



**NISP**  
**Northern Water**  
Northern Integrated Supply Project

**U.S. 287 Western Alignment** →  
← **U.S. 287 Northern Alignment**

**Glade Reservoir**  
170,000 AF

*Poudre Valley Canal / Windsor Ditch*

Wellington

**Glade to Horsetooth Pipeline**

Horsetooth Reservoir

FORT COLLINS

LOVELAND

**South Platte Water Conservation Project**

**Galeton Reservoir**  
45,000 AF

*Larimer & Weld Canal*

**SPWCP Pipeline**

EATON

*New Cache Canal*

*Cache la Poudre River*

GREELEY

*South Platte River*

*South Platte River*

*Big Thompson River*

## **NISP Support/Endorsements**

### NISP participant communities and water districts

Dacono, Eaton, Erie, Evans, Firestone, Fort Lupton, Fort Morgan, Frederick, Lafayette, Severance, Windsor, Central Weld County Water District, Fort Collins-Loveland Water District, Left Hand Water District, Morgan County Quality Water

### Ditch and reservoir companies

New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company  
Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company  
District 6 Water Users Association  
Lake Canal Ditch Company  
Windsor Reservoir & Canal Company

### Agricultural related organizations

Colorado Farm Bureau  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado State Grange  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Colorado Dairy Producers  
Colorado Pork Producers Council  
Colorado Egg Producers  
Colorado Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Western Sugar Cooperative  
GreenCO  
Agland, Inc.  
Valley Irrigation of Greeley  
Eaton Local Sugarbeet Growers

### Business related organizations

Fort Collins Board of Realtors  
Upstate Colorado  
Weld Community Development Group  
Progressive 15

### Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette Chamber  
Greeley Chamber  
Windsor Chamber  
Carbon Valley Chamber  
Berthoud Area Chamber  
Longmont Chamber

### Water Conservancy Districts

Central Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District  
St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District

### Conservation Districts

Longmont Conservation District  
Boulder Conservation District  
West Greeley Conservation District

### Editorial support

Greeley Tribune  
Longmont Times-Call  
Fort Morgan Times  
Loveland Reporter-Herald  
Windsor Beacon  
Lafayette News  
Erie Review  
Louisville Times

### Public/elected officials

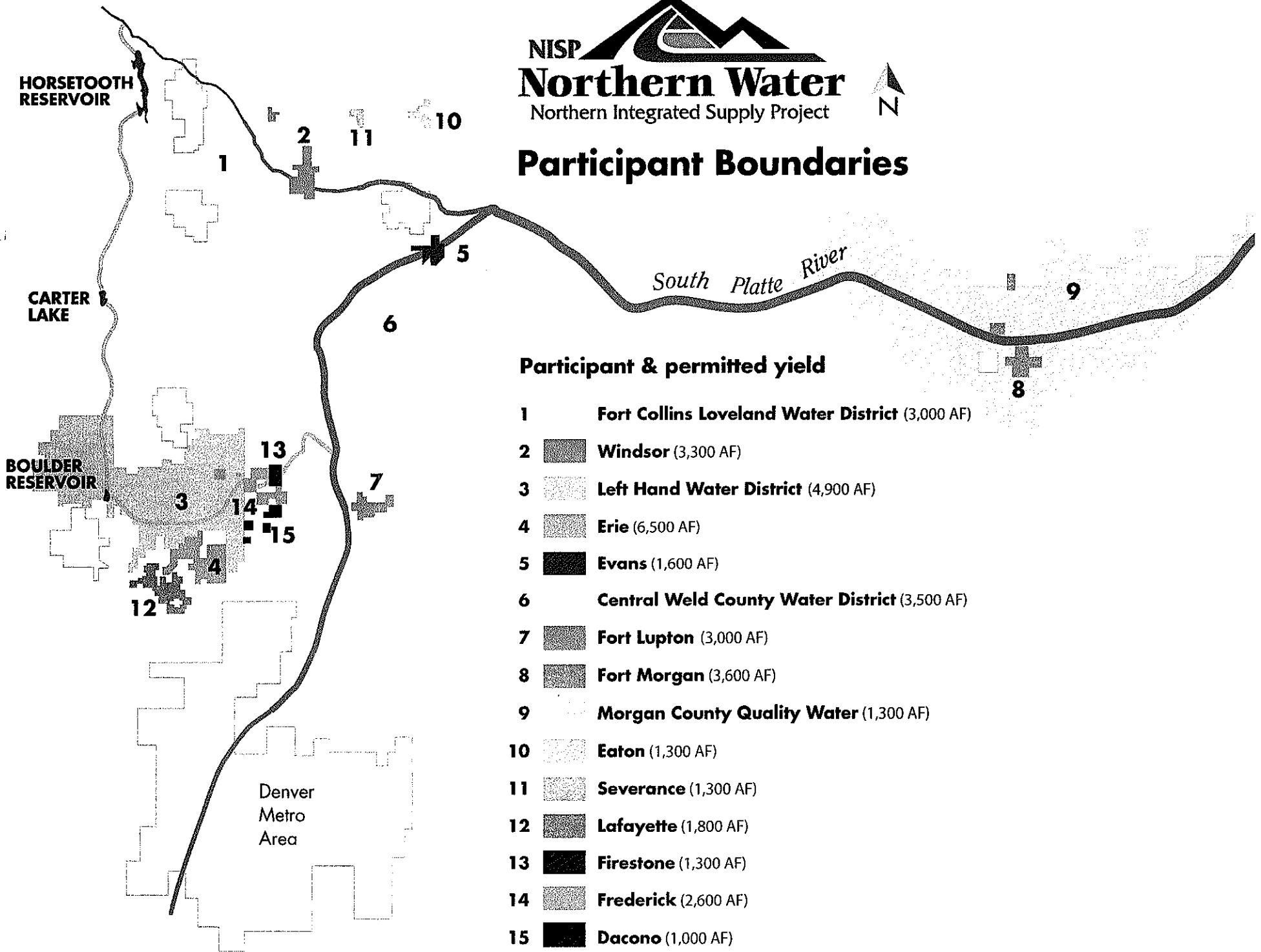
Former Senator Hank Brown  
State Sen. Mary Hodge  
State Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg

### County Commissioners

Weld County Commissioners  
Morgan County Commissioners  
Larimer County Commissioners



## Participant Boundaries



### Participant & permitted yield

- 1 **Fort Collins Loveland Water District** (3,000 AF)
- 2 **Windsor** (3,300 AF)
- 3 **Left Hand Water District** (4,900 AF)
- 4 **Erie** (6,500 AF)
- 5 **Evans** (1,600 AF)
- 6 **Central Weld County Water District** (3,500 AF)
- 7 **Fort Lupton** (3,000 AF)
- 8 **Fort Morgan** (3,600 AF)
- 9 **Morgan County Quality Water** (1,300 AF)
- 10 **Eaton** (1,300 AF)
- 11 **Severance** (1,300 AF)
- 12 **Lafayette** (1,800 AF)
- 13 **Firestone** (1,300 AF)
- 14 **Frederick** (2,600 AF)
- 15 **Dacono** (1,000 AF)

# Survey Shows Northern Colorado Voters Strongly Support NISP Project

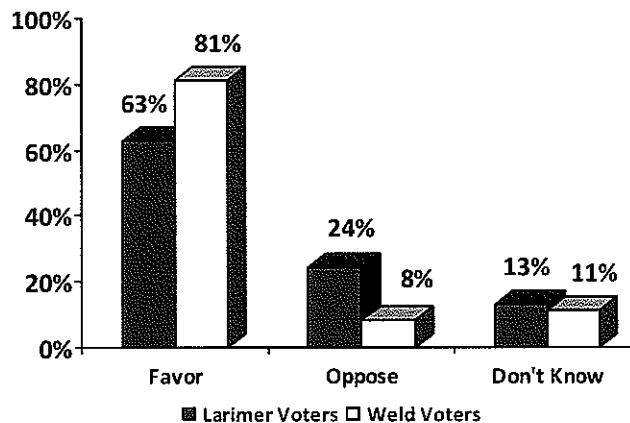
Ciruli Associates Poll  
Analysis by Floyd Ciruli  
303.399.3173

January 29, 2009

In a Ciruli Associates survey, Northern Colorado voters voiced strong support for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP), which has been proposed by 15 local water supply organizations. The voters' support, which is widespread throughout Weld (81%) and Larimer (63%) counties, is related to concern about water supply, and support for water storage, preservation of agriculture and protection of local supplies.

