



**May 2008**

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## **Glade EIS released**

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News**

It's been talked about for years, but discussion has now reached a critical point. On April 30, the federal government's environmental impact statement for the Northern Integrated Supply Project, which includes Glade Reservoir, was released after many months of delays.

The report has no specific recommendations but does analyze several different alternatives including a no-

action choice. The option favored by NISP participants includes both Glade northwest of LaPorte and Galeton Reservoir northeast of Greeley.

Now, there is a 90-day public comment period guaranteed to be feisty. Several opportunities for public input are planned within the next three months.

The first public meeting will be hosted by the Larimer County Commissioners on May 5 at 7 p.m. in the first-floor hearing room at the Courthouse Offices Building. Representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, permitting agency for NISP, will explain details of the EIS. This is an informational meeting, and the public will not be invited to share comments. The meeting will be broadcast live on



#### **Public comment begins.**

The long-awaited Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Integrated Supply Project was released on April 30. The proposed water storage project includes Glade Reservoir, which would be located northwest of LaPorte. This graphic shows an aerial view of the Glade site, with overlays of the proposed dam and forebay reservoir. The reservoir would fill valleys on both sides of the ridge visible in this photo. -- Photo courtesy of NISP

local cable channels.

On May 20, The LaPorte Area Planning Advisory Committee will consider the project. The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at the Tapestry House, 3212 N. Overland Trail in LaPorte. One hour will be allocated to hearing comments from LaPorte-area residents. Residents will be asked to limit their comments to how the proposed Glade Reservoir and highway relocation relate to the LaPorte Area Plan. For a link to the plan, go to [www.co.larimer.co.us/laporte/](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/laporte/).

Written comments, limited to one page, may also be submitted to LAPAC. People may e-mail comments to Jill Bennett, Larimer County planner, at [jbennett@larimer.org](mailto:jbennett@larimer.org).

The Army Corps will hold public hearings on June 17 and 19. The June 17 hearing will be held at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 6 p.m., with an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. On June 19, the public hearing will be at the University Center of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley at 7 p.m., with an open house beginning at 6 p.m.

The county commissioners will have a second public meeting on July 9, 6:30 p.m., in the first-floor hearing room. At this meeting, commissioners will take testimony from the public and from project proponents. This meeting will also be broadcast on local cable channels. Following the meeting, the commissioners will prepare comments to be submitted to the Army Corps.

NISP would supply 15 communities in northern Colorado with additional domestic water. Neither Fort Collins nor Greeley is participating in the project. One of the partners is the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District, which supplies water to parts of south Fort Collins and Timnath.

Glade Reservoir would be somewhat larger than Horsetooth Reservoir, with 170,000 acre-feet of capacity. Water diverted from the Cache la Poudre River would be stored in a "forebay" beneath the dam, then pumped into the reservoir. The project would require relocating about seven miles of U.S. Highway 287.

Glade Reservoir has been highly controversial. While project proponents have cited a need for additional domestic water supplies along the fast-growing Front Range, opponents say that Glade would have harmful effects on the Poudre River. Most of the water diverted to Glade would be taken out in years of above-average stream runoff, and this depletion would take away from springtime flushing flows. Opponents say these flows are needed to maintain the health of the river and its neighboring wetlands.

The EIS is available at Fort Collins, Colorado State University and University of Northern Colorado libraries, Windsor Recreation Center and the Greeley City Manager's office. Online, the document can be found at the Army Corps web site, [www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-t/eis-info.htm](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-t/eis-info.htm).

People may mail comments to the Corps at 9307 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton

CO 80128 or by e-mail to [chandler.j.peter@usace.army.mil](mailto:chandler.j.peter@usace.army.mil).

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