

Northern Colorado Business Report

At odds on water

They might not be enemies but they sure aren't friends.

We're talking about the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and environmental group Save the Poudre.

Northern Water hailed the approval by Grand County of its Windy Gap Firming Project this month, saying it marked a major step forward for the district's proposal to build Chimney Hollow Reservoir west of Carter Lake near Loveland.

◁▷The proposed Chimney Hollow Reservoir will help the project's participants — 10 cities, two rural water districts and a power provider — to meet their growing water needs.

Gary Wockner, director of Save the Poudre, retorted that the Windy Gap Firming Project would "likely" be used to fill Glade Reservoir of the Northern Integrated Supply Project. He contended the latter project would "drain and destroy" the Poudre River.

Northern Water spokesman Brian Werner fired back, saying, "Windy Gap Firming Project water will not be stored in Glade, no matter what Gary wants to believe."

Wockner responded by providing documents showing that Northern Water had planned to use water from the Windy Gap Firming Project for the initial filling of Glade.

Werner then acknowledged that Northern Water had once planned to use the water in that unique circumstance. But he added that the water district had since scrapped the idea after it created conflict with Western Slope water users.

"We'll figure out how to do it without those supplies," said Werner, adding that the organization had sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers clarifying its plans.

<http://www.ncbr.com/article/20121214/EDITION01/121219953>