

## Nestle water plans opposed in Colorado

by UPI

SALIDA, Colo. -- Plans by the Nestle food company to remove water from the Arkansas River in Colorado for bottled water sales are too risky, state residents say.

Michele Riggio, Chaffee County Citizens for Sustainability co-founder, said Nestle's plan to remove and bottle water from the Arkansas River in Chaffee County in central Colorado offers no "proven benefits" for area residents, The Denver Post said Monday.

"We have to take everything they are promising on faith," Riggio said. "The risks are too great, and there are not enough proven benefits, so why try?"

Other area residents met last week at a public hearing to discuss the proposal before the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners.

"Nestle is seeking to drain the blood of Chaffee County," area resident Daniel Zettler said.

Key among residents' complaints was a report by Colorado State University ecologist Delia Malone, who suggested the proposed water plan could threaten the Arkansas River should a drought occur, the newspaper reported.

The Post said Nestle refuted that claim, suggesting there is no scientific proof to support such findings.

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