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Glade a bad idea

There's a Native American quote on a board out by the Pawnee Buttes: "Grass no good upside-down." It was a prescient warning about soil erosion seen in subsequent Dust Bowl days. I'd amend it for modern times and say "Grass no good under water." The Glade reservoir project is a bad idea for many reasons already listed elsewhere. It's hard to pick just a few here.

First, there's the creation of a giant evaporation pond with muddy, mosquito-infested, unwalkable shores in the place of what is currently a healthy, diverse shortgrass steppe with shady cottonwood areas. Second, there's the highway relocation damage. Third, there's the forebay and the necessary pumping uphill to the reservoir. Fourth is the elimination of the river's peak flow: the Poudre's ecological health is at stake. Insects, birds, fish, plants and microbes that make up the river's ecological web all depend on seasonal changes and a healthy flow of water.

The Front Range populace has already taken most of the Poudre's water. We have hardly begun to conserve. We live in a semi-arid grassland. It is high time that our landscaping, agricultural practices, domestic habits, attitudes and laws reflect this reality.

Annette Miller,

Fort Collins
