



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 14, 2011

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## Glade, Galeton Reservoirs Would be Full

**NORTHERN COLORADO** – Another plentiful water supply year is nearing the end and with it comes good hydrologic news. This year's record, or near record, snowmelt runoff, combined with the runoff from the previous two years, would have filled the proposed Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins and still provided downstream users with above average water supplies.

"In just three years of above average snowpack and runoff, existing water rights would have been met and we'd still have had plenty of water to fill both Glade and Galeton reservoirs," said Northern Water General Manager Eric Wilkinson.

Glade and Galeton reservoirs are part of the Northern Integrated Supply Project, which is proposed by 15 Northern Front Range cities, towns and water districts and is under review by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. When full, Glade would store 170,000 acre feet of water and Galeton would hold 45,000 acre feet.

The 215,000 acre feet of storage is enough to provide 40,000 acre feet of water annually to the NISP participants. Diversions for this storage would primarily be available in above average runoff years such as 2009, 2010 and 2011.

"Nearly 77,000 acre feet of water could have been diverted and stored in Glade this year," said Carl Brouwer, NISP project manager. "And with 116,000 acre feet available the previous two years, Glade would be in good shape."

The NISP diversions would have been a portion of the water that has flowed downstream out of Colorado the past three years over and above the state's legal obligations to Nebraska. The amount that has left Colorado from 2009 through 2011 is more than 1.2 million acre feet – all water that won't be available to Coloradoans in the next drought. For more information on NISP, visit <a href="www.gladereservoir.org">www.gladereservoir.org</a>.

## **NISP POTENTIAL DIVERSIONS (IN ACRE FEET)**

Water Year	Glade Reservoir*	Galeton Reservoir		
2011	77,000	39,000		
2010	80,000	70,000		
2009	36,000	32,000		

<sup>\*</sup> Glade would be full at 170,000 acre feet; Galeton at 45,000 acre feet

# **NISP** Support/Endorsements

#### NISP participant communities & 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 & reservoir companies

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

#### Agricultural-related organizations

Agland, Inc.

Colorado Cattlemen's Association

Colorado Corn Growers Association

Colorado Dairy Producers

Colorado Egg Producers Association

Colorado Farm Bureau

Colorado Livestock Association

Colorado Pork Producers Council

Colorado State Grange

Colorado Sugarbeet Growers Association

**Eaton Local Sugarbeet Growers** 

GreenCO

Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Valley Irrigation of Greeley

Western Sugar Cooperative

## **Business-related organizations**

Club 20

Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry

Fort Collins Board of REALTORS ®

Front Range District, Colorado Counties, Inc.

Progressive 15

United Power

Upstate Colorado Economic Development

Weld Community Development Group

Weld County Builders Assoc, Inc.

Weld County Council

#### Chambers of commerce

Berthoud Area Chamber

Carbon Valley Chamber

Erie Chamber

**Evans Area Chamber** 

Fort Lupton Chamber

Fort Morgan Chamber

**Greeley Chamber** 

Lafayette Chamber

Longmont Area Chamber

Mead Area Chamber

Windsor Chamber

Town of Pierce

#### Water conservancy districts

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

#### Conservation districts

Boulder Valley Conservation District Longmont Conservation District West Greeley Conservation District

## **Editorial support**

Erie Review

Fort Morgan Times

Greeley Tribune

Lafavette News

Longmont Times-Call

Louisville Times

Loveland Reporter-Herald

Windsor Beacon

#### County commissioners

Larimer County Commissioners Morgan County Commissioners Weld County Commissioners

## Public/elected officials

U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner

State Sen. Greg Brophy

State Sen. Kevin Grantham

State Sen. Ted Harvey

State Sen. Mary Hodge

State Sen. Cheri Jahn

State Sen. Kevin Lundberg

State Sen. Scott Renfroe

State Sen. Lois Tochtrop

House Speaker Frank McNulty

House Majority Leader Amy Stephens

State Rep. Jon Becker

State Rep. Don Beezley

State Rep. J. Paul Brown

State Rep. Brian DelGrosso

State Rep. Carole Murray

State Rep. B.J. Nikkel

State Rep. Kevin Priola

State Rep. Jim Riesberg

State Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg

State Rep. Glenn Vaad

State Rep. Mark Waller

Former U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard

Former U.S. Sen. Hank Brown

Former state Rep. Diane Hoppe

Former state Sen. Jim Isgar

Former state Sen. Bruce Whitehead

Former state Minority Leader Josh Penry

Don Ament, former state agriculture commissioner

Don Marostica, former Gov. Ritter cabinet member

# **Survey Shows Northern Colorado Voters Strongly Support NISP Project**

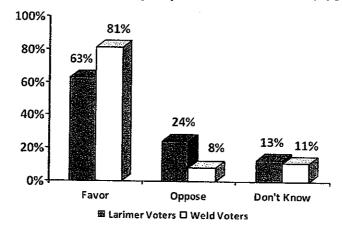
Ciruli Associates Poll Analysis by Floyd Ciruli 303.399.3173