The NISP project would build two new reservoirs, along with necessary pump stations and pipelines. The project would store runoff from the Poudre River. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been issued, the public comment period is completed and a final report is in preparation.

**NISP Has Support of Majority of Northern Colorado Voters**



Ciruli Associates, N500 Larimer, N300 Weld, 2008

*Question: NISP has been proposed by 15 water providers in Northern Colorado who would build two new water storage reservoirs, called Glade in Larimer County and Galetton in Weld County, and associated pump stations and pipelines. The project's primary purpose is to store excess runoff for use by cities and towns. The project is currently being studied by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in an environmental impact process. Based on what you know at this time, would you say you strongly favor the project, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the project? ["Total favor" and "total oppose" are combination of "strongly" and "somewhat" of the respective position.]*

The survey was conducted by Ciruli Associates for the consortium of water providers proposing the Northern Integrate Supply Project. The telephone survey, conducted in August 2008 with 500 Larimer County registered voters and 300 Weld County registered voters, has a statistical range of accuracy of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points and 5.7 percentage points, respectively.

## NISP Support Among Cities' Voters

Support among Weld County voters for NISP is overwhelming (81%). But, voters in the City of Greeley are slightly more supportive (83%) than those in the county. Ten times more voters say they support the project than those who claim to be opposed. Twenty times more voters say they “strongly” support the project than those who are “strongly” opposed.

Nearly two-thirds of Larimer County voters (63%) support NISP. In spite of being the location of the most vocal opponents of the project, a majority of Fort Collins voters support it (57%). Its supporters in Fort Collins outnumber opponents by nearly two-to-one.

### NISP Support in Northern Colorado Counties and Major Cities: Intensity of Support and Opposition

| <u>Voter Position</u> | <u>Larimer</u> | <u>Fort Collins</u> | <u>Weld</u> | <u>Greeley</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Strongly favor        | 28%            | 24%                 | 39%         | 41%            |
| Somewhat favor        | 35             | 33                  | 42          | 42             |
| Somewhat oppose       | 11             | 15                  | 6           | 6              |
| Strongly oppose       | 13             | 15                  | 2           | 2              |
| Don't know            | 13             | 13                  | 11          | 9              |

*Ciruli Associates, N500 Larimer, N300 Weld, 2008*

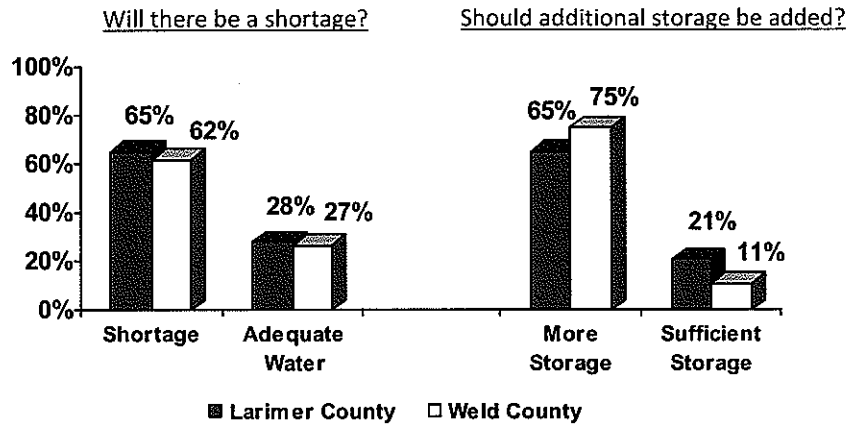
Due to the extensive local media coverage NISP received for more than a year as the EIS process was conducted, only about one-tenth of voters did not express a view on the project.

### Concern About Shortage and Drought

When asked why they support NISP, voters in both counties said in an open-ended question that the area needs the water and needs more storage capacity. Respondents also voiced the belief that the drought continues and there will be future water shortages. They are highly supportive of additional storage for water – this in spite of living in an area with substantial water resources from the Platte and Poudre rivers and supply from the transbasin Colorado-Big Thompson Project.

Seventy percent of Larimer County and 73 percent of Weld County voters believe the area is “still in a drought.” Two-thirds of voters in each county predict a water shortage in 10 years and support “more water storage capacity.”

### Voters Predict Shortages and Support More Storage



Ciruli Associates, N500, Larimer, N300, Weld, 2008

*Questions: In the next 10 years, do you believe the supply of water to residents in Northern Colorado will be adequate, or do you believe there will be a shortage of water?*

*In general, do you believe Northern Colorado needs more water storage capacity, or does it have sufficient storage?*

*Thinking about drought, do you believe we are still in a drought or do you believe the drought has ended?*

### Protection of Agriculture and Open Space

A major reason NISP is popular among Northern Colorado voters is their overwhelming support for protection of the region's farm economy and agricultural open space, and the belief that an adequate water supply is essential to its survival. The region's urban populations also support the preservation of agriculture.

#### Protecting Agriculture, Farm Economy and Open Space

| <u>Statements</u>   | <u>Larimer</u> | <u>Total Agree</u>  |             |                |
|---|----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
|   |                | <u>Fort Collins</u> | <u>Weld</u> | <u>Greeley</u> |
| Maintaining agricultural open space and the farm economy is important to our area   | 93%            | 92%                 | 97%         | 97%            |
| Agriculture is important for Northern Colorado, and the buying up of local water and drying up of farm land by the cities should be avoided | 88             | 86                  | 92          | 90             |

Ciruli Associates, N500, Larimer, N300, Weld, 2008

*Question: The following statements are some policy issues discussed about the NISP project. As I read the statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the idea. ["Total agree" is combination of "strongly" and "somewhat" agree.]*

## Water Management and Cooperation

Another reason NISP has support is that voters in both counties appreciate the area's major water projects, such as the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, and support the concept of water management for multiple users that include cities, agriculture, industry and recreation.

Also, voters in both counties strongly support large and small municipalities, water districts, ditch companies and farmers working collaboratively to protect supply and water quality.

### Water Management and Cooperation

| <u>Statements</u>   | <u>Larimer</u> | <u>Total Agree</u>  |             |                |
|---|----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
|   |                | <u>Fort Collins</u> | <u>Weld</u> | <u>Greeley</u> |
| <i>Water management and multiple-use aspects of Poudre River and Big Thompson:</i>  |                |                     |             |                |
| The Poudre River does a good job providing water for multiple purposes, such as cities, agriculture, industry and recreation  | 83%            | 83%                 | 74%         | 78%            |
| The Colorado-Big Thompson water project has been a good project and improved the quality of Northern Colorado   | 75             | 67                  | 78          | 79             |
| <i>Cooperation on water issues among communities:</i>   |                |                     |             |                |
| One good aspect of the NISP project is the regional cooperation among smaller and larger cities, and the urban areas and agricultural communities   | 73%            | 72%                 | 82%         | 82%            |
| The Northern Water Conservancy District should work with other water providers, ditch companies and farmers in the Poudre and Platte river valleys to protect the supply and quality of water in our area | 93             | 93                  | 94          | 95             |

*Ciruli Associates, N500, Larimer, N300, Weld, 2008*

*Question: The following statements are some policy issues discussed about the NISP project. As I read the statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the idea. ["Total agree" is combination of "strongly" and "somewhat" agree.]*

## Survey Design

The telephone surveys of 500 voters in Larimer County and 300 voters in Weld County were conducted by Ciruli Associates for a consortium of 15 water providers proposing the Northern Integrated Supply Project. Respondents were selected from a scientifically produced random sample of active registered voters residing within the two counties. The Larimer County survey was conducted August 5-11, 2008, and the Weld County survey from August 11-14, 2008. Statistical range of accuracy in 19 out of 20 cases is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points for the Larimer County sample size of 500. The margin of error for the Weld County survey of 300 voters is plus or minus 5.7 percentage points.

