

**Weld County Re3J  
2010-2011 School Year  
PUBLIC RELEASE**

Weld County Re3J School District today announced its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free and reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Local school officials will use the following lunch and income criteria for determining eligibility.

Family Size	FREE MEALS	REDUCED PRICE MEALS
	Yearly	Yearly
1	\$14,079	\$20,036
2	18,941	26,955
3	23,803	33,874
4	28,665	40,793
5	33,527	47,712
6	38,389	54,631
7	43,251	61,550
8	48,113	68,469
For each additional family member add:	\$ 4,862	\$ 6,919

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data. Applications from families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) need only to list the children's names, respective case number, and the signature of an adult household member.

All other households that would qualify based upon income must show the names of all household members related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends), the amount of gross income each person received last month and source, and the signature of an adult household member and that adult's social security number, or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. The information on the application may be verified by the school or other program officials at any time during the school year.

In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for meals, they should contact the school.

Under the provision of the Policy, Debbie Benson will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the decision, a request may be made to discuss it with the determining official. A formal appeal may be made either orally or in writing to Mindi Wolf for a hearing to appeal the decision. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a decrease in income, become unemployed, have an increase in family size, or become eligible for SNAP benefits, you may fill out an application at that time.

Each school has a copy of the complete policy which may be reviewed by any interested party.

*In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**2010 National Crackdown &  
Labor Day Weekend Impaired Driving Enforcement**

The law enforcement agencies of the Weld County DUI Task Force will be conducting increased DUI saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints in Weld County during the National Crackdown and upcoming Labor Day weekend Enforcement Period that starts Friday, August 20th and runs through Tuesday, September 7th, 2010. Sobriety checkpoints and increased DUI saturation patrols can take place on any given night at any location county-wide. The Weld County DUI Task Force is conducting these operations in conjunction with the "100 Days of Heat" which is a statewide DUI enforcement campaign that runs through Labor Day.

The Weld County DUI Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional organization consisting of many different participating law enforcement agencies focused

on targeting impaired driving in Weld County. By conducting sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols this task force strives to increase public awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, as well as making the roads safer for those traveling in and through Weld County.

The Weld County DUI Task Force would like to encourage and challenge all drivers to be sober and safe when operating their vehicles during this enforcement period. For more information about DUI Enforcement, contact the Weld County Sheriff's Office Traffic Division at 970-356-4015 or visit Colorado Department of Transportation's "Heat is On" website at [www.HeatIsOnColorado.com](http://www.HeatIsOnColorado.com)

John B. Cooke – Sheriff

**NISP Unsupportable**

by John Bartholow

*Board member of Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper*

Farming communities in North-eastern Colorado are understandably concerned about their future.

Growth of cities and towns, large and small, threaten to consume their land and their water at an unprecedented rate over the next 30 to 50 years. "We need more storage" is a rallying cry that sounds compelling.

But do some water projects better protect farming than others? Are all water supply projects smart and sustainable?

There are several possibilities to increase water supply. Which of them make sense if evaluated along three critical dimensions: providing needed water for growing cities right now, preserving farming in the long run, and protecting our environment?

The cheapest, easiest and fastest water supply strategy is conservation and efficiency. Dollar for dollar, municipal and industrial water conservation has proven itself exceptionally cost effective, very reliable, and it provides immediate results. Conservation and efficiency work for us year-round, indoors and out, in ways that are flexible and can adapt to changing circumstances. Besides, wasting any resources, especially one as valuable as water, is simply unacceptable.

But, you say, "we can't conserve our way out of this mess; we have too big a problem." That's why a successful water supply strategy has two other sturdy legs: reuse and water sharing.

Water reuse is simply inevitable. Several cities have led the way in Colorado and many more are following. Broomfield uses recycled water to irrigate golf courses and parks. Denver uses treated effluent for their greenbelts and parks. Surely we can do better in Northern Colorado. Proven technology exists to completely purify the water. We must do more of this.

The third leg of the stool is water sharing. Cities want water. Cities have money. Farmers have a larger reservoir of water than could ever be built – and they need the money. Partnerships where cities lease water in water-short years and farmers keep the water in good farming years (and keep the cash in the other years) make sense for all concerned. The land stays productive in these arrangements, usually called interruptible supply or rotational fallowing agreements, protecting the livelihood of rural economies.

Water conservation, reuse, and sharing together make a solid, sustainable strategy to supply our region with "new" water. These options allow cities to accept their full responsibility as stewards of one of our premier environmental resources – water.

So where does that leave other water supply strategies like dams and reservoirs? Well, it depends.

Some dams and reservoirs need attention; they must be rehabilitated to store larger volumes and better deliver their supplies. Existing reservoirs must work cooperatively to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of our interconnected water infrastructure.

What about new dams and reservoirs? Aren't they a useful strategy too?

Here's where we must broaden the discussion. As Coloradans, we take justifiable pride in our state's natural values: scenic landscapes – including farm land – and our flowing rivers. These elements, after all, are the foundation for our pride. We should not, and we need not, sacrifice these values to satisfy our growing

water needs.

All major rivers in Colorado have been extensively dammed, diverted, or both. Doing so allowed us to support one of the most successful, and verdant, agricultural economies in North America. The benefits were great, but, we are learning, the costs are high. Dry rivers are ugly scars on the landscape; once blue rivers have become pea-green canals you would refuse to let your children play in – goodness only knows what's in that water!

Surely this is not the Colorado we want in our children's future.

Specifically, where does this leave the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) and its Glade and Galetton Reservoirs? Unsupportable. This controversial proposal represents poor economics, poor environmental stewardship, and harms farming far more than it could help. Yes, I could go on and on about these issues, but briefly, the NISP proposal is hugely expensive. If built, its water would cost communities far more to build, fund, and operate than water easily available through the other three supply options mentioned. Environmentally, the NISP complex would greatly reduce the health and beauty of the Cache la Poudre River as it flows through Northern Colorado. Not only does NISP represent poor economics and poor environmental stewardship, but most importantly it will harm farms.

How would NISP harm farming? Four main ways: First, by down playing water conservation, reuse, and partnership imperatives, growing cities would consume ever more water in the future - water that would likely come from farms. This cycle is simply unsustainable if we want to maintain viable farming communities.

Second, if Glade were built, Highway 287 would be rerouted to the east, bisecting quality ag land that would surely then be devoured by farm-unfriendly subdivisions.

Third, by pumping and storing high salinity South Platte River water in the shallow and evaporation prone Galetton Reservoir, NISP would amplify the Platte's salinity before it is applied on irrigated lands that now receive high quality Poudre water. Those in agriculture know all too well that sustained application of saline water is the kiss of death to productive ag land. This unsustainable exchange would preclude future generations of farmers from enjoying the full economic value given to them by their forefathers.

Finally, much of the water to be stored in Glade is water that is being used by downstream farmers today. Ironically, NISP would rob some small farmers who cannot fight the project in order to claim that it would save others.

We support effective water conservation, reuse and sharing partnerships. These smart, responsible strategies will sustain our farming communities and our rivers. We support the replacement of NISP with smart and effective water supply solutions.

To the astute agricultural cooperative or ditch company – or maverick ag producer – now might be an excellent time to negotiate a mutually beneficial partnership with a growing town. Your water rights can be another valuable crop, one that will provide sorely needed farm capital.

For more on our perspective, including facts and figures on successful water solutions we can all get behind, please visit:

[SaveThePoudre.org](http://SaveThePoudre.org) or [WesternResourceAdvocates.org/facingourfuture/](http://WesternResourceAdvocates.org/facingourfuture/).