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 Galeton 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.1

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

Voter		Fort	-	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Larimer</u>	<u>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

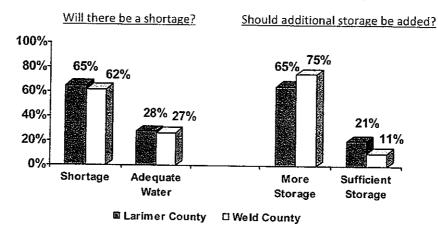
Due to the extensive local media coverage NISP received for more than a year as the EIS process was conducted, only about one-tenth of voters did not express a view on the project.

## **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>Total Agree</u>			
Statements	Larîmer	Fort	644-1-I	
<del></del>		<u>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>Total Agree</u> Fort			
<u>Statements</u> Water management and multiple-use aspects of Poudre River and Big Thompson:	<u>Larimer</u>	Collins	<u>Weld</u>	Greeley
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
Cooperation on water issues among communities:  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.



## NISP: Storage needed to protect ag water

APRIL, 7 2011

Northern Integrated Supply Project continues to garner headlines in the region. I thought it would be helpful to have some insight from a community that will be a beneficiary of this vision of creating water storage by our growing community of Frederick.

NISP is an integral part of the long-term health of our community and the other participants involved. It is the most proactive partnership to be seen by the communities and water districts and will result in an ability to meet the long-term needs of our population both current and future.

NISP involves building a storage facility called Glade Reservoir north of Fort Collins and Galeton Reservoir northeast of Greeley. The efforts of the communities involved will protect the health and use of the agricultural waters being removed from farms across northeastern Colorado at an alarming rate.

Without this project, municipalities will look to drying up productive farmlands through the purchase of agricultural water rights. One only needs to look at what Thornton, Aurora and other metro communities have done over the last 20 years to understand the negative impact such dryup of farmland causes. Thornton alone has purchased and will dry up more than 21,000 acres of productive farmland to satisfy its water needs.

By responsibly working together we are seeking to protect the rights of farmers to irrigate their lands in northeastern Colorado and the Weld County region. At the same time, by establishing NISP for future use by communities we ensure the ability to meet the municipal demand.

Growth will continue in the Front Range communities along the Interstate 25 corridor. We must be poised to meet those growing demands of primary employers and others who desire to have their workforce live, work and play in the community in which they establish their businesses.

The NISP participants are gathering support for this project from a varied group of individual and business leaders, as well as chambers of commerce and agricultural interests. To date, the participants have spent more than \$9 million to work through review and design processes, and it is now with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to review and indicate whether the project can move forward. Many political leaders from both parties are supporting this project.

Most of the largest communities along the North Front Range were foresighted many years ago to ensure their water portfolio and participated in projects similar to NISP. It is now time for Frederick, Erie, Firestone, Windsor, Dacono and other communities to have that same shared vision and commitment to adequate and reliable water for future use.

The NISP effort is using existing water that otherwise flows to our neighboring state of Nebraska. Had we had the NISP project built two years ago, it would have been filling rapidly with the excellent snowpack from the last two years. Despite what some naysayers indicate, NISP enhances and enlivens the Poudre River and provides for better and more predictable flows through much of the river.

Opponents have said communities can conserve to provide additional water. Over the last 20 years the participating communities have instituted a variety of conservation rules and education to encourage different water usage. This has resulted in savings of 30 percent or more as communities have continued to grow. But this cannot be the only means of securing our water future. Conservation is one tool that is utilized, and the development of water storage projects is but another.

Printable Page 2 of 2

So please learn more about NISP if your community is a participant and help your elected leaders as they work to ensure long-term water security for the region by protecting the irrigated farmlands.

It truly is a win-win for everyone.

Eric E. Doering is the mayor of Frederick.

http://www.greeleytribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article? AID=/20110406/OPINION/704069959/1027&parentprofile=1025&template=printart

# reporterherald.com

## TimesCall.com

Loveland Reporter-Herald & Longmont Times-Call: June 23, 2011 Editorial

# Reservoirs the better alternative

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a bit of this year's exceptional spring runoff could be captured and stored for dry months ahead, or even for drought years, instead of flowing to Nebraska?

