

Report Details Impact Of Proposed Glade Reservoir



FORT COLLINS, Colo. (CBS4) — There are now solid facts to go along with the debate about a proposed new reservoir in northern Colorado.

Reporting
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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Wednesday on the Northern Integrated Supply

Project (NISP), which includes the controversial proposal to build Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins. Glade Reservoir would hold about 170,000 acre feet of water, slightly larger than nearby Horsetooth Reservoir.

Water for the project would be drawn off of the Poudre River upstream of Fort Collins, primarily during the high-flow months of May-August. The draft EIS says, if Glade is built, the Poudre River's flow through Fort Collins would be cut 71 percent in May, and flow would be cut in half during peak runoff a month later.

The statement also says flooding the six mile long valley where U.S. Highway 287 currently runs would keep future water costs down and bring in recreation dollars. The statement also addresses wildlife habitat issues and the need to re-route the highway around the basin.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is leading the NISP project, which would be funded by 15 communities and water districts.

Opponents of the proposal say it would damage the river ecologically and aesthetically. A spokesperson for the group called "Save the Poudre" says the EIS supports their concerns and they are now going through the details of the 702-page document in preparation for upcoming public hearings.

Organizers of the project and opponents of glade reservoir say the draft Environmental Impact Statement supports their positions.

The federal statement considers four options for NISP, including a no-action option. The draft EIS took four years to produce and cost about \$6-million.

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