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**Sierra Club files lawsuit against Colorado Springs to Protect Public Health,
Clean up Sewage Mess**

Illegal sewage dumping focus of new lawsuit

Denver, Colorado— The Sierra Club filed suit in federal court in Denver today against Colorado Springs Utilities and the City of Colorado Springs for violations of the Clean Water Act in connection with the City's discharges of raw sewage into Fountain Creek. The lawsuit asks for an order requiring the City to stop the discharges and to expedite upgrades to the sewer system, in order to protect the communities downstream in Pueblo, Colorado.

“Sierra Club is taking this action to protect local families from more years of raw sewage and dangerous bacteria in their backyards,” said Ross Vincent, Sierra Club Senior Policy Analysis in Pueblo. “Everyone knows the simple rule that if you make a mess you should clean it up. This is a public health crisis that must be fixed now.”

Since at least 1998, Colorado Springs Utilities has repeatedly spilled raw sewage into Fountain Creek, which runs through the east side of Pueblo. In the last seven years, 73 million gallons of raw sewage have flowed into this community, bringing with it serious threats to public health and safety, including dangerous bacteria levels more than 240 times higher than the state’s own limit. Nevertheless, Colorado Springs Utilities continues to authorize new development hook ups to its sewage system and struck a deal with the State that would not require completion of all necessary upgrades to the sewer system until 2012.

Sierra Club expects its lawsuit will be joined with the lawsuit that was filed by the District Attorney for the 10th Judicial District against Colorado Springs in October, 2005, also for the raw sewage spills. "We look forward to supporting their action and putting our shoulder to the wheel," said Eric Huber, Sierra Club Senior Staff Attorney. "Pueblo can't wait another seven years for the raw sewage discharges to end for good."

The Sierra Club is the nation’s oldest grassroots conservation organization, and our members are 800,000 of your friends and neighbors. Sierra Club has local groups in Pueblo and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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