That's the goal of NISP, the Northern Integrated Supply Project, which would create two reservoirs, including one that would capture Cache la Poudre River water north of Fort Collins. Eleven towns and four water districts along the northern Front Range -- among those, Firestone, Frederick, Dacono, Lafayette and parts of Boulder County -- would share its reserves.

Years in the planning, NISP still might be years in the coming. An Army Corps of Engineers' final decision on the water-supply project isn't likely to happen until 2013.

Granted, the construction and filling one of the largest reservoirs in the state would not be an environmentally neutral act. Concerns about the effect on the Poudre River should be addressed.

But just as important is the impact of not constructing the reservoirs. It's called the "No Action Alternative," and it considers what the region's cities would do without this added water storage. Among the likely alternatives: reliance on Colorado-Big Thompson water, the use of gravel pits for storage, additional groundwater pumping and the transfer of water rights from agricultural to municipal use.

Each alternative has its limits, and most present long-term problems. Storage still will be required. Poorer water quality likely will require improved water-treatment facilities. And worse, northeast Colorado's fertile farmland could become parched.

Colorado has abundant water. The problem is, it all runs downhill. Short of halting municipal growth -- which isn't going to happen -- Colorado must create storage for its supplies so that municipal, commercial and agricultural uses are secured for years to come.

NISP is a reasonable response to this need. Its environmental impacts should be taken into consideration -- whether it's built or not.

# SIN SP

Northern Integrated Supply Project







Northern Water

"Infrastructure is a necessary but insufficient ingredient to quality of life. In order to live healthy lives, our built environment must also be practical and well designed. It is not enough to build more infrastructure – it must also be done smartly."

American Society of Civil Engineers, Colorado's 2008 Infrastructure Report Card

NISP would do just that ...





## What NISP is

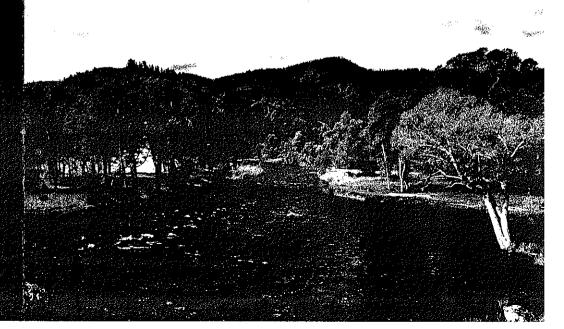
**NISP IS A WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.** These projects have been used throughout the world for centuries to provide water supplies to citizens, agriculture and other industries.

Water projects include infrastructure, such as reservoirs and pipelines. NISP is integrated because it includes two proposed reservoirs, Glade and Galeton, that would operate together to help ensure clean, reliable water supplies for the future of hundreds of thousands of citizens in Northeastern Colorado.

The water that would fill Glade and Galeton reservoirs is available to Coloradoans now, but without the storage capabilities NISP would provide, that water will continue to leave the state.

NISP is smart water development, not only because of how it would operate, but also because it makes sense economically and environmentally.

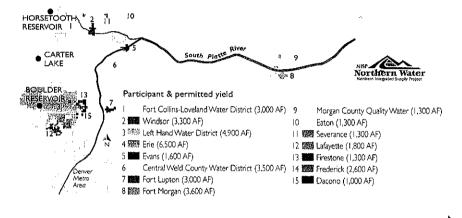
In 2009, more than 90,000 acre feet of water left Colorado that would have been available for NISP storage, had the project been online.



## Who NISP is for

**IT'S A FACT:** People want to live in Northeastern Colorado, which touts diverse opportunities for both work and play.

The 15 cities and water districts that are paying for and would receive water from NISP are together facing a doubled population within the next 20 to 40 years. The region is in serious need of water to support the cities, farms and businesses that make it a great place to live.

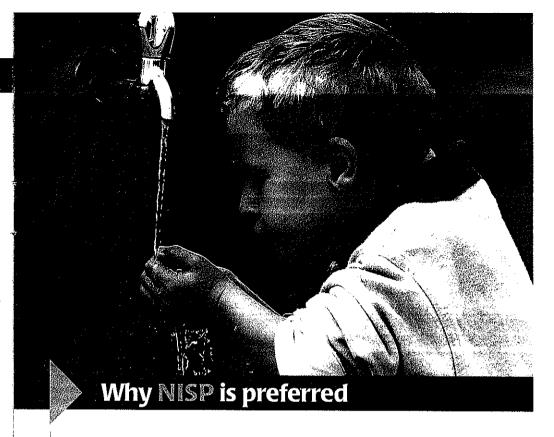


Northeastern Colorado water providers cannot rely solely on precipitation Mother Nature provides—an average or about 15 inches a year

Compare that to other areas: the Midwest at 40 inches a year and the East Coast at 50. Storage helps water users get through dry seasons as well as periods of drought.

