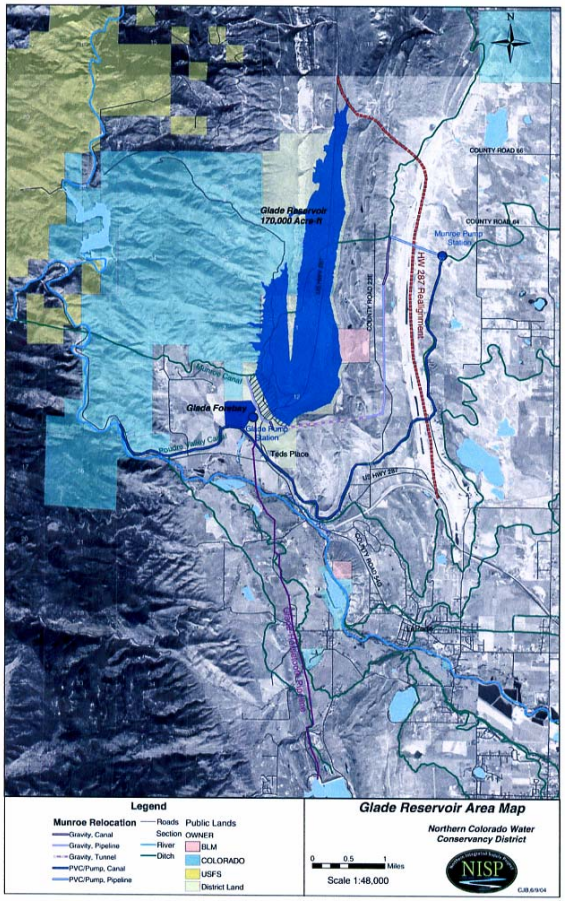
Poudre Canyon Group PO Box 20, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (970) 493-0314 www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pcg

The Endangered Cache la Poudre River



For nearly a century and half, the Cache la Poudre River has been dammed and diverted. Nearly 90% of its water pools behind dams or is diverted out of the river for agriculture, municipal, and industrial uses. At its junction with the South Platte River, the river has become a depleted, stinking ditch for most of the year.

A small amount of the river's water is unallocated. It runs freely and manages to peak every three of four years, and these periodic, minor peaking flows are essential for maintaining ecosystem health and improving water quality.

Three large new dams have been proposed to impound this last remaining unallocated water in the river. The most potentially damaging of these is the proposed Glade Reservoir, part of the Northern Integrated Supply Project, or NISP.

The irony is that new dams aren't actually needed in our region. Northern Colorado communities, industry, and agriculture can meet their needs for water for drought protection and growth by conserving existing water resources and utilizing them at maximum efficiency.

Some Facts about the proposed Glade Reservoir

- The project is predicted to cost at least $370 million, with some subscribing communities like the town of Erie taking on approximately $15,000 in debt per family to finance the water.
- At 177,000 acre-feet, the proposed Glade Reservoir would be about 20% larger than Horsetooth Reservoir when full. Yet, the reservoir could only deliver up to 40,000 acre-feet per year on average, about 8-10% of which will evaporate every year. It will rarely be full.
- It would be built between the ridges of the hogback directly north of Ted's Place, on Highway 287. About six miles of new highway would have to be constructed East of the hogback, to reroute the section of Highway 287 that would be flooded by the dam.
- Glade reservoir would receive water only during the wettest years, approximately one year out of four. Peaking flows would be taken from the river via massive pumps at a new diversion dam across the main stem of the Poudre near the mouth of the Poudre Canyon.
- The reservoir water level would rise and fall several dozen feet in any given year.
- During flooding flows, pumps would siphon off between 700 and 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) off the river, depending on the size of the pumps that get installed. This could be 15-40% of the river's flow at the Mouth of the Canyon, depending on the year and timing of the flow.

There are better ways to meet our water needs.

The Glade Reservoir is enormously expensive, and it isn't needed. We can provide all of the water proposed to be delivered by Glade***, and more, at a lower financial and environmental cost,*** through straightforward and proven conservation techniques, improved water use efficiency by municipal and industrial users, and with very modest improvements in agricultural water use efficiency. These include:

- Comprehensive public education and awareness programs about water conservation.
- Rebate/retrofit programs for low-water use landscaping, low-water-use toilets, shower heads, and water-wasting appliances.
- Water fallowing contracts between municipal, industrial, and agricultural users, with investments in agricultural water conservation and water use efficiency in return for use of agricultural water.
- Landscape irrigation monitoring and improvement programs to reduce water wasted in excessive irrigation.
- Repairing leaks in ditches and pipelines, lining ditches along all reaches, and using closed pipelines wherever possible.
- Tiered water rates that reward conservation with lower costs to customers who conserve.
- Use of gray-water systems and interfacing gray-water systems with water recycling systems wherever possible.

Glade Reservoir Project participants

The NISP project is expected to cost at least $370 million. Thirteen communities and water districts have subscribed to shares in NISP. Many are outside the Cache la Poudre Watershed. Most intend to finance their involvement with debt loads of $2,000 to $5,000 per current resident. Repaying these costs requires higher water rates for existing residents and extraordinary population growth to pay tap fees. As of March, 2006, requested allocations were as follows:

Town/Water District	NISP Share (Acre-Ft)	Share of Cost	Contact Info
Eaton	1,300	$12,025,000	223 1st Street, Eaton, CO 80615, 970 454-3338
Erie	6,500	$60,125,000	645 Holbrook, Erie, Co 80516, 303-926-2700
Evans	1,600	$14,800,000	1100 37th St, Evans CO 80620-2036, 970-339-5344
Ft. Lupton	3,000	$27,750,000	130 S McKinley Ave, Ft Lupton, CO 80621, 303-857-6694
Ft. Morgan	3,600	$33,300,000	710 E Railroad Ave, Ft Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-4310
Windsor	3,300	$30,525,000	301 Walnut Street, Windsor, CO 80550, 970-686-7476
Lafayette	1,800	$16,650,000	1290 South Public Road, Lafayette, CO 80026, 303-665-5588
Left Hand Water District	4,900	$45,325,000	P.O. Box 210, Niwot, CO 80544-0210, 303-530-4200
Morgan County	1,300	$12,025,000	231 Ensign St., Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-542-3512
Ft Collins-Loveland Water District	3,000	$27,750,000	5150 Snead Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525-3764, 970-226-3104
Severance	1,300	$12,025,000	231 4th Ave, Severance, CO 80546, 970-686-1218
Berthoud	1,300	$12,025,000	328 Massachusetts Ave, Berthoud CO 80513, 970-532-2643
Central Weld Cty Water District	7,100	$65,675,000	2235 2nd Ave, Greeley, CO, 970-352-1284

If you live in one of these communities or water districts, and you are concerned about this project, please contact your elected representatives at the addresses and phone numbers above.

Details on the proposed Glade Reservoir can be found at http://www.ncwcd.org/project_features/nisp_doc.asp. You can contact the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District at: 220 Water Avenue, Berthoud, Colorado 80513, 970-532-7700.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Glade Reservoir. You can contact them at: 2232 Dell Range Blvd, Suite 210, Cheyenne, aWyoming 82009, 307-772-2300.