September 2009

# NISP NEWS

For more information visit [www.gladereservoir.org](http://www.gladereservoir.org) or contact Brian Werner at [bwerner@ncwcd.org](mailto:bwerner@ncwcd.org) or 970.622.2229.

## NISP could have captured nearly 56,000 acre feet in 2009

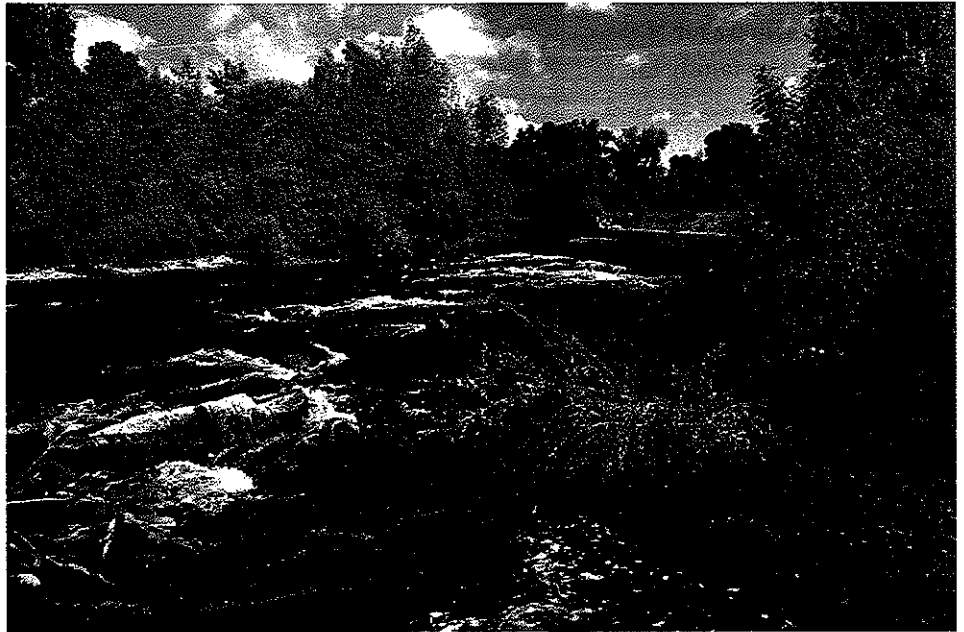
The 2009 water year was the best in a decade and the numbers bear this out. With C-BT reservoirs and many local storage reservoirs near capacity and area rivers running higher longer, it's no surprise that the "call" on the South Platte River was off well into August.

A "call" occurs when there is a shortage of water to meet all the water needs along the river to the Nebraska state line. The later in the season the call is off, the more water is available, including for many of those with junior rights that are not able to divert in drier years due to lower flows. In 2009, with the call off for all of June and much of July and August, many water users who hadn't been able to divert water in recent dry years were finally able to.

With the NISP water right being a junior right, in some years there may be little or no water available for diversion to storage in Glade Reservoir. However, a year such as 2009 can be a blessing to water providers as they replenish storage reserves depleted through years of below normal water supplies.

Using Colorado Division of Water Resources flow data, the potential water diversions for NISP this year would have neared 36,000 acre feet of water. Combined with the nearly 20,000 acre feet available from the South Platte River for diversion to Galeton Reservoir, NISP could have stored more than 55,000 acre feet. That amounts to almost one-third of the capacity of Glade Reservoir and more than one year's estimated NISP yield of 40,000 acre feet.

Rafters, kayakers and recreationists also enjoyed Mother Nature's bounty this year as the recreational boating season extended well into September.



Poudre River water flows high in the summer, near Overland Trail in northwest Fort Collins

Former Congressman and Senator Hank Brown is a supporter of keeping Colorado's water in Colorado for the benefit of its citizens. He has spoken often about how important it is to store water when it is available so that it can be used during the next dry period.

"It is essential that Colorado utilize what's rightfully ours. That means we store Poudre and South Platte water at every opportunity. If we don't it flows to Nebraska and we've lost it."

In a year like 2009 Brown's words are even more compelling.



Glade Reservoir would be located in the center of this photo, between the two ridges presently dissected by U.S. Highway 287. Ted's Place, at the intersection of U.S. Highways 14 and 287, is at the lower left side of the photo.



# Farmers for NISP Rally shows agriculture backs project

An enthusiastic crowd of 350 farmers, legislators, county commissioners and city officials congregated near Eaton on June 30 to voice their overwhelming support for the Northern Integrated Supply Project. The Farmers for NISP Rally at the Leffler family farm west of Eaton was coordinated by the Colorado Farm Bureau, principally to show that the agricultural community is solidly behind the project.

A dozen speakers told the attendees that when built, NISP will help save tens of thousands of irrigated acres in Northern Colorado that otherwise would be lost as cities and towns acquire necessary water supplies to meet their future needs. Without NISP the cities' options narrow, which brings additional pressure on farmers to sell their water.

Many of the state's leading agricultural voices spoke to



Troy Bredenkamp, Colorado Farm Bureau, said NISP would save farm lands and production.

this issue at the rally.

Troy Bredenkamp, executive vice-president of the Colorado Farm Bureau, stated emphatically, "Glade Reservoir would actually save 40,000 to 60,000 acres of farmland and \$27 million in ag production per year.

"If they are able to store water in a reservoir, then they're going to be less apt to go out and have to try to purchase farm ground and then dry it up to bring water right back to the community."

Mark Sponsler with the Colorado Corn Growers Association added, "Without this project, there will be an accelerated dry up of thousands and thousands of acres of farmland. You can quibble about the number of acres, but what



matters is they're going away without NISP."

The project maintains nearly unanimous support from Colorado's agricultural organizations. Those who have formally endorsed NISP are:

- Colorado Farm Bureau
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- Colorado Corn Growers Association
- Colorado State Grange
- Colorado Livestock Association
- Colorado Dairy Producers
- Colorado Pork Producers Council
- Colorado Egg Producers
- Colorado Sugarbeet Growers Association
- Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
- Western Sugar Cooperative
- GreenCO
- Agland, Inc.
- Valley Irrigation of Greeley
- Eaton Local Sugarbeet Growers

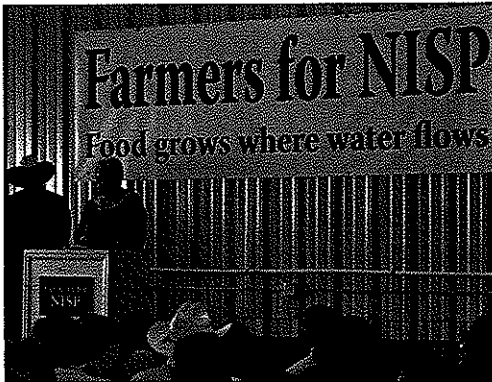
In addition to the agricultural organizations represented, a bipartisan group of elected officials attended the rally to show their support for NISP. State Sen. Mary Hodge (D-Brighton) and Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg (R-Sterling) spoke for about a dozen state legislators who attended.

Hodge echoed the feeling of many supporters by saying,

"this project will address the needs of a growing population and protect agriculture."

Sonnenberg, one of the few remaining active farmers in the state legislature, said the project was absolutely essential for the future of the state's agricultural economy.

Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway and former legislator and Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament co-emceed the



Sen. Mary Hodge voiced strong support for NISP's role in maintaining irrigated ag land in Northern Colorado.

event, which included remarks from the presidents of the two local ditch companies that would exchange water with the project.

Mike Hugenberg with New Cache la Poudre Irrigating and Barry Anderson with Larimer and Weld Irrigation companies both expressed their support for NISP.

Hugenberg addressed the idea that water currently flowing out of state and available to Colorado must be used. "If we don't build this, it will be taking a step back. We've got to save for short years and this has to be the most environmentally friendly project ever."

Anderson said, "It really does an older farmer's heart good to see so many of you here today. If this project is not built our water in Northern Colorado will go to Denver. That's a guarantee."

The final speaker was long-time Northern Colorado farmer and owner of Sakata Farms near Brighton, Bob Sakata.



