

NISP



Northern Integrated Supply Project



Northern Water



What NISP is

NISP IS A WATER SUPPLY PROJECT. These projects have been used throughout the world for centuries to provide water supplies to citizens, agriculture and other industries.

Water projects include infrastructure, such as reservoirs and pipelines. NISP is integrated because it includes two proposed reservoirs, Glade and Galeton, that would operate together to help ensure clean, reliable water supplies for the future of hundreds of thousands of citizens in Northeastern Colorado.

The water that would fill Glade and Galeton reservoirs is available to Coloradoans now, but without the storage capabilities NISP would provide, that water will continue to leave the state.

NISP is smart water development, not only because of how it would operate, but also because it makes sense economically and environmentally.

“Infrastructure is a necessary but insufficient ingredient to quality of life. In order to live healthy lives, our built environment must also be practical and well designed. It is not enough to build more infrastructure – it must also be done smartly.”

American Society of Civil Engineers, Colorado’s 2008 Infrastructure Report Card

NISP would do just that ...



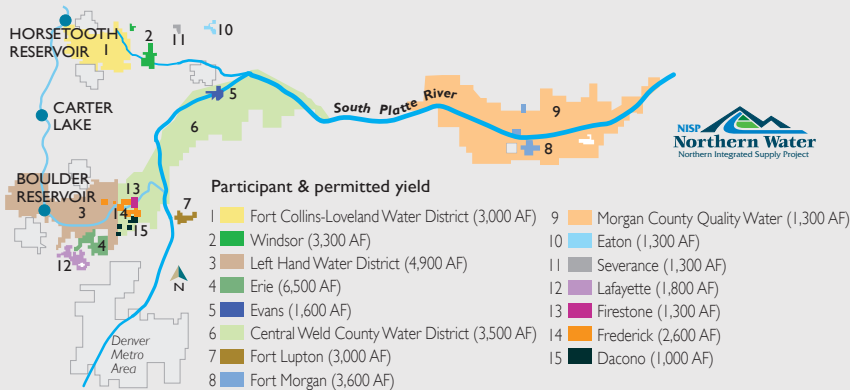
In 2009, more than 90,000 acre feet of water left Colorado that would have been available for NISP storage, had the project been online.



Who NISP is for

IT'S A FACT: People want to live in Northeastern Colorado, which touts diverse opportunities for both work and play.

The 15 cities and water districts that are paying for and would receive water from NISP are together facing a doubled population within the next 20 to 40 years. The region is in serious need of water to support the cities, farms and businesses that make it a great place to live.



Northeastern Colorado water providers cannot rely solely on precipitation Mother Nature provides – an average of about 15 inches a year.

Compare that to other areas; the Midwest at 40 inches a year and the East Coast at 50. Storage helps water users get through dry seasons as well as periods of drought.

With the area's semiarid classification in mind, water providers and others have been tracking growth projections and the resulting demands. Groups such as the Northern Regional Water Coalition, which included water providers and citizens, held discussions in the late 1990s about critical regional water issues and potential strategies to address them.

The catalysts that sparked the formal decision to move forward with NISP included the 2000 Regional Water Demand Study, the Statewide Water Supply Investigation and other research that all pointed to one conclusion: More people will be living in Colorado in the future, and they will require more water.



Why NISP is preferred

WATER PROVIDERS must meet demand challenges by balancing conservation and new water supplies. One measure alone is not enough.

Selecting NISP as the preferred solution took a lot of work and analysis. The project participants reviewed more than 200 options to supplement their water supplies. After extensive study, they decided NISP is the best option.

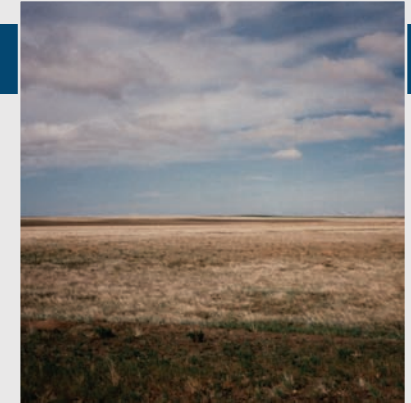
NISP will help keep kitchen faucets and school water fountains flowing. And it will support area businesses, which depend upon reliable water supplies to thrive. The water from NISP also has the power to drive Colorado's new energy economy. After all, it takes water to manufacture power, including solar and wind.

