPorte, and support for the preservation of the

Cache La Poudre River was specifically noted as a significant issue. The plan objectives include maintaining the natural, wildlife, recreation, and mineral resources of the river corridor, and keeping the floodplain undeveloped. Policies to achieve these goals emphasize conformance with floodplain zoning regulations, assure that adjacent development is sensitive to the natural values of the Corridor. The policies include minimizing impacts to the natural and aesthetic values of the Corridor from mining operations, and returning disturbed areas to a condition suitable for open space and recreational use.

Weld County:

Weld County Open Space Plan – 1996

This draft plan was developed to identify cultural and natural resource values in Weld County, and to preserve those values in designated Open Space areas. The identified resources are predominantly found on or near the rivers and waterways of the county. The plan was never officially adopted, so its recommendations and policies are not being pursued or applied. However, it does serve as a valuable source of natural and cultural resource information, and is used as a guide (in that context) by County planners.

City of Greeley:

Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities – 1994

Draft Greeley Open Space System Plan and Implementation Program - 1998

This plan was developed to preserve agricultural landscapes, resolve urban/rural conflicts, limit sprawl, provide community open space, and accommodate the function of natural systems within the urban environment of Greeley. The Cache La Poudre River Corridor in Greeley holds many of the highest priority lands for open space planning. The plan describes preservation and implementation strategies for acquiring, suitably developing, and maintaining open space.

Island Grove Regional Park Development Plan – 1992

Island Grove Park is located in the floodplain on both sides of the Cache La Poudre River. The plan creates a future vision for the park and helps the city prioritize improvements there. River-related development will include a pedestrian bridge over the river, some low flood control dikes, and the Poudre River Trail.

Appendix V

Legislation Introduced to Address Issue of Technical I Corrections

Appendix VI

Memorandum of Understanding: NPS, Weld County, Larimer County

Appendix VII

**Memorandum of Understanding: Weld County, Larimer County, Cities of Fort Collins,
Greeley and Loveland**

Appendix VIII

Recommendations of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas--October 2000 Workshop

Appendix IX

Inventory of Water-Related Structures

Arthur Ditch (Fort Collins Irrigating Canal)

The Arthur Ditch flows through the center of Colorado State University. Its headgate structures are located on the south side of the Poudre, slightly east of Taft Hill Road. Water is diverted from the south side of the Cache La Poudre and flows about eight miles through the city. Some of the ditch's conduit within the city is concrete lined. The city of Fort Collins had these constructed at its own expense. The Arthur crosses the Spring Creek about half way between Shields and College Streets. Less than two miles after crossing Spring Creek, some of the Arthur's water flows into the A. D. Williams Lake, while the rest flows into the A. D. Nelson Reservoir.

The Arthur Ditch was constructed in 1869 near the "John Brown slough" on the Cache La Poudre River. The ditch served both domestic uses and direct irrigation. It seems likely that it was named for the early Fort Collins resident, James B. Arthur. Arthur was Colorado Board of Commissioners member, city council member, Fort Collins mayor, state senator and a successful businessperson.

The Fort Collins Irrigating Company had a relatively good priority number, the original construction date gave them priority 32, and with three enlargements they also held rights 38, 52, and 66. However, through legal action and business dealing with the North Poudre Irrigation Company and the Watrous, Whedbee and Secord Irrigation Company, the Arthur received an even better priority. The Arthur shared the very good Watrous, Whedbee and Secord water rights with the North Poudre Company.,

Location: Headworks: Section 34, Township 8 North, Range 69 West.

Original Construction Date: 1869

Priority: transferred rights from Watrous, Whedbee and Secord – 2 (6-1-1861), 19 (7-1-1866) 29 (6-1-1868) Fort Collins Irrigation Rights (Arthur ditch) begin with 32 (6-1869); 1st enlargement 38 (4-1-1871); 2nd enlargement 52 (7-20-1872); 3rd enlargement 66 (9-1-1873).

Existing structures: Wooden Chart house, 6ft concrete Parshall flume, Concrete diversion dam, Concrete and steel headgate. The construction of these structures occurred between 1983 and 1984, after the original structures were destroyed through flooding. The new structures stand on the exact location of the earlier, pre-80's constructions.

Boyd and Freeman Ditch

The headgate of the Boyd and Freeman Ditch lies west of the town of Greeley on an oxbow in the Cache La Poudre River. The headworks are less than two miles east of the Greeley No. 3 Ditch's headgate and less than one mile east of the Sheep Draw along the Cache La Poudre. The Boyd and Freeman Ditch takes water from the south side of the river. The ditch runs east for about two and ½ miles before reentering the river.

The Boyd and Freeman Ditch was constructed by Robert Boyd in 1862 for the domestic use and direct irrigation. Boyd was one of the first settlers in Weld County. He came to Colorado in search of gold, but stayed to farm the land. He arrived along the Cache La Poudre River in 1860 and settled near the present site of Greeley. Boyd became the first Weld County Commissioner later in his life. Sometime after the coming of the Union Colony in 1870, Robert Boyd partnered with James Freeman to manage the ditch. Freeman was a lawyer, who later became a Colorado State Senator.

In the 1920s, the water rights of the Boyd and Freeman ditch were transferred to the municipal pipelines of Fort Collins and Greeley. The Boyd Irrigation Company's action led to several lawsuits. Many other river users disapproved of the company's course of action. The courts decreed in 1926 that the Boyd and Freeman Ditch would be limited to the return flow from other ditches and other available water. The Boyd and Freeman Ditch lost its excellent priority number and position on the river. The ditch owners cannot call of the water commissioner to assure them a supply of water. The company effectively lost most of its effectiveness as a water supplier. Greeley.

Location of Diversion: Section 34, Township 6N, Range 66W

Original Construction Date: 1862.

Priority: 6 (3-15-1862), 1st enlargement 20 (7-15-1866), 2nd Enlargement 62 (8-1-1873)

Box Elder Ditch

The Box Elder Ditch is located within the city limits of Fort Collins and sits downstream from the Prospect Street Bridge. Its headworks and diversionary structure are visible from the Poudre River bicycle path near CSU's Environmental Learning Center. The ditch's dam is also located slightly down river from the Fossil Creek Reservoir Inlet. The ditch flows southeast for about four miles where it reenters the main stream of the Cache La Poudre near the town of Timnath.

The ditch was constructed sometime in 1866 and was enlarged twice over the next two years. It is a relatively short ditch that served small farms between Fort Collins and Timnath.

The headworks structure has the remnants of a flat-bottomed, concrete weir. An 8ft Parshall flume was built over the top of the weir to improve the accuracy of water measurement. The concrete weir was most likely built before the 1940s. The concrete throughout the structures has been capped numerous times, and some of the concrete work is inscribed with "4-28-1949 by the W & S Co."

Location of Diversion: Section 20, Township 7N, Range 68W.

Construction Date: 1866.

Priority: 15 (3-1-1866), 1st enlargement 23(5-25-1867), 2nd enlargement 30(7-1-1868.)

Existing Structures: Stone/concrete headgate, stone/concrete diversion dam, 8 ft Parshall flume, concrete weir; chart house. Wooden trash gates; sand gate; All appear in good condition.

John C. Coy Ditch

The John C. Coy Ditch is located within the city limits of Fort Collins. It is across the river from the old Fort Collins Municipal Power Plant and uses the power plant's diversionary dam. The diversionary dam is also located near the City of Fort Collins' canoe chutes. The main flume and small chart house are located near the New Belgium Brewery. It flows for about a mile and a half and reenters the Cache.

The Coy was constructed in 1865 and was never enlarged. It has a relatively good priority, but was never used to its full potential. Currently it only irrigates the Lincoln golf course and the lot that holds the future Super Walmart.

Location of Diversion: Section 12, Township 7 N, Range 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1865.

Priority: 13 (4-10-1865)

Existing Structures: Concrete/stone and steel headgate; (additional blue headgate – used during low flows); concrete/stone diversion dam; 4ft concrete Parshall flume, chart box;

Dry Creek Ditch (Jackson Ditch)

The headworks of the Dry Creek Ditch are located within the current city limits of Bellvue. The ditch diverts water from the north side of the Cache La Poudre River and flows 10 miles generally northeast.

The Dry Creek Ditch was constructed for direct irrigation in 1861. It was enlarged three different times, in 1870, 1873 and 1879. The Dry Creek Ditch Company managed the canal from its creation until 1894, when the Jackson Ditch Company acquired the canal and its water rights. The Jackson Ditch Company itself was soon taken over by the larger Water Supply and Storage in 1902. Water Supply and Storage still owns the Jackson Ditch Company and the Dry Creek Ditch.

Water Supply and Storage and its subsidiary, the Jackson Ditch Company, allowed Ralph Parshall and Colorado State University construct an experimental lab on their property during the 1920s. The subsequent Bellvue Hydraulic Laboratory used the Jackson Ditch's diversionary structure to provide it with an adequate water supply. Parshall used this site to develop the Parshall flume, the standard in water measurement.

Location of Diversion: Section 30, Township 8N, Range 69W

Original Construction Date: 1861

Priority: 3 (6-10-1861); 1st enlargement 36 (10-21-1870); 2nd enlargement 67 (9-15-1873); 3rd enlargement 91 (7-15-1879)

Existing Structures: Concrete and steel headgate; Concrete diversion dam; 6 ft concrete Parshall flume; Wooden charthouse.

B. H. Eaton

The headgate of the B. H. Eaton Ditch is located near Windsor, less than one mile south of Highway 392 and about half a mile from the Weld County-Larimer County border. The Whitney Ditch's headgate sits upriver within eyesight from the Eaton Ditch's headgate. The B. H. Eaton Ditch takes water from the south side of the river and flows about 4 miles southeast before reentering the river.

The B. H. Eaton Ditch is located a mile west of the original Eaton homestead. Benjamin H. Eaton and his wife Rebecca came to settle in Colorado in 1864. B. Eaton had already seen Colorado and the Cache La Poudre River when he had come west during the Colorado gold rush in 1860. During this early time in Colorado, Eaton came into contact with Hispanic settlers in the San Luis Valley. Through them, he learned of the necessity of irrigation for a successful harvest in the arid climate of Colorado. On a return trip to his family's home in Iowa, Eaton staked a claim along the Cache La Poudre River. In Iowa Eaton married Rebecca Hill and they almost immediately came back to his claim in the Colorado Territory. After construction of a small wooden cabin, Eaton begin building an irrigation canal to water his crops. The canal followed the example of the New Mexican farmers Eaton had encountered earlier. It was built on highest point of land and filled minor ditches that water the individual fields. Eaton made two minor enlargements to the ditch twice, once in 1866 and again in 1872. Eaton continued to be involved with irrigation in Colorado throughout his lifetime. He assisted the Union Colonists with their ditch construction. The Larimer and Weld Canal, which was the largest canal in Colorado, was a product of Eaton's entrepreneurial nature. Eaton became governor of Colorado from 1885-1887.

Location of Diversion: Section 19, Township 6N, Range 67W..

Original Construction Date: 1864.

Priority: 9 (4-1-1864); 1st enlargement 18 (6-1-1866); 2nd enlargement 53 (7-25-1872).