All four Denver news stations attended and ran stories on the night's newscasts.

A farmer for more than 60 years, Sakata reminded those present that surviving in the semi-arid west and the dry years requires water storage.

"Through all the lean years we've had a few exceptional ones where we invested in our future. That is what NISP is all about. We are investing in our future."

It couldn't be stated any better. NISP is indeed an investment for our future generations.

NISP Participants Committee Chair Kathy Peterson closed the rally by thanking everyone who attended to show their support for the project.

To read news coverage go to [www.gladereservoir.org](http://www.gladereservoir.org) and click on ag rally in the upper right corner.

## Public support remains strong

The majority of Northern Colorado voters strongly support NISP. Efforts such as the Farmers for NISP Rally illustrate huge public support. Nearly 350 people attended the rally – almost double what organizers had anticipated.

The growing support list is updated daily as elected officials and a wide variety of agricultural and business related organizations formally endorse NISP. These politicians and organizations view NISP as an essential piece of Northern Colorado's future and a step that must be taken to ensure the economic vitality of the region.

A Floyd Ciruli poll conducted in 2008 also indicated widespread support for NISP among Northern Colorado voters. More than 80 percent of Weld County

voters and 63 percent of Larimer County voters support construction of Glade Reservoir. Voters also overwhelmingly support maintaining agricultural open space and the farm economy, both of which are cornerstones of NISP. For complete survey results go to [www.gladereservoir.org](http://www.gladereservoir.org) and click on survey results in the upper right hand corner.

A few of the recent additions to the endorsement list include:

Gubernatorial candidates Josh Penry and Scott McInnis; the chambers of commerce of Longmont, Berthoud and Carbon Valley; and Progressive 15 – an organization providing a voice for 15 Eastern Colorado plains counties.

For the complete list go to [www.gladereservoir.org](http://www.gladereservoir.org) and click on latest news.

**The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analysis included a no action alternative which studied what the 15 NISP participants would do to meet their future water demands if NISP were not built. The draft EIS determined that without NISP those water providers would require water from nearly 60,000 acres in Northern Colorado to replace the 40,000 acre foot yield of NISP.**

**While a certain amount of ag water will always move from the farmers to cities as growth continues, Northern Water and the 15 participants believe strongly in maintaining enough water for those farmers who wish to continue to farm.**

**"The Northern Water Board has a long held philosophy of protecting a strong agricultural economy. The only way to do so is to pursue water supply alternatives that do not involve the dry up of irrigated agriculture," said Northern Water's General Manager Eric Wilkinson.**

# What is NISP?

NISP is a regional water supply project coordinated by Northern Water on behalf of 15 Northern Front Range water providers. Its goal is to provide participating water providers with approximately 45,000 acre feet of new, reliable water supply each year.

The NISP participants currently supply water to more than 200,000 Northern Colorado residents. These 15 local and regional water agencies and municipalities are dedicated to providing a sustainable and environmentally sound supply of water to today's and future generations.

At its most basic, NISP would store excess water currently leaving the state in years of abundance for use in meeting future water supply needs.

The proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project would include:

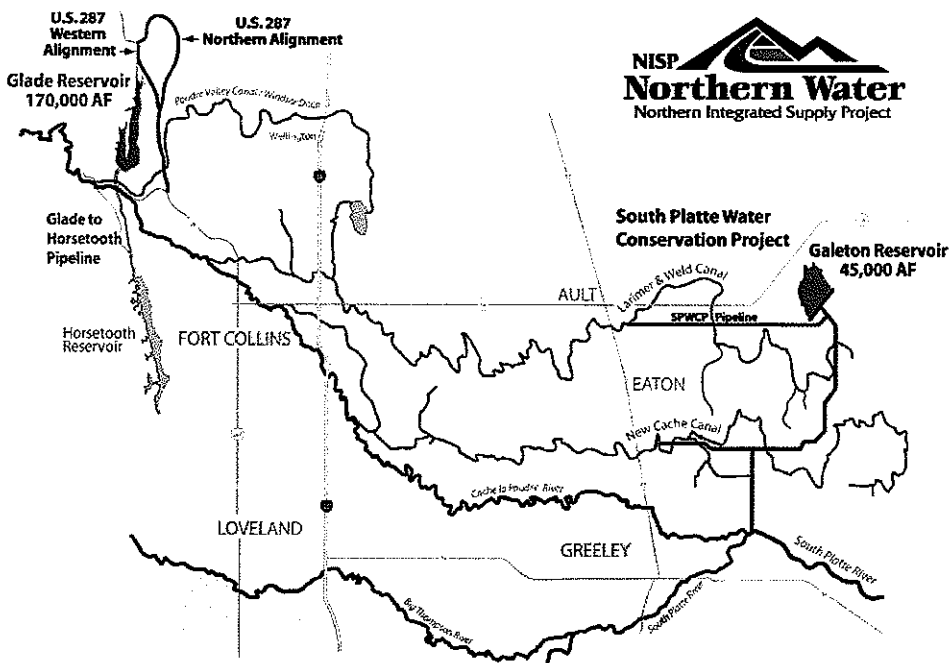
## Glade Reservoir

This reservoir would be located northwest of Fort Collins along a current stretch of U.S. Highway 287 north of Ted's Place (the intersection of Highway 287 and Highway 14). It would be 5 miles long, 260 feet deep and have a capacity to store 170,000

acre feet of water, or slightly more than Horsetooth Reservoir, which holds about 156,000 acre feet. The water to fill Glade would be diverted from the Poudre River during periods of high flow using the already existing Poudre Valley Canal. No new structures will be on the river and no project facilities would be built within the wild and scenic Poudre Canyon. About seven miles of Highway 287 would be relocated for Glade Reservoir construction.

## South Platte Water Conservation Project (Galeton Reservoir)

Galeton Reservoir would be located east of Ault and northeast of Greeley. It would hold approximately 45,000 acre feet of water at capacity. The diversion at the South Platte River downstream of Greeley would have a pumping capacity of 200 cfs. Galeton water would be delivered to two agricultural irrigation companies (New Cache la Poudre Irrigating and Larimer and Weld) in exchange for a portion of the Poudre River water they currently use. This exchange would provide approximately 60 percent of the NISP yield and is water that has historically been diverted.



## Project status

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to move forward with its Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Corps is working closely with the Resources to revise and clarify certain sections of the draft EIS originally released in April 2008. The Supplemental DEIS is conducting additional study on water quality, aquatic vegetation, the no action alternative and hydrologic modeling.

The no action alternative is an EIS requirement to examine what the 15 participants would do to meet their growing water needs in the event NISP were not permitted. The hydrologic modeling involves the creation of a common technical platform.

The common technical platform required by the Corps is an attempt to provide a hydrologic model usable by all current permitting efforts underway within the Poudre basin. Northern Water, Greeley and Fort Collins are combining efforts in this regard to develop one set of flow data and information for NISP and the Halligan/Seaman projects.

"They are basically asking us to compare apples to apples, which makes a lot of sense," said NISP Project Manager Carl Brouwer.

The Corps anticipates completing the SDEIS during 2010 with a final decision in 2011. To date the 15 NISP participants have spent more than \$7 million on the permitting process and related studies.

# Farmers for NISP Rally

## Media Coverage



*Eric Bellamy/Greeley Tribune*

**Farmers for NISP Rally  
Leffler Farm  
June 30, 2009**

# TheTribune

Greeley Tribune: July 1, 2009

By Bill Jackson

## NISP supporters: We can do without luxuries, but not food

EATON — Bob Sakata has been farming in Adams and Weld counties for 64 years.

He noted he's seen it all over those six-plus decades, from low prices, to hail, to wind, to drought to late spring freezes. But he had one important message Tuesday at the Farmers for NISP Rally on the Russ and John Leffler Farm west of here.

"My most important message is that society must recognize that we can do without all our luxuries, but we cannot survive without food," Sakata told a standing-room-only crowd of about 350 who gathered in support of the Northern Integrated Supply Project, the largest water storage project in northern Colorado since the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which came on line more than 50 years ago.

