

Cache la Poudre River FACTS

The Poudre River is 126 miles long, of which 45 miles is in the designated heritage area.

The Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area was established in 1996/ with the Cache La Poudre River Corrido.

The Poudre River is Colorado's only designated wild and scenic river – 76 miles designated in 1986.

The river was named by fur trappers who had buried supplies and gunpowder in a large pit near the river in 1825. The French-speaking trappers referred to this spot as *Cache la Poudre* – the hiding place of the powder.

The Poudre River drains an area of 1,900 square miles.

The Poudre River headwaters are at Milner Pass in Rocky Mountain National Park, located west of the Alpine Visitors Center on Trail Ridge Road at elevation 10,756 feet.

The confluence of the Poudre and South Platte rivers is about 5 miles east of Greeley at elevation 4,600 feet.

During the 1920's, Ralph Parshall, an employee of the Fort Collins Irrigation Investigations Unit of the USDA, developed the Parshall Flume – a water flow measurement device used around the world today.

Delph Carpenter, a Greeley water attorney, helped litigate the Laramie River lawsuit with Wyoming which determined diversion amounts into the Cache la Poudre River. He utilized this experience to lead the seven Colorado River Basin states in establishing the Colorado River Compact in 1922 as the mechanism to divide waters among the upper and lower Colorado River basin states.

From 1937-1957 the Colorado-Big Thompson Project was built to divert water from the Colorado River to Northern Colorado. Horsetooth Reservoir stores a portion of this water for release into the Poudre River.

Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area

Further information

Visit us online at
www.PoudreHeritage.org



Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

For additional information on places to see and things to do within the **PHA** visit the following:

Colorado Welcome Center at Fort Collins
(Heritage Area Administrative Offices)

www.colorado.com/colorado-official-state-welcome-center/colorado-welcome-center-fort-collins

Poudre Learning Center (Heritage Area Headquarters)

www.PLCoutdoors.org

Greeley Museums

www.greeleymuseums.com

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

www.fcmod.org

Town of Windsor Museum at Boardwalk Park

www.windsorgov.com/artandheritage

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

www.wildlife.state.co.us

Poudre River Trail

www.poudretrail.org

Fort Collins Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.visitftcollins.com

Colorado Department of Transportation

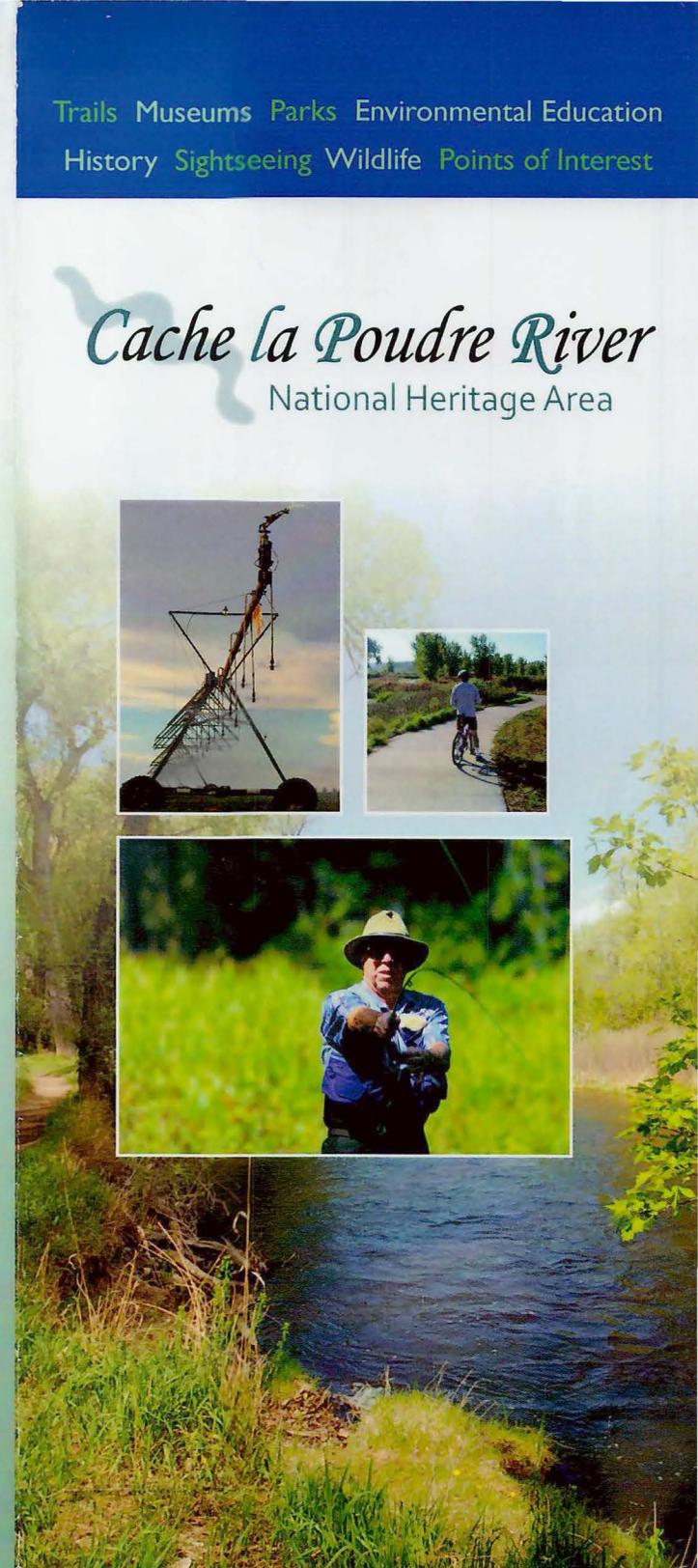
www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways



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Trails Museums Parks Environmental Education
History Sightseeing Wildlife Points of Interest

Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area



Cache la Poudre River

National Heritage Area

What is a national heritage area?