Existing Structures Concrete and Steel Headgate; Concrete Diversion Dam; Wooden Chart house. Concrete Parshall Flume

Fossil Creek Reservoir Inlet; Fossil Creek Reservoir Outlet

The Fossil Creek Reservoir Inlet takes water from the Cache La Poudre River for storage in the Fossil Creek Reservoir. Water is taken from the southwest bank of the Cache La Poudre. It's headgate is within the city limits of Fort Collins and sits downstream from the Prospect Street Bridge. Its headworks and diversionary structure are visible from the Poudre River bicycle path near CSU's Environmental Learning Center. The ditch's dam is also located slightly up river from the Box Elder Ditch. The ditch flows southeast for approximately 5 miles where it enters into the Fossil Creek Reservoir. The Reservoir itself is almost due west of Windsor, on the west side of I-25. It is visible from the highway. The Fossil Creek Reservoir Outlet takes water from the reservoir back into the water. It enters the river just above the Greeley No. 2 Ditch in Timnath.

Irrigators along the Cache La Poudre realized the importance of storing water for later usage. Both flood waters and off-season flows can be captured for use at a more profitable time. The Fossil Creek Reservoir is part of the North Poudre Irrigation Company's Reservoir system. The North Poudre Irrigation Company created a complex network of reservoirs along its main supply canal at the mouth of the Cache La Poudre Canyon. The Fossil Creek Reservoir is their largest reservoir not connected to that extensive network.

Burton D. Sanborn was the man behind the construction of the reservoir. He was the director of the North Poudre Irrigation Company. Sanborn borrowed extensively to construct the reservoir. The project began in 1901 and was the largest undertaken by the company at that date. It was not complete until 1910. Sanborn knew that he had an excellent location and a steady customer. A member of the board of the New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company was also secretary for the North Poudre Irrigation Company. Greeley No. 2 users quickly bought the rights to use Fossil Creek water. The reservoir's excellent location and storage capacity proved an important asset to the New Cache irrigators.

The Fossil Creek Reservoir holds priority number 40 for reservoir decrees. Reservoir decrees are always junior to the needs of direct irrigation. Therefore, all of the other ditches along the river have seniority over reservoirs. Water can only be taken for storage purposes when there is either a surplus in river water or during seasons of little or no direct irrigation. Reservoirs follow the same process of appropriation that direct irrigation canals follow. Reservoir companies that created and used water first get seniority, while later reservoirs are given junior rights.

Location of Diversion: Section 21, Township 7 N, Range 68W.

Original Construction Date: 1901-1910

Priority: Reservoir priority 40 (March 5, 1901)

Existing Structures: Concrete diversionary dam, Concrete and steel headgate.

Greeley Pipeline (Greeley Municipal Pipeline, City of Greeley Pipeline)

The Greeley Pipeline takes water from the Cache La Poudre River near Ted's Place. The pipe then runs southeast to the city of Greeley. The water is treated at the Greeley Filtration Plant and used for municipal and domestic needs in the city of Greeley. The pipeline was originally built in 1907. It was located further downstream, but a shift in the river's course forced its relocation about 2000 feet upriver in 1918.

Location of Diversion: Section 8, Township 8N, Range 70W

Original Construction Date: 1907

Priority: Transferred from Boyd and Freeman Ditch 6 (3-15-1852); Transferred from the Whedbee No. 1 6.5 (8-1-1862).

Greeley No. 2 Ditch (Cache La Poudre Ditch; Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company Ditch; New Cache Ditch)

The headgate of the Greeley No. 2 Ditch is located about a mile east of I-25, south of the town of Timnath. Water is diverted from the north side of the Cache La Poudre River and generally flows east for 26 miles. The canal itself is about 30 feet wide allowing for the large amount of water that flows through it. The ditch takes water from the river bottom and delivers it to the fertile table or bench lands north of the river.

The Greeley No. 2 Ditch was the second ditch constructed by the Union Colonists at Greeley. It was to be one of a total of four ditches built by the Colony. Only two of these ditches were ever completed. The Colony had already constructed Greeley No. 3 Ditch to provide water for irrigation and domestic uses in the town itself.

At that time, the undertaking of the Greeley No. 2 Ditch was a much larger and more ambitious project than any other along the river. It differed from the earlier canals constructed along the Cache La Poudre River. Individuals or small groups of farmers had built the other canals along the river. These canals were short and designed to serve an area relatively close to the river. Greeley No. 3 and the New Cache Ditch, however, were a community effort. All of the members of the Union Colony were expected to assist in the costs associated with the ditch's construction. Members were expected to assist in the financial costs of maintenance and operation. Edwin S. Nettleton directed the construction of this large ditch for the community. He was a land surveyor from Pennsylvania and an original Union Colony settler. Walter McDonald, who had experience with ditch construction for mining, assisted Nettleton in the canal's construction. The project began in the late months of 1870 and was completed in early spring of 1871.

The Greeley #2 Ditch's first season of operation proved disappointing and many farmers lost much of their crop for lack of water. The canal was enlarged and altered in late 1871 in an attempt to improve water delivery and prevent another poor harvest. During 1871-1872, a dam was placed on the river to help divert the necessary water. The enlargements and the dam were expensive projects for the Union Colony, but 1872 proved to be an excellent year for agriculture. The farmers of the colony produced an abundant harvest. Their cooperative canal system was proving to be successful, yet expensive to maintain. Other people followed the example set by the Union Colony and several other large canal projects soon began along the Cache La Poudre River. Colonies hoping to match the Union Colony's success began to develop. The Fort Collins Agricultural Colony appeared in the town of Fort Collins. The town of Fort Collins existed prior to the Agricultural Colony, but it was the Colony members who began construction of large, cooperative ditches in 1873.

In 1874, Colorado experienced an incredibly dry and hot year. The river ran low and Union Colony farmers did not have enough water. Greeley citizens obviously knew that water flowed through Fort Collins first, and Fort Collins citizens had constructed two large ditches the previous year. Union Colonists were angry because they had built their canal system two years before Fort Collins, yet because of their location Greeley farmers had no water. Some Greeley men went to Fort Collins to investigate the situation and found the Fort Collins ditches to be running full of water. A conference was held July 15, 1874 at the Eaton schoolhouse, located between the two towns, in order to settle the matter out of court. Nathan Meeker of the Union Colony threatened to continue an injunction against the Fort Collins ditches. Fort Collins water users agreed to let more water down

the river if Meeker dropped the injunction, but they still did not acknowledge Greeley's prior claims to the water. The drought was ended, but the controversy remained. The Colorado constitution and legislation eventually solved the matter. The Colorado System of Water Management had its roots in this local conflict. Due to the canal's role in this important aspect of water law and its important to the development of irrigation in Colorado, the New Cache Ditch was deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Place on June 20, 1989.

The Greeley #2 Ditch was enlarged twice after the dry year of 1874. Both of these enlargements proved expensive and the cost of maintaining the canal continued to rise. In 1878, the ditch and its water rights were sold to the farmers who used it. They incorporated into the "Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company." The owners of the Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company created the Cache La Poudre Reservoir Company in 1892. This company created the Timnath Reservoir. The Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company still maintains control over Greeley #2 Ditch.

Location of Diversion: Section 11; Township 6N; Range 68W.

Original Construction Date: 1870.

Priority: 37 (10-25-1870); 1st enlargement 44 (9-15-1871); 2nd enlargement 72 (11-10-1874); 3rd enlargement 83 (9-15-1877).

Existing Structures: 25 ft concrete Parshall flume, Concrete diversion structure; Concrete and steel headgate.

Greeley # 3 Ditch (Greeley Irrigation Company Ditch)

The headworks of the Greeley No. 3 Ditch are located south of Bracewell, near the Greeley. Water is diverted on the south side of the river, near the point where water from the Jones Ditch reenters the Cache La Poudre River. The ditch runs 15 miles southeast through the town of Greeley

The Greeley No. 3 Ditch was the first canal constructed by the Union Colony after its establishment in 1870. The members of the colony intended to construct a total of four canals, but only two were ever built. Greeley No. 3 was intended for domestic use and to irrigate both crops and town lots. Greeley No. 3 was a cooperative effort, unlike the earlier ditches along the Cache La Poudre. The Union Colonists all took part in the construction of the ditch, some physically moved dirt, some planned its course and all contributed money. Walter McDonald supervised the construction of the ditch. He had experience with ditch construction in the mining industry and modeled Greeley No. 3 on a mountain mining ditch.

Greeley No. 3 Ditch irrigated a small portion of the totality of the Union Colony crops, but provided the necessary water for the town itself. Most of the settlement's direct irrigation was handled by the larger Greeley No. 2, which was built shortly after the No. 3 Ditch. The No. 3 provided town's people with water. Water would be allowed to flow down the city streets for the general use of the public. Diversion boxes were constructed throughout the Union Colony for use in managing the water's flow in the city. After the construction of the Greeley Pipeline, the water was used exclusively for irrigation and gardens, and not drinking water.

In 1874, Colorado experienced an incredibly dry and hot year. The river ran low and Union Colony farmers did not have enough water. The Greeley No. 3 Ditch suffered from the drought. The headgates of Greeley No. 2 were closed on occasion during the drought to allow water to flow into the Union Colony's other ditch. Greeley citizens obviously knew that water flowed through Fort Collins first, and Fort Collins citizens had constructed two large ditches the previous year. Union Colonists were angry because they had built their canal system two years before Fort Collins, yet because of their location Greeley farmers had no water. Some Greeley men went to Fort Collins to investigate the situation and found the Fort Collins ditches to be running full of water. A conference

was held July 15, 1874 at the Eaton schoolhouse, located between the two towns, in order to settle the matter out of court. Nathan Meeker of the Union Colony threatened to continue an injunction against the Fort Collins ditches. Fort Collins water users agreed to let more water down the river if Meeker dropped the injunction, but they still did not acknowledge Greeley's prior claims to the water. The drought was ended, but the controversy remained. The Colorado constitution and legislation eventually solved the matter. The Colorado System of Water Management had its roots in this local conflict.

The town of Greeley grew up around the Union Colony lands. It was incorporated in 1875. In the same year, the Union Colony deeded 3/8 of its control of Ditch No. 3 to the new town of Greeley. The Union Colony retained 5/8 of the ditch until 1882 when the Greeley Irrigation Company was founded. The colony gave its 5/8 to the new company on August 3, 1882. The Greeley Irrigation Company and the City of Greeley remain partners in the management of the ditch. The city continues to try to find new uses for its 3/8 of the ditch water. The water is exclusively non-potable and has been put to irrigating schools and other public properties.

Location of Diversion: Section 32 Township 6N, Range 66W.

Original Construction Date: 1870.

Priority: 35 (4-1-1870); 1st enlargement 46 (10-1-1871); 2nd enlargement 50 (7-15-1872); 3rd enlargement 59 (5-15-1873).

Existing Structures: Concrete diversion dam; concrete and steel headgate; bypass gate - possible cinderblock construction. 14 ft Concrete Parshall Flume.

Charles Hansen Supply Canal (Poudre Supply Canal)

The Hansen Supply Canal begins at the northern tip of Horsetooth Reservoir and flows north for about 5 miles to the Cache La Poudre River. The canal's flow is regulated by the outlet work of the Horsetooth Dam. The canal has both concrete and earth linings. Before it reaches the Poudre, the water is bifurcated between a chute directly to the Poudre or into another canal, the Windsor Extension of the Hansen Supply Canal. The Windsor Extension takes water directly into the Poudre Valley Canal.

