

**From:** [Larry Wysocki](mailto:Larry Wysocki)  
**To:** [wtully@gp.usbr.gov](mailto:wtully@gp.usbr.gov);  
**Subject:** Comment DES-0830  
**Date:** Saturday, December 27, 2008 1:51:08 PM

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Dear Mr. Tully:

This is a comment regarding the draft environmental impact statement for the Windy Gap Firing project in Colorado.

With the exception of the increased water temperature and associated impact on fish habitat anticipated in the Colorado as it approaches the Williams Fork tributary, most of the other the negative impacts of alternative 2 seem modest - a few percent increase in ammonia levels here; a slight decrease in flow and spawning habitat there; a few less rafting days and so on. My large concern is that this project will only supply ~10% of the ~44% increase in water that the affected communities anticipate they will need in the next few decades. If the project is approved, it will establish a new baseline of environmental parameters, so that when the next water project is proposed, its damage to the environment will also be projected as modest with respect to the new baseline. And the same will hold for the next, and the next, and the next projects, until we will wake up one morning and realize that much of what we treasure in the great Colorado outdoors has been lost due to the cumulative effects of this piecemeal approach. It is the economic equivalent of compound interest in reverse.

To some degree, there is a chicken and egg paradox at play. New water is needed for the projected population growth, but the less water that is available, the less the population will grow. Ideally, front range communities should get together and come up with a master plan for water resource development and conservation that is acceptable to the people who currently live here rather than catering to the wishes of developers. Its time for the Bureau of Reclamation to look at the big picture and force the issue if it is able.

Sincerely,  
Lawrence J. Wysocki , Ph.D.  
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