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# NISP NEWS

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Study reveals truth about NISP & water quality issues

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Front Range's growing green economy increases demand for water

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## NISP moving forward

Progress continues on the Northern Integrated Supply Project as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it will keep studying the project – a move that the water providers participating in NISP support.

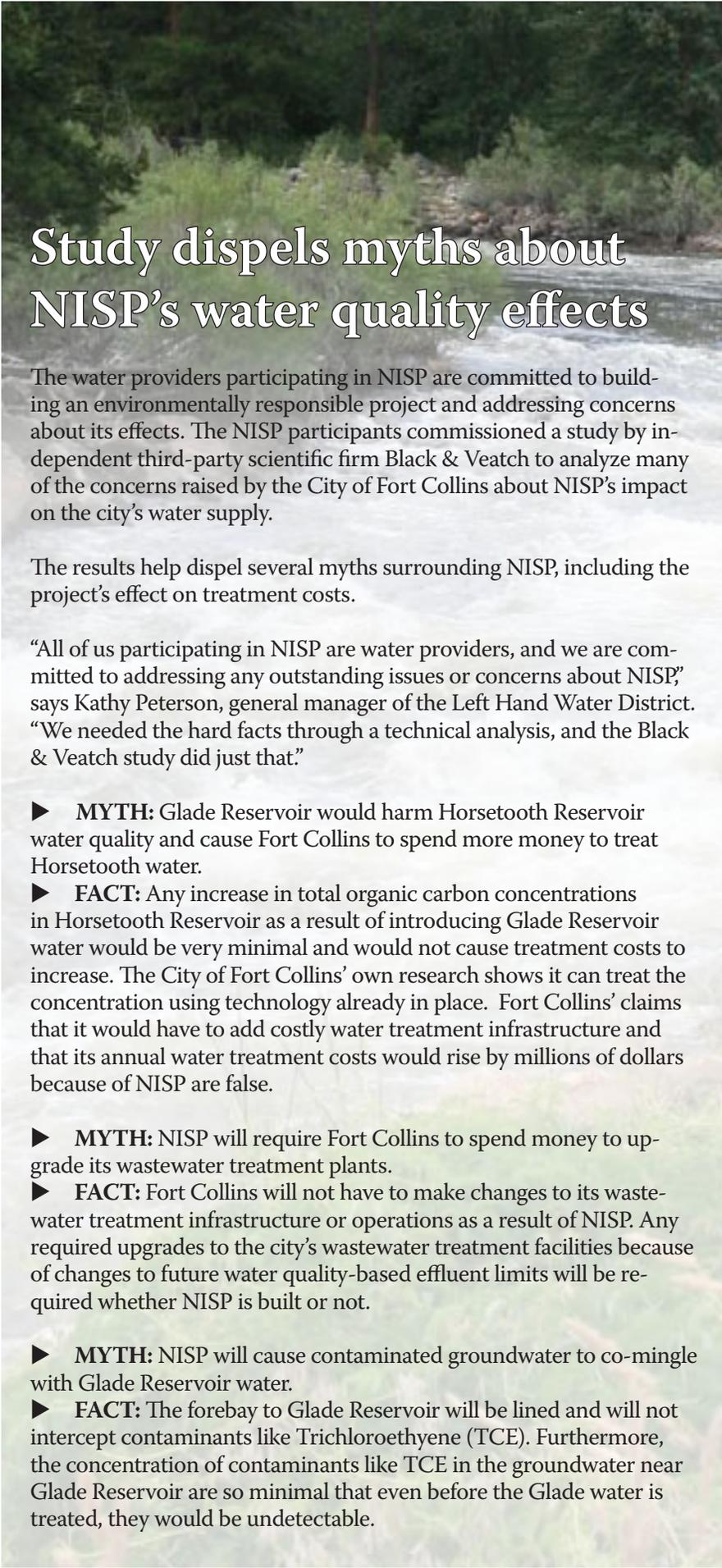
The Corps will prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate NISP's potential impact on the environment. It will provide additional detail on potentially affected resources, particularly the Poudre River. The Corps is the federal agency that will decide whether to issue a permit for the water project to be built. It released the NISP draft EIS in April 2008.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is proposing to build NISP on behalf of 15 northern Colorado water providers that serve hundreds of thousands of citizens. The proposal for NISP includes Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins and Galeton Reservoir east of Ault. Both are “off-channel” storage reservoirs, meaning neither would dam any rivers. (For more details on the project, check out the back page).

Without a project like NISP, many of these water providers will not have enough water to deliver to their customers in the near future.

