10 things to know about NISP

1. The Northern Integrated Supply Project is a proposed water storage and distribution project that will supply 15 Northern Front Range water providers, serving hundreds of thousands of residents, with 40,000 acre-feet of new, reliable water supplies.

2. NISP includes Glade and Galeton reservoirs, five pump plants and the necessary canal improvements and pipelines to deliver the water to communities throughout Northern Colorado.

3. Glade Reservoir sits in a dry valley about a half-mile away from the Poudre River north of Ted’s Place. Galeton Reservoir is east of Ault.

4. Through conservation, the NISP participants have reduced their per capita water use by nearly 30 percent since 2000.

5. Since 2009, stream flows in the Poudre and South Platte rivers have been high enough in most years that had the project been complete and storing water, millions of acre-feet of water still would have flowed into Nebraska.

Gladereservoir.org
6. NISP reduces the pressure on water providers to purchase farms for their water supply. Without it, an estimated 60,000 irrigated acres of land would be dried up in one of the United States' top producing agricultural regions.

7. The construction of NISP fulfills a portion of the Colorado Water Plan that calls for additional water storage, conservation and the necessary funding to meet the needs of the state's booming population.

8. The NISP participants have agreed to release water year-round from Glade Reservoir, which will guarantee minimum flows and eliminate dry-up points in the river through Fort Collins for the first time ever.

9. The NISP participants have also agreed to build bypass structures at four diversion dams where the river has historically dried up. This will allow minimum flows to move downstream and fish to migrate upstream.

10. Glade Reservoir will offer new recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing and camping.
Two new reservoirs that will help Northern Colorado communities meet their future water needs

The Northern Integrated Supply Project will supply 15 Northern Front Range water providers with 40,000 acre-feet of new, reliable water supplies. Northern Water is pursuing permitting, design and construction of this estimated $1 billion project on behalf of the participants, who will be providing water to nearly half a million residents by 2050. The project components include:

- Two reservoirs (Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins, and Galeton Reservoir northeast of Greeley)
- A forebay reservoir below Glade Reservoir
- Five pump plants
- Pipelines to deliver water for exchange with two irrigation companies and for delivery to participants
- Improvements to an existing canal to divert water off the Poudre River near the canyon mouth

Since 2009, more than 5 million acre-feet of water has flowed into Nebraska over and above legal requirements. NISP will help put some of that water to beneficial use here in Colorado, through a 1980 storage right on the Poudre River, a 1992 water right on the South Platte River, and exchanges with two local ditch companies.

A project that will improve river flows and protect wildlife and our environment

The NISP Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan – approved by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Gov. John Hickenlooper in 2017 – includes an array of components that address issues raised during the permitting and public comment processes, such as:

- An operational configuration that releases 18 cubic feet per second to 25 cfs year-round from Glade Reservoir to the Poudre River, eliminating existing dry-up points in the river and improving streamflows
- A Poudre River peak-flow operations program that results in little to no diversions during peak flow conditions during 90 percent of years
- Wildlife habitat conservation
- Water quality improvements
- Retrofitting four existing diversion structures to allow fish to migrate freely up and down river – and for flows to continue downstream
- Stream channel and habitat improvements
- Fishery and recreation benefits at Glade Reservoir

Current Status & Upcoming Timeline

2017 – Approval of Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan
2018 – Release of a Final Environmental Impact Statement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and continued work on water quality certification
2019 – Anticipated Record of Decision, which is the Corps’ final determination on whether NISP can proceed
2019-2021 – Project design to be finalized
2021-2025 – Anticipated construction dates
2025 – First water stored in Glade Reservoir
Glade Reservoir will be located northwest of Fort Collins near the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and State Highway 14. It will be 5 miles long, 280 feet deep at its deepest, and have the capacity to store 170,000 acre-feet of water, slightly larger than Horsetooth Reservoir. Glade Reservoir will divert water from the Poudre River during mostly high flow times, using the already existing Poudre Valley Canal near the canyon mouth. As part of NISP, the PVC's diversion structure will be upgraded. The reservoir site is divided by U.S. Highway 287, and therefore, about seven miles of the highway will be relocated to the east.

