

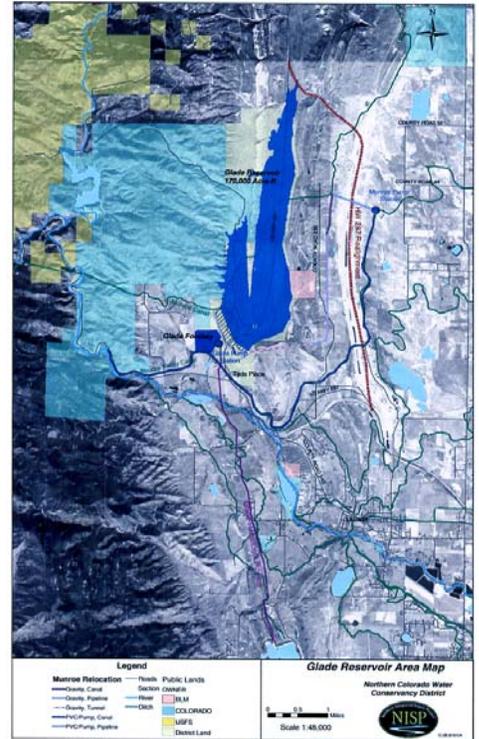
## The Endangered Cache la Poudre River

For nearly a century and half, the Cache la Poudre River has been dammed and diverted, often drained dry. Nearly 90% of its water is diverted out of the river for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses. At its junction with the South Platte River, the river has become a depleted, algal-filled, stinking ditch for much of the year.

A small amount of the river's water remains undiverted. The river runs freely and manages to peak every three or four years, and these periodic, minor peaking flows that remain are essential to maintain ecosystem health and improve water quality – to rejuvenate the river.

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

The irony is that Northern Colorado communities, industry, and agriculture can meet their needs for water for drought protection and growth by conserving and improving the efficiency of existing water resources, using water from lands consumed by managed growth, forming win-win partnerships with agriculture, and developing small-scale gravel pit and aquifer storage.



### Some Facts about the proposed NISP and its Glade Reservoir

- The project is predicted to cost at least \$500 million up front, approximately \$1 billion including interest on bonds and loans. Some subscribing communities like the town of Erie expect to take on debt approaching \$20,000 per family to finance the project.
- During peak June Rise flows, the huge pumps would suck about 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the river. This would be up to 71% of the river's flow through Fort Collins depending on the year and timing of the flow, directly harming water quality, river-related recreation, and regional economic vitality.
- 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 10% of which will be wastefully evaporated every year. The reservoir water level would rise and fall dozens of feet in any given year and 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 punched through valuable agricultural land 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, maybe one year out of three. Peak flows (the "June Rise") would be taken from the river via massive energy-consuming pumps at a new diversion dam across the main stem of the Poudre near the mouth of the Poudre Canyon.

## **There are better ways to meet our water needs.**

**Save The Poudre®**

*NISP and its Glade Reservoir would be enormously expensive, it isn't needed, and it would cause great harm.* 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 changes in agricultural water use efficiency and partnerships. 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 following contracts between municipal, industrial, and agricultural users, with investments in agricultural water conservation and water use efficiency in return for a portion 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.

Save The Poudre, in conjunction with our coalition partners, has created an alternative, **The Healthy Rivers Alternative**, laying out just how to supply water for Northern Colorado. Please find it on our website.

## **NISP/Glade Reservoir Project Participants**

NISP is expected to cost at least \$500 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.

## **Do Your Research and Let Your Voice Be Heard!**

**Details on the proposed NISP/Glade Reservoir and its negative impacts can also be found on our website, [SaveThePoudre.org](http://SaveThePoudre.org). Take an opportunity to learn.**

**If you are concerned about this project, please contact your elected state and federal representatives, the NISP subscriber communities, and other decision leaders. A helpful list of names, addresses, and email contacts may be found on our website.**

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed NISP/Glade Reservoir. *Tell them this is a bad project.* You can contact them at: Denver Regulatory Office, 9307 South Wadsworth Blvd. , Littleton, CO 80123, 303-979-4120; Fax 303-979-0602.**