

Water project will destroy Poudre River

My name is David Roy. I am a Fort Collins City Council member representing District 6, the northwest part of Fort Collins.

I am writing to share my views about an issue that is of singular importance to Fort Collins: NISP, or Northern Integrated Supply Project.

This project has massive implications, not just for Fort Collins, but also for a large portion of Northern Colorado. Some of the communities lining up for the water from this project are Erie, Evans, Frederick, Firestone, Dacono, Severance, Lafayette and Fort Lupton.

Being sold by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District as the salvation of agriculture's future in this region, the water from this sprawl-inducing project, because of economic realities, will grow only rooftops. One key feature of NISP for you to know about is the proposed development and construction of Glade Reservoir.

This brand new, 5-mile-long, 260-foot-deep reservoir will require that a dam be built just north of Ted's Place. There will be significant environmental damage if it is constructed, would create grave consequences to the Poudre River as it fills and stays full, and would necessitate that a new section of Highway 287 be built, most likely in front of the hogback east of Ted's Place.

NISP will destroy the Poudre River you know and love as it runs through Fort Collins by reducing its water flows dramatically. One tradeoff, according to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, will be some recreational opportunities above Ted's Place made possible with a new reservoir.

The decision maker for this project is the Army Corps of Engineers. The task of the Corp is to examine the impact of Glade Reservoir on water quality, wildlife, socioeconomic factors, wetlands and hydrology. The Corp will have a public comment period once it issues its determination.

The Poudre River is the only river in Colorado that has the Wild and Scenic River designation from Congress. The river has been an integral part of our history in modern times, starting with the first trappers who cached gunpowder in its banks so they could recover it in the following spring.

Not only has the Poudre River provided us with much through our history with it being a "working river" in many ways, it is also the linchpin of exciting ideas for an even more vibrant and healthy Fort Collins. The NISP project puts into jeopardy a future for Fort Collins featuring a flowing Poudre River through town and puts at risk the well-planned future for the Downtown River Corridor of Fort Collins, based in large part on this natural amenity.

The Army Corp of Engineers is expected to open up its process to public comment in the next one to three months. If you have ever worked to protect the Poudre River or have the desire to see it saved and protected, your participation is essential.

NISP is a destructive plan, not only for the Poudre River, but also for the entire region. It relies on rooftops to pay for this \$410 million project and puts at risk one of the most beautiful settings in our area. It also jeopardizes the future water flows through Fort Collins of a river loved by many citizens near and far and the vision for an even stronger and more exciting Fort Collins.

Please, when the time comes, weigh in with the Army Corps of Engineers with your views about protecting the future of the Poudre River.

David Roy represents District 6 on the Fort Collins City Council.

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