Galeton Reservoir will be located east of Ault and northeast of Greeley, and store about 45,600 acre-feet at full capacity. To fill Galeton Reservoir, water will be diverted from the South Platte River downstream from Greeley at high flow times. Galeton Reservoir water will be delivered to two ditch companies in exchange for a portion of the Poudre River water they currently use – an effort called the South Platte Water Conservation Project. More than half of NISP’s planned diversion from the Poudre River includes water that’s already been diverted for decades by these two ditch companies.

Colorado Water Plan

The Colorado Water Plan reinforced the necessity of additional water storage to help meet the state’s future water gap. The gap is the difference between the estimated future water demands and existing supplies by the year 2060. The plan identifies the need for 400,000 acre-feet of additional storage statewide. NISP can play a role in meeting a portion of the impending water gap in Colorado. The plan also identifies water conservation and increased water transfers between the agricultural and municipal sectors as additional solutions to help meet the impending gap.

NISP Participants

The 15 NISP participants include 11 fast-growing communities and four water districts within the Northern Front Range. They currently serve water to about 250,000 residents, with that number expected to double by 2050. The NISP participants are pursuing an all-of-the-above strategy to meet their future water needs. In addition to NISP, they are embracing conservation efforts, alternative transfer methods with ag-water suppliers and reuse opportunities. The participants have already collectively reduced their water consumption by more than 20 percent in recent years through these efforts.

Learn more at www.gladereservoir.org.
NISP Timeline
(updated April 2018)

2026– First water stored in Glade Reservoir
2024-2027 - Galetton Reservoir and associated pipelines constructed
2021-2025 – Glade Reservoir construction
2019-2020 – Final design
2019 - Permit decision, anticipated final Record of Decision by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2018/2019 – Anticipated approval of 401 water quality certification by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
June 2018 – Anticipated Final EIS release by Army Corps of Engineers
Nov. 2017 – Gov. Hickenlooper announces adoption of State Fish and Wildlife Plan as official State position
September 2017 – State Fish and Wildlife mitigation and enhancement plan approved by Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Colorado Water Conservation Board
2016- 2018 – Army Corps continues preparing Final EIS
2016-2018 – Northern Water continues 401 water quality certification process with CDPHE
September 2015 – Public comment period closes
July 2015 - Public hearings on Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement held in Fort Collins and Greeley
June 2015 – Release of SDEIS
Fall 2014 – Army Corps and consultants prepare SDEIS and complete additional studies
Jan. 2012 – Army Corps announces more time necessary to complete hydrologic modeling studies
2009-2013 – SDEIS studies conducted (includes preparation of common technical platform between Halligan-Seaman and Northern Integrated Supply projects, additional modeling studies)
February 2009 – Army Corps announces a SDEIS will be prepared (anticipated completion date 2010)
July 2008 – Public comment period on Draft Environmental Impact Statement extended until Sept. 13
June 2008 – Public hearings on DEIS held in Fort Collins and Greeley
April 2008 – DEIS is released – public comment period begins
2006-2007 – Army Corps oversees studies being conducted for DEIS
Late 2005 – Final alternatives for supplying water selected as permitting process moves forward
March 2005 – Public open houses on Highway 287 realignment held

September 2004 – Army Corps holds public scoping meetings

Spring 2004 – Formal federal environmental permitting (EIS) process begins

2004 – Alternatives Analysis Study is completed (215 options studied)

2003 – Participants agree to move forward and fund Alternatives Analysis Study

2001 – Northern Water completes Glade Reservoir feasibility study

2000 – Regional water providers meet at Northern Water to discuss potential collaborative project

2000 – Northern Water releases Regional Water Demand Study

1992 – Northern Water files on water rights for South Platte Water Conservation Project (Galeton Reservoir and exchanges with ditch companies)

1990s – Northern Water reconfigures Poudre Project to include offstream reservoir site

Late 1980s – Northern Water pursues Poudre Project to build a large mainstem reservoir (Grey Mt.)

