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Water study arrives
Glade Reservoir's impacts unveiled

The Reporter-Herald

Northern Colorado will face harmful effects caused by growth in the coming 50 years with or without a new reservoir northwest of Fort Collins, a federal report issued late Tuesday states.

Although the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for proposed Glade Reservoir was slated to be released this morning, a copy of the 702-page document appeared on the Army Corps of Engineer's Web site Tuesday evening.

In it, the federal agency outlines four alternatives for making more water available for municipal and industrial users of the Front Range utilities participating in the project. The city of Loveland is not taking part in the project estimated by the agency at \$426 million. However, 12 neighboring cities and water districts, including Windsor and the rural Fort Collins-Loveland Water District, are taking part.

The four options include:

- Doing nothing. In considering the option, agency engineers assumed each of the participating water utilities would go after alternative water sources, such as existing water rights on the Front Range and potential diversions from the Western Slope.

“At a projected total capital cost of about \$830.5 million, the No Action alternative would cost substantially more than the other alternatives and would have the greatest increase in inflation-adjusted rate increases for the participants' water bills ... relative to the other alternatives,” the document stated.

- The preferred alternative of the participants, which includes the construction of Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins and Galeton Reservoir northeast of Greeley.

To build Glade Reservoir, a seven-mile stretch of U.S. 287 between Ted's Place and Owl Canyon would be inundated. The road would have to be rerouted on the east side of the hogback.

- A proposal called Cactus Hill reservoir, between Nunn and Wellington, along with Galeton.
- A proposal with either Glade or Cactus Hill reservoirs with a smaller version of Galeton Reservoir.

While the water transfers required to complete the project are complex, the net result is that, if built, Glade Reservoir would reduce the flow of the Cache la Poudre river by 71 percent during the average May, and by lesser amounts throughout the summer.

Also telling, however, are the impacts described if Glade Reservoir is not built. Agency planners say 1,384 acres of wetlands would be lost as farmers sell their water rights to municipal users.

ON THE NET: To see the full report, go to www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-tl/eis-info.htm

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