Northern Water's General Manager Eric Wilkinson says the Supplemental Draft EIS will provide very useful information.

“The water providers who need the water from NISP want to make sure this project is environmentally sensitive, and I think this additional study will help ensure that it is,” says Wilkinson. “This region needs more water, and NISP is a crucial part of securing that water.”



## Study dispels myths about NISP's water quality effects

The water providers participating in NISP are committed to building an environmentally responsible project and addressing concerns about its effects. The NISP participants commissioned a study by independent third-party scientific firm Black & Veatch to analyze many of the concerns raised by the City of Fort Collins about NISP's impact on the city's water supply.

The results help dispel several myths surrounding NISP, including the project's effect on treatment costs.

"All of us participating in NISP are water providers, and we are committed to addressing any outstanding issues or concerns about NISP," says Kathy Peterson, general manager of the Left Hand Water District. "We needed the hard facts through a technical analysis, and the Black & Veatch study did just that."

- ▶ **MYTH:** Glade Reservoir would harm Horsetooth Reservoir water quality and cause Fort Collins to spend more money to treat Horsetooth water.
- ▶ **FACT:** Any increase in total organic carbon concentrations in Horsetooth Reservoir as a result of introducing Glade Reservoir water would be very minimal and would not cause treatment costs to increase. The City of Fort Collins' own research shows it can treat the concentration using technology already in place. Fort Collins' claims that it would have to add costly water treatment infrastructure and that its annual water treatment costs would rise by millions of dollars because of NISP are false.
- ▶ **MYTH:** NISP will require Fort Collins to spend money to upgrade its wastewater treatment plants.
- ▶ **FACT:** Fort Collins will not have to make changes to its wastewater treatment infrastructure or operations as a result of NISP. Any required upgrades to the city's wastewater treatment facilities because of changes to future water quality-based effluent limits will be required whether NISP is built or not.
- ▶ **MYTH:** NISP will cause contaminated groundwater to co-mingle with Glade Reservoir water.
- ▶ **FACT:** The forebay to Glade Reservoir will be lined and will not intercept contaminants like Trichloroethylene (TCE). Furthermore, the concentration of contaminants like TCE in the groundwater near Glade Reservoir are so minimal that even before the Glade water is treated, they would be undetectable.

## SURVEY SAYS ... region backs NISP

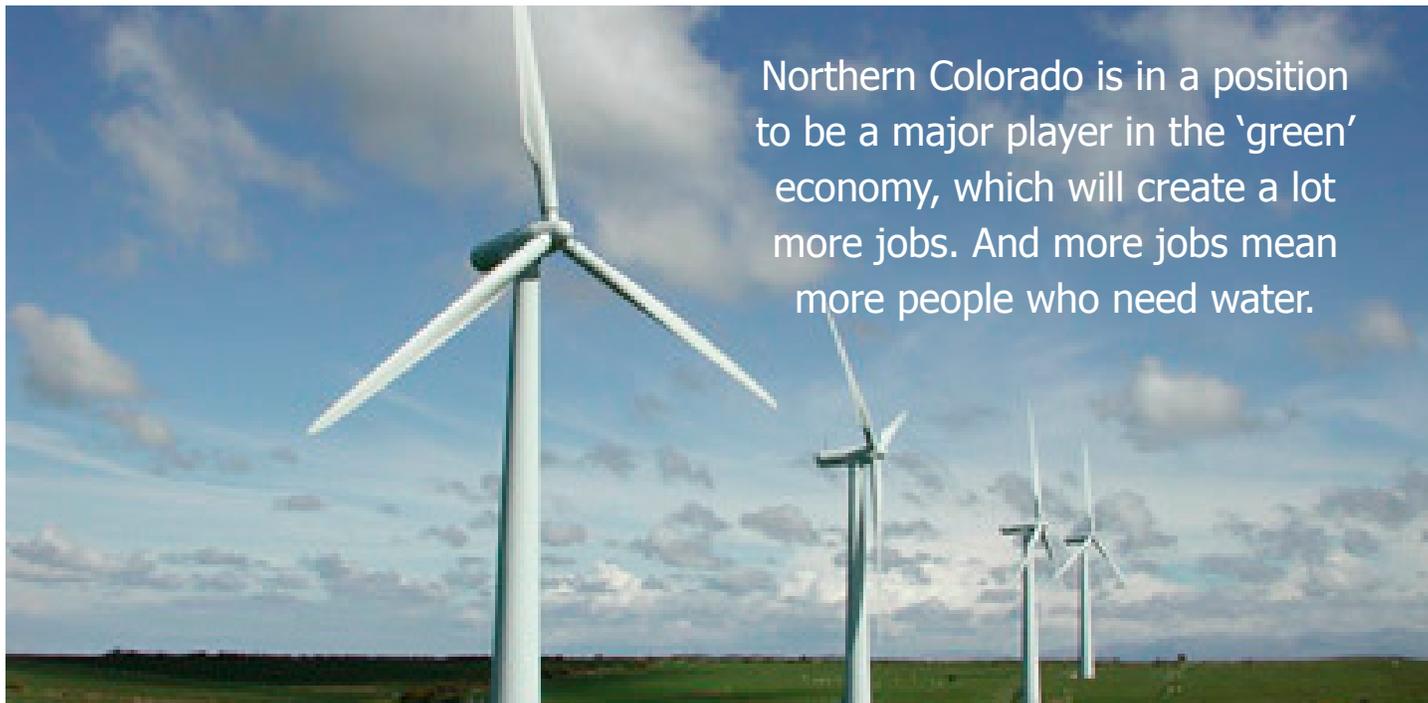
An overwhelming majority of Larimer and Weld county residents support NISP.