1986 – Poudre River designated as Colorado’s first wild and scenic river, with lower 8 miles in canyon left undesignated and open for a future water storage project

1985 – Cache la Poudre Water Users Association transfers 7/8 of water right to Northern Water

1980 – Grey Mountain water rights filed on by CLPWA and Northern Water
NISP Information

1. Project makes both economic and environmental sense for these growing communities and water districts
   a. Collaborative approach by 15 water providers makes sense
   b. Heading into 15th year of permitting in 2018 and NISP need keeps increasing
   c. Currently provide water to 225,000 – estimate in 2050 is 450,000

2. Since 2009, streamflows in the Poudre and South Platte rivers have been high enough in most years that had the project been complete and storing water, millions of acre feet of water still would have flowed into Nebraska
   a. In May/June of 2015 more than 1.3 million-acre feet left the state to NE

3. With available flows to divert in 2015 and 2016 Glade Reservoir would have filled
   a. 143,000-acre feet of water in 2015
   b. 116,000-acre feet of water in 2016

4. Helps protect our valuable farmlands
   a. Pressure on irrigated ag is increasing (water and land resources)
   b. Without NISP cities accelerate their buy and dry of farmland
   c. Project endorsed by every major agricultural organization in Colorado
   d. Will lose additional 60,000+ acres of irrigated farmland without NISP

5. Conservation is important to all NISP Participants
   a. Since 1999, NISP Participants have reduced water usage by 20+ percent
   b. Conservation is a key to all participants future water portfolios
   c. All have approved plans or have submitted plans to CWCB
6. The State of Colorado has officially approved (Sept. 2017) the **NISP Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan** which includes the following key measures:

   a. **Streamflow commitments**
      i. **Glade releases** of 18 cfs winter, 25 cfs summer to keep a live river year-round through Fort Collins
      ii. Curtail diversions when flow is less than 50 cfs summer, 25 cfs winter
      iii. Peak flow commitments
           1. Won’t divert or will curtail diversions in 90% of all years
           2. Bypass diversions for up to 3 days = 6,000 af in some years
   
b. **Stream channel commitments**
   i. Build bypass/fish passage structures at 4 diversion dams through Fort Collins and at Poudre Valley Canal diversion at canyon mouth
   ii. Stream channel improvement plan on 2 reaches = 2.4 miles
   iii. Have committed nearly $8 million for channel and riparian vegetation improvements

c. **Other commitments**
   i. Wildlife habitat conservation – 1,400 acres around Glade
   ii. Wetlands and endangered species mitigation
   iii. Recreation/fishery benefits at Glade

d. **Total M & E package = $59 million**

7. **State Water Plan** released in 2015 indicates additional storage is a must for Colorado
   a. Identifies 400,000-acre feet as necessary for future supplies
   b. NISP is a key component of developing additional storage
8. How we meet future water needs is critical
   a. State Water Supply Study (2010) indicated there will be a water supply gap of between 190,000 and 630,000 AF statewide by 2050
   b. In S. Platte Basin alone the “gap” is estimated to be between 36,000 and 170,000 AF by 2050

9. It’s not a dam on the river – Glade is off stream to reduce environmental impacts

10. Water infrastructure is sorely needed
    a. We’re utilizing facilities built more than 50 years ago today and have not built any new projects for nearly that long
    b. We owe it to future generations to provide water for them

11. **Public opinion polling** on two separate occasions has found majority support for NISP
    a. Support has increased since 2008!
       Overall favorable – 70% in 2008, 72% in 2013