The Charles Hansen Canal connects the Cache La Poudre with the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. The Colorado-Big Thompson took water from the headwaters of the Colorado River on the state's western slope and brought that water to serve the eastern slope's plains. It was an impressive engineering feat undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Colorado-Big Thompson helped fuel both northern Colorado's continued agricultural productivity and the population boom of Colorado's Front Range.

The Charles Hansen Canal was built in 1950-52 with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior's Finding of Feasibility for the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. The Peter Kiewit Sons Company built most of the canal, but Paul G. Van Sickle Corp constructed the Windsor Extension. The canal was originally called the Poudre Supply Canal. In 1956, it was renamed for Charles Hansen, a former editor of the Greeley Tribune and the first president of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Hansen had been with the organization from its inception in 1939. He served the Conservancy District until his death in 1953.

Location: Enters into the Poudre near the Mouth of the Canyon Gaging Station. Section Township 8N, Range 70W.

Original Construction Date: 1950-1952

Existing Structures: On the Cache La Poudre side there is the inlet into the river and the Windsor Extension canal.

William R. Jones

The William R. Jones headworks are located between the towns of Greeley and Windsor. Water is diverted from the south side of the Cache La Poudre River and flows east. It flows for about 3 miles before it reenters the river just above the Greeley No. 3 Diversionary structure.

The William R. Jones Ditch was created for domestic use and direct irrigation.

Location of Diversion: Section 36 Township 6N Range 67W

Original Construction Date: 1867.

Priority: 24 (9-1-1867)

Existing Structures: Concrete diversionary dam, Concrete and steel headgate.

Lake Canal (Eaton and Abbott Canal)

The headworks of the Lake Canal are located within the current city limits of Fort Collins. The headgate and diversion dam are less than 500 feet from College Avenue, just north of the bridge over the Cache La Poudre River. Water is taken from the north side of the river and flows twenty miles southeast providing water to Thompson Lake and Lake Canal Reservoir No. 1. These reservoirs are between Windsor and Timnath.

The Lake Canal was constructed for direct irrigation and domestic use by the Fort Collins Agricultural Colony in 1873. The Fort Collins Agricultural Colony was modeled on the successful Union Colony in Greeley. Speculators and members of the Union Colony at Greeley purchased land from the U. S. Government's sale of Camp Collins' 3000 acres. Memberships were sold "to persons 'of good moral character.'"¹⁷ Lots were made available in the town, and new settlers arrived to participate in the colony. R. A. Cameron, who was the vice president of the Union Colony, became the new colony's first president.

As with the Union Colony, agriculture was of extreme importance in the Fort Collins Agricultural Colony and construction of irrigation canals began almost immediately. The colony hired John C. Abbott, a former member of the Union Colony and future State Auditor, and B. H. Eaton, an experienced homesteader and future governor of Colorado, to build the necessary ditches. The two men supervised the building of both the Lake Canal and the Larimer County Canal # 2. These canals were located upriver from Greeley's two canals. Therefore, during the drought of 1874, Fort Collins irrigators received plenty of water, while Greeley farmers struggled to get any water. A conference was held between Greeley and Fort Collins on July 15, 1874. The Union Colonists demanded the Fort Collins irrigators recognize their prior claim, while the Fort Collins irrigators wanted a water commissioner to divide the water according to the greatest need. Fort Collins irrigators bowed under the threat of legal action and allowed more water to flow down to the Greeley. Nathan Meeker of the Union Colony believed that the Fort Collins irrigators were still using too much water, but heavy rains ended the drought. The issues raised at the 1874 meeting eventually resulted in the development of the Colorado System of Water Management.

The members of the Lake Canal Company realized the value of storing floodwater and off-season flow for later use. Many other irrigation companies constructed reservoirs along the Poudre beginning in 1882 with Windsor Reservoir. Lake Canal Company believed it necessary to construct their own reservoir, but like the Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company, their articles of incorporation

¹⁷ Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, *A Colorado History*, 6th ed. (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company, 1988,) 138.

prohibited reservoir construction. Lake Canal Reservoir Company was incorporated in around 1898 to solve the problem. The Lake Canal was then able to build its own reservoir in 1898, the Lake Canal Reservoir Company Reservoir No. 1. The Lake Canal Reservoir was given priority 36 (10-15-1898.)

In 1920, the Lake Canal Company acquired 1/6 of the Pioneer Ditch's excellent water rights. Pioneer Ditch had one of the earliest priorities along the river. Lake Canal gained part of priority 5 and priority 12. The other 5/6 of the Pioneer's rights were sold to the Larimer County Ditch.

Location of Diversion: Section 2, Township 7N, Range 69W

Original Construction Date: 1873.

Priority: Transfer decrees from the Pioneer Ditch - 5 (3-1-62); 12 (9-15-1864). Lake Canal's original priority 54 (11-1-1872).

Existing Structures: Stone and concrete diversion dam; stone and concrete headgate. 12 ft Parshall flume; wooden chart house; sand gates.

Larimer and Weld Canal (Eaton Ditch)

The headworks of the Larimer and Weld Canal are located within the current city limits of Fort Collins between Shields Street and Taft Hill Road. Water is taken from the north side of the Cache La Poudre River and flows 45 miles east past the towns of Ault and Eaton.

The Larimer and Weld Canal had its origins in the Larimer County, No. 10 Ditch. The No. 10 was an early ditch that was constructed in 1864. It was a small canal that was enlarged in 1867, 1871 and 1875. Benjamin Eaton helped in the 1875 enlargement. Eaton became interested in extending the ditch even farther. He intended to create a canal that was over fifty miles long. Eaton approached several local entrepreneurs seeking financial backing for his plan. He was unable to garner local support and many of the Cache La Poudre irrigators questioned Eaton's plan. Eaton used his own capital and began construction on the canal in 1878. The costs of the project far superceded his available funds. Eaton looked to the major American capitalist organization of the period for assistance. He appealed to the Denver Pacific Railway Company. He bargained with the railway and claimed that without his canal, over 25,000 acres of railway property would be worthless. His canal would create farmlands, homes and towns that would support the rail line. The Denver Pacific agreed to allow Eaton to reserve 26,000 acres of its unsold lands and drew up a detailed contract with Eaton. E. S. Nettleton, who had helped design and construct Greeley No. 2 Canal, surveyed the canal's route for Eaton. Construction, however, could not begin until Eaton secured more funds.

Eaton appealed to James Duff, a British representative of the Colorado Mortgage and Investment Company. Colorado Mortgage, which was known as the 'English Company' in northern Colorado, was one of many British firms interested in investment in Colorado. Eaton and the English Company came to an agreement. He signed his railway lands over to the company and they provided the necessary money. The construction continued and the Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company was formed in 1879. The complete canal represented the largest single ditch in the state. The Larimer and Weld, due to its huge size, could divert the entire flow of the Cache La Poudre through its canal. Irrigators and farmers down river from the headworks of the Larimer and Weld were naturally troubled by this new development. The Greeley farmers called a meeting for October 9, 1878 to resolve the possible problems created by this new ditch. Irrigators from around the Cache La Poudre and the South Platte were invited to attend. Several representatives from the St. Vrain and Cache La Poudre met and called for state water regulation. The convention called for a further irrigation conference that began in Denver on December 5, 1878. The convention passed a resolution, which

held the bare bones of the Colorado System of Irrigation. This resolution went onto the Colorado Legislation and was eventually transformed into the heart of Colorado Water law.

The Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company became interested in the development of reservoirs in the early 1890s. The company created the Larimer and Weld Reservoir Company to manage the creation of a reservoir. The Larimer and Weld Reservoir was constructed on the site of Terry Lake. The small lake was in a basin that the Larimer and Weld Reservoir filled completely. The reservoir was supplied by the Terry Lake Inlet, which came through the Little Cache Ditch. The Larimer and Weld Company paid for the enlargement and use of the Little Cache. The company continues to maintain the Little Cache in exchange for its usage.

Due to its importance in the development of water law in Colorado, the Larimer and Weld Canal was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on April 2, 1980.

Location of Diversion: Section 34, Township 8N, Range 69W.

Original Construction Date: Larimer County, No. 10 was built in 1864. Larimer and Weld Canal was constructed from 1878-1881.

Priority: 10 (6-1-1864); 16 (4-1-1866) – transferred from the Chamberlain Private Ditch; 21 (4-1-1867); 45 (9-20-1871); 73 (1-15-1875); 88 (9-18-1878).

Existing Structures: Concrete diversion dam, Concrete and steel headgate; Concrete Parshall flume; wooden chart house. The wall of the ditch (I think near the flume – but I might be mistaken) has 1966 inscribed into it.

Larimer County Canal (Water Supply and Storage Main Ditch)

The headworks of the Larimer County are located north of Bellvue, between the Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal and the Jackson Ditch. Water is diverted from the north side of the river and flows 60 miles east. The canal is part of a complex system of 12 separate reservoirs.

The Larimer County Ditch Company began construction of the Larimer County Ditch in 1881. Due to its late construction date, the canal relies on transfer decrees and reservoirs to provide enough water. The Larimer County Ditch company leased water from the Larimer County Reservoir Company, the owners of Chambers Lake. In 1891, the Chambers Lake dam burst and severely damaged farms, bridges and homes all along the river. Legal action was brought against both the Larimer County Ditch Company and the Larimer County Reservoir Company. The two companies were weakened by their legal battles and they were purchased by Water Supply and Storage, under the leadership of A. A. Edwards. Water Supply and Storage used the Larimer County Canal to supply a series of reservoirs that the company built.

Location of Diversion: Section 13, Township 8N, Range 70W.

Original Construction Date: Construction began in 1881.

Priority: Transferred from the Pioneer Ditch 5 (3-1-1862), 12 (9-15-1864); transferred from Canon Canal 28 (3-15-1868), 56 (3-20-1873); Original Construction 100 (4-25-1881)

Existing Structures: Concrete diversion dam; Concrete and steel headgate; 31.8-foot concrete rectangular weir; wooden chart house.

Larimer County No. 2 Canal

The beginning of the Larimer County No. 2 Canal is located within the town of Laporte. The ditch shares a concrete diversion dam with the Little Cache Ditch and the New Mercer Ditch. The headworks are next to the headworks of the New Mercer ditch and the two canals run parallel for much of their courses. Water is taken from the south side of the Cache La Poudre River and flows south east for 15 miles through the city of Fort Collins.

The Larimer County Canal No. 2 was constructed for direct irrigation and domestic use by the Fort Collins Agricultural Colony in 1873. It was the first canal in the Fort Collins region that irrigated the bench lands above the river bottom. The Fort Collins Agricultural Colony was modeled on the successful Union Colony in Greeley. Speculators and members of the Union Colony at Greeley purchased land from the U. S. Government's sale of Camp Collins' 3000 acres. Memberships were sold "to persons 'of good moral character.'"¹⁸ Lots were made available in the town, and new settlers arrived to participate in the colony. R. A. Cameron, who was the vice president of the Union Colony, became the new colony's first president.