That is according to results of a survey released in fall 2008 conducted by notable pollster Floyd Ciruli. Ciruli conducted the survey on behalf of the 15 water providers who are participating in NISP.

The survey's findings include:

- 63 percent of Larimer County residents and 81 percent of Weld County residents support NISP.
- By a nearly 2-to-1 margin, Fort Collins residents support NISP.
- 65 percent of Larimer County residents and 75 percent of Weld County residents believe northern Colorado needs more water storage.
- 93 percent of Larimer County residents and 98 percent of Weld County residents agree that the farm economy and maintaining agricultural open space are important to our area. They do not support the dry up of agriculture to provide water to cities.
- 73 percent of Larimer County residents and 82 percent of Weld County residents agree with the cooperative regional approach to water-supply planning that NISP employs.
- 70 percent of Larimer County residents are sympathetic toward and/or active in the environmental movement, yet fewer than one-fourth of Larimer County residents oppose NISP.
- 73 percent of Larimer County residents and 87 percent of Weld County residents believe water conservation is important but that it alone cannot provide sufficient water for future growth and recurring droughts and that more water storage is needed.

*For more information about the survey, visit [gladereservoir.org/Survey.aspx](http://gladereservoir.org/Survey.aspx).*



Northern Colorado is in a position to be a major player in the 'green' economy, which will create a lot more jobs. And more jobs mean more people who need water.

## Front Range's green industries need H<sub>2</sub>O

With the economic crisis foremost on many people's minds, some are asking if northern Colorado will continue to grow.

The answer is yes.

Vestas Wind Systems opened a large plant in Windsor less than a year ago that makes blades for wind turbines. It employs more than 600 people. And Hexcel Corporation just announced it will open a plant adjacent to Vestas that will manufacture high-performance materials used to build wind turbines.

Vestas and Hexcel are part of the Great Western Industrial Park in Windsor, which is the largest industrial park in the region. Windsor is one of the participants in NISP that will use water from the project.

AVA Solar, a company whose technology has the potential to significantly reduce the cost of generating solar electricity, is relocating to a northern Colorado location in Weld County. AVA's facility will be served by the Central Weld County Water District – a NISP participant.

UQM is an alternative energy-focused company that develops high-efficiency electric motors. UQM is located in Frederick, which also is a participant in NISP.

The fact that these companies have chosen to set up shop in northern Colorado is evidence that the region is as an emerging hub for new-energy development. Northern Colorado is in a position to be a major player in the "green" economy, which will create a lot more jobs. And more jobs mean more people who need water.

A recent report from the Brookings Institute says that Colorado's Front Range is experiencing some of the fastest population growth anywhere in the county. The report says that the region boasts some of the most highly educated, most productive work forces, which is spurring the growth.

The Front Range is one of several areas in the nation that "is well on its way to earning itself the title moniker of the New American Heartland as its economy, people, and politics become more central to the nation," according to the report.

The Brookings study also says that securing enough water is one of the challenges the region faces because of this influx of people.

"To date, growth has brought demographic vitality, rising incomes, and vibrant workforce growth. But it is also bringing stress," the report says. "The threat of global climate change raises vexing questions about water and energy systems and grids. Consumption patterns, planning, capture and reuse systems, and delivery are critical water issues regionwide."