NISP at the same time would lessen the impacts of population growth on the region's robust agricultural economy. Weld County, which would receive water from NISP, was ranked eighth in the nation for ag production in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 Census of Agriculture at \$1.54 billion annually.

Without NISP, growing cities will have few, if any, alternatives beyond buying farmers' water rights to meet their future water needs.



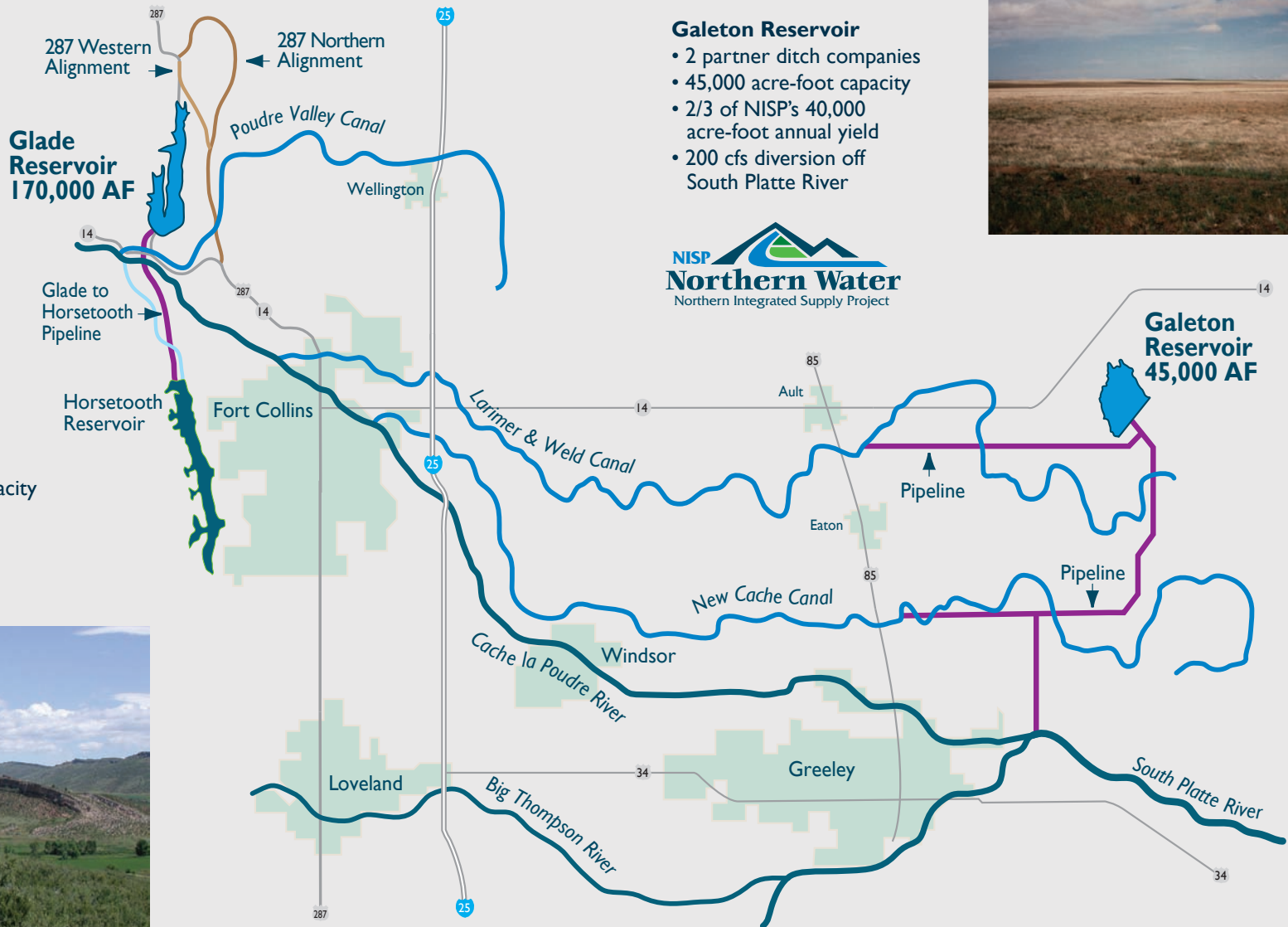
Glade and Galeton area map



- Galeton Reservoir**
- 2 partner ditch companies
 - 45,000 acre-foot capacity
 - 2/3 of NISP's 40,000 acre-foot annual yield
 - 200 cfs diversion off South Platte River