As with the Union Colony, agriculture was of extreme importance in the Fort Collins Agricultural Colony and construction of irrigation canals began almost immediately. The colony hired John C. Abbott, a former member of the Union Colony and future State Auditor, and B. H. Eaton, an experienced homesteader and future governor of Colorado, to build the necessary ditches. The two men supervised the building of both the Lake Canal and the Larimer County Canal # 2. These canals were located upriver from Greeley's two canals. Therefore, during the drought of 1874, Fort Collins irrigators received plenty of water, while Greeley farmers struggled to get any water. A conference was held between Greeley and Fort Collins on July 15, 1874. The Union Colonists demanded the Fort Collins irrigators recognize their prior claim, while the Fort Collins irrigators wanted a water commissioner to divide the water according to the greatest need. Fort Collins irrigators bowed under the threat of legal action and allowed more water to flow down to the Greeley. Nathan Meeker of the Union Colony believed that the Fort Collins irrigators were still using too much water, but heavy rains ended the drought. The issues raised at the 1874 meeting eventually resulted in the development of the Colorado System of Water Management.

In 1907, the Larimer County Canal No. 2 Company acquired the water rights to the John R. Brown Ditch. The Larimer County Canal No. 2 petitioned the court to transfer the John Brown water through its headgates. Canal No. 2 was granted that right, and gained priority no. 14. In 1914, the company petitioned jointly with the New Mercer Ditch Company to gain part of the Josh Ames water right. The two companies equally split some of the Josh Ames water and redirected it through their respective ditches.

Location of Diversion: Section 32; Range 8N; Township 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1873.

Priority: 14 (5-1-1865) – transferred from John R. Brown; 25(10-1-1867) transferred from the Josh Ames Ditch; 57 (4-1-1873) original construction of the Larimer County Canal no. 2.

Existing Structures: Concrete and steel headgate; Concrete diversion dam.

Larimer County, No. 10 Ditch

See Larimer and Weld Ditch.

Little Cache La Poudre Ditch (Cache La Poudre Irrigating Ditch Company Ditch)

The beginning of the Little Cache Ditch is located within the town of Laporte. The ditch shares a concrete diversion dam with the New Mercer Ditch and the Larimer County Canal No. 2. The headworks are on the north side of the Cache La Poudre River. The ditch flows 3 ½ miles east through the town of Laporte and towards Fort Collins.

The Terry Lake Reservoir Inlet shares the first 1-½ miles of canal with the Little Cache Ditch. After that first 1-½ miles the Terry Lake Inlet separates from the Little Cache and flows into Terry

¹⁸ Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, *A Colorado History*, 6th ed. (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company, 1988,) 138.

Lake. The Larimer and Weld Reservoir Company, which owns the Terry Lake, enlarged the Little Cache La Poudre Ditch in order to allow the Terry Lake water to flow through it. Part of their agreement with the Cache La Poudre Irrigating Ditch Company was a promise to maintain the company's ditch in return for its use as the Terry Lake Inlet.

Location of Diversion: Section 32; Range 8N; Township 69W/

Original Construction Date: 1869.

Priority: 31(5-1-1869); 58 (5-1-1873).

Existing Structures: Concrete and steel headgate; shares the same concrete diversion dam with the New Mercer and the Larimer County Canal No. 2; 12 ft concrete Parshall flume; Wooden chart house.

Mouth of the Canyon Gaging Station and the Near Mouth Gaging Station

In the Prior Appropriation System, the accurate measurement of water flow is essential. Without an accurate measurement river users can easily receive too much water or too little water. This can disrupt the entire water delivery system along the Poudre. To combat this problem, the Colorado Legislature created Water Commissioners for each of the major rivers and streams throughout the state. These commissioners monitor the flow of the river and help keep the entire system running smoothly. One of the tools, which is invaluable to the water commissioner, are the gaging stations. The two major gaging stations located along the Cache La Poudre are the Mouth of the Canyon Station and the Near Mouth Station. The Mouth of the Canyon is located on the Poudre a little over a mile upstream from Ted's Place. River users have long used this site to measure the flow of the river coming out of the mountains. According to David Boyd, one of the original members of the Union Colony and the author of "Irrigation Near Greeley, Colorado.", the Cache La Poudre has been measured at this point for longer than any other stream in the region. In March 1881, the office of the State Hydraulic Engineer was created and an officer was empowered to make measurements of all of the streams and waters used for irrigation. J. S. Greene was employed to make the measurements of the Cache La Poudre. A location was chosen for a gaging station further up the canyon than the present site, but the site did not last.

In 1883, the measuring station moved down to a new site, McBrides Preemption. Local irrigators donated money and time to help construct a measuring flume and charthouse. To assist in providing an accurate measurement, the river was cleared of boulders and its course was straightened. From this site it was possible to measure how much water flowed into the Cache La Poudre. The information allowed the water commissioner to manage the river and assure all river users fair access to the water. The original wooden building was replaced after it was flooded numerous times. The current exposed concrete structure was constructed in 1995 after a particularly devastating flood on the upper Poudre. It contains measuring devices used by the State Engineers Office, the Local District Engineers, and the United States Geological Survey. The Near Mouth Gaging station is located at the end of the entire river system. From it, measurements of the amount of water that enters into the South Platte are taken. Both stations are important to the smooth operation of the Poudre irrigation system.

Location: Mouth of the Canyon. Gaging station on upper end of the Cache La Poudre. Section 15, Township 8 North, Range 70 West. Near Mouth. Located near Greeley, past the Ogilvy ditch. Section 2m Township 5 North, Range 65 West.

Original Construction Date: Current concrete building, radar and meteorological devices were constructed in 1990..

Priority: N/A

Existing Structures: The Mouth of the Canyon has several modern structures at the site. A concrete chart house that contains measuring instruments for the federal, state and local government. Radar and meteorological devices. A measuring device that spans the river.

New Mercer Canal

The beginning of the New Mercer Canal is located within the town of Laporte. The ditch shares a concrete diversion dam with the Little Cache Ditch and the Larimer County Canal No. 2. The headworks are next to the headworks of the Larimer County Canal No. 2 ditch and the two canals run parallel for much of their courses. Water is taken from the south side of the Cache La Poudre River and flows southeast for 15 miles through the city of Fort Collins.

In 1869, Alfred A. Edwards and W. McAdams came to Fort Collins looking for a suitable sight to begin a new agricultural community. They represented a group of families from Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Edwards and McAdams selected a sight west of the small town of Fort Collins for their new venture. The members of the Mercer group began construction of a ditch immediately upon their arrival in 1869. The canal was to provide domestic use and fulfill direct irrigation needs. The ditch built in 1869 was very small, and the two enlargements in 1871 and 1872 did little to lengthen it. The Mercer community ran out of money before the canal could be completed. The effort was abandoned for several years, until another company purchased the canal in 1880. The new construction almost quadrupled the capacity of the New Mercer Ditch. .

A. A. Edwards remained involved with irrigation in Larimer and Weld Counties and eventually became the president of Water Supply and Storage.

Location of Diversion: Section 28, Township 8N, Range 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1869

Priority: 33 (9-3-1869); 46 (10-10-1871); 48(7-1-1872); 98 (2-15-1880)

Existing Structures: Concrete Diversionary Dam shared with Little Cache Ditch and Larimer County Canal No. 2. Concrete and steel headgate.

Ogilvy Ditch (Baker and Ogilvy Canal; Ogilvie Ditch)

The Ogilvy Ditch is the last canal along the Cache La Poudre River before the river enters into the South Platte. It is located on the east side of Greeley about two miles west of the Weld County Municipal Airport. The Ogilvy Ditch diverts water from the north bank of the Poudre and flows 12 miles east. The last three miles of the Ogilvy Ditch run very close to the South Platte River and have resulted in damage to the canal at various times during the past. Water from the Seeley Reservoir upstream helps keep the ditch filled and running during the high season, particularly because the Ogilvy has a relatively poor priority.

Lyulph Gilchrist Stanley Ogilvy, the son of the British Earl of Airlie, undertook construction of the Ogilvy Ditch. The Earl of Airlie came to America to purchase a ranch for his son, Lyulph, in 1879. The extensive advertising campaign of the Colorado Mortgage and Investment Company, a British firm that was the chief investor in the Larimer and Weld Canal, drew the Earl to America. British capitalist entrepreneurs wanted to take advantage of the numerous opportunities for agriculture and mining within Colorado. The Earl of Airlie saw ranching as a lucrative investment and the plains of Colorado provided a convenient place to deposit his second son, who was known for his excesses. Lyulph Gilchrist Stanley Ogilvy arrived in Colorado in 1881 and took control of the Crow Creek Ranch. Ogilvy hired Ed (Abner) Baker to engineer a ditch to provide the ranch with an adequate supply of water. Baker was an original member of the Union Colony. He had helped

construct and supervise the operation of Greeley No. 2. Baker also helped survey canal construction for others throughout northern Colorado.

The decline of the cattle industry and Ogilvy's lack of managerial skills lead to the foreclosure of the Crow Creek Ranch in 1888. J. Studebaker and Lafayette Lamb purchased the ranch. They renamed it the SLW Ranch. Studebaker and Lamb went to court in 1899 to assert their control over the Ogilvy Ditch and its water rights. Other river users were questioning their right to the water and some users were even taking water from the Ogilvy Ditch. The case was won and established the SLW as the rightful user of the water.

Location of Diversion: Section 4 Township 5 N Range 65 W.

Original Construction Date: 1881.

Priority: 122 (7-1-1881)

Existing Structures: 9ft Concrete Parshall flume (The Parshall Flume on the Ogilvy Ditch is not squared and therefore requires more reliance on the other measuring devices.); Wooden Chart house; diversion dam; Concrete and steel headgate.

Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal

The headworks of the Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal are located near the Mouth of the Canyon Gaging Station and the Greeley Filtration Plant. The canal begins near the mouth of the Poudre Canyon and flows 25 miles southeast. The canal feeds the Claymore Lake.

Location of Diversion: Section 14, Township 8N, Range 70W..

Original Construction Date: between 1861-1881

Priority: 4 (9-1-1861); 11 (6-10-1864); 51 (7-10-1872); 92 (8-18-1879); 102 (10-10-1881)

Existing Structures: Concrete and steel Headgate, 6ft concrete Parshall flume; wooden charthouse. No dam – uses a natural occurring feature of the river to divert water.

Poudre Valley Canal (Windsor Reservoir and Canal)

The Poudre Valley Canal is one of the first ditches in the Cache La Poudre irrigation system. The headworks are located about ½ mile upriver from the Mouth of the Canyon Gaging Station. Water is diverted from the north side of the river and flows 29 miles east filling several reservoirs. The No. 8 Reservoir and Annex, Elder Reservoir, Cobb Lake, and Douglass Lake Reservoir are all served by the Poudre Valley Canal.

The Windsor Reservoir and Canal Company acquired the rights to the Poudre Valley Canal in 1937. The company has used the canal to maintain and improve their reservoir holdings.

Location of Diversion: Section 10, Township 8N, Range 70W.

Original Construction Date 1907.

Priority: transferred from Canon Canal 28 (3-15-1868) transferred from Canon Canal 56 (3-20-1873), Construction 173½ (4-1-1907)

Existing Structures: 32 ft rectangular weir; concrete diversion dam; concrete and steel headgate.

Taylor and Gill Canal

The Taylor and Gill Canal has a relatively early water right along the Cache La Poudre river. The Taylor and Gill flows for two miles and shares ¼ miles with the Terry Lake Inlet. Some of the Taylor and Gill rights have been transferred to the North Poudre Canal.

Location of Diversion: Section 29, Township 8N, Range 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1866.