"Through all those lean years," Sakata said, "we've had a few exceptional ones when we invested in our future. That is what NISP is all about. We are investing in our future."

NISP is intended to capture excess water to which Colorado can lay claim. Detractors say it would do too much harm to the Poudre River; supporters say it would allow thirsty, growing cities another supply of water that could prevent drying up more agricultural land.

Sakata was among about a dozen speakers, including farmers, farm organization officials, and elected officials, who addressed the crowd, which also included eight state representatives and senators, and 15 or more elected county and city officials from the region.

Many of those, including State Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, took opponents of the project to task. NISP includes two reservoirs — the Glade northwest of Fort Collins and the Galeton Reservoir, east of Ault. There are 15 participating communities and water districts in the project designed to prevent the dry-up of agricultural land in northern Colorado by providing growing communities another source of water.

The most vocal of those opponents is the Save the Poudre Coalition, which said earlier this week the project would result in the dry-up of at least 100,000 acres of irrigated farmland and help put out of production an additional 30,000 acres of dryland farming.

"NISP/Glade would be a severe blow to a farm economy that is already reeling from low commodity prices and high fuel prices," said Gary Wockner of the Save The Poudre Coalition in a press release. "When you factor in the non-irrigated agland put out of production, the impacts are even higher."

Sonnenberg, who farms and ranches east of Sterling, said the Save the Poudre Coalition claims a concern for agriculture.

"They don't care about farmers and ranchers. This is the most anti-agriculture group around. They want to change Colorado water law so water can't be diverted for agriculture. Without the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, a vision of our forefathers, we wouldn't be here today," Sonnenberg said.

Barry Anderson farms near Eaton and is president of the board of Larimer & Weld Reservoir & Irrigation Co., one of two irrigation companies that would benefit from the project.

"It really does an old farmer's heart good to see so many of you here today," Anderson said. If the project is not built, he said, "our water in northern Colorado will go to Denver. That's a guarantee."

Mike Hungenberg is president of the board of the Cache la Poudre Irrigation & Reservoir Co., the other irrigation company involved in the project.

"Ever since the pilgrims came here our country has been built on progress, we've never taken a step back. If we don't build this, it will be taking a step back," he told the crowd. "We've got to save for short years and this has to be the most environmentally friendly project ever."

But it was Sakata who put things into focus for the crowd.

He said he visited Denmark and Spain a few years ago as president of the National Onion Association and was amazed at the respect given to farmers in those countries. So he stopped people on the street and asked them the roots of that respect.

"They told me that we in the United States have never gone hungry," Sakata said. "It is not possible to survive in an improvisational land and that can happen to us if we continue to stop these kinds of projects."

## **SPEAKERS AT THE RALLY**

"The opponents say they are supporters of agriculture, but in fact, they are anti-growth and say that if we don't build it, they won't come. But this is not a Hollywood movie. The future of the Front Range depends on NISP."

*Troy Bredenkamp, Executive vice president, Colorado Farm Bureau*

"This project will address the needs of a growing population and protect agriculture."

*State Sen. Mary Hodge, D-Brighton*

"Those who think this will stop growth are wrong. Those who think we in agriculture are stupid enough to give away our water are wrong. Those are the same people who have been in business for years and generations. We are planning for our children, grandchildren and all those in the future of our state."

*Don Ament, Former Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture and Hiff farmer*

The Poudre and St. Vrain would dry in the summer if it weren't for the water projects already in place. You can't raft on rocks."

*Doug Rademacher, Weld County commissioner*

"I live where I can see Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir. No one is opposed to those projects today."

*Tom Donnelly, Larimer County commissioner*



Former State Agricultural Commissioner Don Ament and Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway emceed at the Farmers for the Northern Integrated Supply Project Rally on Tuesday afternoon in the barn at the Leffler Farm near Eaton. Approximately 350 people filled the barn to listen to politicians and farmers speak about the water project.

*ERIC BELLAMY/ebellamy@greeleytribune.com*

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20090701/NEWS/907019989&parentprofile=search>

# reporterherald.com

Loveland Reporter-Herald: July 1, 2009

By Pamela Dickman

## Support flowing for NISP Advocates rally behind project

EATON — The large metal shed surrounded by growing fields of corn on the Leffler family farm usually houses farm implements and machinery in need of repair.

Tuesday, instead of the sounds of farm machinery, irrigation water and farm animals, more than 250 people filled the shop with applause and rallying cries in support of a proposed water supply project.

Area farmers, politicians, government workers and residents gathered to show public support for the Northern Integrated Supply Project, a cooperative effort by several cities and water districts to divert water from the Cache la Poudre River to the proposed Glade Reservoir. The project, hotly contested by a Fort Collins group, is before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a second environmental assessment.

The message, sown strongly by speaker after speaker Tuesday, was that the water project, which would be managed by Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, is essential to the survival of agriculture — one of the main industries in the region.

Without the reservoir to store water for growing cities and towns, that burden would fall onto water currently set aside for agriculture — and farm acres would dry up, hitting the economy and local food supply, according to area farmers and spokesmen for farm agencies.

“In an arid state like this, water and food production go hand in hand,” said Don Ament, retired lawmaker, farmer and former head of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. “With all this rain we’ve had, wouldn’t this have been a time to fill a reservoir?”

He added, “If we don’t store water for growth, that water is going to come from agriculture.”

Opponents of the reservoir project, a coalition called Save the Poudre, argue that the proposal would dry up the river and with it the Fort Collins economy, vital riparian habitat and farmland.



In a statement released earlier this week, the coalition said the reservoir would immediately dry up 100,000 acres of farmland plus thousands more each year, dealing an \$85 million per year blow to the economy, according to figures from scientists and economists.

The farmers at the rally scoffed at that argument.

Troy Bredenkamp, executive vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau, said Glade Reservoir would actually save 40,000 to 60,000 acres of farmland and \$27 million in production per year.

“Without this project, there will be an accelerated dry-up of thousands and thousands of acres of farmland,” added Mark Sponsler of Colorado Corn Growers Association, “You can quibble about the numbers of acres, but what matters is they’re going away.”

That threat is what spurred Leffler to give up a morning of farm work during prime farming season to host the rally in support of Glade Reservoir.

“The demands on our water to go to the big city to the south are real,” Leffler said. “If we can have this project, that keeps our water in Northern Colorado. A lot of business people are involved because they don’t want to see farmland dry up.”

### **NISP in a nutshell**

**What is Northern Integrated Supply Project, commonly called NISP?** The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (a Berthoud-based taxing district also called Northern Water) wants to build two reservoirs to store water from the Poudre River to serve 15 cities, towns and water districts.

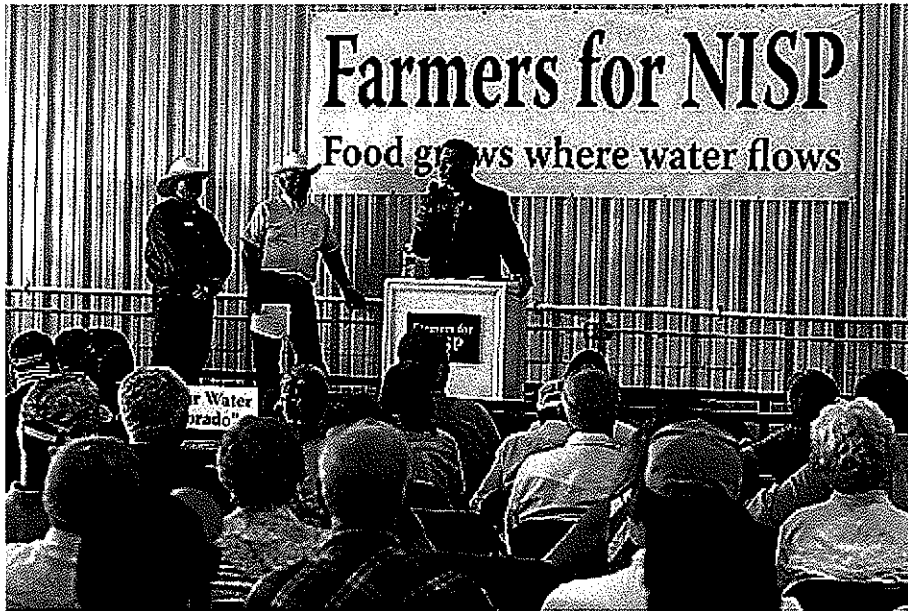
**How big and where would the reservoirs be?** Glade Reservoir, the largest at nearly 180,000 acre-feet, would be built across the current route of U.S. 287 north of Fort Collins. Seven miles of the current highway would be relocated to the east, and the reservoir would flood that stretch of the road. Galeton Reservoir would be built east of Eaton and hold 40,000 acre-feet of water.

