

Both sides react to report on Glade Reservoir

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Photo courtesy: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

FORT COLLINS – Wednesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers produced its long-awaited draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed water project that includes Glade Reservoir.

The draft EIS has done little to settle the controversy that has surrounded the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP).

"We don't see anything yet there that surprises us," said Gary Wockner, spokesperson for Save the Poudre, a coalition made up of those against NISP. "We still believe that this project as proposed will be very bad for the Poudre River. It is our goal to save the Poudre River and so our goal is still to stop the project."

The group behind the project, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD), had a different take.

"We've got a sense of relief today," said Brian Werner, spokesperson for NCWCD, "It has taken four years to get to this point so we are very pleased that it is now out on the street and the citizens and the public can start looking at it

and ask some serious questions about it."

Glade Reservoir is the most controversial part of NISP. It would be located just north of Fort Collins and hold around 170,000 acre-feet of water. One acre foot is roughly the amount used by two urban homes a year.

The reservoir would draw water from the Poudre River, which runs through Fort Collins. The purpose of this project is to meet the growing water needs in Northern Colorado.

The draft EIS does list off several negative impacts Glade would have on the Poudre, including a significant reduction in monthly average stream flow through Fort Collins in May, June, July and August.

However, the draft EIS also lists the negative impacts of doing nothing to increase water supplies. One estimated impact would be the removal of water from up to 69,200 acres of irrigated agricultural lands as those who need water buy up agricultural water rights.

The Army Corps of Engineers will now hold a 90-day comment period. The Corps says it will evaluate all comments then begin conversations with NCWCD about mitigation needed to approve the project.

Comments must be received by July 30.

The first of two public hearings will take place on Tuesday, June 17 at the Fort Collins Senior Center.

[Click here for the draft EIS \(note that it is very large and may take a long time to download\).](#)

[Click here for the public notice regarding the project.](#)