The Colorado State Demographer's October 2008 population projections state that, in spite of the economic downturn, the Front Range will still add nearly 2 million people by 2030, bringing the Front Range population to more than 5.8 million.

That's nearly 6 million people who will need water in the not-so-distant future.

Nearly all of the participating water providers, which deliver water to hundreds of thousands of northern Colorado residents, will experience water shortages within a decade without NISP.

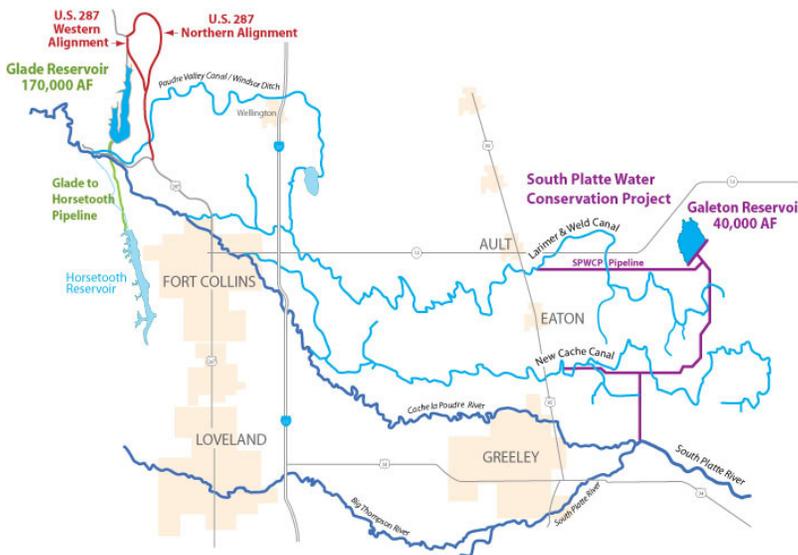
# NISP AT A GLANCE

The cost to build and operate NISP will be paid for entirely by the water providers who are participating in this project. To date, they have spent nearly \$6 million to study the project, its possible impacts on the environment and potential ways to eliminate and minimize those impacts.

The current proposal for NISP includes:

► **GLADE RESERVOIR** would be located northwest of Fort Collins and north of Horsetooth Reservoir. It would be 5 miles long, 260 feet deep and have the capacity to store 170,000 acre-feet of water. The water to fill Glade Reservoir would be diverted from the Poudre River using the already existing Poudre Valley Canal. There will be no new structures on the river. U.S. Highway 287 between Fort Collins and the Wyoming border divides the proposed Glade Reservoir site. Therefore, about seven miles of the highway would be relocated.

► **SOUTH PLATTE WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT** (aka Galeton Reservoir) would be located east of Ault and northeast of Greeley. It would hold about 40,000 acre-feet of water at full capacity. The water to fill Galeton would be diverted from the South Platte River downstream from Greeley. Galeton water would be delivered to two agricultural irrigation companies in exchange for Poudre River water they currently use. Because of this agricultural exchange, approximately 60 percent of the water that will be taken out of the Poudre River to fill Glade Reservoir is water that has already historically been taken.



## Who supports NISP?

Check out the growing list of those who have endorsed the project:

NISP participant communities:

Dacono, Eaton, Erie, Evans, Firestone, Fort Lupton, Fort Morgan  
Frederick, Lafayette, Severance, Windsor

NISP participant water districts:

Central Weld County Water District, Fort Collins-Loveland Water District  
Left Hand Water District, Morgan County Quality Water

New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company

Colorado Farm Bureau  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado State Grange  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Colorado Dairy Farmers  
Colorado Pork Producers Council  
Colorado Egg Producers  
Weld County Commissioners  
Fort Collins Board of Realtors  
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
Greeley Chamber of Commerce  
Central Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District  
St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District  
Longmont Conservation District  
Boulder Conservation District  
Upstate Colorado (Weld County business group)  
Community Development Group (Southwest Weld County)  
Former Sen. Hank Brown

Editorial support:

Greeley Tribune  
Longmont Times-Call  
Fort Morgan Times  
Loveland Reporter-Herald  
Lafayette News  
Erie Review

## PROJECTED TIMELINE

2010	2013	2017	2023
Corps releases Supplemental Draft EIS	NISP construction begins	Glade Reservoir is completed	Galeton Reservoir is completed

## What's the reason for the EIS?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires water providers proposing to build a water project like NISP to fund an environmental impact statement. The EIS is an extensive study that explores the purpose and need for the project, possible alternatives to it and its potential impacts on the environment. The NISP EIS process began in 2004.