- Glade Reservoir**
- 5 miles long
 - 260 feet deep
 - 170,000 acre-foot capacity
 - 1,700 surface acres
 - 1,200 cfs diversion off Poudre River



GLADE RESERVOIR would be northwest of Fort Collins. Glade would be filled with Poudre River water; and would likely offer recreation such as boating, fishing, camping and hiking.

GALETON RESERVOIR would be northeast of Greeley. It would be filled with South Platte River water to replace agricultural users' water that has historically been diverted from the Poudre River.



How Glade would work

GLADE RESERVOIR would divert water from the Poudre River. The diversions would occur during high flow seasons using a water right secured in 1980 for the benefit of Northeastern Colorado.

The Poudre River diversion would be near the canyon mouth below the sections designated in 1986 as wild and scenic.

Once diverted, the water would move through an existing canal before it is pumped to Glade Reservoir, where it would be stored for delivery to participating water providers.

Glade, which would be slightly bigger than Horsetooth Reservoir, would be north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and Colorado Highway 14. A 7-mile stretch of 287 would be rerouted.

NISP water would be diverted at the Poudre Valley Canal, below. The Larimer & Weld Irrigation Co., headgate at right, is integral to NISP.



How Galeton would work

GALETON RESERVOIR would be in the plains northeast of Greeley. It is the key feature of what is called the South Platte Water Conservation Project and the reason NISP is “integrated” with two reservoir operations.

The key to Galeton’s operation is an “exchange” of water. The reservoir would be filled with diversions from the South Platte River. This water would be delivered via pipelines to the Larimer & Weld Irrigation and New Cache la Poudre Irrigating companies.

The two ditch companies already divert water from the Poudre River, but with NISP a portion of that water would instead be diverted directly into Glade. The water that the companies did not receive from the Poudre River would in turn be delivered from Galeton.

This exchange amounts to about one-fourth of the ditch companies’ total supply. By acting in partnership with agriculture, NISP would provide new water for cities and industries without taking away water rights used to irrigate crops.



A partner with agriculture

CITIES HURTING FOR WATER frequently purchase farmers' water rights, causing farms to "dry up" and often cease production. This has a ripple effect throughout the economy.

By supplying an alternative source of much-needed water for cities and towns, NISP would decrease the region's need for ag dry-up.

NISP would also provide supplemental water supplies to water districts that would deliver water to dairies, feedlots and other ag-related end users.

What do the people who know and respect agriculture have to say about NISP and its benefits?

"NISP is a project that embodies what agriculture is looking for – a way to continue to exist with urban development."

Jim Miller, Colorado deputy commissioner of agriculture

"If we don't store water for growth, that water is going to come from agriculture."

Don Ament, former Colorado commissioner of agriculture

"If we don't build this, it's taking a step backwards."

Mike Hungenberg, Board President, New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company



Under review

UNDER FEDERAL LAW, NISP must go through the National Environmental Policy Act review process, which includes the requirement to mitigate for the project's environmental impacts.

NISP would have the flexibility to provide a variety of mitigation measures, including those that might focus on flows and associated river habitat. NISP participants are working with other state and federal agencies to discuss details.

NISP entered the federal review process, which requires approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 2004. The first Corps report, called the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, came out in 2008. The Corps is also working on a second, or supplemental, draft EIS. The agency will then issue a decision on how or whether the project can proceed.

"Today is our generation's turn to step up to the plate. It's our generation's turn to say: We're moving forward; we're going to do something for our children and our grandchildren; we're going to build NISP."

Sean Conway, Weld County commissioner





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For more on NISP, including the latest news and publications,
visit www.gladereservoir.org or call 970-622-2229.