Priority: 17 (4-15-1866)

Existing Structures: 4ft rectangular weir; chart house.

Terry Lake Inlet

See Little Cache La Poudre Ditch

Timnath Reservoir Inlet (Cache La Poudre Reservoir Inlet)

The headworks and diversionary structure are located within the city limits of Fort Collins. The headworks are along the Cache La Poudre Bike Trail, less than one mile downstream from where Mulberry Street crosses the river. The Chaffee Ditch shared the same concrete diversionary structure with the Timnath Inlet. This dam is of very recent construction, probably as recent as 1978. The Timnath Reservoir Inlet takes water from the Cache La Poudre about 3 miles for storage in the Timnath Reservoir. The Timnath Reservoir is located within a small valley near the town of Timnath. The site of the reservoir used to be occupied by the Lake Canal, but the canal was relocated to allow for the construction of the reservoir.

The Cache La Poudre Reservoir Company was created in 1892 for the express purpose of building and maintaining a reservoir system. The original members of the Reservoir Company were also members of the Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company, Greeley No. 2 Canal. The Greeley No. 2 and Lake Canal farmers needed an additional supply of water when the river ran low or when water was needed for late season crops, such as alfalfa and potatoes. The charter of the original Cache La Poudre Irrigating Canal did not allow for the construction of reservoirs, so the irrigators found it necessary to create an entirely new corporate entity. The members of the new company began immediate construction on the reservoir in 1892. The reservoir was originally called the Cache La Poudre Reservoir, but eventually became known as the Timnath Reservoir.

The Timnath Reservoir holds priority number 28 for reservoir decrees. Reservoir decrees are always junior to the needs of direct irrigation. Therefore, all of the other ditches along the river have seniority over reservoirs. Water can only be taken for storage purposes when there is either a surplus in river water or during seasons of little or no direct irrigation. Reservoirs follow the same process of appropriation that direct irrigation canals follow. Reservoir companies that created and used water first get seniority, while later reservoirs are given junior rights.

Location of Diversion: Section 18, Township 7N, Range 68W.

Original Construction Date: Ditch: 1892; Concrete Diversionary Structure: 1978

Priority: 28 (3-17-1892)

Existing Structure along the Cache: Concrete Diversionary Structure and Headworks.

Whitney Ditch (Deadbeat Ditch)

The headworks of the Whitney Ditch are located near Windsor, less than one mile south of Highway 392 and less than a half a mile from the Weld County-Larimer County border. The B. H. Eaton Ditch's headgate sits downriver within eyesight from the Whitney Ditch's headgate. The Whitney Ditch takes water from the north side of the river and flows about 8 miles east. The Whitney Ditch was located near the "old Pinkerton" trading post and sod fort.

The Whitney Ditch was constructed for direction irrigation. Fred Whitney, who was the first settler in the Windsor area, built the ditch in 1862. Charles McKelvey and George Briggs partnered with Whitney to help maintain the ditch and benefit from it. It received the nickname of the Dead-Beat Ditch from George Briggs due to the water's slow rate of flow. It took a long time for water from the river to reach Brigg's place at the end of the ditch.

Location of Diversion: Section 19, Township 6N. Range 67W

Original Construction Date: 1862.

Priority: 7 (9-1-1862); 1st enlargement 43 (9-10-1871).

Existing Structures: Concrete and steel headgate; Concrete diversion dam; Wooden Chart House.

Canals No Longer In Existence

Josh Ames Irrigation Ditch (Peter Anderson Ditch)

The remnants of the Josh Ames Ditch lie within the current city limits of Fort Collins. Its concrete headworks are located along the Cache La Poudre River between College Avenue and Shields Street. The headworks are situated in a natural diversion along the river, which assisted in the maintenance and delivery of a reliable water supply. The Ames was a very short and simple ditch. It was less than two miles long and used the Dry Creek's natural channel for the last portion of its flow. Water returned to the river through the Dry Creek. The Josh Ames Ditch lies on the northern side of the Poudre. It flowed through the property of the Great Western Sugar Factory and the working class settlement of Andersonville. Most of the original channel has been filled in because the ditch is no longer in operation.

The Josh Ames Ditch was constructed in 1867. It was used for small-scale farming and domestic needs. In 1882, when Judge Victor A. Elliott adjudicated the water along the Poudre, the Ames was granted priority 25. Four individuals, Peter Anderson, Alexander Barry, Charles Buckingham and Robert Howes, controlled the ditch. Anderson, in particular, was an important player in the early years of Fort Collins. He was a farmer, banker, merchant, city alderman and the President of the Chamber of Commerce. Anderson came to Fort Collins in 1865 and purchased George McIntosh's squatters claim. His land eventually came under the control of the sugar factory, and the community of Andersonville bears his name. Charles Buckingham's lands also came under domination of the sugar factory, and he lends his name to the community of Buckingham.

The construction of a sugar beet processing plant in 1903 had a profound impact on the Josh Ames Ditch. By the 1890s, sugar beet processing was one of the most important industries for northern Colorado. The Fort Collins factory operated from 1904 until 1955, and relied on the Josh Ames to supply its water. Much of the Ames' resources were dedicated to the maintenance of the Great Western Sugar Factory, but the ditch still served some minor agricultural and domestic needs. The Ames' ditch declined in importance after the factory's closure and it eventually was abandoned.

In 1912, the Josh Ames Ditch Company sold some of its water right to the New Mercer Ditch Company and the Larimer County Canal No. 2 Ditch Company. The two companies diverted their share of the water through their respective headgates. The Josh Ames Ditch still operated, but at a reduced rate.

The current headworks structures are relatively recent constructions. Until at least 1944, the Ames relied almost exclusively on the natural diversionary structure in the river. A wooden headgate structure was used into the 1940s, but was replaced by the concrete structures that still remain.

Headworks Location: Section 3, Township 7 North, Range 69 West.

Original Construction Date: approx. 1867

Priority: 25 (10-1-67)

Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory

The Bellvue Irrigation Hydraulic Laboratory is a field experiment canal located along county road 52E within the municipality of Bellvue. Its location is also near the Jackson (or Dry) ditch's main diversionary headworks on the Cache La Poudre River. The Jackson Ditch Company, which is owned by the larger Water Supply and Storage, currently owns the land that the lab is situated on. The Bellvue Laboratory's construction dates to its establishment in approximately 1921 by Ralph L. Parshall.¹⁹ While in use, it served as the field laboratory for Parshall and others researchers for their work on irrigation technology. At this site, Parshall tested the results of his work on a new water flow-measuring device, the Parshall Flume. His work on this flume was completed in 1926. The canal represents the drive and need for an accurate and efficient method to monitor the flow of irrigation canals in the arid West. Despite its historical value, it has almost completely disappeared from local memory, hidden in the overgrowth next to the Jackson Ditch rider's house. The field laboratory itself suffers from years of neglect. However, the canal still retains much of its original appearance, despite its deterioration.

The laboratory canal runs for about 150 feet, and is generally 14 feet wide and 6.5 feet deep. It is primarily constructed of reinforced concrete for most of its length, but it is made of earth and stone after the final weir. Slow moving water that seeps through the canal, rotting wood, plants, and mud all currently hide the laboratory's concrete floor. The final weir is at the very end of the concrete section of the channel, and it is 25 feet wide and 10 feet deep. After leaving the weir, the water goes through an earthen channel back into the Poudre. On its eastern side, a red stonewall helps maintain the earthen channel's integrity. It appears to be a later addition to the laboratory, but of an unknown date.

Water flows directly from a natural diversion in the Poudre into the canal. There is a large concrete diversionary structure across this natural feature, which further forces water towards the laboratory's headworks. Most of the headworks's structure is concrete, but the gate itself is made of a metal, probably cast iron. The gate is bolted directly into the concrete of the headworks. It remains closed, but water still flows into the canal, probably because it has rusted through over the years.

Originally water was purposefully allowed in at the headworks, and then it flowed through the final weir, where the water was measured.²⁰ Parshall controlled the amount of water coming into the canal with both the headgate and a baffle. Before the water exited the ditch, it passed through Parshall's experimental flumes. They were constructed of wood and placed directly into the concrete channel. By creating them out of wood, it allowed Parshall the freedom to make the necessary adjustments to perfect his flume. Only when they were made to very specific measurements did they provide an accurate reading. The wooden forms allowed Parshall to test and adjust the necessary

¹⁹ "History, College of Engineering, 1940" in *History Folders*, Hand-typed, p49, Special Collections, Morgan Library, Colorado State University, Fort Collins; Parshall, Ralph L. "Venturi Flumes," in *Colorado Experiment Station Bulletin* 60., Colorado Agricultural College: Fort Collins, January 1925.

²⁰ More information on the original function and layout of the laboratory is available in Ralph Parshall, "The Improved Venturi Flume" in *Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin* 336, (Colorado Agricultural College: Fort Collins, March 1928;) Ralph. Parshall, "The Parshall Measuring Flume" in *Colorado Experiment Station Bulletin* 423. (Colorado Agricultural College: Fort Collins, March 1936,) 5-6.

proportions, but the wood had the tendency to expand after being submerged for extended periods of time. Therefore, to make sure that the forms retained their shapes, exterior wooden cross beams supported them. Some of these boards are still intact. The wooden flumes were eventually swollen, distorted and rotted by their continued contact with water, and some of their remains still exist in the channel.

In the 1920s, two small buildings stood next to the headworks of the canal. They most likely housed equipment necessary for the maintenance of the laboratory. However, their exact function is unknown. At some point in the past seventy years, the smaller of the buildings was completely destroyed. It appears that the larger of the two building still survives. The structure is a small, white wooden building. It is single story, and likely only has one interior room. A new structure was added to the site sometime after the property was transferred back to Water Supply and Storage's control. A small home now sits next to the laboratory. Water Supply and Storage provided it for the Jackson (or Dry) Ditch rider. It is a small, single story wooden building, in a poor state of repair. The rest of the property is covered with numerous trees and farm equipment.

The laboratory is set in the rural town of Bellvue. The surrounding countryside is sparsely populated and lightly wooded. The canal's location is near the base of Goat Hill and is naturally near the Cache La Poudre River. Upriver, approximately one-mile north, is the Colorado Wildlife Division Poudre River Fish Hatchery. The laboratory structure itself is visible from county road 52E, but it is partially hidden by overgrowth. Although somewhat visible to the public, most people would not realize what the structure was, due to a lack of familiarity with irrigation history and the overall neglect of the site. Furthermore, since the structure is situated on private property, next to the residence of an employee of the Water Supply and Storage, it would be difficult for the public to get a closer look at the canal.

The Bellvue field laboratory played an essential part in the perfection of the Parshall Flume. It allowed for the first tests in a real world irrigation situation along an actual river. Since its creation, the Parshall Flume changed irrigation practices all over the world. It provided a simple and efficient method to monitor the flow of water through a canal, thereby greatly assisting the creation and maintenance of irrigation systems. Throughout his career, Ralph Parshall made many important contributions to the fields of irrigation engineering and water resource management, but the Parshall Flume is probably his most important legacy.

Prior to the development of the Parshall Flume, the methods used for water measurement were complex and often required equipment that was difficult to install and expensive to maintain. One such device, the Venturi Flume had the tendency to fill with silt and debris resulting in incorrect readings. Despite its flaws, it was still considered one of the best methods of measuring water flow at the time. Researchers at Colorado Agricultural College (CAC) began testing methods of improving the accuracy and reducing the cost of the Venturi Flume in 1915. Ralph Parshall continued this research, and his work eventually led to the creation of the Parshall Flume sometime between 1922 and 1926.²¹ It was a device that revolutionized irrigation water flow measurement.

