



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Lauren Ris, Assistant Director for Water

**DATE:** September 20, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM:** #19 NISP Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement

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**Background:**

The Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) is a proposed regional water storage and distribution project that will supply 15 Northern Front Range water partners with 40,000 acre-feet of new, reliable water supplies. The project consists of:

- two reservoirs (Glade and Galeton),
- a forebay reservoir,
- two pump plants,
- pipelines to deliver water for exchange with two irrigation companies, and
- improvements to an existing canal to divert water off the Poudre River near the canyon mouth.

During wet times, when the Glade water right is in priority, the project would divert water at the existing Poudre Valley Canal near the mouth of Poudre Canyon. This would occur during periods of high flow, such as above average snowmelt years or during large rain events.

South Platte water would be pumped to Galeton Reservoir during winter and spring months. During the irrigation season, water would be released to the two largest ditch companies in the Poudre Basin - New Cache Irrigating and Larimer and Weld.

Through a series of exchanges the ditch companies would receive about one quarter of their total supply from Galeton Reservoir and its pipelines while a like amount of water would be diverted upstream at the Poudre Valley Canal and stored in Glade Reservoir.

Glade reservoir would be located northwest of Fort Collins along a current stretch of U.S. Highway 287 north of Ted's Place (the intersection of Highway 287 and Highway 14). It would be approximately 5 miles long, 260 feet deep and have a capacity to store 170,000 acre-feet of water, or slightly larger than Horsetooth Reservoir, which holds about 156,000 acre-feet. Galeton Reservoir would be located East of Ault, near Highway 14 and would store up to 45,600 acre-feet of water.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process in August 2004 and issued a draft for public comment in April 2008. In February 2009, the Corps announced they would move forward with a Supplemental Draft DEIS to include additional studies primarily centered around hydrologic and flow



modeling. The Corps released the Supplemental Draft DEIS on June 19, 2015 for public comment. The Corps anticipates completing the Final EIS in late 2017 with a Record of Decision released in 2018.

**Discussion:**

Northern Water has worked over the past two years in consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and DNR staff to prepare a Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan in response to the requirements of Section 37-60-122.2, C.R.S.

The Plan includes both a Mitigation Plan, which mitigates fish and wildlife related impacts of NISP, as well as an Enhancement Plan, which outlines fish and wildlife related environmental commitments that go beyond direct mitigation of project effects.

Northern Water submitted the Plan to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission on June 9, 2017 and the Commission approved it on September 7, 2017. As required by statute, the Commission has forwarded the Plan to CWCB for adoption or modification. After the Board's action, the Plan will become the official state position on the mitigation actions required by the project applicant.

**Staff recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the NISP Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan, without modification, as the official State position on the mitigation actions required for the Project.

