



September 2, 2008

Glade would be loss for region

Dear Mr. (Chandler) Peter (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers):

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Integrated Supply Project. I attended the June 16 public hearing in Fort Collins. I have also read (most of) the DEIS. I am a resident of Fort Collins. I love my community, and I love rivers.

The DEIS lacked an adequate discussion of regional conflict, management of a finite resource, an actual plan to save agricultural land, the economic wisdom of the project and the destructive nature of reservoirs.

Inherent in the Alternative 2 - Proposed Action for Glade Reservoir is the establishment of regional conflict. Glade Reservoir pits the future development and tax revenue interests of Dacono, Lafayette, Erie, Eaton, Boulder, etc. against the revitalization, development and livability of LaPorte and Fort Collins. The economic cost of this conflict has not been explored. The social aspect of this conflict has not been explored.

The objective of NISP's Glade Reservoir is not only a transfer of water but also a transfer of the livability and vitality of Fort Collins and LaPorte to other communities.

There is a misconception that water diversion is a winning solution for all in Northern Colorado. The true nature of the regional impact and trade offs need to be evaluated. Proponents of the NISP project that are currently dependent on Colorado-Big Thompson water often cite C-BT as a "finite resource." All rivers and water projects are "finite resources" and should be treated as such.

Is Glade Reservoir the best use of the Cache la Poudre? The finite aspect of this resource has not been addressed in the DEIS.

Frequently mentioned in NISP promotional material is the ability of NISP to save agricultural land. The DEIS does not adequately address these claims regarding agricultural lands. In fact, the purpose of NISP water supplies is to allow municipalities, such as Erie and Dacono, to replace current agricultural land with residential and commercial development.

The current push to build NISP is associated with the recent availability of easy credit and the overbuilding of residential projects in Colorado. With the current local and national housing crisis and the escalating costs of fuel and power, this would be an appropriate time to re-evaluate the sub-urban and ex-urban development encouraged by and implicit in NISP.

Finally, I had the good fortune to paddle the Lower North Fork of the Cache La Poudre this June. The river corridor is precious. The paddle across Seaman Reservoir is not. The water in the reservoir had a foul odor, was littered with dead fish and the banks were coated in an unpleasant ooze. (I believe) Glade Reservoir would provide no aesthetic or recreational value and promote a net socio-economic loss in LaPorte and Fort Collins.