12. Final points:
    a. While not a flood control project NISP could have diverted a little more than 1000 cubic feet per second during recent flood events (Sept. 2013 and May 2015) to help reduce high flows downstream
    b. Having water in storage makes sense as we prepare for future dry years
       i. See 2002, 2012 as examples
November 7, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Colonel John L. Hudson
Commander and District Engineer, Omaha District
1616 Capital Ave, Ste. 9000
Omaha, NE 68102

RE: Northern Integrated Supply Project, Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

Dear Colonel Hudson:

Enclosed is the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan for the Northern Integrated Supply Project, recommended by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Colorado Water Conservation Board as the State of Colorado position with regard to mitigation of impacts from this project to these resources. Under Colorado law (Section 37-60-122.2, C.R.S.), an applicant for any water diversion, delivery, or storage facility, which requires an application for a permit, license, or other approval from the United States must inform the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Colorado Water Conservation Board of its application and submit a fish and wildlife mitigation proposal. Once there is agreement on reasonable mitigation actions between the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, that agreement becomes the state position on mitigation of impacts to fish and wildlife resources. This state position must then be communicated to each federal, state, or other governmental agency from which the project applicant must obtain a permit, license, or other approval for consideration in these decision-making processes.

This letter is to inform you that the State of Colorado has adopted the enclosed Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan for the Northern Integrated Supply Project. This mitigation plan fulfills one of two state processes that must be completed related to water supply projects. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment must also complete the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification process. I believe that this mitigation plan maintains a balance between the development of the state's water resources and the protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources. I urge its consideration in the Federal permitting process.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Enclosed: Northern Integrated Supply Project Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

CC: John Urbanic, NISP EIS Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
NISP SUPPORT/ENDORSEMENTS

NISP participant communities
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
New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company
North Poudre Irrigation Company

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
Big Thompson Conservation District
Fort Collins Conservation District

Editorial support
BizWest
Carbon Valley Independent
Erie Review
Fort Collins Coloradoan
Fort Morgan Times
Greeley Tribune
Lafayette News
Longmont Times-Call
Lost Creek Guide
Louisville Times
Loveland Reporter-Herald
Windsor Beacon

Fire districts
Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District

West Slope agencies & organizations
Colorado River District
Club 20
Southwestern Water Conservation District
Ute Water Conservancy District

Agricultural organizations
Agfinity, Inc.
Barn Media & the Colorado Agriculture News Network
Boulder-St. Vrain Valley County Farm Bureau
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
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
Larimer County Farm Bureau
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Valley Irrigation of Greeley
Weld County Farm Bureau
Western Sugar Cooperative

Business organizations
Accelerate Colorado
Action 22
Associated General Contractors of Colorado
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry
Colorado Contractors Association
Fort Collins Board of REALTORS®
Front Range District, Colorado Counties, Inc.
Morgan County Economic Development Corporation
Northern Colorado Home Builders Assoc.
Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance
Poudre Valley REA
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 Collins Chamber
Fort Lupton Chamber
Fort Morgan Chamber
Greeley Chamber
Lafayette Chamber
Longmont Area Chamber
Mead Area Chamber
Windsor Chamber
Town of Pierce

County commissioners
Morgan County Commissioners
Weld County Commissioners

Public/elected officials
U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner
U.S. Rep. Ken Buck
State Sen. Randy Baumgardner
State Sen. John Cooke
State Sen. Don Coram
State Sen. Kevin Grantham
State Sen. Cheri Jahn
State Sen. Kevin Lundberg
State Sen. Vicki Marble
State Sen. Kevin Priola
State Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg
State Rep. Jon Becker
State Rep. Perry Buck
State Rep. Steve Humphrey
State Rep. Hugh McKean
State Rep. Bob Rankin
State Rep. Lori Saine
State Rep. Yeulin Willett
Former U.S. Sen. Hank Brown
Don Ament, former state agriculture commissioner
Tom Donnelly, Larimer County Commissioner
Steve Johnson, Larimer County Commissioner
Lew Gaiter, Larimer County Commissioner
Mary Hodge, Adams County Commissioner