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Army Corps holds NISP hearing in Greeley

By Gene Sears 07/03/2008

Citizens and government officials on both sides of the Glade Reservoir debate came together June 17, at the third public comment meeting following the release of an Army Corps of Engineers draft environmental impact study concerning the project.

In contrast to the Fort Collins meetings during which politicians were allowed to speak prior to citizens, the Greeley session opened with an announcement that speakers would be interspersed, with no preference accorded to elected officials.

With public comment running about 2-1 for the project, the arguments pro and con centered on the growing need for agricultural and culinary water versus potential damage to the Cache La Poudre River, and subsequently the Fort Collins economy.

First in a long list of speakers was former Fort Collins mayor pro-tem Gia Jeanette, Also the former manager of water utilities for the town of Milliken as well as a current water board member for Fort Collins, Jeanette appeared on her own behalf, in opposition to the project. Discussing the economic feasibility of the envisioned Glade Reservoir as it relates to Fort Collins, Jeanette raised the issue of higher total organic carbon loading in the Poudre River water versus what is already stored in the existing Horsetooth Reservoir.

"That TOC is something that is much harder to treat by the drinking water plant for the city of Fort Collins, and it would be for any municipality receiving that high TOC water. It might possibly cause the city of Fort Collins to spend millions of dollars improving their water plant," Jeannette said.

Speaking on behalf of U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard, Anne Kern of Longmont voiced the senator's approval of the project.

"We are submitting a letter for formal comment, however, he did want me to come and say tonight that he does support the proposed action."

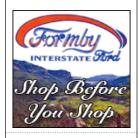
"Water storage is extremely critical to northern Colorado," Kern said. "And that has become evident since the 2002 and subsequent year droughts."

Fort Collins resident and Poudre River Raft Guides representative Michael Kirkpatrick

"Glade reservoir would turn the Poudre River through Fort Collins into a bug-infested mud bog. Our quality of life will be directly affected by a sick river flowing through our town. Fort Collins should not be forced to sacrifice our quality of life for the prospect of growth in

















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