**How much would the project cost?** \$450 million.

**Who would pay for it?** The 15 towns, cities and water districts, most in Boulder and Weld counties, that would receive the water. Neither Loveland nor Fort Collins is participating.

**Arguments in a nutshell:** Proponents say Glade Reservoir north of Fort Collins wouldn’t hurt the environment or the local economy but would in fact help it while meeting future water needs. Opponents say taking more water from the Poudre River would hurt the fish and wildlife, the city’s economy because industry and recreation rely on the river, and water quality for the city.

**Where can I get more information?** Online at [www.gladereservoir.org](http://www.gladereservoir.org) (proponents) and [www.savethepoudre.org](http://www.savethepoudre.org) (opponents).



Colorado State Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, back right, is joined onstage by Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway, left, and former Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament as he speaks to participants at a rally Tuesday afternoon on the Leffler family farm outside Eaton in support of the Northern Integrated Supply Project.

*Reporter-Herald/Steve Stoner*

[http://www.reporterherald.com/news\\_story.asp?ID=23787](http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=23787)



Fort Collins Coloradoan: July 1, 2009

By Kevin Duggan

## **Farmers rally in support of Glade Reservoir**

### **Supporters say project protects agriculture's future**

EATON - Invoking images of the past and future, supporters of the proposed Glade Reservoir rallied on Tuesday saying the controversial project is needed to protect agriculture in Northern Colorado.

About 300 people attended the rally sponsored by the Colorado Farm Bureau and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, which has proposed building Glade as part of the Northern Integrated Supply Project, or NISP.

A series of politicians and representatives of farm associations told the crowd that without the water-storage provided by the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which includes Horsetooth Reservoir, Weld County wouldn't be one of the top agricultural producers in the country and the region wouldn't enjoy such a high quality of life.

The foresight that went into building the Big Thompson project is needed now, said Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway.

"Today is our generation's turn to step up to the plate," Conway said. "It's our generation's turn to say: We're moving forward; we're going to do something for our children and our grandchildren; and we're going to build NISP."

Glade would be built north of Ted's Place and draw from the Poudre River, primarily during times of high flow in the spring and summer. The reservoir would be larger than Horsetooth Reservoir and would hold 170,000 acre feet of water. An acre foot is enough water to meet the annual needs of one or two urban families.

The project would provide 40,000 acre feet of water a year to the 15 regional municipalities and water districts that would pay for its construction.

Fort Collins is not a participant in NISP. The Fort Collins-Loveland Water District, which serves portions of the city, is a participant.

NISP would also include Galeton Reservoir, which would be built near Greeley and draw from the South Platte River. Water from Galeton would be piped west to ditches operated by irrigation companies in an exchange for water from the Poudre.

Supporters say the project is needed to meet the water needs of growing communities. Without additional storage capacity, municipalities would dry up farms by buying their water, supporters say.

Opponents of NISP say the project would damage the Poudre's ecology and only fuel growth that would consume thousands of acres of agricultural land.

John Leffler, whose farm west of Eaton played host to the rally, said growth is going to come with or without the reservoir.

"You need to be ready for growth when it comes - that's what this project would do," he said. "But growth for growth's sake alone is something I'd be against myself."

Farmers would not get "one drop of water" from NISP, said Gary Wockner, spokesman for the anti-Glade group Save the Poudre Coalition, in a telephone interview.

The project also would result in poorer-quality water for farms served by the irrigation companies.

"NISP and Glade will fuel the destruction of the farm economy and farm culture in Northern Colorado and Weld County," he said.

But NISP supporters said farmers wouldn't back the project if they thought it would harm their lifestyles and crops.

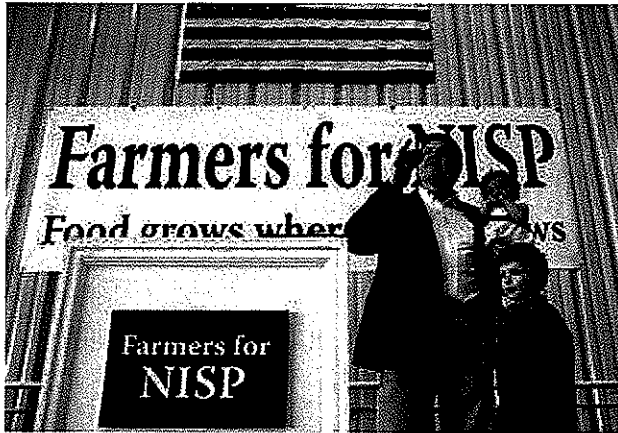
"This project doesn't work without those ditch companies," said Brian Werner, spokesman for Northern Water in an interview. "It behooves to make sure they have the quality of water they need to farm with."

Longtime Weld County farmer Bob Sakata told the rally agricultural producers have been able to survive all manner of difficulties, including drought, hail, wind and crop diseases.

In order to protect agriculture and food production, projects such as NISP need to be built, he said.

"Society must recognize that we can do without all the luxuries that are before us, but we cannot survive without food," he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a supplemental draft environmental impact process for the project that is expected to be complete next year.



Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly speaks to the crowd Tuesday during the Farmers for NISP Rally at Leffler Farm, west of Eaton. Donnelly is accompanied by his children, Jack 8, and Cate, 1. *(Miranda Grubbs/The Coloradoan)*



Larry Stewart, right, of Eaton prepares a lunch plate Tuesday during the Farmers for NISP Rally at Leffler Farm west of Eaton. Rally participants enjoyed a barbecue while listening to farmers and elected officials speak in support of Glade Reservoir. *(Miranda Grubbs/The Coloradoan)*

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20090701/NEWS01/907010333&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL>

# BERTHOUD RECORDER

Berthoud Recorder: Updated July 6, 2009

*By Jamie Folsom*

## Farmers Rally for NISP

EATON — Along with the proposed reservoir at Chimney Hollow, the NCWCD has also been trying to get the Northern Integrated Supply Project off the ground. The project may have profound effects for the region's farmers, and more than 270 of them gathered Tuesday, June 28 to show their support.

State Sen. Kevin Lundberg (R-15) attended the rally to show his strong support for the project. "This is not an issue that can be put off. Water is the lifeblood of Colorado, is the lifeblood of northern Colorado in particular," he said.

"We wouldn't have the community we have today if people hadn't in previous generations done exactly what we are doing here today, which is putting in place the infrastructure for tomorrow."

Critics of the project point to environmental conservation as their foremost concern. No doubt the project, including a dam northeast of the mouth of the Poudre River Canyon and two massive reservoirs, will change the area's landscape forever. But farmers say the changes are needed if there is to be reliable sources of water for millions of acres of agricultural lands. Even in a year when the drought is clearly in the past, ag producers are still concerned.

"Wouldn't this have been a time to fill a reservoir?" asked former Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament, alluding to the overflowing creeks and ponds that dot the landscape. He and others noted the excess water will head downstream to surrounding states this year.

State Rep. Don Marostica (R-51) echoed the sentiment. "Today we're sending more than 2,400 cfs outside the state. We could be storing that water, and then in the bad years when you need it, you can use it."

Noting that Colorado is only one of two states that receives no outside water, Berthoud resident and candidate for the Republican congressional ticket Tom Lucero said Colorado is lucky. He emphasized that the state needs to take advantage of its water resources.

"Any time a drop of water hits the state of Colorado, and we're not able to capture what's ours, [it] means less water for the state of Colorado overall, so the more we can do in our region of the state to help capture water and to save our water, it's a better system overall," he said.

