

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD SPEARHEADS DELEGATION LETTER TO END FOREST SERVICE GRABS

### COLORADO SENATOR SEEKING TO REINSTATE MADIGAN POLICY

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) along with five members of the Colorado Congressional delegation have written a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman asking for her reversal of the water bypass flow policy toward existing water uses in Colorado’s national forests. Joining Allard and Campbell in signing the letter were U.S. Representatives Bob Beauprez, Joel Hefley, Scott McInnis, Marilyn Musgrave and Tom Tancredo.

Allard pointed to the 1992 letter from then Secretary of Agriculture Madigan to former Colorado U.S. Senator Hank Brown, in which the Secretary stated that “the Forest Service would not coerce water users to surrender a portion of their legally vested water rights as a condition of permit renewal for existing facilities.” The interpretation was withdrawn in 1994 by the Clinton Administration.

“With the devastating drought that is affecting Colorado and many other Western states it is more important than ever that we restore the Madigan policy and stop the Forest Service from taking Colorado’s water,” said Allard. “The Forest Service must work with the State of Colorado and existing programs within Colorado water law to accomplish it’s objectives. Reinstating the Madigan principles will achieve environmental goals without compromising or conflicting with Colorado water law,” added Allard.

The Colorado lawmakers asked that immediate steps be taken to restore the protection of existing water supplies in Colorado and will be seeking a meeting with the Secretary.

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