With the area's semiarid classification in mind, water providers and others have been tracking growth projections and the resulting demands. Groups such as the Northern Regional Water Coalition, which included water providers and citizens, held discussions in the late 1990s about critical regional water issues and potential strategies to address them.

The catalysts that sparked the formal decision to move forward with NISP included the 2000 Regional Water Demand Study, the Statewide Water Supply Investigation and other research that all pointed to one conclusion: More people will be living in Colorado in the future, and they will require more water:



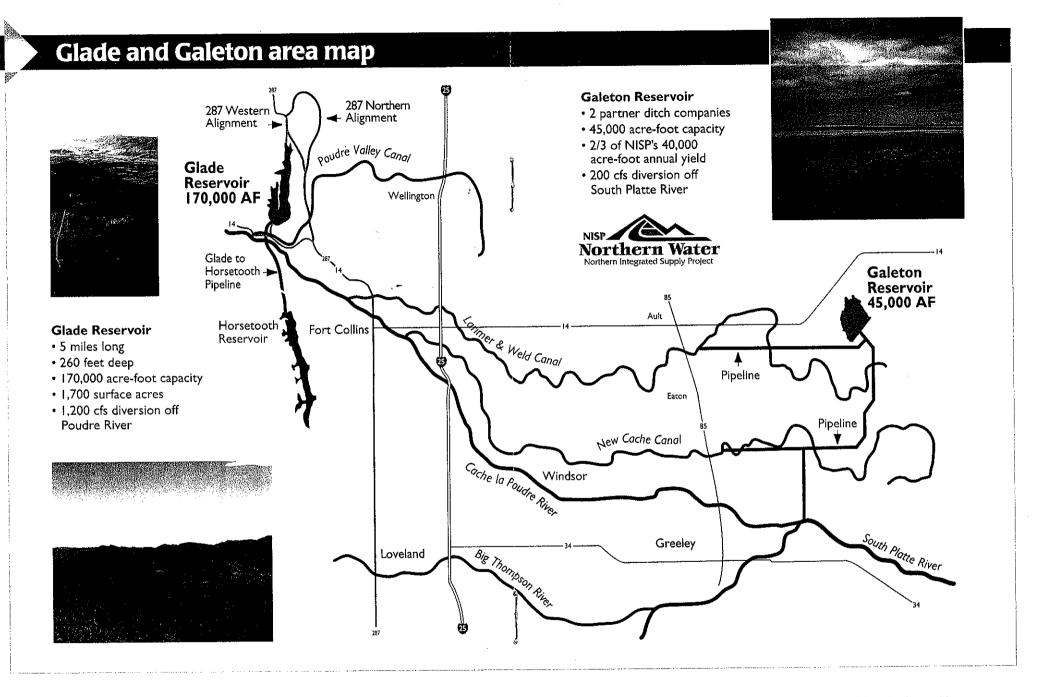
**WATER PROVIDERS** must meet demand challenges by balancing conservation and new water supplies. One measure alone is not enough.

Selecting NISP as the preferred solution took a lot of work and analysis. The project participants reviewed more than 200 options to supplement their water supplies. After extensive study, they decided NISP is the best option.

NISP will help keep kitchen faucets and school water fountains flowing. And it will support area businesses, which depend upon reliable water supplies to thrive. The water from NISP also has the power to drive Colorado's new energy economy. After all, it takes water to manufacture power, including solar and wind.

NISP at the same time would lessen the impacts of population growth on the region's robust agricultural economy. Weld County, which would receive water from NISP, was ranked eighth in the nation for ag production in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 Census of Agriculture at \$1.54 billion annually.

Without NISP, growing cities will have few, if any, alternatives beyond buying farmers' water rights to meet their future water needs.



**GLADE RESERVOIR** would be northwest of Fort Collins. Glade would be filled with Poudre River water, and would likely offer recreation such as boating, fishing, camping and hiking.

**GALETON RESERVOIR** would be northeast of Greeley. It would be filled with South Platte River water to replace agricultural users' water that has historically been diverted from the Poudre River.