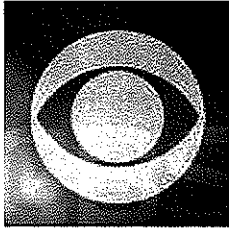
Several agricultural groups have given their support of NISP, including the Colorado Farm Bureau and the Colorado Corn Growers.



More than 270 ag producers, families and lawmakers gathered for the Farmers for Northern Integrated Supply Project rally in central Weld County on Tuesday, June 30. The rally was organized by NISP project developers Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. *Photo by Jamie Folsom*



Former Colorado Ag Commissioner Don Ament, left, and Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway emceed the Farmers for NISP rally, which drew more than 270 ag producers, families and lawmakers. *Photo by Jamie Folsom*



CBS 4: Jun 30, 2009  
*Reporter Mike Hooker*

## **Farmers Hold Rally In Support Of Glade Reservoir**

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (CBS4) — Farmers in northern Colorado say a proposed water project to help cities will also help agriculture. Opponents of Glade Reservoir say it will put one in seven farms out of production -- at least temporarily.

Poudre River would be used to fill Glade Reservoir.

Farmers disputed the opponents saying the project would actually help them. Farmers say storing water that now flows downstream in the Poudre River wouldn't hurt farms, but would actually save at least 40,000 acres of farmland from losing their water to cities.

Farms across northern Colorado depend on irrigation water.

"We're able to run this water through the summer to produce the crops in the short growing season that we have here," farmer Russ Leffer said.

Leffer is a farmer in Weld County. He says the valley north of Fort Collins is a key to the future of northern Colorado farmers. Filling the valley with water, turning it into the proposed Glade Reservoir, would give cities water they might otherwise buy from agriculture and in turn, drying up farms.

"I feel like what we've done here by not keeping agriculture viable in this area is we've let our forefathers down that worked hard to develop these systems," Leffer said.

"If we don't build this, it's taking a step backwards," farmer Mike Hungenberg said.

More than 300 farmers and politicians held a rally in Weld County to say Colorado agriculture supports Glade Reservoir. But opponents say farmers would suffer because financing the project depends on urban growth.

"All the growth that happens, happens on top of farms, so that is going to put farmers out of business," said Gary Wockner, Save the Poudre Spokesperson.

Opponents also point out that Glade is for municipal water users.

"Not one drop of the water that they propose to take out of this river and put in that reservoir is for farmers. It's all for cities," Wockner said.



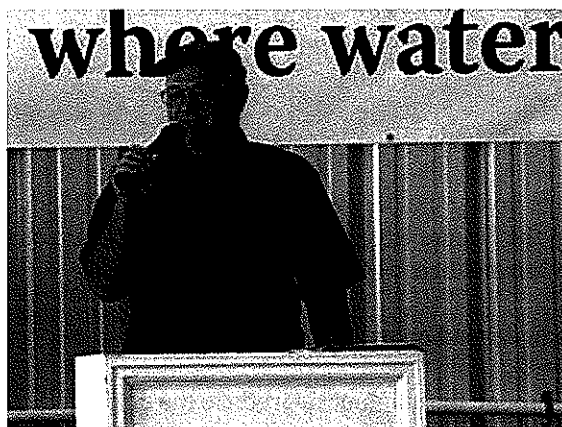
But farmers at the rally say a new reservoir would help farms by helping cities.

"If they're able to store water in a reservoir, then they're going to be less apt to go out and have to try to purchase farm ground and then drying it up to bring that water right back to that community," Troy Bredekamp with the Colorado Farm Bureau said.

Farmers say they wanted to keep the whole issue of Glade Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) on people's minds as government studies on the proposal continue.

Right now work continues on the "Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement," which is due to be completed by the end of next year. That leaves supporters and opponents with a lot of time on their hands waiting to see what will happen with the river and the reservoir.

If built, Glade Reservoir would be slightly larger than Horsetooth Reservoir and would require relocating 7 miles of U.S. Highway 287 northwest of Fort Collins.



More than 300 farmers and politicians held a rally in Weld County to say Colorado agriculture supports Glade Reservoir. *CBS*



If built, Glade Reservoir would be slightly larger than Horsetooth Reservoir and would require relocating 7 miles of U.S. Highway 287 northwest of Fort Collins. *CBS*

<http://cbs4denver.com/local/Fort.Collins.Concerned.2.1066574.html>



9news: June 30, 2009  
*Associated Press*

## **Farmers rally for Glade and NISP**

WELD COUNTY - Invoking images of the past and future, supporters of the proposed Glade Reservoir rallied on Tuesday saying the controversial project was needed to protect agriculture in northern Colorado.

About 300 people attended the rally sponsored by the Colorado Farm Bureau and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, which has proposed building Glade as part of the Northern Integrated Supply Project, or NISP.

A series of politicians and representatives of farm associations told the crowd that without the water-storage provided by the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which includes Horsetooth Reservoir, Weld County wouldn't be one of the top agricultural producers in the country and the region wouldn't enjoy such a high quality of life.

The foresight that went into building the Big Thompson project is needed now, said Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway.

"Today is our generation's turn to step up to the plate," Conway said. "It's our generation's turn to say, we're moving forward, we're going to do something for our children and our grandchildren and we're going to build NISP."

Supporters say the project is needed to meet the water needs of growing communities. Without additional storage capacity, municipalities would dry up farms by buying their water, supporters say.

Opponents of NISP say the project would damage the Poudre's ecology and only fuel growth that would consume thousands of acres of agricultural land.

John Leffler, whose farm west of Eaton played host to the rally, said in an interview growth is going to come with or without the reservoir.

"You need to be ready for growth when it comes - that's what this project would do," he said. "But growth for growth's sake alone is something I'd be against myself."

Farmer's would not get "one drop of water" from NISP said Gary Wockner, spokesman for the anti- Glade group Save the Poudre Coalition, in a telephone interview.

The project also would result in poorer-quality water for farms served by the irrigation companies.

"NISP and Glade will fuel the destruction of the farm economy and farm culture in Northern Colorado and Weld County," he said.

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=118684&catid=346>

# The Fort Morgan Times

The Fort Morgan Times: July 2, 2009

*Associated Press*

## Ag supporters rally for NISP

EATON — Invoking images of the past and future, supporters of the proposed Glade Reservoir rallied on Tuesday, saying the controversial project is needed to protect agriculture in Northern Colorado.

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The project would provide 40,000 acre-feet of water a year to the 15 regional municipalities and water districts that would pay for its construction.

The city of Fort Morgan and the Morgan County Quality Water District are participants in NISP. The city of Fort Collins is not a participant, but the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District, which serves portions of the city, is a participant.

NISP would also include Galeton Reservoir, which would be built near Greeley and draw from the South Platte River. Water from Galeton would be piped west to ditches operated by irrigation companies in an exchange for water from the Poudre.

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But NISP supporters said farmers wouldn't back the project if they thought it would harm their lifestyles and crops.

"This project doesn't work without those ditch companies," said Brian Werner, spokesman for Northern Water, in an interview. "It behooves to make sure they have the quality of water they need to farm with."

Longtime Weld County farmer Bob Sakata told the rally that agricultural producers have been able to survive all manner of difficulties, including drought, hail, wind and crop diseases. In order to protect agriculture and food production, projects such as NISP need to be built, he said.

"Society must recognize that we can do without all the luxuries that are before us, but we cannot survive without food," he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a supplemental draft environmental impact process for the project that is expected to be complete next year.

[http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/ci\\_12741530](http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/ci_12741530)



Fox31: July 1, 2009  
*Associated Press*

## **Supporters of new northern Colorado reservoir rally for cause**

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Supporters of a new reservoir in northern Colorado say it's needed to protect agriculture.

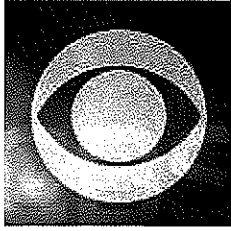
The Colorado Farm Bureau and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District sponsored a rally Tuesday to promote the proposed Glade Reservoir, which would draw from the Cache la Poudre (kash-luh-POO'-der) River. The project, dubbed the Northern Integrated Supply Project, would cost an estimated \$400 million.

