The Northern Integrated Supply Project will supply 15 Northern Front Range water providers with 40,000 acre-feet of new, reliable water supplies. Northern Water is pursuing permitting, design and construction of this estimated $1.2 billion project on behalf of the participants, who will be providing water to nearly half a million residents by 2050. The project components include:

- Two reservoirs (Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins, and Galeton Reservoir northeast of Greeley)
- A forebay reservoir below Glade Reservoir
- Five pump plants
- Pipelines to deliver water for exchange with two irrigation companies and for delivery to participants
- Improvements to an existing canal to divert water off the Poudre River near the canyon mouth

Since 2009, streamflows have been high enough in most years that, had the project been complete and storing water, millions of acre feet of water still would have flowed into Nebraska. NISP will help put more water to beneficial use here in Colorado through a 1980 storage right on the Poudre River, a 1992 water right on the South Platte River, and exchanges with two local ditch companies.

The NISP Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan – approved by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Gov. John Hickenlooper in 2017 – includes an array of components that address issues raised during the permitting and public comment processes, such as:

- An operational configuration that releases 18 cubic feet per second to 25 cfs year-round from Glade Reservoir to the Poudre River, eliminating existing dry-up points in the river and improving streamflows
- A Poudre River peak-flow operations program that results in little to no diversions during peak flow conditions during 90 percent of years
- Wildlife habitat conservation
- Water quality improvements
- Retrofitting four existing diversion structures to allow fish to migrate freely up and down river – and for flows to continue downstream
- Stream channel and habitat improvements
- Fishery and recreation benefits at Glade Reservoir

The future site of Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins.
Glade Reservoir will be located northwest of Fort Collins near the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and State Highway 14. It will be 5 miles long, 280 feet deep at its deepest, and have the capacity to store 170,000 acre-feet of water, slightly larger than Horsetooth Reservoir. Glade Reservoir will divert water from the Poudre River during mostly high flow times, using the already existing Poudre Valley Canal near the canyon mouth. As part of NISP, the PVC’s diversion structure will be upgraded. The reservoir site is divided by U.S. Highway 287, and therefore, about seven miles of the highway will be relocated to the east.

Galeton Reservoir will be located east of Ault and northeast of Greeley, and store about 45,600 acre-feet at full capacity. To fill Galeton Reservoir, water will be diverted from the South Platte River downstream from Greeley at high flow times. Galeton Reservoir water will be delivered to two ditch companies in exchange for a portion of the Poudre River water they currently use – an effort called the South Platte Water Conservation Project. More than half of NISP’s planned diversion from the Poudre River includes water that’s already been diverted for decades by these two ditch companies.

The Colorado Water Plan reinforced the necessity of additional water storage to help meet the state’s future water gap. The gap is the difference between the estimated future water demands and existing supplies by the year 2060. The plan identifies the need for 400,000 acre-feet of additional storage statewide. NISP can play a role in meeting a portion of the impending water gap in Colorado. The plan also identifies water conservation and increased water transfers between the agricultural and municipal sectors as additional solutions to help meet the impending gap.

The 15 NISP participants include 11 fast-growing communities and four water districts within the Northern Front Range. They currently serve water to about 250,000 residents, with that number expected to double by 2050. The NISP participants are pursuing an all-of-the-above strategy to meet their future water needs. In addition to NISP, they are embracing conservation efforts, alternative transfer methods with ag-water suppliers and reuse opportunities. The participants have already collectively reduced their water consumption by nearly 30 percent in recent years through these efforts.

Learn more at gladereservoir.org