National Heritage Area designation recognizes nationally significant resources and their role in defining a portion of the American cultural landscape. Heritage areas are based on partnerships. Partnerships generate opportunities for a broad range of constituents to share their diverse perspectives and provide input on the desired future of an area. Technical expertise is available at all stages of the process by associating with federal entities such as the National Park Service.

The Poudre River National Heritage Area

Congress designated the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area, "... to provide for the interpretation ... of the unique and significant

contributions to our national heritage of cultural and historical lands, waterways, and structures within the Heritage Area."

The Cache la Poudre River National

Heritage Area is one of 49 national heritage areas, and it was the first located west of the Mississippi River.

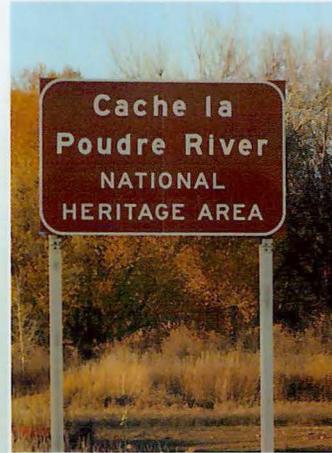
The Poudre River National Heritage Area extends 45 miles from the Roosevelt National Forest boundary to just east of Greeley near the confluence of the Poudre and South Platte rivers. The area encompasses the 100-year floodplain.



courtesy of CSU water archives

"... the Poudre River has provided an excellent example of how an evolving western community can learn to cope with changing pressures on its principal source of water." Historian Dan Tyler

Public access to sites along the Cache la Poudre River is available on the Poudre River Trail where there are informational kiosks and signs related to the historical development of water in the region. The Poudre River Trail provides a variety of recreational opportunities – including biking, birding, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, rafting, rollerblading, and wildlife viewing. Some of these activities are limited to designated areas.



Historical background

The process to formally establish a Heritage Area and provide a management entity began in 1996 with the passage of the Cache la Poudre River Corridor Act. Community members within Northern Colorado



courtesy of CSU water archives

formed the Poudre Heritage Alliance to work toward the stated goals in the act of interpreting the historical development of water and the role the Cache la Poudre River Basin played in the history of westward expansion. The evolution of the Poudre River as one of the foremost examples of a working river in the Western U.S. is a key component of the Poudre River's historical interpretation.

The PHA has a rich history dating back to the 1500's when Native Americans first hunted in the area. The historical development continued with fur trappers in the early to mid-1800's. In fact these trappers are credited with giving the river its name. While in the area in the mid-1830's a group buried supplies and gunpowder near the river. The French-speaking trappers later referred to this spot as *Cache la Poudre* – the hiding place of the powder.

The first white settlements began in the late 1850's. Poudre River water was used to support the subsequent development of a thriving agricultural economy and the ongoing transition to today's mostly urban society.



The Poudre River played a pivotal role in the development of western water law. One of the key aspects of this legal system is its emphasis on prior appropriation (or first in time, first in right) as the main factor in determining water rights ownership. Most western states use a form of this "Colorado Doctrine" in their water law systems today.

In addition, numerous innovations in water delivery procedures and measurement devices were developed within the Poudre River basin.

The story of this evolution is being interpreted, documented and told through the efforts of the Poudre Heritage Alliance.

Cache la Poudre River

National Heritage Area

The Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area includes nearly 45 miles of the "working" Cache la Poudre starting where the river flows out of the Roosevelt National Forest in Poudre Canyon and extending to its confluence with the South Platte River east of Greeley.

The Heritage Area commemorates the Cache la Poudre River's significant contribution to the development of water law in the western United States, the evolution of the river's complex water delivery systems and the cultural heritage of the region.

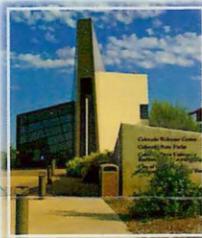
The Poudre River is the largest tributary to the South Platte River



Poudre River at Martinez Park



Events & Activities



Colorado's best Front Range bike trails



Bird watching



Historic Landmark Restoration & Preservation

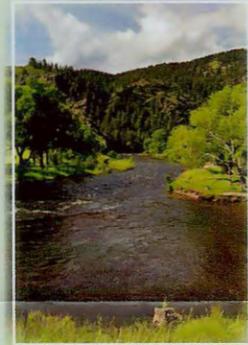


Student education



Poudre Learning Center

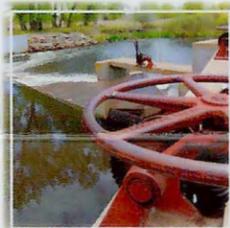
First water right is Yeager Ditch near Bellvue (1860)



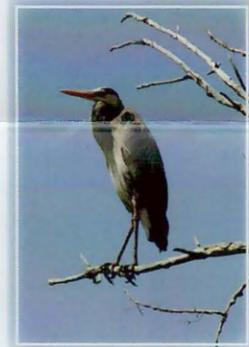
Poudre Canyon mouth



Fort Collins Museum of Discovery



Water Law History



Abundant wildlife

- Legend**
- Cache la Poudre River
 - Poudre River Trail
 - Heritage Area Boundary
 - Point of Interest
 - Trailhead
 - National Forest Boundary
 - Ditches
 - Parks
 - Other Public Lands