Ralph Parshall was a Colorado native, who grew up on a ranch outside of Golden. He attended CAC and graduated in 1904. Soon after his graduation, he and a fellow graduate, Horace Hubber, designed a new Civil and Irrigation Engineering building for the campus. He already

²¹ There are conflicting dates on the actual invention of the Parshall flume. They range from 1922, the date given by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers plaque, to 1926 given by the History, College of Engineering folder.

demonstrated his aptitude for problem solving and research with this design. He joined the faculty of CAC in 1907, and spent the next six years teaching full-time. It was during this period that he designed the Fort Collins Hydraulic Laboratory, which stood on the site of the current Lory Student Center. This building allowed Parshall and other researchers a place for “accurate and precise work” in their irrigation experimentation.²² The Fort Collins Laboratory, just like the Bellvue Laboratory, played a central role in his development of the Parshall Flume. The laboratory expressed his true love of research. He left full-time teaching to become a member of the Irrigation Investigation Office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1913. He still remained a member of CAC’s faculty, but this move allowed him to focus solely on research.

With this joint appointment from CAC and the USDA, he began his work on the Venturi Flume. His investigations required the Fort Collins Laboratory, but he also needed a site for field research. This prompted him to design the Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory. It functioned as the necessary field site for Parshall. He needed the Fort Collins lab for the precision it provided and he needed the Bellvue lab for the practical application of his research. After testing his theories in a controlled situation, it was necessary to see if they worked under the stresses of the real world. Through his research, Parshall realized that he could simplify the entire design of the Venturi Flume, and make it much easier to operate and install. Parshall’s redesigned flume, which he originally called the Improved Venturi Flume, provided numerous advantages over its predecessors. The Improved Venturi Flume “is simple because it has no adjustable or moving parts.”²³ Parshall flumes are easy to construct because they are made of a series of planes, and they can be built of concrete, wood or sheet metal.²⁴ Its construction requires very specific proportions for accuracy, and therefore it cannot be altered for “willfully unfair measurements of the discharge.”²⁵ This feature obviously protects all of the river users from the serious crime of water theft. The flume only required the reading of a single gage to measure the flow, thereby greatly reducing the complexity of measurement. Parshall’s invention gave irrigators and water commissioners an important new tool that simplified their work. It helped provide a standard method of measurement, which eased conflicts along the river. It was at Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory that these important devices were first tested on the river, forever connecting the lab to the transformation of irrigation sparked by Parshall’s work.

Everyone involved with irrigation soon realized the value of the Improved Venturi Flume. Shortly after their development, the flumes were installed throughout Colorado and the west. Their instillation created a much more manageable irrigation system, which could serve all of the users equally well. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Colorado Experiment Station, and the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering of the USDA all recommended that the device officially be called the Parshall Flume in 1930. The same year, Parshall also received the gold medal from the ASCE.²⁶ In 1985, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers dedicated a plaque on the site of the old Fort Collins Hydraulic Laboratory to Parshall’s work. It became their nineteenth Historic

²² Ralph Parshall, “The Parshall Measuring Flume,” 6.

²³ *Ibid.*, 56.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 56.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 56. (Spelling of Wilfully matches text.)

²⁶ History, College of Engineering, 49.

Agricultural Landmark, but failed to mention the existence of the Bellvue Laboratory. The lab's role in the creation of the Parshall flume was just as important, and the site deserves the same recognition.

The Parshall flume continues its important place in irrigation management. For example, almost every single ditch company along the Cache La Poudre still uses a Parshall Flume to measure their water flow. In the 1982 CRC Handbook of Irrigation Technology, it is described as "the most commonly used device for measuring flow in irrigation channels all over the world."²⁷ The Colorado State Engineer still sells a pamphlet on the installation and operation of Parshall flumes. They remain simple, inexpensive and easy to operate, and have proven to be an important part of modern irrigation systems.

Location: Section 30; Township 8N; Range 69W.

Priority: N/A

Existing Structures: Experimental canal to produce a controlled flow.

John R. Brown Ditch (City Ditch)

The John R. Brown Ditch's rights were transferred to Larimer County Canal No. 2 in 1907. The Larimer County Canal No. 2 Irrigation Company successfully petitioned to take the John R. Brown water through the Larimer County No. 2 headgate. By the time of the court case, which transferred the water rights, the John R. Brown was already considered abandoned by the court.

Location: Headgate located at Section 33, 8N, 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1865.

Priority (when in operation): 14 (5-1-1865)

Canon Canal Company

The Canon Canal took water from north bank of the Cache La Poudre River. Most of the water rights were split between the Poudre-Highline Ditch, Larimer County Canal and Poudre Valley Canal. However, part of the Canon's rights are considered abandoned, not transferred.

Location: Headworks: Section 15, Township 8 North, Range 70 West.

Original Construction Date: 1868.

Priority (when in operation): 28 (3-15-1868), 1st Enlargement Priority 55 (4-1-18763)

Existing Structures: None

Carter-Cotton Mill Canal (Joseph P. Watson and The Fort Collins Water Power Company Ditch)

The Carter-Cotton Mill Canal was used to supply water for milling purposes. The canal's headworks were located west of College Avenue, near the Josh Ames headworks. Joseph Watson's Mill produced flour for a few years, but it proved unsuccessful. The mill that the canal supplied was located approximately one mile from the ditch's headgate.

The Carter Cotton Mill Canal was declared abandoned and lost all of its water rights.

Location: Diverted water from Section 2, Township 7N, Range 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1879

Priority: 89 (4-1-1879); 1st Enlargement 95 (12-31-1879)

Existing Structures: None

²⁷ Herman J. Finkel, ed., *CRC Handbook of Irrigation Technology*, Volume 1, (Boca Raton: CRC Press, Inc., 1982,) 151.

Chaffee Ditch

The remains of the Chaffee Ditch lie within in the city limits of Fort Collins. The headworks are along the Cache La Poudre Bike Trail, less than one mile downstream from where Mulberry Street crosses the river. The Chaffee Ditch was a relatively short ditch, it was only about two miles long. It flowed from the south bank of the Cache La Poudre in a southeasterly direction. Its path crossed the Spring Creek.

The Chaffee was constructed in approximately 1872, after many of the larger, more extensive canal networks had already been created. The ditch served to irrigate a variety of local crops, including sugar beets, alfalfa, cereals, and corn. It was never a major ditch along the Cache La Poudre River system, because of its diminutive size and relatively unimportant priority number. It operated into at least the 1970s, but it is currently abandoned. When in operation, the Chaffee relied on the diversionary structure of the Cache La Poudre Reservoir inlet to provide the canal with the necessary water flow. The current concrete and metal headworks were built post 1944, because in the early forties the headworks were still constructed primarily of wood.

Location of Diversion: Section 18, Township 7 N, Range 68 W. It is located on the south bank of the river.

Original Construction Date: 1872.

Priority: 48 (3-10-1872.) Now abandoned.

Existing Structures: Concrete and metal headgate. Most of the ditch itself is filled in.

Chamberlain Private Ditch

The Chamberlain Private Ditch was used by the Fort Collins Milling and Elevator Company and was associated with the following individuals Silvia S. T. Chamberlain, Eugene L. Chamberlain and Mr. Cleve. It was created for irrigation, domestic use, milling and churning. The Chamberlain had a good junior right to water, they were priority number sixteen in District 3. Its rights were transferred to the Larimer and Weld Canal. It took two court cases, one in 1912 and one in 1916, for the Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company to successfully petition to have all of the Chamberlain Ditch's water diverted through the Larimer and Weld headgate. By 1916, the Chamberlain ditch ceased functioning and was completely abandoned.

Location of Diversion: Section 32, 8N, 69W

Construction Date: 1866

Priority (when in operation): 16 (4-1-1866)

Existing Structures: None

Fletcher Ditch

The Fletcher Ditch was declared abandoned sometime between 1920 and 1944.

Location of Diversion: Section 31, Township 6N, Range 66W.

Construction Date: 1871

Priority (when in operation): 41 (1-9-1871)

Existing Structures: None

Mason and Hottel Mill Race Canal

The Mason and Hottel Mill Race Canal was located within the current city limits of Fort Collins. It diverted water from south side of the river near the present day College Avenue Bridge over the river. The canal powered the first gristmill in Fort Collins. The mill had been completed in

1869 by “Auntie” Stone and H. C. Peterson. Joseph Mason purchased the mill from Stone and Peterson in 1873. Mason sold half of the mill to Benjamin Hottel in 1880. The mill operated under the name Mason and Hottel for several years, until Mason’s death. Hottel sold the entire mill to the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company. Hottel remained with the company as manager of the mill. The Colorado Milling and Elevator Company built a new mill on the same sight and installed steam power after the original mill burnt down 1886.

Due to the Mason and Hottel Mill Race Canal’s good priority and location, the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company was involved with several legal disputes. B. H. Eaton and the Larimer and Weld Canal Company were particularly interested in the Mason’s water rights. The mill’s low priority assured it of receiving water, but stopped the Larimer and Weld from receiving enough of the river’s flow. All of Eaton’s reservoirs were located below the Mill Race Canal, and therefore could not provide the mill’s necessary water. Some argued that the mill did not need the water, because milling is not as important as agriculture and also because the mill had a back up power supply. The mill held out and forced Eaton to provide it with the necessary coal to operate its steam engines. Water Supply and Storage, because of their reservoir locations, was able to trade the necessary water with the mill.

The Mason and Hottel Mill Race Canal was declared abandoned by the 1940s.

Location of Diversion: Section 11, Township 7N, Range 69W.

Original Construction Date: 1867

Priority: 22 (4-15-1867)

Mill Power Canal (S . S. Kennedy & Co. Canal)

The headgate for the Mill Power Canal was located near the city of Greeley. It took water from near Island Grove Park along the Cache La Poudre River. The Mill Power Canal diverted water from the south side of the river and the water flowed to the southeast through the city for two miles. It was created to serve direct irrigation, domestic, and milling purposes. The Greeley mill was constructed to grind flour. Many of the local farmers and Horace Greeley himself opposed the construction of the mill and its canal. They believed all of their money and effort needed to be directed on direct irrigation for crops, not on milling. The ditch caused numerous problems for Greeley after its construction. It flooded several town lots and the cellars of the business district. The local merchants petitioned for it to be declared a civic nuisance. The Union Colony sold the water rights to the S. S. Kennedy & Co. flourmill, but lost over \$7000 in the transaction. Farmers continued to complain that the canal diverted necessary water from the important task of direct irrigation. David Boyd, an early water commission and historian of the Union Colony, believed the canal to be Greeley’s “worst eyesore.”²⁸

While the Colorado Mill and Elevator Company in Fort Collins switch to steam power, the S. S. Kennedy Company continued to rely on traditional waterpower. The company operated for several years, and produced a cheap flour called “snow flake”, which was shipped around the country. The inability to compete with modern manufacturing eventually caused the S. S. Kennedy company to abandon their canal.

The ditch’s water rights were declared abandoned prior to 1945.

Location of Diversion section 31, Township 6N, Range 65W.