Supporters say the foresight that led to construction of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project is needed today to back a new reservoir.

The Big Thompson, which includes Horsetooth Reservoir, provides water to farmers and communities across northeastern Colorado.

Opponents are concerned about the potential impacts on the Cache la Poudre.

<http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--proposedreservoir.0,2390577.story>



CBS 4: July 1, 2009  
*Associated Press*

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<http://cbs4denver.com/wireapnewsco/Supporters.of.new.2.1066847.html>



USAToday: July 1, 2009  
*Associated Press*

**Colorado Article Page:**

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<http://content.usatoday.com/topics/article/Places,+Geography/States,+Territories,+Provinces,+Islands/Colorado/0dVUdor5oX28a/1>

**Colorado Quotes Page:**

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# denverpost.com

Denver Post: June 29, 2009

*Guest Commentary by Sean Conway*

## Northern Colorado farmers need water project

Today in northern Colorado, we enjoy tens of thousands of acres of irrigated farm land that puts food on our table, and has made Weld County one of the most productive agricultural counties in the United States. All of this is due to the hard work and vision of those who preceded us.

In the 1930s, visionaries such as W.D. Farr and others led the effort to build the Big Thompson Water Project. This project today provides an invaluable supply of water to our farmers, ranchers and northern Colorado communities.

Over the last 30 years, the population of northern Colorado has more than doubled, yet no new significant water supply facility has been built. In addition, growing cities in the Denver metro area are looking north to find the water supply their communities need and they have the sights on thousands of acres of irrigated farmland in northern Colorado.

A recent environmental study showed that without a new significant water project, more than 100 square miles of currently irrigated farm land could be dried up. The result of this dry-up would be an environmental and economic disaster to northern Colorado.

After more than 20 years of planning and talking, the time has come for northern Colorado residents to support the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP).

The communities in Weld and Larimer counties seeking the permit from the Army Corp of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to construct NISP have effective water conservation programs and are among the lowest water use per capita in the state. The project will include two reservoirs: Glade and Galeton.

The proposed Glade Reservoir location above Fort Collins is off-stream and is not on the Poudre, as some opposing this project have insinuated. The project's location protects the Poudre River as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Galeton Reservoir and its pipeline from the South Platte River in Weld County, which is often the overlooked part of the NISP, will allow delivery of water for agricultural use to two ditch companies. This part of the project is critical to farmers and ranchers in Weld County.

We all know agriculture has been hit hard in recent years: first, by the drought of 2002, followed by the shutdown by the state of hundreds of agricultural wells in Weld and Morgan Counties, and finally by the recent closure of New Frontier Bank in Greeley by the FDIC.



If we are going to ensure that northern Colorado remains one of the most agricultural productive county in the United States, we must act. We need to stand up and support our farmers and ranchers by supporting NISP.

You can help in this effort by attending a lunchtime rally in support of NISP on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Leffler Farm on Weld County Road 74. The farm is one and three- quarter miles west of Eaton off U.S. Highway 85 and 13 miles east of I-25 from the Harmony Exit.

Come join us as we rally for the future farmers and ranchers of northern Colorado.

*Sean Conway is a Weld County commissioner.*



Farmer Frank Eckhardt of La Salle examines one of his dry sugar-beet fields in this 2006 file photo. ( *Hillary Wheat, Greeley Tribune* )

[http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_12709516](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_12709516)

# AG JOURNAL

JULY 3, 2009

COMMITTED TO YOUR WAY OF LIFE

## NATURAL RESOURCES

# Farm groups rally for new reservoirs

**Candace Krebs**  
Contributing Editor

EATON, Colo. — More than 40 ag groups participated in a rally this week to show support for a Northern Colorado water project that will include the construction of two additional reservoirs.

"Some opponents to the project have said it will hurt farmers, so the ag community is coming together to say we do support this project. This needs to get built for the future of Northern Colorado," said Brian Werner, official spokesman for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, a public agency that is overseeing the project and coordinated the event this week at the farm of Russ Leffler, near Eaton.

The reservoirs, to be built northwest of Ft. Collins and near the town of Galeton northeast of Greeley, would capture and store excess water in years of abundance. After some of

the best precipitation levels in a decade, this summer offers a perfect example. Currently, runoff levels are exceeding local use, and water Colorado is entitled to keep is flowing into the South Platte River and eventually across the border into Nebraska.

While some environmental groups oppose the project, Werner says it will provide a critical alternative source of water

in the future, alleviating pressure on cities to buy up irrigation rights from farmers. The rally was staged to demonstrate the solid support it has from the agriculture community.

A group of 16 municipalities along the Front Range have proposed the project in anticipation of their future water needs. Together, the towns are expected to have a population of more than 440,000 by 2050, according to Shawn Martini, a spokesman for the Colorado Farm Bureau, one of the participating farm organizations.

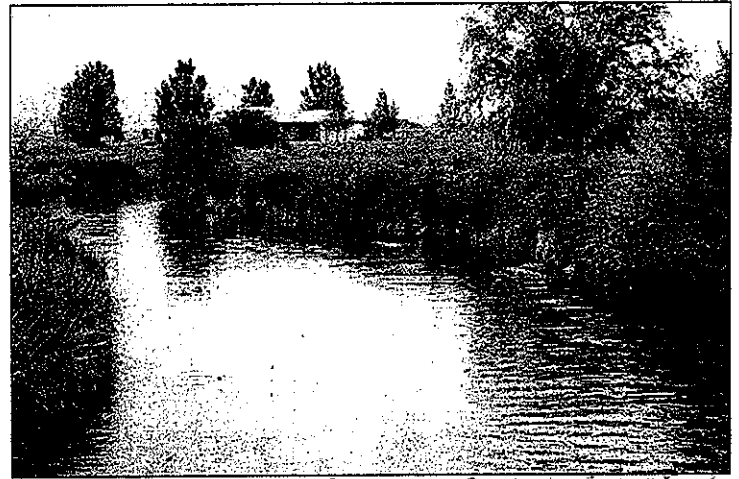
Over the last 30 years, the population of Northern Colorado has more than doubled, while no new water supply facilities have been built during that time.

"It's not necessarily farmers first. This project was put together by municipalities that need the water," the Colorado Farm Bureau official said. "But it will mean less demand for them to buy it up from ag interests."

Some opponents fear the project will facilitate additional urban sprawl along the Front Range, but Farm Bureau believes population growth will continue, whether or not more water storage facilities are built.

"Either we build the project or the water will be bought up from ag interests," Martini insists.

The Army Corp of Engineers, which has already done a draft environmental impact



CANDACE KREBS

A tributary of the Cache la Poudre River southeast of Ft. Collins swells with runoff as spring turns to summer. Two new reservoirs proposed in the area could be used to capture more of that excess water, supporters of the Northern Integrated Supply Project say. A large number of farm, ranch and irrigation groups support the project.

study, is adding supplemental research at the request of concerned groups. That won't be ready until next year. But eventually the project is expected to move forward, Martini said.

"The project is about as sound as it gets," he noted.

If approved, it would still take years for

See **RESERVOIRS**, page 14

## RESERVOIRS

From page 3

design and construction, with the reservoirs ready for use in about 2030.

"We're still going through the permitting process," Werner said. "I wish we could say it was going to happen immediately."

The Northern Integrated Supply Project, as it is named, would feed into the same basin affected by a Supreme Court ruling that shutdown irrigation wells across Northern Colorado in 2003 to help satisfy a dispute with senior water rights holders further downstream. Though the project isn't a direct response to that particular water fight, it could help alleviate future

water demands in the region and prevent further disputes, Martini says.

It also fits in with Colorado's water compact obligations to neighboring states, he added.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, which was created in 1937, also oversaw Colorado's Big Thompson Water Project that now consists of twelve=2

Oreservoirs, 35 miles of tunnels, 95 miles of canals and 700 miles of transmission lines providing water to 30 Front Range cities and helping to irrigate nearly a million acres of farm ground.

It's a sign of the times that back in 1958, 95 percent of Big Thompson's water went for farm irrigation; today, only about 36 percent is allocated to agriculture.