## How Glade would work

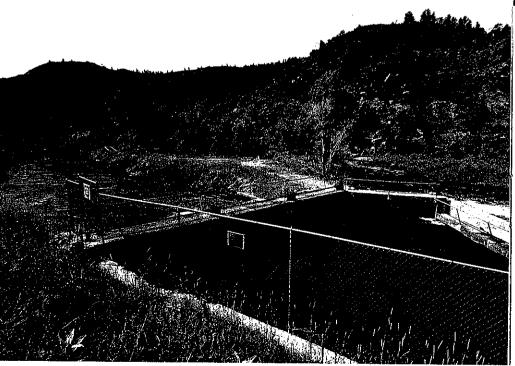
**GLADE RESERVOIR** would divert water from the Poudre River. The diversions would occur during high flow seasons using a water right secured in 1980 for the benefit of Northeastern Colorado.

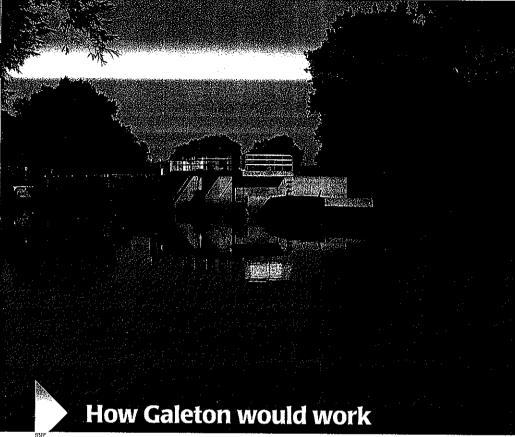
The Poudre River diversion would be near the canyon mouth below the sections designated in 1986 as wild and scenic.

Once diverted, the water would move through an existing canal before it is pumped to Glade Reservoir, where it would be stored for delivery to participating water providers.

Glade, which would be slightly bigger than Horsetooth Reservoir would be north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and Colorado Highway 14. A 7-mile stretch of 287 would be rerouted.

NISP water would be diverted at the Poudre Valley Canal, below. The Larimer & Weld Irrigation Co., headgate at right, is integral to NISP.





**GALETON RESERVOIR** would be in the plains northeast of Greeley. It is the key feature of what is called the South Platte Water Conservation Project and the reason NISP is "integrated" with two reservoir operations.

The key to Galeton's operation is an "exchange" of water. The reservoir would be filled with diversions from the South Platte River. This water would be delivered via pipelines to the Larimer & Weld Irrigation and New Cache la Poudre Irrigating companies.

The two ditch companies already divert water from the Poudre River, but with NISP a portion of that water would instead be diverted directly into Glade. The water that the companies did not receive from the Poudre River would in turn be delivered from Galeton.

This exchange amounts to about one-fourth of the ditch companies' total supply. By acting in partnership with agriculture, NISP would provide new water for cities and industries without taking away water rights used to irrigate crops.

# A partner with agriculture

**CITIES HURTING FOR WATER** frequently purchase farmers' water rights, causing farms to "dry up" and often cease production. This has a ripple effect throughout the economy.

By supplying an alternative source of much-needed water for cities and towns, NISP would decrease the region's need for ag dry-up.

NISP would also provide supplemental water supplies to water districts that would deliver water to dairies, feedlots and other ag-related end users.

What do the people who know and respect agriculture have to say about NISP and its benefits?

"NISP is a project that embodies what agriculture is looking for – a way to continue to exist with urban development."

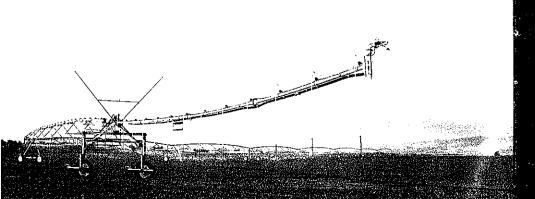
lim Miller, Colorado deputy commissioner of agriculture

"If we don't store water for growth, that water is going to come from agriculture."

Don Ament, former Colorado commissioner of agriculture

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

Mike Hungenberg, Board President, New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company



## **Under review**

**UNDER FEDERAL LAW**, NISP must go through the National Environmental Policy Act review process, which includes the requirement to mitigate for the project's environmental impacts.

NISP would have the flexibility to provide a variety of mitigation measures, including those that might focus on flows and associated river habitat. NISP participants are working with other state and federal agencies to discuss details.

NISP entered the federal review process, which requires approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 2004. The first Corps report, called the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, came out in 2008. The Corps is also working on a second, or supplemental, draft EIS. The agency will then issue a decision on how or whether the project can proceed.

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

Sean Conway, Weld County commissioner





Northern Integrated Supply Project