Original Construction Date: 1871

²⁸ David Boyd, A History: Greeley and the Union Colony of Colorado,. (Greeley: The Greeley Tribune Press, 1890), 66.

Priority when in operation: 40 (7-4-1871)

Pioneer Ditch (Ditch of A. F. Howes and Others)

The Pioneer Ditch was constructed and represented at court by A. F. Howes, Robert Howes, Henry Howes, and Andrew Ames. It was constructed for direct irrigation. The ditch was constructed in 1862 and enlarged in 1864. Like all of the earliest ditches, the Pioneer was relatively small., the ditch's early construction dates gave it a valuable priority. It held priorities 5 and 12. Both of these priorities were transferred to the Water Supply and Storage company, the owners and operators of the Larimer County Ditch. Water Supply and Storage had purchased the land belonging to Howes in 1898 and claimed Howes 5/6 of the water rights for the Pioneer Ditch. The new partial owners of the Pioneer Ditch wanted to transfer its water rights to the Larimer County Ditch. The company took their request to the courts in 1902 and after two years of legal battles they were able to divert the Pioneer's water into the Larimer County Canal. The final 1/6 of the Pioneers water rights were transferred to the Lake Canal Company in 1920.

Location of Diversion from the Poudre: The Pioneer ditch took water from two separate points along the river. One point is from the "land of Rock Bush" and the other is from a slough upriver.

Original Construction Date: 1862

Priority: 5(3-1-1862)

Existing Structure: Unknown.

William S. Taylor Ditch

The William S. Taylor Ditch diverted water from a slough on the north side of Cache La Poudre River. The headgate structure was west of Taft Hill Street. The Taylor Ditch served for domestic uses and direct irrigation needs. The ditch was declared abandoned after more than 20 years of neglect. It appears to have been abandoned post-1920 and pre-1945.

Location of Diversion from the Poudre: Section 33, Township 8N, Range 69W

Original Construction Date: 1875

Priority: 54 (3-15-1875)

Watrous, Whedbee and Secord Ditch

The Watrous, Whedbee and Secord Ditch was originally constructed in 1861 by Jesus Lewis. It was located about one and half miles downstream from the city of Laporte. By 1882, when the court appropriated water usage along the Cache La Poudre, the ditch was owned and operated by William Watrous, Benjamin Whedbee and Louis Secord. The new owners enlarged Jesus Lewis' ditch twice, once in 1866 and once in 1868. They used the water for both domestic uses and direct irrigation.

The Watrous, et al Ditch had an excellent priority for river water. They held priorities no. 2, no. and no. . These water rights were highly sought after and in a series of court cases from 1907 until 1910 the North Poudre Irrigation Company and the Arthur Irrigation Company split the Watrous, et al Ditch's water rights. The Arthur and the North Poudre both took exactly half of each of the priorities. So, the both the Arthur and the North Poudre share the coveted priority no. 2. The Watrous, Whedbee and Secord Ditch was abandoned and all of their water was diverted through the headgates of the two ditches that took their old priorities.

Location of Diversion: Somewhere below the town of Laporte.

Original Construction Date: 1861

Priority (prior to transfer): 2 (6-1-1861); 1st enlargement 19 (7-1-1866); 2nd enlargement 29 (6-1-1868)

Whedbee No.1 Ditch

The Whedbee No. 1 Ditch was originally located near the Greeley Filtration Plant on the upper Cache La Poudre, west of Bellvue.

It held priority number, it was number 6 ½. The ditch's priority was transferred to the City of Greeley's Municipal Water Pipeline.

Location of Diversion: Section 14 Township 8 North, Range 70 W

Original Construction Date: 1862.

Priority: 6½ (8-1-1862)

Vandewark Ditch

The Vandewark ditch was located within the current city limits of Fort Collins, near the Josh Ames ditch. It had its headgate structure on the north bank of the river, near College Avenue. The ditch ran for about one mile. In the 1940s, the canal still relied on a wooden headgate structure, and had no diversionary dam. It relied on a small diversionary channel to provide an adequate water supply for the canal. The Vandewark was constructed for domestic and direct irrigation purposes. It was abandoned some time between 1945 and 1973.

Location of Diversion: Section 2, Township 7N, Range 69W

Original Construction Date: 1874

Priority: 65 (5-1-1874)

Existing Structures: None

Yeager Ditch (Lytton-Yeager Ditch)

The Yeager Ditch is considered the first canal constructed along the Cache La Poudre River. The ditch was divided into two separate canals, after the water left the main diversionary structure on the river. The two branches were simply called the upper ditch and the lower ditch. The lower was the older of the two and held priority number one, while the upper held priority number eight.

G. R. Sanderson, an early resident of La Porte, constructed the ditch to irrigate his land in the either 1859 or 1860. In 1863 or 1864, Sanderson sold his squatter's rights, ditch and all, to Joshua Yeager. Yeager continued to maintain the ditch for several years, and was the main claimant when seniority rights were established in 1882. Yeager briefly transferred part of the number one priority to the New Mercer ditch, but eventually reclaimed it in 1891. The City of Fort Collins purchased the ditch's number one priority in late 1921. The city completely abandoned the lower ditch, and transferred the number one priority to the city's Municipal Pipeline. (The city of Fort Collins Pipeline diverts water at section 37, Township 9, Range 70, far up the Poudre Canyon.) The upper branch of the Yeager ditch was declared abandoned by State Supreme Court.

Location of Diversion: Headworks – Section 24, Township 8, Range 70.

Construction Date: 1859-60,

Priority: 1 (6-1-1860), 8 (enlarged 6-1-1863).

Existing structures: Unknown.

Appendix X

Developing Management Alternatives for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor

Public law 104-323, October 19, 1996, 110 *Stat.* 3889-3900, designating the Cache La Poudre River Corridor provides for "the interpretation, for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations, of the unique and significant contributions to our national heritage of the cultural and historic lands, waterways, and structures within the Corridor."

The law also establishes the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Commission whose responsibility is to prepare, obtain approval for, implement and support an interpretive plan for the Corridor. The legislation empowers the Commission to hold hearings, obtain matching funds, accept and dispose of gifts, acquire temporarily real property by gift or from a willing seller provided it is conveyed to a non-federal public agency, enter into cooperative agreements, establish advisory groups and modify the interpretive plan as it deems necessary to carry out the Act.

In implementing the interpretive plan the law directs the Commission to conserve, restore and interpret cultural resources; interpret the historic, present and futures uses of the Corridor; enhance public awareness and appreciation for the resources in the Corridor; promote the Corridor resources at the local, regional, statewide, national and international levels; and help identify and implement land exchanges by Federal and State agencies in the State of Colorado that will expand open space and recreational opportunities within the Corridor.

To effectively discharge its broad and complex duties, the Commission will need to develop a management plan describing its organizational structure and management strategy to guide its efforts and assure goal oriented continuity over time. The need for a management plan has been recognized in the legislation authorizing other national heritage areas and will be an important tool to assist the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Commission, when officially appointed, in making appropriate decisions regarding the Corridor.

The legislation also encourages the Commission to work collaboratively with state institutions to achieve its goals. As a member of the prospective Cache La Poudre River Corridor Commission and as an established NPS cooperating entity, CSU is in a unique position to provide valuable assistance in planning for the conservation, preservation and management of this heritage area.

Goals and Objectives

This project will require close cooperation and interaction between the NPS staff assigned to the Cache La Poudre River Corridor and faculty and students at the Natural Resources, Recreation and Tourism Department at Colorado State University as well as the many partner organizations involved in this effort. NPS staff and the Principal Investigator will work closely to design a process that is well suited to the special circumstances of the Cache La Poudre River Corridor.

Developing a management plan for a heritage area such as the Cache La Poudre River Corridor will provide an excellent opportunity for students in the department to enhance their expertise and gain

experience in several aspects of a topic that is essential when addressing natural resources, recreation and tourism management, as well as establishing partnerships and brokering public interest, input and involvement. Since the number of national and state heritage areas is increasing almost daily, the need to develop expertise in formulating and implementing adequate management strategies that assure rational decision-making by local entities is evident. A cooperative effort that leads to the development of a successful management strategy will benefit both the National Park Service and the University by providing academic expertise on management issues and by providing training and experience to students and faculty.

Developing alternatives for managing for the Cache La Poudre River Corridor will assist the NPS in crafting an appropriate long-term strategy for the implementation of the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act. This project aims to be an example of successful interagency partnership effort for the betterment of the cities and counties involved.

Appendix XI

Developing a Corridor Marketing Strategy

Once appointed the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Commission should undertake the cooperative marketing and promotion of the Corridor with the partner organizations to develop a comprehensive interpretive program and to avoid creating an assemblage of things to see and do linked only by geographic proximity. The following needs to be considered when engaged in developing such a strategy.

Product Development. This means expanding the menu of things to see and do that appeal to desired visitor market segments. Product development may mean packaging experiences and services together to provide a convenient means of seeing sites and purchasing hospitality services or it may mean developing or enhancing a specific attraction. It may also mean improving a place to make the destination more appealing. Tourist product development generally focuses on

- a. Ways to enhance existing attractions and draw more of their existing audiences, and
- b. Ideas for new attractions that can draw additional visitors and new audiences. In both cases a primary goal is to extend the length of time that visitors spend in an area, preferably increasing the number of overnight stays, which has the greatest economic impact. Both approaches would have to be supported with appropriate infrastructure, signage and marketing activities.

The Commission should help existing commercial and not-for-profit attractions expand their offerings by providing technical assistance to ensure that they have access to the information and talent required to make strategic product development decisions.

Marketing. A marketing program will have to determine which diverse markets to target--ranging from the group tour industry to regional residents looking for something new to do within a reasonable drive, to international visitors arriving at DIA and then, how to communicate messages to each of the selected markets. All aspects of the communications program must be devoted to such messages, including advertising, public relations, and publicity -- the promotion half of the marketing and promotion duo. The Commission will have to choose how to devote its resources according to technique and target niche, and understand how best to weld its own and its partners' programs into a strategic whole. Marketing issues reflect several themes. Participants want to use scarce marketing dollars wisely, for example, on state of the art approaches geared towards appropriate markets. Some key issues follow:

Reliance on technology. The Internet is changing the nature of tourism marketing on an ongoing basis. It is difficult for the tourism industry to avoid lagging behind and to make the ongoing investments in e-marketing to stay competitive. It is the responsibility of the Commission to stay abreast of technological developments to avoid wasting money on e-fads that become outmoded virtually overnight. But securing the financial and human resources necessary to implement them is even harder.

1. Consistency of image and message. Duplication of effort and conflicting messages can result in a waste of resources that only confuses visitors.

2. Knowing the competition and existing market
3. Staying abreast of trends in tourism
4. Reaching national and international visitors
5. Coordinating and monitoring results

Appendix XII

Inventory of Related Historic Resources

Ted's Place

This site is known as the gateway to Poudre Canyon. Ted Herring, a former state senator and representative from Larimer County, developed a grassy field at the intersection of what were then two dusty roads--one leading north to Wyoming and one leading west to the mountains. The two roads subsequently became U.S Highway 287 and Colorado Highway 14. A two-story, Swiss-chalet-styled landmark, Ted's Place opened for business on May 25, 1922, as a gasoline station, café, and general store. In the fall of 1989 it was sold to Conoco and demolished.

