

Farm Bureau reaffirms support of NISP

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The Colorado Farm Bureau has reaffirmed its support for the Northern Integrated Supply Project.

In a letter to Chandler Peter of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Farm Bureau President Alan Foutz outlined his organization's support for the project and asks for approval from the corps to complete it.

The project is designed to combine two new reservoirs, the Glade north of Fort Collins and Galeton east of Ault which would provide an additional 40,000 acre-feet of water annually to municipalities and other entities in northern Colorado.

"The Northern Integrated Supply Project will ensure adequate water supplies for an increasing population as well as help meet other water needs in the South Platte Basin," Foutz said in his letter. "We applaud the efforts of those who have worked collaboratively in order to bring this project forward. The proposed reservoirs associated with NISP will provide Northern Front Range communities with an alternative source of water; ensuring that the agricultural industry in Northern Colorado can remain strong," he continued.

While conservation is crucial to protecting Colorado's water supply, more storage capacity must be developed to meet future demand, the press release from the Farm Bureau said.

Proponents of NISP have a strong partnership with the agricultural community as the exchange that will be made under the proposal will help protect water designated for agricultural use. Without NISP, an additional 40,000 to 60,000 acres will be "dried-up" causing the loss of 60-100 square miles of productive farmland, Foutz said in his letter.

Foutz also pointed out that it is important to remember that NISP will not simply "dry up" the Poudre River. Minimum stream flow requirements will continue to be protected and habitats along the river will be preserved, he said.

"As a state we must take a proactive and cooperative approach to meeting our future water needs. We are in reach of a victory for the future generations of Colorado. Colorado Farm Bureau believes this project is feasible and again urges your approval and support for this project," Foutz said.

What's next?

A public hearing to gather comments on the Northern Integrated Supply Project will be conducted at 6 p.m., Thursday at the University of Northern Colorado's University Center.