La Porte (also spelled "Laporte" or "LaPorte")

Antoine Janis left Fort Laramie in 1858, when gold was discovered near Denver. He became a guide and brought a party of his trader friends from the North Platte River to his favorite haunt on the Cache La Poudre River, where they remained over the winter. By spring, enough of them had assembled to give the settlement a name--Colona. The inhabitants of Colona were more often absent than present and in August of 1860, a census taker found a high number of vacant cabins. In late 1860, a few railroad speculators began filtering in. They soon reorganized Colona into the La Porte Townsite Company. The new name, appropriately enough, signified "the gate" in French. In 1862 La Porte became headquarters of the Mountain Division of the Overland Stage Company. Today La Porte is a small, quiet agricultural community.

Fort Collins Waterworks

The Fort Collins Waterworks was the first facility built by the city to house the equipment necessary for a municipal water supply system. Thus, the facility was intricately linked to all aspects of the city's early commercial and residential growth until its closure in 1904. Listed as a Local Landmark in the early 1970s, the structure is considered one of the most historically significant properties in the area and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The initial waterworks consisted of a filter plant, four pumps, two water wheels, 43,400 feet of water main, 20 fire hydrants, and 15 water gates. The pumps and water wheels were located in a brick structure on a stone foundation. Water was diverted from the Cache La Poudre River and carried $\frac{3}{4}$ mile through an open ditch to the pump house. From there, the water was forced into and through city mains by the four pumps, each having a capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day. The pumps were driven by two 75 horsepower turbine water wheels. In winter, a steam-powered engine was used to drive the pumps.

The Fort Collins Waterworks operated for just over twenty years. In 1904, a new filtering plant in Poudre Canyon replaced it. The Fort Collins Waterworks has been vacant for many years, but it still retains a remarkable degree of historical integrity. It is currently managed by the Poudre Landmarks Foundation.

Lee Martinez Farm

Historic buildings at Lee Martinez Park have been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and for local landmark designation. Taken together, they represent one of

the more intact farm complexes in the area. The farm complex is comprised of several buildings, including a barn, silo, administration building, house, garage, museum building, chicken coop, and animal shelters. With the exception of the garage and the administration building, all the buildings are historic.

Joseph Mason, who was one of the region's most influential pioneers, originally owned the land where the farm is located. He served as County Commissioner, County Sheriff, and as Fort Collins' first postmaster.

Librado (Lee) Martinez, for whom the park and the farm are named, was born in Huerfano County in 1889. In 1906, he moved with his family to the Fort Collins area, and later, in partnership with his brother, owned a farm near Kersey. After they were forced to sell the farm at the outset of the Great Depression in 1929, Martinez moved first to La Salle before again settling in Fort Collins. Martinez was deeply involved in local affairs. He served on the city's Human Relations Commission and was a charter member of the American Legion. He died in Fort Collins on April 11, 1970 at age 80.

Rigden River Farm

The first structure built on the "Rigden River Farm" was a grout house. Built in 1870 by Jesse Sherwood, it was an extravagant home for its time. Under facing of concrete was a structure with historical and cultural significance. When neighboring homes were simple log structures, the "Grout house" was built by pouring a mixture of lime, gravel and water into a form and allowing it to dry. Jesse Sherwood and his wife are considered to be the first white family to take up residence in the Poudre Valley.

Recognizing the need for a government in 1860, the first settlers in the area met and formed the "Claim Club Association." Jesse M. Sherwood was chosen judge and a short, stringent code of laws was enacted. Jesse Sherwood, along with his brother Frederick, played a large part in the organization of community government in the early days of Larimer County.

The Rigden family, who occupied the house for over 50 years, also had an impact on the local history and landscape. The Rigden men farmed the land and raised both sheep and cattle. Jack Rigden was well known for his ability in handling horses. He was also somewhat of an engineer. When they took over the farm, the Cache La Poudre River had left a large oxbow in front of the house. Wanting more space in the farmyard, Rigden used teams of horses and a scoop known as a slide scraper to reshape the ground and eliminate the oxbow.

One of the few remaining grout structures left in Larimer County, the house was destroyed by arson in 1999.

Sherwood House

Oxen and wagon brought Frederick and Jesse Sherwood to Denver in 1860. After trying their hand at mining, they came north to the Poudre valley where they raised cattle and horses and sold them to the government. Their land holdings slowly dwindled over the years, with plots being sold off to the government for the relocation of Fort Collins, local ditch companies, and to the sugar beet production plant.

Originally, Sherwood House was a two-story log house built by Frederick and Jesse. Wood siding, chicken wire, plaster, and bricks were added later. For a brief time in 1864, the home served as a stage stop on the Overland Stage trail. When Fort Collins was built, the station was moved to the fort. The original home and support structures built by the Sherwoods still stand. The home has been revamped several times, with new construction materials reinforcing the frame and interior.

The fact that this home was a stop on the Overland Stage Route is of historical importance, but the site also has a strong association with the Arapaho Indians. A band led by Chief Fridays camped at the Sherwood ranch in 1865-66. Frederick Sherwood was appointed by the Government to be the agent responsible for supplying the Indians with food and looking after their welfare. The site contained many artifacts of Indian culture and is of archeological significance. Through the years, many examples of hunting tools, such as arrowheads have been found on the site. Unfortunately, this area has never been safeguarded or protected against removal of these artifacts, and many have disappeared.

Strauss Cabin

Located at the east end of Horsetooth Road, above the south bank of the Cache La Poudre River and at the eastern edge of Fort Collins, Strauss Cabin was determined to be eligible for the National Register and for local landmark designation.

George Strauss was one of the first pioneers to settle in the Poudre Valley. He had passed the area in 1858 while driving a supply wagon for General Albert Sidney Johnson. He had intended to go on to California to pan for gold, but after surviving pneumonia and the theft of his property, he decided to return to the Poudre Valley. When Strauss laid claim to the land near the Cache La Poudre River in 1860, there were few settlements in the area. Recognizing the need for fresh vegetables to supply the pioneers, government, and cavalry, Strauss tilled nine acres of land to begin his venture. As the Overland Stage pushed its way into Northern Colorado, he used it to transport his vegetables to nearby La Porte, to sell in the local markets. For the next 44 years, Strauss made his living from the same nine acres. He invested every spare dollar in cattle and horses and built a very prosperous ranch, supplying the government with horses, fresh beef, and vegetables.

The Strauss Cabin was constructed of hand-hewn, pine logs with dovetail corners -- a method of construction that requires considerable skill and patience. The pine logs were transported from the Poudre Canyon to the site, since at the time the only vegetation on-site were the cottonwoods along the river. Over the years, Strauss remodeled the cabin and added a stone section with 1-½ foot thick walls. The log cabin George Strauss built unfortunately became the target of arsonists during the spring of 1999, resulting in the loss of a highly significant structure.

In the spring of 1864, the Cache La Poudre River flooded most of the community of La Porte and severely damaged Strauss's garden. Although the flood warned of the dangers of living in the river valley, Strauss rebuilt and continued to live and farm on the land. In 1904, the river flooded again, this time pinning Strauss up against a fence overnight. His neighbor, Mr. Strang, urged him to leave and join him at his ranch, which was on higher ground. Strauss refused, explaining that he had lived there 40 years and had no intention of leaving. The next day, Strang rescued him, but Strauss died of exposure the following day.

In 1975, the Platte Gravel Corporation acquired the farm and deeded the Strauss cabin and two acres of land to Larimer County for use as an historical site. The primary value of the site was the architecture of the cabin, and the Larimer County Board of Commissioners provided funds for its refurbishment in the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Program. The cabin was the finest example of pioneer architecture in Larimer County.

Indian Burial Mounds

Located in the bluffs above the Cache La Poudre River near Windsor, Colorado, is an Indian burial site. It is believed to be an Arapaho burial ground. Indians are known to have roamed the area, often camping in the gullies south of town. There are no thrilling tales of serious Indian attacks on the settlers, but bands of Indians would sometimes drive away livestock. There were friendly Indians and unfriendly ones, who would at times demand food from the settlers. These demands were usually made when the men were gone. Out of fear, women would always give the Indians food.

Halfway House

Halfway House was a stage station on the mail route between the towns of Latham and La Porte. It was said to be “half-way” between those two places. It was located northwest of Windsor on the Cache La Poudre River, near the Sherwood claim and the later settlement known as Wheatland.

Fort Pinkerton

James H. Pinkerton filed a U.S. Land Patent in 1869 for a site along the Poudre River, southwest of present-day Windsor. He settled there for several years, and built a sod “fort” which he used as a trading post. He catered to the local residents, traded with the Indians, and fed and housed stagecoach travelers. He later moved to Greeley with the Union colony, then to Evans, and later traveled on to other towns in Colorado.

Kaplan Hoover Site

In 1997, earthmoving activities associated with a housing development project, near Windsor, Colorado, exposed a large number of bones. An initial test excavation of the site in October and November of that year indicated that the exposed bones were on the edge of an old arroyo that contained a large number of well-preserved bison bones, some of which exhibited clear evidence of human butchery. Beginning in May 1998, and continuing through the winter and early spring of 1999, students from Colorado State University excavated the site. They uncovered a large, Late Archaic period, arroyo trap that is estimated to contain as many as 200 animals. Uncalibrated radiocarbon testing of associated charcoal and bone collagen specimens found at the site indicates the site is 2,700 years old, originating in the Late Plains Archaic Age. Evidence indicates the bison were killed during a single fall-of-the-year event. Although arroyo traps of this age, containing similar projectile points, are relatively common in the Powder River Basin of northern Wyoming and southeastern Montana, the Kaplan-Hoover site provides a unique opportunity for investigating Late Archaic subsistence in Colorado.

Eaton’s Ranch

Eaton’s Ranch is located south and slightly east of Windsor at the golf course near the Water Valley subdivision. Benjamin H. Eaton, who originally came to Colorado to mine gold, owned the ranch. Eaton began a freighting business with several partners, including his brother-in-law James Hill. He made his first land claim in Weld County in 1863 on the Cache La Poudre River, south of present-day

Windsor. He soon owned most of the land between Windsor and Galeton, became active with the Union Colony, and helped to establish Greeley, Colorado. In 1883, he started the town of Eaton, Colorado. He went on to become Governor of Colorado from 1885-1887.

Island Grove Park / Centennial Village

Originally, the Island Grove Park area was a natural grove of cottonwood trees, which contemporary biologists suggest was a rare occurrence in the 19th century Cache La Poudre River corridor. Before the white man arrived, the Ute and Arapaho Indians used the area as a major campsite as they followed game across the plains. The Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Sioux tribes used the park area as a burial site, continuing that practice even after the arrival of European settlers. During the 1860s, the area was a ranch. Island Grove Regional Park was one of two parks laid out by Nathaniel Meeker when he founded the Union Colony in 1869. This makes the park one of the oldest in Colorado. By the 1870s, new settlers were using the area for picnics. A canal that supplied water to a sawmill southeast of the park once surrounded the park. As the city of Greeley grew, Island Grove Park became the major source of recreation for the city's northern residents. The first cowboy tournament, the forerunner of the Greeley Independence Stampede, was held here in 1898 and in 1912 a trolley line was extended to the Park. In 1976, Centennial Village was established in Island Grove Park to recreate the Greeley/Weld County lifestyle from 1860 to 1920.